



The Church Mouse



PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Manse Cat Monthly: Musings from Pastor Leia / her cat

As we progress through our More Light series, moving to join the More Light Presbyterians Network as a formally-recognized congregation that is open and affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community, I wanted to share some of the key points that we have discussed during our adult ed sessions.

In May, we began with a definition of terms, starting with the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity. Sexual orientation covers questions such as “to whom are you attracted?” “whom do you hope to marry?” and “who are the characters in your happily ever after?” Some examples of different sexual orientations include lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, asexual, and straight. Sexual orientation is not the same thing as gender identity, which covers questions such as “which restroom do you use?” “what are your preferred gender pronouns: he/him/his, she/her/hers, they/them/theirs, ze/hir/hirs, ze/ze/zirs, etc?” and “what gender do you consider yourself to be?” Some examples of different gender identities include trans*, queer, intersex, and cisgender. Gender identity is often, but not always,

related to biological sex, which is determined by XX or XY chromosomes, being born with male or female genitalia, or having a birth certificate marked with an F or an M.

Do you know what the letters of LGBTQIA+ stand for? Here is a very brief overview:

-a Lesbian is a female homosexual person, a woman attracted to women

-a Gay person is attracted to people of their own gender (a woman attracted to women or a man attracted to men)

-a Bisexual person is attracted to both men and women (not necessarily at the same time)

-Trans* is a prefix meaning across, beyond, or through and can begin several different terms, including transman, transwoman, transgender, or transsexual

-Transgender people understand gender as being a spectrum and might express their gender identity by cross-dressing, having an androgynous aesthetic, or otherwise defying societal norms

August/September 2019

Volume 13, Issue 4

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Special points of interest:

- The Adventures of Church Mouse
- Rummage Sale
- Thanks

Pastor Leia Continued

-Transsexual people have a gender identity that does not match the biological sex assigned to them at birth; they may seek to change their physical body to match their gender identity through sex reassignment surgery or hormone treatment (processes that can be prohibitively expensive)

-Q can stand for either Queer (a somewhat contentious term referring to the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole) or Questioning (a phase or period in which a person may be unsure of their sexual orientation or gender identity and is still exploring their feelings)

-Intersex is a term used to describe a person born with sex chromosomes, external genitalia, or an internal reproductive system that is not considered medically standard for either male or female

-Asexual people are not sexually attracted to either men or women and who do not have a desire to engage in sexual activity with a partner (but who may have a desire to form nonsexual romantic relationships and may date and seek long-term partnerships)

In 1978, our Presbyterian General Assembly said that “homosexuality is not God’s wish for humanity,” but in 2010, they began to

allow the ordination of pastors in same-sex relationships. Four years later, it was determined that PC(USA) pastors could officiate any wedding that was legal where it was being performed. Since 2015, that has included every state in the US. However, 42% of LGBT youth say their community is not accepting and 29% of LGBT youths attempted suicide in the

42% of LGBT youth say their community is not accepting

past year, compared to 6% of heterosexual youths. LGBT youth who reported higher levels of family rejection during adolescence are three times more likely to use illegal drugs; half of gay males experience a negative parental reaction when they come out and in 26% of those cases, the youth was thrown out of the home. Studies indicate that between a quarter and half of homeless youth are on the streets because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. According to the Washington Post, 1.6 million young people experience homelessness in the US every year. However, if a school has a Gay-Straight Alliance club, if an LGBT teen lives

somewhere that same-sex marriage is legal or has even one person who fully supports them, those statistics dramatically improve. Fully including and respecting the LGBT community is not only a logical extension of God’s command to love our neighbors: it is a proven way to create a safer, happier, and more stable society.

In June, we moved from technical definitions and statistics to a conversation about what marriage is. Historically speaking, the first record of a Christian wedding ceremony is only about one thousand years old and marriage has mostly been considered a legal contract for much of history. In the Middle Ages, as we started to keep better records, weddings started to involve priests...not because a holy man needed to officiate, but because the priest was often the only literate person in a town who could write a legal document. Christian understandings of what it means to be married and how one goes about getting married have gone through some pretty dramatic changes and it wasn’t until 1547 that the Catholic Church formalized marriage as a sacrament (it is NOT a sacrament in our tradition).

