

A PLACE TO  
BELONG...

A PLACE TO  
BECOME...

A PLACE TO  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

### Points of Interest:

♦ *Consecration  
Sunday*

♦ *Ash Wednesday*

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*We are continually  
collecting:*

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

# PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*The Church Mouse*

Volume 12 || Issue 1

February 2018

## Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Iiiiiit's Groundhog Day!

Growing up, one of the movies that my brothers and I would watch over and over again was the 1993 comedy "Groundhog Day," starring Bill Murray. Bill Murray's character gets stuck in a time loop so that every single day when he wakes up, it's the exact same day as the day before and he's the only person who remembers what's going on. The Jeopardy answers are the same, the weather is the same, the same kid falls out of the same tree at exactly the same time, and so on. Over the course of a decade or so, or maybe several thousand years, depending on whose theory you believe, Bill Murray makes peace with his plight, becoming a master pianist, picking up hobbies like ice sculpture, learning how to save the life of the same man who chokes on the same bite of food in the same diner every single day.

Groundhog Day as a holiday is a very silly one and I suspect that whoever first came up with the theory of a groundhog's shadow having anything to do with the weather was someone who had been driven slowly mad by a particularly long and dark winter.

But every year without fail, the second of February is met with media speculation and elementary school art projects in varying degrees of silliness. Are we really so stir-crazy that we think one cloudy, shadowless day will bring the springtime any earlier? Does Punxsutawney Phil, the resident groundhog of a small Pennsylvania town made famous by Bill Murray really rank with legitimate human professionals who report on the weather? What about the years when the report of one local groundhog "meteorologist" conflicts with the shadow seen by another? Groundhog Day (the movie) was recently turned into a Broadway musical and I am rather disappointed that I didn't get the chance to take the train up to New York for the day to see it while I was still living in New Jersey. Bill Murray, however, not only got the chance to see it but went to see it two nights in a row, wearing the same outfit. This is exactly the kind of news that makes me very happy.

Groundhog Day (the holiday) is something that I enjoy celebrating every year. Sometimes, when I was living in California, I would have friends over, pop the VHS tape into the VCR, refer to my twelve-pound mini poodle, Annabelle, as "Groundhog," and take her on a walk to check for shadows.



Continued on pg. 2



## Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

Since finishing college and moving to the east coast, I've had a slightly more philosophical approach to my Groundhog Day celebrations. Every year, just in case of the (admittedly unlikely) chance of a Groundhog Day scenario, I clean the house on February 1<sup>st</sup>. If I am ever stuck waking up on Groundhog Day every single day for countless years to come, I figure that I might as well wake up in clean sheets every single time, or always have an empty sink and trash can, or never have to look at that weird spot on the floor.

But I hope also that (and again, it will probably never happen, but) if I were ever stuck in a time loop on Groundhog Day, I would have the kind of relationship with all my most interesting friends that I could engage them in deep philosophical conversations and they would help me expand my mind. (I figure that if I were stuck in a time loop, I would spend my endless days reading every book I could get my hands on) I hope that no one would see it as out of character for me to mention a new hobby I'd taken up, or that I'd changed my opinion on something important after a lot of consideration. I hope that no one thinks of me as the kind of closed-minded jerk that Bill Murray was at the beginning of the movie.

Whether anyone sees their shadow on Friday, February 2 this year--groundhog, poodle, or otherwise--I wish you all a delightful Groundhog Day full of the sorts of food, love, and experiences that you wouldn't mind re-living.

shalom and agape

Pastor Leia



Ash Wednesday falls on February 14<sup>th</sup> this year. We will gather at 5:30 for a soup supper followed by a 6:30 service in the sanctuary.

If you would like to receive ashes but can't make it to the evening service, Pastor Leia plans to have the columbarium chapel open all day for an "Ash and Dash."

If you can make it in the morning but not the evening, please let her know so she has an idea of how early to have the ashes ready.

Starting on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be starting a special Lenten Bible study that will not require any reading or preparation beforehand, so please consider joining us in the lounge at 9:00 on Wednesday mornings.

## Consecration Sunday

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### CONSECRATION SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11

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All members and friends of Peoples Presbyterian Church should plan to attend the Consecration Sunday Service on February 11. It is a very important day in the life of our church to help support its ministry and mission, and just as importantly, for our personal spiritual development.

Immediately following the service, we will once again have a catered luncheon in celebration of what God is calling us to do. Please be sure to either sign-up for the luncheon on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, or by letting the church office know that you plan to attend.

