

A PLACE TO
BELONG...

A PLACE TO
BECOME...

A PLACE TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Points of Interest:

- ◆ Leia Battaglia, PPC
new pastor
- ◆ Reformation Sunday
Insert — 500 years

We are continually collecting:

- ◇ Pull Tabs
- ◇ Box Tops
- ◇ Plastic Caps & Lids

Inside this issue:

PPC new Called Pastor — Leia Battaglia!	1-2
Message from Pastor Griffith	3
Reformation Sunday insert from PCUSA Historical Society	4
Christian Education	5-7
PPC Hats for Cancer	8
October Calendar	9



PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Church Mouse

Volume 11 || Issue 7

October 2017



EXCITING NEWS!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Peoples Presbyterian Church is well on the way to having a new Called Pastor!

On Sunday, September 10, 2017, the Pastor Nominating Committee's (PNC) candidate, Leia Battaglia, preached during the regular morning worship service at Peoples. Following the service, a Congregational Meeting was called for the purpose of voting on whether to call Leia to Peoples as our full time Called Pastor. The (paper ballot) vote was an enthusiastic yes. She then returned to New Jersey.

On Tuesday evening, September 26, PNC members and a few others accompanied Leia to the Presbytery of Detroit's meeting at Orchard Lake Presbyterian Church. After examination by members of the Presbytery, she was approved for ordination, and her Call to Peoples-Milan was also approved.

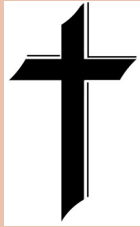
At this writing she is on her way to California, where she will be ordained by her home Presbytery on Sunday, October 1, 2017.

Rev. Battaglia will return to Milan during the following week, and will lead worship at Peoples on **Sunday, October 15**. A service of installation is in the planning stages.

Following is Leia's Statement of Faith, which she read as part of her examination at Presbytery.

The PNC thought it might be nice to share with you Leia Battaglia's Statement Of Faith. This document was given to the PNC during the process of calling Leia, and was read at Presbytery as part of her examination.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and all that is under the earth and in the sea, an entire universe beyond comprehension called out of nothingness, and in which we fragile and finite humans were wonderfully and fearfully made in God's own image. In the moment of creation and throughout time, God's arms were and have been and will always be opened wide in a tender embrace, waiting for us to turn our faces to the light and run into God's love. God is our all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, all-loving Parent, the eternal home for which all creation yearns. God loves us. God speaks to us. God commands us. God listens to us. God leads us to the promised land of the kingdom of heaven. God hopes that we will follow.



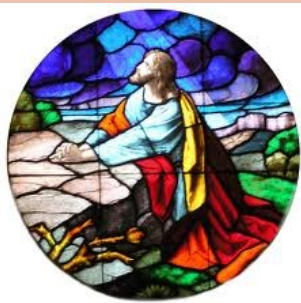
Leia Battaglia's Statement Of Faith, continued

I believe in the Spirit, the divine spark of life in all creation, inspiring hope and revelation in the faithful today as she inspired the writings of scripture, music, poetry, prayer, and religious writings that have continued to guide us for thousands of years. The Spirit is co-equal and co-eternal to God and Christ and daily whispers to us to take the hand of Jesus Christ and be led home, stirring us to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly along the way.

God came to earth in the form of Jesus Christ, a seemingly impossible figure simultaneously fully human and the stuff of history books and also fully divine and the stuff of mysteries almost too wonderful to believe. The Son of Man and Son of God came to teach the world a better way, to change the universe, to pave the way to our salvation with His own flesh, blood, and tears. The same Man who cried out in agony on the cross during His crucifixion, asking from a primal terror of abandonment whether God had forsaken Him was the same Man who burst through the gates of Hell with a righteous fury and who soared up to Heaven in triumph to sit at the right hand of God.

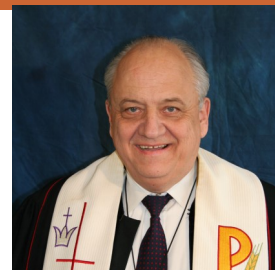
We are declared by God to be not only good but very good, yet we are nonetheless imperfect creatures prone to wander. We read the story of Eden and know that it is true; we see it each day as we turn from God, always wishing we could cover our sins with leaves. We are forgiven. We sin again. We are redeemed by the eternal love of a Godhead who has already wiped the slate and paid the price on our unworthy behalf.