Pastor Continued page 3

Pastor Leia Continued

Nowhere does the Bible define marriage to be made up of a man and a woman. Biblical marriages involve multiple women, concubines, slaves, dead husbands and their brothers, etc. Ephesians 5:22-31, a passage often read at more conservative weddings, does not instruct a woman to “obey” her husband but does say that husbands are to do as much for their wives as Christ did for the church, even if that means dying for them. The Bible is also very clear on “thou shalt not commit adultery,” which makes some pastors (hi!) wonder why we hear so much about homosexuality as a sin and yet so little about infidelity as a sin.

Legally speaking, a marriage in the US today requires (1) the parties' legal ability to marry each other, (2) mutual consent of the parties, and (3) a marriage contract as required by law. There are 1,138 rights and privileges that are dependent on legal marriage including, among many other things, health insurance, taxes, and the transfer of social security/disability/medicare/veterans benefits. In the relatively short history of our nation, marriage has gone through several major redefinitions, most notably concerning whether people

of different racial backgrounds could get married and whether same-sex couples could get married.

We had a very lively discussion of what marriage means, why people get married, whether some reasons to get married are better than others, and so on. Naturally, as an unmarried person, I had plenty of tongue-in-cheek jabs at the institution. Throughout the presentation, I included many snarky responses to the question “Pastor Leia, why aren’t you married?” Among my personal favorites are “Well, Gingersnap doesn’t want the competition for my attention, so she’s never tried to pressure me into it;” “Look, I have standards, okay? Also a master’s degree. I’ve been busy;” and of course, “No one was willing to give me as many goats as I believe that I am worth.”

In July, we looked at two of the Bible passages that have been used to condemn homosexuality. Leviticus 18:22 reads “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.” However, we are separated from this passage by thousands of years of language, culture,

and understandings of how the world works. The same-sex relationships that ancient people were familiar with were mostly pederasty and/or male temple prostitution. The word for “male” can also be translated as “male child” rather than “man.” The word used to discourage the act of two men having sex describes more of a social taboo than a moral imperative. Ancient

“Pastor Leia, why aren’t you married?” , “No one was willing to give me as many goats as I believe that I am worth.”

understandings of biology led to different moral conclusions, with sperm being seen as something like a fetus. As a nomadic people who were usually an oppressed minority, the Israelites wanted to remain distinct from other groups of people (kosher food, clean vs. unclean, keeping sabbath, etc). The rules of the Hebrew people were very strict and either/or.

From the New Testament, we looked at 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, which reads, “Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived!

Pastor Continued page 4

Pastor Leia Continued

Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, male prostitutes, sodomites, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers, robbers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God.” However, in reading this passage, it is extremely important to note that the controversy hinges entirely on the translation of the word *μαλακός* (malakos)... and that we literally do not know what the word means because it appears so rarely in literature of the era (historically speaking, it was translated as masturbation for much longer than it has been translated as homosexuality). Furthermore, Paul thought that NO ONE should be having sex, even between husbands and wives, because he genuinely thought that the world was about to end. If Paul

wanted to condemn men who have sex with men, there are multiple very straightforward words in Greek to refer to that act. Paul never uses any of these words. Greek and Roman society had NO NEED for euphemisms on the topic because same-sex love was pretty common and wasn't necessarily seen as a bad thing.

I've really enjoyed our conversations so far, and I hope to see many of you at our upcoming More Light sessions on August 11 and September 8!



Pastor Leia

THE ADVENTURES OF CHURCH MOUSE

Our friend Church Mouse has been having a very busy summer so far! In addition to all her work with Vacation Bible School, she also helped set up the sanctuary for a baptism in July. You can follow more of her adventures on our Facebook page, which you can find by typing: "Peoples Presbyterian Church" in the search bar.



Thursday, September 19 - set up

Friday, September 20 - sale 9am to 2pm

Saturday, September 21 - sale 9am to 2pm

Diane London will have a map layout of the fellowship hall. You can reserve a 6ft table, an 8-foot table, or a round table. Participants should contact Diane to reserve your space, and pay your fees at the time you make your reservation. No refunds - money will be donated to the church.