See you on Sunday, February 11!  
Stewardship Committee

## Scholarship Available

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Applications for the Rose London Memorial Scholarship are now available in the church office. High School seniors graduating in the year 2018 and attending college or trade school in the fall of the same year are eligible.



### Scholarship

Seniors must be active members at Peoples Presbyterian Church. Those interested in obtaining complete guidelines for this scholarship may request a copy from the church secretary.

Deadline for submission of the application is March 31, 2018.

## New Photo Directory for the Church!

Membership Committee is pleased to announce that we will be creating a photo directory for PPC members and friends. You will have the opportunity to have a photo shoot with a professional photographer!

**There is no cost to you and you will receive a free 8x10 photo as well as being included in our church photo directory.**

Photo packages will be available if you wish to purchase.



**Our dates for photo sessions will be April 16, 17 and 18.**

Be looking for more up-dates and information in February... *smile!*

Sue Barney, Membership Chair

## Christian Education

Effie,  
Julianne,  
and Shauna



By Carole London  
Christian Education  
Committee Member

thank  
you!

Our Friends at Peoples Presbyterian Church,  
We want to take a moment to let you know how much we appreciate your support of Shauna, Julianne and our now even bigger and more blessed family! Your kindness and care for the girls' well being are things that we are so very grateful for. We feel in our hearts that we indeed made the right decisions to take in these sweet girls. I look forward to introducing you to the rest of our daughters soon.

Sincerely yours,  
Effie and James Palmer

P.S. Whenever we have a chance to visit Peoples, James and I are so moved by your loving and supportive church family, and we look forward to spending more time there as our journey continues.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member

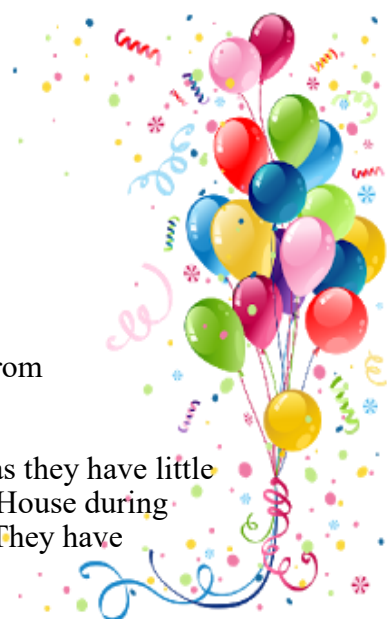
### 2018 Lenten Mission Project

We have a very fun way for all of us to participate in our new Lenten Mission Project! What is more exciting than a birthday . . .? Well, you get to make a birthday very special for a child by creating a "Birthday Bash in a Bag"!!

Just get a birthday gift bag and fill it with at least the basics - but feel free to add any other fun items you wish!

#### Ideas:

- ☆ cake mix
- ☆ frosting
- ☆ sprinkles
- ☆ aluminum pan
- ☆ candles
- ☆ paper plates, napkins, tablecloth
- ☆ balloons
- ☆ party favors
- ☆ gift card for the family to purchase a birthday gift for the child from Target or Meijer



Safe House in Ann Arbor is very excited to receive the Birthday Bags, as they have little available supplies to celebrate birthdays for the children who are in the House during their birthdays. This will make their special day - a day to remember. They have storage space for about 25 bags.

Foster Closet for Washtenaw County will gladly accept any Birthday Bags over the 25 that we are able to fill. They also have a great need for "instant birthday" supplies for their foster parents to use for their growing family when they bring another child into their home.



There will be labels provided for you to paper clip to the birthday bag. Blue labels for boys, pink for girls and yellow if it could be used for either girl or boy. There will be space for you to include an age range, and also a space to indicate the theme of the party if applicable. (*Disney, Legos, Sesame Street, Princess, Superhero, etc.*)

The Birthday Bash in a Bag Mission Project will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and will conclude on Easter. Delivery will be mid-April.

***So . . . get your party hat on and go out and find a fun birthday gift bag and fill it with birthday surprises!!***



## PPC Cancer Hats Project

From: Nancy Kuzniar



### THIS, MY FRIENDS, IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Last week I stopped in at my favorite tire store to have my car's tires rotated. I took my knitting bag in with me to work while I waited. After a while one of the young (maybe 30ish?) tire techs walked by, stopped, and commented that the hat was really pretty, and looked warm. I thanked him, and said it was for a cancer patient at St. Joe's. An odd look went across his face.

Turns out that he was a prior cancer patient there, and at one point after a chemo treatment, he was offered the opportunity to select a hat from the basket, which he was most thankful for. He said he was doing just fine now, and whipped off his company hat to show me that his hair has now grown back in. I think we were both close to tears.

