



# The Peoples Weekly Mini Mouse



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

12/31/2020

Volume 1, Issue 37

As we enter into January and the beginning of a new year that we fervently hope will be better than the one we are leaving behind, I'd like to share a few more ideas for new spiritual practices as suggested by my colleague in ministry, the Rev. Linda Kurtz, who serves at the First Presbyterian Church of Lexington, Kentucky. As we dream of a future in which we can all receive vaccinations and rebuild our lives together, I invite you to consider changing up the way you pray and seeing if one of these practices might enrich your conversation with God.

### SET SACRED SPACE

This faith practice is simple: We invite you to worship. Be intentional about setting apart time to worship God from your home. Create sacred

space for yourself (and whoever you're at home with) to worship. What does creating sacred space look like? Light a candle as worship begins to remember that the light of Christ cannot be overcome. Set out a bowl and pitcher of water, and pour the water into the bowl as worship begins to remember God's grace.

Want other ideas? [Watch this video](#) by Stephen Fearing, pastor of Beaumont Presbyterian Church here in Lexington, as he talks about creating sacred space.

Now, in your time and space set apart, worship God.

### MAKE A PRAYER CHAIN

Start a practice of making a prayer chain. Create a chain of prayer concerns during the week, either from newspapers or

writing on strips of paper. Add to it as much as you like during the week. When you are done, lift each item on the chain up in prayer to God.

[Here's a video](#) of our friend Colleen, associate director of outdoor ministry at Camp Hanover in Virginia, modeling this practice.

### NAME LOSSES AND GRATITUDES

As this pandemic continues into another year, we are all in need of practices to help us make meaning from our experiences. We invite you to make a list of losses and a list of gratitudes. Having both lists can help us be honest about grief, keep us from minimizing important feelings, and prevent us from drowning in sorrow.

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 1st week of 2021
- A message From the Clerk of Session
- Family Fold

## Pastor Leia Continued

[This article walks you through how](#) to make these lists, and why it can help you. Though the article is framed for teenagers and young adults, the practice can work for people of all ages.

After you've made your lists, consider how all the items you've named -- whether obvious or not -- impact your faith. End your time in prayer, lifting what you've written to God.

### READ A BOOK

Find yourself doing a lot of reading while self-quarantining? You can turn story time into a theological discussion! (Sounds intimidating. It's not.)

Today, grab a book and consider how it interacts with your faith. Here's a super easy way to do this with kids' books. Visit the [Storypath blog](#) and search for the book you'd like to read to see if there is a post about it. Each post provides a related Scripture text and thoughts (and, usually, questions!) on how the book relates to Scripture. It's a great starting point!

Don't have a kids' book on hand? Check out your library's e-book offerings. Connect with a young family from your church or neighborhood and discuss

together via Zoom or FaceTime. (They bring the book; you bring the questions!) Or, simply read part of any book and ask yourself: What religious themes do I sense here? What Scripture text relates to those themes or this book? How can it help me understand God differently?



## Happening This Week

**Tuesday, January 5, 8pm:** Bible study on Facebook Live

**Wednesday, January 6, 8pm:** evening prayer service on Facebook Live

**Thursday, January 7, 5pm:** virtual fellowship on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-cocktail-hour-2021-01-07/>

**Saturday, January 9, 2pm:** Congregational meeting (church parking lot)

**Sunday, January 10, 10am:** worship on Facebook Live followed by virtual fellowship on zoom

<https://peoplespresbyterian.org/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2021-01-10/>





# Family Fold

Sunday's Coffee Hour brought up memories of some of our favorite family Christmas recipes. The thought is if there are lots of other people with family Christmas recipes, we could either put them in the Mini Mouse or if enough, actually print a booklet for everyone. So if you have a favorite family Christmas recipe, send it to the Church Office. Someone requested a tried and true recipe for egg nog. This is one that my Dad always made on Christmas morning. He did add some alcohol but I prefer it without.