We will offer the option for people to set up on the lawn. You will need to reserve a space and

provide your own tables. If we have rain on the day of the sale, you can move into the hallway IF there is space available.

Pricing for sale space:

8 foot: \$10

6 foot: \$8

Round: \$5

Lawn: \$5

Updates will be sent via the church Yahoo email group.

Buildings & Grounds

Beautification of Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee, along with other volunteers, have been busy working on the curb appeal of Peoples Presbyterian grounds. Their hard work has paid off and the property looks beautiful! We thank Mrs. Margaret Nieman (Carolyn Wetzler's mother), for her generous donation of fourteen evergreen shrubs.



The roots of Peoples run deep!



Chris and Carolyn Wetzler, and Steve Barney hard at work.

June was a very busy month. Thanks to a whole bunch of people, the Buildings & Grounds Committee was able to get rose bushes trimmed, flower beds weeded, mulch put down, old shrubs pulled out, new bushes planted, new grass seed sowed, ruts repaired, weeds sprayed, lawn fertilized, and bushes trimmed. Thanks to Chris and Carolyn Wetzler, Steve and Sue Barney, Carole and Ken London, Doris Ann Campbell, and Bob Meyer who kept the place watered. I probably forgot some people and I apologize if I missed you. Let me know please. Thanks again.

— Skip Lawver, B & G Committee Chair

Thank You from Paddock



Thank
you!
Sarah Elliott
School social worker
Hayley Muir

People's Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so very much
for your support this year
to get our first food
backpack program up &
running. We provided weekend
food backpacks for 17 of our
homeless students for 11 weeks.
We sent home over 1,230
meals! Also, due to your
generosity, we will be
able to get this program
up & running next school
year!

Session Highlights from June Meeting

Note: Session will not meet August.
The next regular Session meeting will be on September 18.

Pastor In April, we finished our Lenten Bible study series and have just started a new series on The Chronicles of Narnia and their biblical themes. I am super excited to share some of my absolute favorite novels with the group! At church movie night we watched "Bend it Like Beckham" over an Indian rice pudding. This month, we are inaugurating our "Second Sundays Adult Ed" program. I continue to add new pamphlets to the Narthex shelves, post pictures of the adventures of Church Mouse to our church Facebook page, work on adding to our website, and look for ways to make our church more welcoming.

Deacons Chris Wetzler has made the decision to resign from the Deacons due to the press of other church work. The rest of the Deacons will share Chris's flock list until the end of the year, and the Nominating Committee will fill the vacant Deacon position at the Annual Meeting in January 2020.

More Light Presbyterians On May 5, we presented the first of four sessions of Second Sundays adult ed centered around LGBTQIA issues. In May we are focusing on definitions of terms, a brief history, and a thought exercise about coming out. Future sessions will cover the meaning of marriage as understood historically and by the church, whether or not the Bible condemns homosexuality, and more.

Baptism Baptism for Scarlett Bolla, daughter of Brandon and Angela Gehring Bolla, grand-daughter of Richard and Vicky Gehring, great-grand-daughter of the late Francoise Creviston will be July 21, 2019.

New PPC Member Chuck Morgan became a new PPC member on June 19.

Session Meetings: There will not be regular Session meetings in July or August.

Buildings and Grounds New bushes have been planted on the north and west sides outside the sanctuary. Thanks to Mrs. Margaret Neumann (Carolyn Wetzler's mother) for donating the bushes, and for help in planting from Carolyn and Chris Wetzler and Steve and Sue Barney.

Christian Education All women of the church were honored with a carnation on Mother's Day. Graduation breakfast was well attended. High School Graduates were Boston Bashaw and Alex Vollink-Frand. Chad Lawver was the very enjoyable guest speaker at the breakfast. Dawn Sinclair received her Masters from EMU.