Later, when I was checking out, the above tech was working with a customer at the next computer. As I was leaving, I impulsively asked him if I could give him a hug. He dropped everything, gave me a big bear hug, and said his day was blessed by our having had a chance to talk. Needless to say, so was mine.

This may be as close as I will ever come to seeing or meeting someone wearing a hat I have knit. I cried all the way home. Life is real.

The PPC cancer hats knitting and crocheting group meets once a month, usually on the third Thursday of the month, from 1-3 pm in the church lounge, to create warm, soft hats for chemo patients. Please consider joining us for a pleasant afternoon.

### ***How can you help?***

We would be happy to deliver additional donated hats to St. Joe, and, occasionally, directly to friends and family members. Any style of hat for men, women, or children, either handmade or store bought, is most welcome. The only requirement is that they be soft, so they will be comfortable for sensitive hairless heads.



# Session Highlights

From: Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session

## **2017 Nominating Committee**

The Nominating committee has completed the task of recruiting nominees for Elders, Deacons, and the 2018 Nominating Committee, to be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2018.

## **Presbytery**

Commissioner Doris Campbell reported on the Presbytery meeting, which she attended along with Rev. Battaglia on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

## **PPC Treasurer**

PPC Treasurer Ken London had earlier expressed the wish to retire from this position when a qualified candidate could be found. Chris Wetzler has agreed to accept this office, and was elected as the new church Treasurer. Ken will work with Chris during the transition.

## **PPC Women's Group**

A total of 222 hats were donated to St. Joe's Oncology Center in 2017, and the new collection of hats to be delivered is growing rapidly.

## **Information Item**

It is urgent that everyone check to be sure lights are turned off and exterior doors are closed tightly and locked when leaving the church building.

## **Fellowship**

On November 17, 2017, 21 people attended a Merry Markers Dinner at JRs in Milan.

## **Membership**

Plans are being made for a new Pictorial Church Directory.



## **Stewardship**

The Stewardship Committee is working out the details for Consecration Sunday, which will be on February 11. There will be presentations in Sunday services over the six week period. Letters will be going out to all members and friends, keeping them aware of the coming Consecration Sunday and inviting them to be in church on January 11, to be part of the celebration dinner following the service.

Stewardship is also looking for two more persons to serve on the Stewardship Committee. Stewardship currently has three members: Steve Barney, Jack Cranson and Doris Campbell.

## **Worship and Music**

**Advent:** Children and families took part each Sunday during Advent to light the Advent candles. Twenty poinsettias were donated to decorate the sanctuary.

**Lent:** Ash Wednesday is February 14. Prior to the 6:30 pm worship service, a dinner will be served, possibly soup. Easter is April 1.

"Passing of the Peace" during worship was discussed. Pastor Leia will reframe the true meaning of this tradition during the worship service.

Shortening the time spent on "announcements" was also addressed. Announcements will be printed in the bulletin, eliminating so much time being taken during the beginning of worship.

# February

# 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day! 	3  <b>Winterfest-</b> <i>Let's Chill!</i> <b>Chili cook-off!</b> At Marble Memorial UMC 12 - 2 pm
4 10 am Worship, <b>Communion, Ordination</b> <b>of Elders/ Deacons, CE</b> <i>King's Cake during</i> <i>Fellowship Hour!</i>  Deacons'/Elders Retreat Lunch Session reports due to clerk	5  7:00 pm Handbells	6	7 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge  7:00 pm Bookworms— lounge	8	9	10
11 <b>10 am Worship:</b> <b>Transfiguration of the</b> <b>Lord, CE</b> <u>Consecration Sunday</u> - lunch following service Session packets ready for pick-up	12  7:00 pm Handbells	13  7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting - lounge	14 9:00 am Bible Study  <b>5:30 pm Soup</b> <b>Dinner (FH)</b> <b>6:30 pm Worship</b>	15  1-3 pm Hats for Cancer - lounge	16	17
18 <b>10 am Worship: 1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Sunday in Lent,</b> <b>Communion, CE,</b> <b>OGHS—fish banks</b>  Church Mouse Newsletter articles due for March issue	19 <i>President's Day</i>  7:00 pm Handbells	20	21 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge  6:00 pm CE Meeting— YR 7:00 pm Session Meeting— lounge	22 9:30 am Newsletter Collating - lounge  Riverside Community Meal at First Pres in Ypsi (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	23	24
25 <b>10 am Worship: 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>Sunday in Lent,</b> <b>Communion, CE</b>	26  7:00 pm Handbells	27	28 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge  <i>Purim</i>			





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