

A PLACE TO  
BELONG...

A PLACE TO  
BECOME...

A PLACE TO  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

# PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*The Church Mouse*

Volume 12 || Issue 4

May 2018

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

### Points of Interest:

♦ **Pastor Leia's message — new member class outline!**

♦ **Bobby Jo Valentine concert!!!**

### Inside this issue:

**Manse Cat Monthly**—Pastor Leia 1-2

**New Members Class** — Pastor Leia 3

**Christian Education** 4-5

**Photo Directory - Membership** 6

**Session Highlights** 7-8

**Hats for Cancer + Brown Bag Lunch Bunch** 9

**Bobby Jo Valentine Concert!** 10

**May calendar** 11

From my sermon on April 15, when the roads were iced over:

After six months here, I thought it was time I took a vacation, so I went back to Washington, DC to stay with one of my best friends. It's the city I moved to after I finished college, and even after I moved to New Jersey for seminary, and after I moved here to be with you all, it still feels like home. That Sunday morning, my friend and I walked into the narthex of our gorgeous Victorian Gothic church there, with her tall bell tower and her gardens and her stained glass windows. And as always, there was a table with nametags and sharpies and a plate of mini muffins so that the first thing visitors see when they come in is our hospitality, and so that we can greet each other by name. So I took the top off a purple sharpie and wrote my nickname on a sticker...and I was home again. That one little act was so familiar that it instantly reminded me of every other time I'd walked in those doors. And just for a little while, everything was not just okay but beautiful. I understood where I was in the story. It was just like before.

While I was on vacation, I also spent a couple nights on an air mattress in the dorm at the seminary where I lived for three years. The president of our seminary usually preaches in our chapel several times a month and his sermons are, hands-down, some of the best I have ever heard. My friend in the dorm and I started talking about our favorite sermons of his. I remembered that in his second chapel sermon, President Barnes told us about how he and his brother grew up being assigned passages of scripture and the psalms to memorize. One night, when they were young adults, they were caught in a storm. To distract themselves, they started quizzing each other, and the sound of the wind fell away from their ears as they proclaimed the gospel in the midst of that storm. That one little act was so familiar that it instantly reminded them of every other time they'd recited scripture. And just for a little while, everything was not just okay but safe and sound and warm.

Jesus rose from the dead and came back to us for a little while longer, but no matter how many times He had told His friends that this was going to happen, it seems like He spends a lot of time convincing them that yes, it really is Him. He really is back from the dead. He really is real.

*Continued on page 2*

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

Jesus told them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, must be fulfilled.’ Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things’” (Luke 24:44-48).

When Jesus comforts His friends, telling them not to be afraid, telling them that He, Himself is with them no matter what, telling them that they are witnesses to His resurrection, He is speaking words so close to a passage from Isaiah, that He is almost reciting scripture in the middle of a storm like my seminary’s president and his brother.

But now thus says the Lord, Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are Mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
Do not fear, for I am with you; You are My witnesses, says the Lord,  
and My servants whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am [God].  
(Isaiah 43:1-3, 5, 10)

In the same form, Jesus more or less says:  
Peace be with you, for My death has redeemed you;  
I greet you by name, you are My friends.  
When you passed through the crowds at My execution, I was with you;  
and through the darkness of the night, you were not defeated;  
I walked through fire so that you should not be burned,  
and death not be the end of your story.  
For I am Jesus your Lord, the Messiah of the earth, your Saviour.  
Do not fear, for I am with you; You are My witnesses, says the Lord,  
and My friends whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am God.

That one little act of hearing Jesus speak scripture was so familiar that it instantly reminded them of every other time they had heard Jesus teach. And just for a little while, everything was not just okay but exactly as it should be. The scripture was fulfilled. They understood where they were in the story. It was just like before, only better than anything they could have ever imagined.



## New Members Class — Pastor Leia

We are about to start a New Members Class for adults and young adults! If you've ever wanted to become a card-carrying member of Peoples Presbyterian Church, join us after worship for about an hour as Pastor Leia leads a discussion-based series on the basics of Presbyterianism.



Week One: April 29 – The Bible and the Revised Common Lectionary with Pastor Leia  
*What is the Bible? How do we read it? How do we get through the whole thing?*

Week Two: May 6 – Our History with Pastor Leia  
*How did the Church develop 2,000 years ago? How did the Presbyterians come along? What about Peoples Presbyterian Church specifically?*

Week Three: May 13 – Elders, Deacons, and the Book Of Order with Pastor Leia and Nancy Kuzniar, Clerk of Session  
*How is the PC(USA) organized? What are its leadership roles?*

Week Four: May 20 (Pentecost) – Doctrines and the Book Of Confessions with Pastor Leia  
*What is important to us specifically as Presbyterians? What do we believe?*

(No class May 27—Memorial Day weekend)

Week Five: June 3 – Theology, Ethics, and the Christian Life with Pastor Leia  
*How does our faith affect the way we live our lives? How are we called to affirm all people?*

Week Six: June 10 – Worship, the Sacraments, and the Book of Common Worship with Pastor Leia and Doris Ann Campbell, organist  
*What goes into planning worship? Why are things structured the way they are? What is a sacrament?*

Conclusion: June 17 – What now?

