

A PLACE TO
BELONG...

A PLACE TO
BECOME...

A PLACE TO
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

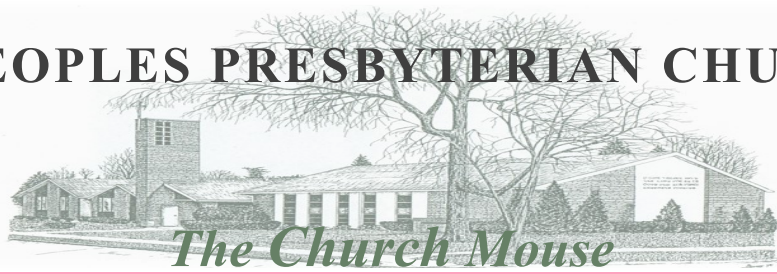
Points of Interest:

- ♦ *Pastor Leia's message — new member class announcement*
- ♦ *PPC New Photo Directory!*
- ♦ *CE Rainbow bench—update!*

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PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Church Mouse

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April 2018

Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

The dark season of Lent is ending and Easter is upon us! Writing an Easter sermon (or an April newsletter) while still in the middle of Lent is a strange place to be in. The cat is still in her Lenten purple collar (yes, the cat is very concerned with wearing the appropriate liturgical color). The cross is still dark. We haven't started rejoicing yet. We haven't laid Jesus in the tomb, even though we will discover soon enough on Easter morning that the tomb will be empty. It's a strange time to write about joy. We're preparing for Easter, but we aren't there yet, at least as this newsletter is printed and uploaded and sent out. Almost, but not yet.

~

In this in-between time, let me tell you a story about an adventure that I had with Gingersnap in January.

It was in January that Gingersnap and I discovered that she was capable of jumping up onto the kitchen counters. She might have been pleased with this discovery, but I was NOT (to put it mildly). As I was cleaning up the mess of a knocked-over sugar bowl that was the result of this discovery, I told the cat in no uncertain terms that it was her own darn fault I was running the vacuum and that if she had been a more well-behaved cat, I would be petting her but, because she had to go and make a mess, I was cleaning instead. Seeing that I wasn't giving her the attention she wanted, she left to sulk in another room.

I finished cleaning, read a magazine, cooked some food, ate it, and realized that I hadn't seen the cat in a while. So I looked over the whole manse in all her usual favorite spots: the ottoman that has a small entrance and a cushion inside, the spot in front of her favorite heater grate, the cat tree, the pile of packing paper, any of the empty boxes...she was nowhere to be found. Scratching my head, I popped open a can of wet food and put it down for her, figuring that she'd be drawn to the smell of dinner. Still no cat.

There was snow on the ground, so obviously there were no open windows where she could have slipped out. I hadn't gone anywhere that day, so there was no way she could have gotten past me through an open door. She HAD to be somewhere inside.

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Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

I stayed up late, listening for the jingle of her collar. A few times, I thought I heard something, but couldn't find the source. Come on, cat! The poodle I grew up with would NEVER have done this to me!

Finally, I went to bed.

I was having no luck.

How was I supposed to find her? How could I have lost an indoor-only cat?

How could I possibly explain it to the nice person who had brought her to me in the first place? "Thanks again for that very beautiful cat. I, um, kind of lost her, though."?

I woke up in the morning, put the kettle on for tea, and went down to the basement to check on the can of food I'd opened the night before. It still hadn't been touched! It had been eighteen hours at this point since I'd last seen this cat and she hadn't even eaten in all that time!

"Gingersnap, where are you?!" I asked of the empty basement.

"meow?" I heard softly, from...above my head?

Gingersnap's worried little face was peering out from the ceiling, where a tile had been removed to let a pipe through.

And so I came to discover that my dumb cat had gotten herself stuck in the ceiling of the basement for eighteen hours.

I pulled a stool over so I could get high enough to pull her down, marched her upstairs, closed the gate, and haven't let her back in the basement since.

There's nothing in the ceiling except for cobwebs and loneliness.

~

On Easter morning, there will be nothing in the tomb except some spices and a forgotten shroud.



Pastor Leia



As we move into April and the Easter season, stay tuned for details about our upcoming New Members class for young adults and regular adults! If you've ever thought about joining the church, if you crave a refresher on church history, if you're not clear on what makes Presbyterians unique, or if you just want to hear Pastor Leia gush about how much she loves the new purple hymnal, you should talk to her after church or send her an email at ppcpastor@peoplespresbyterian.org to let her know you're interested.

