

A PLACE TO
BELONG...

A PLACE TO
BECOME...

A PLACE TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Points of Interest:

♦ Rev. Leia Rose
Battaglia —
Introduction

♦ Community
Thanksgiving
Service

We are continually collecting:

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

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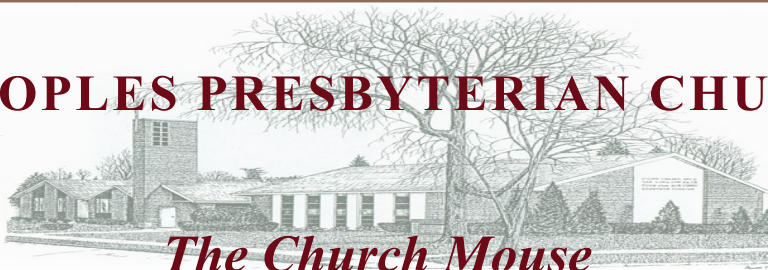
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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Church Mouse

Volume 11 || Issue 8

November 2017

Meet Pastor Leia

Once upon a time, I was raised alongside my two older brothers in an old Victorian house by the ocean. I always wanted to serve the church, but if ministry hadn't worked out, I would have aspired to be a novelist, an editor of history books, or a princess.

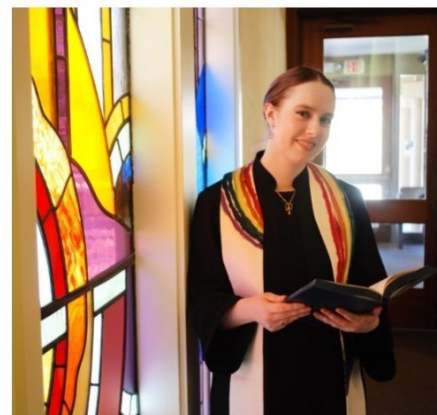
In middle school, I discovered CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien and made it a life goal to study in Oxford so that I could walk in their footsteps. In high school, in between theater productions, I sang in my church choir and also helped lead music for contemporary services. I loved theater, and while I was more effective behind the curtains than in front of them, I grew to value good lighting and costume design, and still hope to one day see one of the stage plays I wrote be performed.

In college, I double-majored in theology and history because, since I knew I wanted to go to seminary for grad school, my middle brother convinced me that I should study something other than theology to have a broader worldview. If I hadn't chosen to study abroad three times--once in Rome and twice in Oxford--I might have triple-majored in English or Creative Writing as well.

Instead, I studied medieval witchcraft in Oxford, which remains one of the most incredible experiences of my life so far. When I came back from Oxford, I won a research award for my history thesis, "Fashion...Gone With The Wind: Civil War Gowns from the Nineteenth Century to the Twentieth," exploring Scarlett O'Hara's clothing and the history behind what she would have worn in the 1936 novel as well as the costume design of the 1939 film. I also completed a theology capstone project, "The Veils of Abraham's Daughters," chronicling the history, fashion, theology, and politics of headscarves in the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions.

After college, it was important to me to do a service year because I hadn't been able to take part in a church community in college or spend much time volunteering. I believe that ministry is about people, service, and God more than it is about academic knowledge, so I didn't want to go from one school straight into another. I moved to Washington, DC, where I worked as a long-term volunteer at a non-profit dedicated to ending the cycle of poverty in the district. I led activities in low-income housing buildings and helped manage a food pantry at our headquarters.

Continued on page 2



Pastor Leia's Message, continued

Seminary was a revelation to me in terms of experiencing diverse worship styles and talking about God with people from all kinds of backgrounds and perspectives. I came to consider conversations in the dining hall every bit as important as those in classrooms. After my first year, I had the privilege of being able to serve my DC church as a summer intern, learning more about urban ministry and mission work.

After finishing three years of classes, I spent a year at a V.A. home working with a retired army chaplain, learning about ministry to the elderly and caring for the dying and the grieving. I believe that if we truly believe in the Resurrection, we should be comfortable confronting the subject of death, and I aspire to someday study mortuary science in order to better minister to a Church made up of humans who will grieve and die and be overwhelmed by those processes. After finally completing my M.Div, I spent a year working in a psychiatric office for real world professional experience.