Triennium: Boston and Brooklyn Bashaw and Victoria Heeringa will be going to Triennium at Purdue University in July. Fundraisers to cover their costs were very successful, including a bake sale, casserole dish sale, taco bar, and a pancake meal following worship. All three will receive a little spending money to use while there. Camron and Ryan Heeringa, and Reese Rupert will be going to Camp Wonder summer camp this year at Howell Nature Center.

VBS: To Mars and Beyond is all set to take off beginning July 15 through July 19. Advertising is up all over town, and we will have rockets at Milan's Third Thursday event on June 20, with information about VBS. Registration forms will be available at the booth.

Membership Our efforts to improve the curb appeal of our church are moving forward. New bushes have been planted on the Marvin Street side and Smith Street side. Committee members have started cleaning up the many, large perennial beds, and that work continues. We are working with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to see this work through. Many thanks to Steve and Sue Barney, Chris and Carolyn Wetzler, and Skip Lawver. Mary Elliott continues to send in pictures to the Milan Eagle.

Pentecost Sunday was June 9. Many people invited a friend, neighbor, or inactive member. We will be sponsor an information table at the June Milan Third Thursday event. Members will register children for VBS and hand out water bottles. Our Beer and Hymns event plan is moving forward. We have contacted Milan Mainstreet and the Milan Legion about hosting it in conjunction with Third Thursday.

Mission and Outreach The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering raised \$1,156.72, and we are currently tabulating the Pentecost offering.

Stewardship (Bob Elliott) The date for this year's Consecration Sunday will be October 20, and we will be using the same format as we have used over the last few years. Our goal is to remind everyone that Stewardship, including financial, time, or talent, is a relationship between each individual and God, and that the basis for giving is for our own spiritual benefit.

Senior Breakfast

In June, a special breakfast was served in honor of our graduating seniors. It was a special time to recognize them, have fellowship with them, and share in their accomplishments.



Graduation Sunday



Congratulations to our graduates:

Boston Bashaw - Summerfield High School

Alex Vollink-Frand - Saline High School

Dawn Sinclair - Eastern Michigan University
Masters in Integrated Marketing Communications



“To Mars and Beyond . . .” Vacation Bible School was certainly “out of this world!!

Our overall numbers were low but a great time was had by all who attended! There were six new children who joined us this year and six different churches represented other than Peoples.

Our mission project, Books on Bikes, was a real hit! The Symons Elementary teachers who sponsor the Books on Bikes program were kind enough to bring the actual bike that is used to travel around to Milan parks and playgrounds to our narthex for the week. It was full of youth and adult books available for everyone to read and keep.

Our nightly offering went toward purchasing a sound system to be used with the bike to entertain and attract the children while the bike is traveling to the parks. We had a goal of \$250 . . . we "blasted off" by collecting \$372.52!!! Wow!! The Books on Bikes program will be so surprised!! Thanks Everyone!!!

Our outreach project was collecting books to be donated to replenish the books in the Books on Bike supply. They are looking for baby, youth, and even adult books to hand out. Let's keep books in the hands of all of Milan's children so they can read all year long!

During our VBS kick-off, we made s'mores in our own pizza box solar ovens. M-M-M good! Throughout the week, the youth participated in some amazing science experiments, were treated to some creative and delicious snacks, and played some fun games at recreation.

Some of you saw our original rocket ship t-shirts that we made when we wore them to worship on Sunday.

Our nightly lessons taught us some valuable "words to live by":

Faith - trust God to get you through the rough times.

Boldness - stand up for what is right, even if it isn't easy.

Kindness - in all that you do, be kind.

Thankfulness - always remember to say "thank you"

when someone says or does something nice for you,
and that includes thanking God for all the good things in your life.

We were visited each night by our favorite space puppet - EP3-20!! What an adorable guy! He taught us many lessons. He even revealed that he was scared himself coming to VBS since he did not know anyone. But he had *faith* that he could be *brave* and come anyway. He found a whole roomful of very *kind* people. EP3-20 *thanked* us for being so thoughtful and inviting him to VBS as he had a "BLAST!!!"

The Christian Education Committee and Pastor Liea would like to extend a huge thank you to all the many people who stepped up and helped out during the busy week of VBS!! We had some unexpected and unavoidable absences in staff, and we were so pleased to see others fill in when and where needed. The programs of CE cannot be accomplished without all of your generous support. We certainly appreciate all of you! Thank You!!