I believe in a Church Universal made up of a community of believers throughout time and space, an eternal communion that we catch glimpses of when we share the bread and cup. Someday--but also at this moment--we will break bread with the Apostles, with the martyrs, with the saints, with our parents and grandparents, and with all those who have loved Christ and slipped through the veil. Someday the world will be made again and the rivers bordering Eden will flow afresh from our tears of joy. Until then, we satisfy our hunger for Heaven by sharing communion, worshipping a savior who ate bread and turned water into wine, a savior who shared Himself with everyone. Until then, we pour water on the foreheads of our children with delight as we begin telling them, long before they can understand, that God will always love them, without asking anything in return, and that we as a church promise to love them and guide them and lead them in the paths of righteousness for God's name's sake. Until then, we open our Bibles again and again, feasting on the word of God and the stories that have fed us for thousands of years and seeking comfort in the truth that is spoken in those pages.



The Church is and strives to be a community that worships actively, a community that affirms all people with the openness of Christ's welcome and stands in solidarity against systems of oppression. The Church reaches out to the wider community, prays together, and seeks to preach the Gospel at all times, with and without words. For two thousand years, the Church has shared food and fellowship, sung songs, and rejoiced at times of plenty and peace. For two thousand years, the Church has offered up all the outpourings of her heart despite sorrow, suffering, and war. We come together with faith that the Spirit will transform the world. We come together with faith in the resurrection of our Lord that will restore the world, even when all seems lost, because Jesus has shown us that death is not the end. We come together to lovingly share and study the timeless Word of God until we fall before God's throne.

Letter from Rev. Dr. Richard Griffith



From 2nd Timothy: The time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

This scripture is often used by pastors on their last Sunday at the church they have served. However, this passage does not apply to **me** at Peoples, but to **you**.

During all my time here, everyone has ministered diligently to all, “fighting the good fight” and “keeping the faith,” making sure the spiritual and physical needs of all were addressed.

And, in the midst of it all, we have “finished the race,” calling Leia Battaglia as our new pastor.

It has been a blessing to be at Peoples, and in many ways this has been a highlight of my ministry. Nan and I appreciate so very much all the cards, prayers, and well wishes from everyone.

May all be rewarded in the future, for truly, when it comes to faith and works, you have “loved his appearing.”



Blessings and appreciation to all,
Dick and Nan Griffith

Dick



**REFORMATION SUNDAY:
OCTOBER 29, 2017**

Luther's Bible

**The Presbyterian Historical
Society provides resources
for Reformation Sunday.**

www.history.pcusa.org/rs



Reformation Sunday

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

This year Presbyterians celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses. The theses, which criticized the sale of indulgences by church officials, are considered the opening salvo in the Protestant Reformation—a movement that emphasized individual relationships with God and salvation through faith alone.

Luther is also celebrated for a second piece of writing: his translation of the Bible into German. After Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther in 1521, the reformer took refuge inside Wartburg Castle. There he completed his translation of the New Testament, based on Erasmus's 1516 Bible text. First printed in September 1522, the "September Testament" does not include Luther's name on the title page, an elision meant to limit church reprisals.

From: <http://www.history.pcusa.org/history-online/presbyterian-history/reformation-sunday/reformation-sunday-2017>



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT



By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member

Cereal for 48 Families in Milan

Our CE Kick-Off Outreach Project of collecting boxes of cereal was a huge success!! We wanted to break all former records of filling all the window sills in the sanctuary for an outreach project in one Sunday — and . . . we did it!! The count was **48 boxes** lined up in all the windows, a few of them were piled two-high!

They were all delivered to *Aid in Milan* so hopefully all of Milan's children can go to school with a nutritious breakfast. The kids had a great time collecting all the boxes from the congregation.

We appreciate your continued support in all the projects of the children of our church.



Fall CE Kick-Off 2017 was Fun!

The special day started with Victoria Heeringa reading a Back to School Prayer, Brooklyn Bashaw sharing a Student's Prayer, and Sara Fital presenting a Back to School Prayer from a Parent. All the prayers had a similar, strong request for God to be with them every day, every moment and everywhere - knowing that He would never leave their sides. This promise will give them strength to go into the school year with calmness and confidence.

Everyone then brought in their backpacks, book bags or lunch bags and placed them in front of the Communion Table.

We even had four adult (huge) school bags brought forth to be blessed - word is they said that they can use all the blessings available!

The bags, along with the owners of those bags, were blessed for a safe, friendly, enriched and fun school year ahead.

During CE class, everyone made a special beaded key chain for their backpacks. It will remind them to keep "Shining with Faith"!