Holy Week announcements—Pastor Leia

Every year, churches around the world remember the last few days of Jesus' life by commemorating Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday. While there are traditions, and even services for each of the days of the week between Palm Sunday and Easter, we at Peoples are focusing on Thursday and Friday.

On Maundy Thursday (March 29), we will gather at 5:30pm 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. During the meal, groups will be invited, a few people at a time, to ritually rinse each other's feet.

On Good Friday (March 30), we will join with several other area churches for a community service. This year, we are gathering at the Milan Free Methodist Church (950 E Arkona Road) at 7:00 pm.

And, of course, on Easter, we will gather in joy: at 8:00 am, we will share breakfast (the men are meeting at 7:00 am to begin cooking); at 9:00 am, we will have an Easter egg hunt; and at 10:00 am, we will join in worship to celebrate the resurrection. The sanctuary will be filled with flowers and music, the sun will (hopefully) be shining, and the tomb will be empty!

NEW PPC Photo Directory!



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**.

It's not too late to be included in the upcoming PPC photo directory. To schedule an appointment, please contact the church office at 439-1922 or e-mail the office ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org, or call Sue Barney at 429-2545.

Remember, you are under no obligation to order pictures and you will receive a free 8x10 just for participating.

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,
Christian Education Committee

Lenten Mission Project – "*Birthday Bash in a Bag*"

You have the chance 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 – feel free to add any other fun items you wish!

Ideas:

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



**OGHS Fish
Banks are DUE
this Sunday,
March 25!**



These filled Birthday Bags will be delivered to both the ***Safe House*** and ***Foster Closet*** in mid-April for children and teens in Washtenaw County.

There are labels available in Fellowship Hall to attach to the bags providing information regarding the gender, age, and theme of gift bag.

If you'd like to create and donate a birthday bag but prefer to drop it off quickly or while you're out and about – you can drop it off in the church office as well.

Join in on the fun!
Make a birthday to remember for these children!



***Keep those
prescription bottles
coming . . .
the Huron Valley
Humane Society
will gladly accept
them for their use.***

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Carole London, Christian Education Committee Member

Hot dog luncheon & Rainbow bench — UPDATES!

Hot dog!!! We had a great luncheon after worship today!!
With a summer picnic menu and a few ants and flies hanging around . . .
hot dogs never tasted so good!



Thanks to your generous support, we were able to raise \$412!!!
Our goal was \$400 so we were very successful in our profits. *Thank you, Thank you!!!*

Now, the end of the story . . .

The company we are buying the bench from does not keep credits for extra plastic weight in the accounts of their customers any more. They encourage people to use their excess caps and lids to purchase another item . . . We are close to having an additional 100 pounds, which is the least amount needed to purchase an item.

We will be taking the trip to Evansville the week of April 15, so let's continue to **bring in the caps and lids until April 15**. That way, we can be sure we have enough to buy another item.

Looking at the website, they have flower planters for around \$55 plus 100 pounds.
So . . . with that we will need just a little more money to cover all the expenses.
If you have not made a donation and would like to do so, please see Carole London.

This has been a fantastic project not only for the kids, but for the entire congregation!
It was a great way to prove that even tiny bottle caps can add up to hundreds of pounds. The knowledge that they will be kept out of the landfills and waterways is a great feeling. Hopefully this will be a lesson that won't soon be forgotten.

When the rainbow park bench arrives at Peoples, it will have a special place in the Narthex for a while so everyone can have a chance to sit and relax on the "fruit of our labors" — and probably the first bench in Milan made out of 400 pounds of plastic! It will then be a focal point in a new landscaped part of our property.

CE thanks everyone for their dedication and support for this great recycling project!!!
We did it!!! Yay Us!!!



CE Report continued on page 6

CE SPOTLIGHT!



Congratulations,
Brooklyn!

Brooklyn made 223 points this season, including 23 free throws.

Her team had 14 wins and 4 losses. She received a certificate for junior varsity.



Max got a heat winner ribbon for his 25 yard backstroke and he got another heat winner ribbon for the relay he was in.

Alex did an amazing job for her 25 yard butterfly!

Congratulations,
Max and Alex!