In my spare time, I enjoy reading, swing and contra dance, Star Trek, bragging about my niece, learning new sea chanteys, catching up with friends across the country, infusing vodka, painting my nails, and fantasizing about throwing an elaborate tea party with Martha Stewart as the guest of honor.

Notable objects that moved into the manse with me include the Doctor Who scarf I spent 18 months knitting, a collection of black and white photos of some of my favorite silver screen actresses, a framed calligraphy of 1 Corinthians that remains one of my favorite college graduation presents, and the sewing machine my grandmother bought me in 2001.

Now that I've moved to Michigan, I look forward to seeing the penguin exhibit at the Detroit Zoo, going to Hell, not having to share a kitchen with multiple roommates, adopting a cat to kill spiders for me, finally figuring out what ice caves are, and attempting to survive my first winter.



As I settle in, I hope to get to know all of you and share in the life of this congregation. I would love to have you stop by the office, set up a time to meet up for coffee, tea, or drinks (or food), get a walking tour of Milan from a local, hear about your favorite places, or talk about your dreams for the church's future and what the church has done in the past that has been meaningful to you! You can email me at ppcpastor@peoplespresbyterian.org.



Shalom and agape,
Rev. Leia Rose Battaglia

Pastor Leia at C.S. Lewis's
home in Oxford



An Important Message from the Stewardship Committee

Due to a number of circumstances, the Annual Stewardship Campaign - Consecration Sunday will not occur until February 11, 2018.



We understand that this is three months after our usual November timing, but due to members of the Stewardship Committee participating on the PNC for the process of hiring our new pastor, the need for supply pastors this fall due to Pastor Griffith's illness, and availability of a Consecration Sunday Leader from Presbytery, it is not possible to complete our pledge drive before year end.

Given this, we ask all of the members and friends of Peoples Presbyterian to please continue their current pledge until Consecration Sunday on February 11, 2018. That is only a little over a month past the time your 2017 pledge would normally end. By doing this, we can ensure that we fund the important operations of the church and its ministry and mission efforts.

Thank You for your understanding of this situation, and continued support of Peoples.

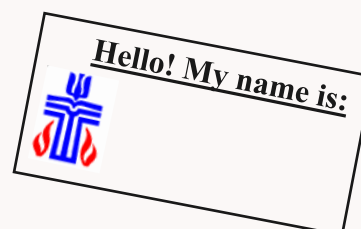
— Stewardship Committee



Membership Committee

Membership committee would like to encourage everyone to wear their nametag on Sunday mornings.

This will be a great help to Pastor Battaglia, as she is trying to learn who is who...it's great to be able to put a name with a face!



Thank you!

— Membership Committee



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service



Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Location: Immaculate Conception Church
420 North Street Milan

Join the Churches of Milan in praise and thanks to God for his many blessings.
Come for Scripture Readings, Inspirational messages, Music, Praise, and Worship!

Enjoy fellowship and light refreshments following the service.

*Please come and embrace the spirit of Thanksgiving with
sisters and brothers of our Lord.*

ALL ARE WELCOME!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

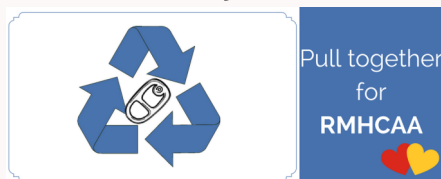
By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member

The last day to bring in aluminum pop tabs:

Sunday, November 19

This year marks the 4th Annual Pop Tab Battle against Ohio State! Help us as we compete to see who can collect the most tabs in time for the **U of M** vs. **Ohio State** football game!

We would love to see the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Ann Arbor win this year!! Our collection of pop tabs will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Ann Arbor the week after our final collection on November 19.



— How & Why —

They take the tabs to a local recycling company and receive money for each pound of tabs collected. It takes approximately 1,200 tabs to equal one pound. Through this recycling program, they can raise funds to continue providing a “home away from home” for families going through the toughest time in their lives.

<https://rmhcann Arbor.org>

We continue to collect :

Pop Tabs



Box Tops



Save those empty paper rolls!

Christian Education is asking for donations of toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls for an Advent project.

Please save your empty rolls and bring in a collection (or how ever many you have!) before December.



Plastic Caps and Lids



Thank you!