We continue to collect :

Pop Tabs



Box Tops



Plastic Caps and Lids



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member



Aid in Milan cereal box collection —
48 boxes! *Thank you!*



The Vesper Family

Jeff, Shauna and Julie want to thank everyone for your very generous donation of money that was used to buy them many simple meal ideas, nutritious snacks, fresh fruit, milk, eggs, etc. They were very surprised and appreciative for the very thoughtful gesture.

The girls are doing well in school and are dealing with Jeff's illness as well as can be expected.

Please keep the Vespers in your constant prayers as Jeff works through this time of extreme pain.



*Thank
You*





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

KEEP THOSE CLEAN PLASTIC CAPS & LIDS COMING!



All 13 huge bags of clean and sorted plastic caps and lids were taken down to Milan Veterinarian Office and weighed on the animal scale. The total weight was 333.6 pounds.

Our goal is 400 pounds which is needed for us to order a park bench. We are in need of an additional 66.4 pounds. The average weight of each bag was 25.6 pounds, so we need about 2.6 more bags full to reach our goal.

When we do obtain the 400 pounds, then the children will be hosting a hot dog luncheon after worship one Sunday to raise the \$275 which is the cost of making a rainbow park bench. With money in hand, we will then call the company to order our bench and will wait about three weeks for it to be completed.

The 400 pounds of caps and lids will then be delivered to Green Tree Plastics in Evansville, Indiana, where they will be weighed. We will then get to bring home our bench. How exciting!!

Until then . . . keep saving the caps and lids . . . ***please*** be sure all donations are clean of any product debris or dirt. Washing those little caps is not easy.

Thanks to all who are very dedicated to this project . . . I can see our rainbow park bench in our near future!!





PPC CANCER HATS PROJECT



The PPC Cancer Hats Group gathers in the church lounge monthly, usually on the third Thursday of each month, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, to visit while we work on making hats for chemo patients who have lost their hair.

Periodically the hats are delivered to the Oncology Unit at St. Joe Hospital, or other hospitals upon request. The hats are given to cancer patients free of charge at St. Joe. We have occasionally had the opportunity to give hats directly to cancer patient relatives and friends. What a good feeling that has been.

Patterns are available if you need them, or feel free to use your own or go online. The only requirement is that the yarn be soft so it will be comfortable on a hairless head. All sizes are needed, even for children and babies.

If you like to knit or crochet, or would like to sew fleece hats, please consider joining us for this worthwhile project. We have a nice time visiting while we work, and usually there are snacks of some kind.

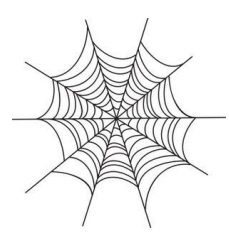


We also knit/crochet/sew hats at home, and have donated many (well over 700) soft warm hats since we began this project in 2011. It feels good to know we are helping others.

Soft, purchased hats are also welcome – just take them to the church and we will deliver them as well.

If you have questions, please call Nancy Kuzniar at 734-439-1719, or email her at n.kuzniar342@att.net.





October

2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship, C. E. <i>World Communion</i> <i>Sunday</i> <i>Minute for Mission in Support of Peacemaking</i> Peacemaking Offering received & dedicated during worship	2 7:00 pm Handbells	3	4 7:00 pm Bookworms—lounge	5	6	7 
8 10 am Worship, C. E. Session Committee Monthly Reports due to Clerk	9 7:00 pm Handbells	10 7:00 pm Worship and Music Meeting—lounge	11	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship, C. E. 11:15 am Deacon's Meeting —lounge <i>Rev. Leia Battaglia's first Sunday Worship with PPC</i> Session Committee Packets are ready for pick-up	16 7:00 pm Handbells	17	18 6:00 pm CE Meeting - CE room 7:00 pm Session Meeting —lounge	19 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer Project —lounge		
22 10 am Worship, Handbells, C. E. Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for November issue	23 7:00 pm Handbells	24	25 Riverside Community Meal at First Pres in Ypsi (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	26 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating — lounge	27	28
29 10 am Worship, C. E. <i>Reformation Sunday</i>	30 7:00 pm Handbells	31 Halloween!  6-8 pm Canopy on the Corner for refreshments during Milan's trick-or-treat! 				

Peoples Presbyterian Church

210 Smith Street Milan, MI 48160



Temporary Supply Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Richard O. Griffith

Phone: (734) 439-1922

Email: ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org

Website: www.peoplespresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am - 3:30 pm



Newsletter Editorial Staff

Nan and Jack Cranson, Nancy Kuzniar, Gordon & Judy Parker, Nancy Scully



Peoples Presbyterian Church
210 Smith Street
Milan, MI 48160