

A PLACE TO
BELONG...

A PLACE TO
BECOME...

A PLACE TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Points of Interest:

- ♦ *Pastor Leia's message — Lent and Maundy Thursday*
- ♦ *PPC New Photo Directory!*
- ♦ *Easter Flowers*

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We are continually collecting:

- ♦ Pull Tabs
- ♦ Box Tops

PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Church Mouse

Volume 12 || Issue 2

March 2018

Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

It's Lent, a season that will lead us on a journey to the cross. The colors change from ordinary green to a kingly but sombre purple. Lent is a season to be uncomfortable, to face our own mortality and our complicity in the crucifixion. We remember that just a little bit ago, we rejoiced at the birth of our Savior, even though in not much longer, we will be the reason He is hung on a cross to die for us. But for now, we're leaving on a pilgrimage. We're taking what we'll need, the scripture and the prayers. To remind us that we're on a journey, the cross that met you at the door the first morning will move closer to the communion table every week. The sanctuary will look a bit different every Sunday because the world is changing as we get closer to the cross and as Jesus gets closer to dying for us. There will be no flowers, only dead palm branches. The cross won't be lit again until Easter.

The tables will be set up with a different prayer station every week. A mentor once explained to me that people have different learning styles. Some people absorb information through listening to people lecture or talk (or preach). Some people do better if they read the information themselves (like following along with a Bible reading). Some people need to see pictures or graphs. Some people need to be physically involved.



In a church service, there aren't as many options for the last two groups of people, but just like not everyone learns the same way, not everyone relates to God in the same way. Prayer stations allow people to talk to God while using their hands, which for some people can be a stronger and more tactile reminder of our connection to God.



Continued on pg. 2



Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

We will share communion every week during Lent. We're used to sharing communion only on the first Sunday of the month, but I think, sometimes, that tradition can feel like a habitual obligation. When we come together as a church to share in a meal, whether it's a bite of bread or a full potluck, that meal is a special occasion, and we share special meals for a reason. Sometimes we eat together to celebrate something, like at Easter or after Consecration Sunday. Sometimes we eat together because we enjoy each other's company, like at a Merry Makers dinner or at coffee hour. Sometimes we eat together because we need the support of our community and because sharing food can be one of the ways we express sympathy, like at a wake or after a funeral. I think that sharing communion throughout Lent is a little bit like that.

A lot of people around the world take on extra spiritual practices for the season of Lent. Some people fast or won't eat meat on Fridays, some people give up chocolate or alcohol or social media, some people commit to reading more of the Bible every day, to writing sacred poetry, to wearing something that reminds them that they are a child of God. For some people, giving something up is a way to be in the wilderness with Jesus in solidarity. For some people, adding a spiritual practice is a way to carry something in solidarity with Jesus as He carries the cross. Throughout Lent, I hope that some of you will join me at our special Lenten Bible Study series on art and the stations of the cross at 9:00 on Wednesday mornings in the lounge.

shalom and agape



Pastor Leia



About two thousand years ago, Jesus and His friends gathered together to share a meal for what He knew would be the last time. We celebrate this event on the Thursday before Easter, which various English-speaking churches refer to as either "Maundy Thursday," "Holy Thursday," or "Shere Thursday." The day is generally honored in one or several of the following ways: a foot-washing ceremony, a shared meal, or by removing all hangings and decorations from the sanctuary.



Here at Peoples, we will be gathering on Maundy Thursday (March 29) at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will share a simple meal of bread, fruit, nuts, and cheese, reminiscent of what Jesus and His friends might have been eating. The food will be served family style on the tables and we will have a worship service in the same space when we finish eating.

The word "maundy" refers to the ritual of washing feet. During the meal, groups will be invited, a few people at a time, to ritually rinse each other's feet. We'll have pitchers of warm water set up so that we can take turns sitting down and holding out our feet over a basin so that water can be poured over them to remember that Jesus washed the feet of His friends as an expression of love and humility.

Spring Flowers for Easter Sunday

EASTER FLOWERS

Celebrate our joyous Easter Sunday with a gift of spring flowers to beautify our sanctuary.

A variety of spring flowers can be ordered at 2 for \$20 using the order form found in the pews.

Flowers may be taken home following the worship service.

The deadline for ordering is March 25.



NEW Photo Directory!