PPC LUNCH BUNCH

WHAT

Bring your lunch to the PPC Church Lounge

WHEN

Second Wednesday of each month

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(or whatever end time works best for you)

(Next Lunch Bunch is **April 11**)

WHERE

PPC Church Lounge

WHY

Join others in the church family
to visit while we eat lunch.

No structured program, no set agenda,
just good conversation and catching up with what's new.

Bring yourself – bring your family – bring friends.



February Meeting — Session Highlights

Buildings & Grounds Trim has been installed around heaters in lounge. New lights have been purchased and installed in the sanctuary; total cost was \$1,254.19. A new stove has been purchased for the church kitchen – it will be paid for from Memorial funds. (The old stove was purchased in 1987 when the Fellowship Hall and kitchen were torn down and re-built.)

Fellowship Men of the church are being recruited to assist with preparing and serving breakfast on Easter Sunday morning. Lunch Bunch will be held in the church lounge on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m., beginning March 14, 2018. Bring your lunch and enjoy conversation with others while you eat and relax.

Membership Plans are being made for a new Pictorial Church Directory. Dates for photos will be April 16, 17, 18. Contact the church office for an appointment.

Mission and Outreach \$257 was raised by the PPC chili cook-off on January 21, 2018. One Great Hour of Sharing offering begins on February 18, and will conclude on Palm Sunday, March 25, when fish banks are collected and the OGHS offerings are received and dedicated.

Stewardship The Stewardship Committee used the Consecration Sunday process for our Stewardship Campaign this year. This is the third time that this method has been used at PPC. Consecration Sunday was held on February 11, 2018.

Worship & Music Ash Wednesday service was Feb. 14, preceded by a soup supper. Maundy Thursday service on March 29 will be preceded by a light supper in the Fellowship Hall. To shorten the time spent on announcements at the beginning of worship services, announcements will be printed in the bulletin.



PPC Cancer Hats Project

From: Nancy Kuzniar



Hats for Cancer Patients

Spring is finally approaching! Many of us have heard or seen a few robins... so there IS hope! The air is still cool, however, and for people who have lost their hair due to chemo treatments, warm hats are important and a great comfort.

The PPC Cancer Hats group continues to knit and crochet hats at home, and away from home, while waiting for appointments and other events. Any “down time” is a good time to work on a hat!

The group also continues to meet on the third Thursday afternoon of each month, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the church Lounge, to visit while we work. Hats are gathered, and a delivery is made to St. Joe.

Last year, a total of 222 hats were delivered to St. Joe Hospital's Oncology Unit, to be placed in baskets so that chemo patients could choose a hat, free of charge, to help keep their heads warm. Even in warmer weather, heads not used to being exposed are likely to feel chilly.

Please consider joining us in this project. There is no standard pattern – we knit or crochet whatever design appeals to us. The only real “rule” is that the yarn be SOFT. And washable.

If you do not have available time to join us, please consider donating SOFT pretty yarn for others to use to make hats. Soft store-bought hats are also welcome – just drop them off at the church and we will see that they are delivered.

Please join us in helping others.





2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Worship: <u>Easter</u>, Communion, Handbells 	2	3	4 7:00 pm Bookworms - lounge	5	6	7
8 10 am Worship, CE Session Committee Monthly Reports due to clerk	9 7:00 pm Handbells	10 7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting - lounge	11	12	13	14
15 10 am Worship, CE Session Packets ready for pick-up	16 <hr/> <i>Church Directory Photos—</i>	17	18 <hr/> <i>Lifetouch</i> 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge 6:00 pm CE Meeting- YR 7:00 pm Session meeting - lounge	19 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer - lounge	20	21
22 10 am Worship, CE <i>Earth Day</i> Church Mouse Newsletter articles due for May issue	23 7:00 pm Handbells	24	25 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge Riverside Community Meal (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	26 9:30 am Newsletter Collating - lounge	27	28
29 10 am Worship, CE <i>New Member Class</i> (after worship)	30 7:00 pm Handbells					



Peoples Presbyterian Church

210 Smith Street Milan, MI 48160

Pastor: The Reverend Leia Rose Battaglia

Phone: (734) 439-1922

Church Email: ppcoffice@peoplespresbyterian.org

Pastor's Email: ppcpastor@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



Peoples Presbyterian Church
210 Smith Street
Milan, MI 48160