2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1 7:00 pm Bookworms— lounge	2	3	4
5 10 am Worship, <u>All Saints Sunday</u>, Communion, C. E. Begin gathering items for Aid in Milan Thanksgiving Baskets Session Monthly Reports due to Clerk	6 7:00 pm Handbells	7 Election Day	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day 
12 10 am Worship, C. E. Continue collection for Aid in Milan Thanksgiving Baskets CE decorating Thanksgiving boxes for Aid in Milan Session Packets are ready for pick-up	13 7:00 pm Handbells	14 4:00 pm Worship and Music Mtg - lounge	15 6:00 pm CE Mtg - CE room 7:00 pm Session Meeting – lounge	16 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer Project - lounge	17	18
19 10 am Worship: <u>Thanksgiving Sunday</u>, Handbells, C. E. <i>Church Mouse Newsletter articles are due for Dec/Jan issue</i> Final day of collection for Aid in Milan Thanksgiving Baskets Final day of pop tab collection 6:30 pm - Community Thanksgiving Service	20 7:00 pm Handbells	21	22 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter Collating- lounge Riverside Community Meal at First Pres in Ypsi (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	23  Thanksgiving Day  	24	25
26 10 am Worship, C. E. 6:00 pm Decorating Party to prepare the church for advent. 	27 7:00 pm Handbells	28	29	30		

SESSION REPORT

By Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session



Session Highlights from the October 19 meeting

Presbytery Eight PPC members attended the September 26, 2017 Presbytery meeting at Orchard Lake, where Leia Rose Battaglia was examined and approved for ordination and her call to Peoples Presbyterian Church in Milan was approved.

Pastor Nominating Committee Leia Rose Battaglia's Call was approved by PPC at a Called Congregational Meeting following worship on September 10, 2017. She was ordained by the Presbytery of San Jose, California on Sunday, October 8, and her first Sunday at PPC was October 15, 2017. The PNC will be dismissed after Rev. Battaglia's Installation (date yet to be determined), although they will act as an informal liaison group for another year.

Major Building Repairs All items on the Major Building Repairs list have now been completed, and thanks to volunteer labor, all came in under budget. The Building Our Walls campaign has now been completed.

Temporary Supply Pastor Committee Because the church now has a full time Called Pastor, the part time Temporary Supply Pastor contract for The Rev. Richard O. Griffith was closed as of September 24, 2017. The chair of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry's Transitional Leadership Team has been informed of the closing of the contract, and will inform Executive Presbyter Al Timm and the COM Chair. The Temporary Supply Pastor Committee was dismissed with many thanks.

Christian Education Our C.E. Fall Kick Off was on Sunday, September 10. The children and some adults participated in the Blessing of the Backpacks for the start of the new school year. In the past few weeks, the children have been preparing for our new pastor by creating and hiding little warm fuzzies for the Pastor to find as she moves into the Manse. In the upcoming weeks the children will be preparing for Thanksgiving and the Christmas pageant (December 10). We are still collecting plastic caps for a bench, and are really close to our 400-pound goal.

Fellowship Fellowship has organized a night of fun and dinner at JR's Bar and Grill in Milan on Friday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. Fellowship will coordinate with Membership for a dinner preceding the PPC Christmas party on Friday, December 8.

Membership In October, Membership, with the help of Nancy Scully, designed and sent out postcards announcing Pastor Leia's first Sunday. The Annual Membership Review has been completed. Membership will coordinate with Fellowship for a dinner preceding the PPC Christmas party on Friday, December 8.

Mission and Outreach On Sunday, September 10, Mission sponsored a successful chicken dinner for the homeless at Hill House in Ann Arbor. The Peacemaking offering is being tabulated. On Halloween, the church will again provide cookies and cider under a canopy at the corner of Smith and Marvin Streets, during Trick or Treat hours of 6-8 p.m. Mission will meet soon to set up the details for Thanksgiving baskets and our Christmas adopted family.

Worship and Music The sanctuary will be decorated for Advent/Christmas following worship on Sunday, Nov. 26. The First Sunday of Advent is December 3.



Peoples Presbyterian Church

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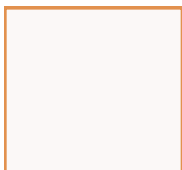
Website: www.peoplespresbyterian.org

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



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