Part 1: Sunday, June 17 after worship

*Are you ready to join this church? What will that mean for you? Do you have any unanswered questions?*

Part 2: Wednesday, June 20 at 7pm

*Session meeting*



# Christian Education

By Carole London,  
Christian Education Committee

## Arrival of our Rainbow Plastic Bench

**We did it!!!** In two short years, we completed the ABC Partnership = **A Bench for Caps** through Green Tree Plastics company. It is a kid-driven project which teaches kids the importance of taking care of our Earth by keeping hundreds of pounds of plastic caps and lids out of the landfills and waterways.

**Our ABC project began on Earth Day 2016 and was completed on Earth Day 2018!**

We, as a congregation, successfully collected 500 pounds of plastic caps and lids, sorted, cleaned, bagged, weighed, and delivered them all to Evansville, Indiana. We brought back our 187 pound rainbow plastic park bench, small red stool, and an orange flower pot. These items have a 50 year guarantee - so the kids will be in charge of making sure they last until 2068!

There is a special silver plaque on the park bench which reads: "Enjoy resting on this bench made of 400lbs of plastic caps and lids. A recycling project made possible by the children at Peoples Presbyterian Church. Earth Day, 2018"

There are two poster boards which tell our entire "story" of the ABC Partnership in pictures from the simple beginning to the glorious end! We are still accepting \$\$ donations for this project, as the additional items we purchased were outside our original budget.

***The kids thank you for your strong and dedicated support in another CE project, we couldn't have done it without you.***

*See ya on the bench!!!*





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

By Lisa Pratt and Carole London,  
Christian Education Committee

The Lenten season and Easter was a great time for the kids of C.E. Resurrection eggs boxes were created by the kids to help them with the story of Jesus and his resurrection using egg cartons and plastic eggs filled with items such as coins, dice, and fabric.



Easter morning found the children searching for eggs in the manse backyard for the older children and the lounge for the younger children. The eggs contained stickers and puzzle pieces. The stickers were hearts, butterflies, and flowers used to create a poster of the day Jesus was resurrected.

***Thank you, PPC!!!*** Your generous birthday bags will bring joy to children and teens in Washtenaw County!

They will be delivered to Safe House Center of Ann Arbor and Foster Closet of Washtenaw County and are sure to bring a celebration and happiness to kids in need!



***Keep saving your plastic caps and lids*** . . . the United Church of Christ in Saline heard about the ABC Partnership program just last week, and were very impressed with the purpose of the project. They were so excited, they decided to participate in the ABC Partnership to provide their church with a park bench as well.

Perfect timing as they, too, started the ecology project on Earth Sunday. The United Church of Christ is where Jean Wilson attends, and is the home of the One Voice Gospel Choir. You can bring the caps and lids to PPC, and I will make sure they get to the Saline church.

## PPC PHOTO DIRECTORY — Thank you!



We would like to thank everyone who came out for the new PPC Photo Directory! It was wonderful to see everyone and meet some sweet, furry family members too! We had a great time hanging out, eating snacks, and chatting!

A HUGE thank you to Sue Barney, for all of her hard work planning, setting up, organizing, and running the three-day photo shoot!

***Thank you, Sue!***

If anyone would like their photo included in the directory, but couldn't make it to a photo appointment, let Sue or Nancy S. know, and we will make sure you are included! You can use the photo from our last directory in 2013, or submit your own portrait.



***Keep those  
prescription bottles  
coming . . .***

**the Huron Valley  
Humane Society will  
gladly accept them for  
their use.**



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Send an email to this address:  
[ppcmilan-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ppcmilan-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS from April 18, 2018 Meeting

**Pastor** Over the past month, I led services in the Fellowship Hall for a Maundy Thursday dinner, foot-washing, and worship; participated in the Good Friday service at the Free Methodist Church; and in our sanctuary for Easter, complete with not one but five prayer stations, special homemade communion bread with sugar butterflies, and a new handmade stole. I am very pleased with the conclusion of our Bible Study series on the stations of the cross, and am enjoying the Wednesday Bible Study, reading the book Wearing God, by Lauren Winner. Now that I have returned from a much-needed and long-delayed vacation, I am working on the final details for our new members' class. Gingersnap is wearing a white collar for the season of Easter.

A **New Members Class** for adults and high school age youth, will begin on Sunday, April 29, following worship. Those from the class interested in joining the church will meet with Session on June 20, and will be brought before the congregation on June 24.

**PPC Women's Group** At the end of March, a total of 75 knit hats have been delivered to St. Joe's Oncology Unit for cancer patients.

**Buildings and Grounds** New LED lights have been installed in the Sanctuary. Funds were used from the Building Fund. The church roof was repaired (again) from attack of zombie squirrels (again) resulting in more rain damage (again). Repaired ceiling in pastor's office (again).