Photo Opportunity....*don't miss out...*

Lifetouch, a photography company that specializes in portrait photography as well as church photo directories, will be coming to Peoples on **April 16, 17, and 18.**

The Membership Committee will begin scheduling photo shoots on Sunday, Feb. 25 and will continue through April 8. Please think about the time slot that would work best for you and be one of the first to sign up in order to get your first choice! You will receive a free 8x10 photo just for participating as well as have your portrait included in our church directory.

If you have other family members who would like to have their picture taken, even if they do not want to be included in the directory, they are welcome to participate and will receive the free 8x10. We would love to have 100% participation from our members and friends of Peoples. Even our furry family members are invited — your well-behaved dog or cat can be included with the family!

Anyone who has recent photos of various church events on your phone or camera, please e-mail them to the church office ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org. We are looking for pictures to add to the collage page of the new directory.

Sue Barney, Membership Chair



Christian Education

By Carole London,

ABC (A Bench for Caps) Promise Partnership with Green Tree Plastics Company in Evansville, Indiana

Yay!! We did it!!! We have hit our long-time goal of 400 pounds of plastic caps and lids! We are now ready to order our six-foot park bench. The cost of the bench made with rainbow colored solid plastic boards will be \$300. We plan to have a gold plaque made for it in recognition of the recycling project that made it possible. There will also be the expense of gasoline to get the plastic caps and lids to Evansville and the park bench back to Peoples.

So . . . the children will be hosting a special luncheon after worship one Sunday in March to earn the necessary money to complete the project. Details will be coming on date and menu.

Christian Education thanks everyone for their very dedicated contributions toward this recycling project. It taught the kids that through our joint efforts, our church saved over 400 pounds of waste from going into our landfills and waterways.

We will soon have a very special park bench to relax on as we bask in the satisfaction of a job well done!



Announcements... Coming up....

The Lenten Season is up and running in the Christian Education classes.

The children distributed One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks to the congregation and took one for themselves to fill. The banks will be collected and dedicated on Palm Sunday, March 25.

We will be studying the painful, but eventually glorious, stories of Easter. Then we will make our own set of Resurrection eggs, bake and serve some yummy pretzels during Fellowship Hour, create some special "He Lives" bracelets, and then recreate Palm Sunday activities with our own "real" palm leaves!

Easter Sunday will bring the Easter Egg Hunt at 9 am after the Easter Breakfast.

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22 - we want to remember our duty of taking care of this wonderful earth God has given us.

Have a joyous Easter Sunday!

Mark your calendars . . . Vacation Bible School — July 9 - 13, 2018!

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 few 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 has begun 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!!

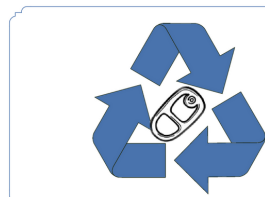


PPC Cancer Hats Project

From: Nancy Kuzniar



Just a reminder that our next Hats for Cancer will be **March 15** from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm in the church lounge. Please join us for a fun afternoon! (Even if you can't knit or crochet, you're welcome to come and sit/talk with us!)



Pull together
for
RMHCAA



*You can find out more about RMHCAA
and how they help families at:*
<https://rmhcannarbor.org/>



We received a *thank you* note from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Ann Arbor for our pop-tab donation.

They explained the tabs will be recycled for money that will directly impact the children and families they serve every day.

Thank you, Peoples! Your pop-tab collection made a difference and will help families in the area.

Ann Arbor

An Old Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's Day

May your days be many and your troubles be few.
May all God's blessings descend upon you.
May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.
May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.
May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.
May thy salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and forevermore.
Amen.

credit: The Leo House, a nonprofit Catholic guesthouse for travelers

MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10 am Worship: 3rd Sunday in Lent, Communion, CE	5 7:00 pm Handbells	6 7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting - lounge	7 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge 7:00 pm Bookworms - lounge	8	9	10
11 10 am Worship: 4th Sunday in Lent, Communion, No CE Session reports due to clerk	12 7:00 pm Handbells	13	14 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge	15 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer - lounge	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 
18 10 am Worship: 5th Sunday in Lent, Communion, CE, Session packets ready for pick-up Church Mouse Newsletter articles due for April issue	19 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	23	24
25 10 am Worship: Palm / Passion Sunday, Communion, Handbells, CE—The Last Supper Collect fish banks  Holy Week begins	26 7:00 pm Handbells	27	28 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge Riverside Community Meal (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	29  <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 5:30 pm Supper & Worship - Fellowship Hall	 Good Friday <i>Community Service - TBD</i>	31



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