## Grandpa Bill Phillips' Egg Nog

Serves 4

4 eggs, beaten

8 tsp sugar

2 cups milk

2 tsp vanilla

2 cups vanilla ice cream, softened

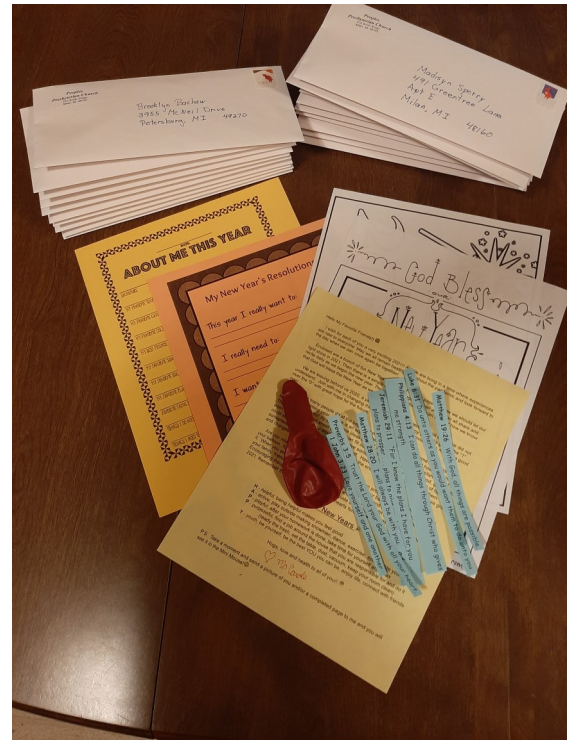
2 tsp nutmeg

mix eggs, and sugar

add vanilla and nutmeg

stir into milk and ice cream until smooth

Carole London



The January C.E. packet is ready to mail. It includes lots of fun New Year's activities along with a simple and encouraging prayer we can all share as we begin the new year. There is a sheet to list their new year's goals. Also one for documenting facts about themselves to be brought out and read at the end of 2021 to see how they have changed and grown.

The most fun part is a balloon with "something" inside . . . they are to blow it up and enjoy it. Then when they are ready, stop and make a wish for themselves, family, friends, etc, then pop the balloon. They will have seven strips of paper with encouraging words come raining down on them to guide and protect them as they move through 2021. May they remember the messages and keep them close to their hearts forever.

Matthew 19:26 "With God, all things are possible."

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to prosper . . . plans to give you hope and a future."

Matthew 28:20 "I will always be with you." and more.

Carole London

Christian Education Committee

## PONDERINGS: CHURCH IN THIS TIME OF COVID



**Have you ever wondered** how much time it used to take for the pastor to research, plan, and then write and coordinate the material for our “beforetimes” (Leia’s word – love it!) worship services? Once upon a time long ago, when we gathered in the sanctuary, and Doris played beautiful music, and a lay reader read scripture and led us through prayers, and the minister preached inspiring sermons and led us in prayer? And we could actually put our pledges and contributions into an offering plate?

**Have you ever wondered** how much time it now takes for the pastor to research, plan, and then write and coordinate the material, and then record the various segments of a worship service, and then piece it all together electronically in the right order to provide an interesting and cohesive ONLINE Sunday worship service? And the Tuesday evening Bible Study, and the Wednesday evening Prayer Service? Time. Technology. Time. Technology. Time.



**Have you ever wondered** how much time it has taken for Leia to research and learn the various technologies involved in recording and assembling an interesting online service? And researching and purchasing electronic equipment needed to do this recording and photographing? And purchasing a Zoom account and learning how to use it so we can have online committee meetings and social times? What? You mean “fully-equipped technology expert” was not one of the specifics on our shopping list for a pastor?? How short-sighted of us. But, how were we to know Covid was coming?

**Have you wondered...** No? Well, neither had I – until recently. A recent comment turned on my mental lightbulb. Leia said, “fun fact: creating the 1.5 minute music video for the offertory last week, with pictures of the sanctuary during past Advent seasons, took more time to create than I was able to spend writing the sermon.” ??Who knew?? The sermon was excellent as always, and the visuals were wonderful and brought back memories. Thank you, Leia.

**Have you wondered** what other churches are doing in this Covid time? Have you tuned in on any other churches’ covid-era worship services? Out of curiosity, I have, since many churches record and then post them on their websites for anytime viewing. Some include videos of full choirs, and hymns sung at beforetimes services, and delightful children’s sermons in various settings sometimes including pets, and the sermon preached in the pastor’s garden. These are obviously big churches, with tech teams and equipment in place, who were already recording services in the beforetimes. Other churches have smaller services, with maybe the pastor and the recording person – or sometimes a video camera already set up and no recording tech. Sometimes there’s recorded music – sometimes not. Some services have nothing to watch except graphics, while listening to the preacher.

**We are fortunate** to have a pastor who, once it became obvious that we wouldn’t be able to meet in person for a while, decided it was important to have interesting online worship services, and who set about learning how to make that happen since we don’t have a tech team. As you watch and listen and involve yourself in worship next Sunday, I urge you to be mindful of the time and effort required to prepare and record the various parts of the service and then piece them all together.



**We are also fortunate** to have Doris Ann, a talented and dedicated musician who continues to choose organ music for each Sunday, comes in to practice during the week, and then comes in again so the pastor can record her playing the prelude and offertory, and singing the hymns.

**I know this congregation expects good worship services.** I also think we are mostly not very good at recognizing and thanking the people involved in putting those services together. I encourage you to share your thoughts and thanks and suggestions with Pastor Leia, so she knows we are out there, and paying attention, and appreciative!

**THANK YOU, PASTOR LEIA. THANK YOU, DORIS ANN.**

# Peoples Presbyterian Church

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## **Worship:**

Streamed Weekly on Facebook Live

at 10:00 am every Sunday

## **Prayer Service:**

Streamed Live each Wednesday on Facebook

Live at 8:00 pm