**Christian Education** Carole and Ken London have gone to Indiana to exchange our 500 pounds of plastic caps for a rainbow bench, an orange flower pot, and a red stool. These items are in the Narthex for people to enjoy. The Milan Eagle was called to do a story about our two-year endeavor.

Easter Sunday went well; the kids collected eggs from the manse back yard and the church lounge. There were stickers and puzzle pieces in the eggs. We put up a poster with hearts, butterflies, and flower stickers, which were in the eggs. We are already thinking of ideas for next year.

Graduation Sunday and Youth Sunday will be held on the same day, June 10. We have one senior this year, Amanda Clarke, who will graduate from Britton Deerfield High School on June 3. The Fellowship Committee will be making the Graduation Breakfast. There will be a Confirmation Class for our high schoolers beginning April 29, with Pastor Leia. VBS is scheduled for July 9 through 23, and CE is looking for volunteers.



**Fellowship** Following tradition, the men prepared the Easter morning breakfast. Special thanks to Sue Barney for her help in getting the breakfast menu up and running, and for the table setup. Sue and Steve set up 80 place settings, and all were used. Thanks to Steve and Sue Barney, Jim Cullip, Skip and Chad Lawver, and Richard Creviston for their help. Over \$300 was raised from donations; after expenses are covered, the balance will be donated to One Great Hour of Sharing. **Brown Bag Lunch Bunch** will be held in the church lounge on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. The next one will be on **May 16**. There's no special agenda – just bring your lunch and enjoy conversation with others while you eat and relax. Plans are under way for Graduation Breakfast on June 10, and for a Merry Maker's event soon.

**Membership** On April 16,17,18, Membership Committee facilitated a photo directory photo shoot with Lifetouch. 57 photo sessions were booked.

**Mission and Outreach** One Great Hour of Sharing offering began on February 18, and ended on Palm Sunday, March 25, when fish banks were collected and the OGHS offerings were received and dedicated. The next special offering is Pentecost. A pulled pork dinner will be scheduled for a summer or fall date.

**Stewardship** Bob Elliot has agreed to serve on the Stewardship Committee. We would still like to have one more person on the committee. The Consecration Sunday pledges came in well. Our goal is to find new and creative ways to share stewardship stories throughout the year. We hope to help people better understand that stewardship is more than money. It is a way of life.

**Worship and Music** Doris Campbell and Pastor Leia presented plans to host a special musical event to be held at Peoples Presbyterian on May 24, featuring Bobby Jo Valentine, a Christian composer and musician. Rev. Linda Anderson preached and conducted worship on April 8 when Pastor Leia was on vacation. Worship and Music Committee is in charge of April Fellowship Hour. Gluten-free communion wafers will be provided for those who need gluten-free.





# PPC Cancer Hats Project

From: Nancy Kuzniar



Next "Hats" date:

**May 17**

**1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Join us!**

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, and 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.



## Brown Bag Lunch Bunch

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018**

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Church Lounge**

There's no special agenda – just bring your lunch and enjoy conversation with others while you eat and relax.



WEST COAST SONGWRITER'S ASSOCIATION  
SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR  
BOBBY JO VALENTINE

BJV

May 24

7:00 pm

Peoples Presbyterian  
Church

\$10 adults / \$5 students  
kids 10 + under—free!

*"5 out of 5 stars. Many song-  
writers sing about love and  
loss...but few speak so honestly  
and with such hope."*

**-Brian Lucey**, engineer for  
The Black Keys, Sigur Ros

*"10 out of 10. a World  
Class singer/songwriter."*

**-Indie Music Digest**



Hear music and more at [bobbyjovalentine.com](http://bobbyjovalentine.com)



2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1	2 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge 7:00 pm Bookworms - lounge	3	4	5
6 <b>10 am Worship, Communion, CE</b> <i>New Member Class</i> (after worship)  Session Committee Monthly Reports due to clerk	7  7:00 pm Handbells	8  7:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting - lounge	9 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge	10	11	12 
13 <b>10 am Worship: Ascension of the Lord, CE</b> <i>New Member Class</i> (after worship)  Session Packets ready for pick-up	14  7:00 pm Handbells	15	16 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge 6:00 pm CE Meeting- YR 7:00 pm Session meeting - lounge	17 1-3 pm Hats for Cancer - lounge	18	19
20 <b>10 am Worship: Day of Pentecost, Handbells, CE</b> <i>New Member Class</i> (after worship) <i>Wear red to church for Day of Pentecost</i>  Church Mouse Newsletter articles due for June issue	21  7:00 pm Handbells	22	23 9:00 am Bible Study group - lounge  Riverside Community Meal (sign-up in Fellowship Hall)	24 9:30 am Newsletter Collating - lounge 7:00 pm <b>Bobby Jo Valentine concert!!!</b> (sanctuary) 	25	26
27 <b>10 am Worship: Trinity Sunday, NO CE</b>	28 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  <i>Church Office will be closed</i>	29	30	31 		



# Peoples Presbyterian Church

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Website: [www.peoplespresbyterian.org](http://www.peoplespresbyterian.org)

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

## Newsletter Editorial Staff

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