VBS Photo Album



Spotlight on Youth



Cameron Heeringa plays softball for the *Ypsilanti National Mad Batterz* and plays pitcher, 3rd base, and 1st base. She also plays for the majors in Ypsilanti.

Reese Rupert plays for *Milan LHI Gutters* and plays catcher, third and first base. Reese also plays on a travel team, *Ann Arbor Gold Fastpitch*.

Both girls are good hitters and aggressive players.



Reese Rupert

After five consecutive days of games, Milan's 8-10 year old softball finished second to Jackson Southwest in the Michigan District 3 Little League softball tournament.

Reese had a good week playing third base, and did not strike out a single time all week, batting 3-4 times each night. She hit a 2-run home run (at the Jackson NW game), a triple, and a few doubles.

Milan's 8-10 year old softball team has been invited to play in the State Tournament in Marysville, Michigan, which starts Friday, July 26! They will keep us updated.

Camron Heeringa

At her softball closing ceremony, she received the Tim Watson Award.

A trophy is given to the player who is a valuable, hardworking, team player and considerate of others.

Congratulations, Camron!!



Victoria Heeringa

Victoria competed at the Regional Track meet and received a 7th place in the 200 yd dash and a 3rd place in the relay.

She was on the Principal's Honor Roll all year!

The Britton High School Sr. Band received all 1's at District Competition, then went on to earn all 1's at the State Competition - first time since 1962!!! Victoria plays the trumpet she tried out for a majorette for next year's marching band . . . and made it!!

Britton High school Sr. Band will be going to New York and play at Central Park then go on a cruise during their Spring Break next year.

A Special Thank You!



Dear Peoples Presbyterian Church and Rose Jordan family, I can not thank you guys enough for the very generous scholarship that you have offered me. I promise to use it to the best of my ability to better myself and further my education and hopefully help me get a great occupation. The church and Jordan family has always been so wonderful to me and a very impactful part of my life. Thank you so much!

- Boston
Bashaw

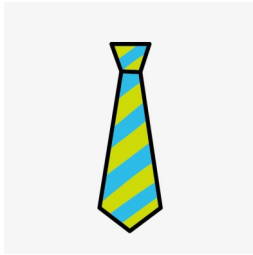
Opening Our Doors

Peoples Presbyterian Church had the opportunity to host a Triennium group in the middle of July.

The Triennium sleepover was a huge success!!! On their way to Triennium in Purdue PPC hosted thirty four kids and chaperones from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery, in New York. They spent the night at the church on their way to and from Triennium.

During the stop over, the group was able to use the Milan Middle School pool to shower and swim. Our former Pastor Kelly Shriver attended seminary with Pastor Becky from the group, that is how this tradition was formed. Three years ago we hosted kids from this same presbytery. We have invited them to stop by again in 2022!

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNium



Father's Day

June 16 was Father's Day, and this year was rather "sweet" for them. The kids in CE made ties for their dads and filled them with candy, like Skittles, M&Ms and Reese's Pieces. The kids enjoyed making these gifts for the father figures in their lives.

Beer & Hymns

Beer and Hymns at the American Legion on July 18, was a wonderful, successful event. We sang our hearts out for three whole hours!

It was a spiritual event that touched many of us. Presbyterians, Lutherans, Methodists, Catholics, and in our community attended and a good time was had by all.

There are rumors of a sing-off between the Presbyterians and the Lutherans at one of our future events.

We will share in Beer and Hymns again August 15, and September 19 from 6 - 9 pm at the American Legion. Join us for a great time!



Fellowship Committee News

The Fellowship Committee and the Deacons were busy in the kitchen at VBS. A big THANK YOU to: Cindi Thompson, Dawn Sinclair, Bob and Mary Elliott, Bob Meyer, Jo Lawver, John Bulmer, Matt Lagemann, Lisa Pratt, and Pastor Leia, for all their help and support. VBS could not do it without you! Also, thank you to everyone (too many to mention) who donated food and drinks for VBS.

Plans are in the works for October 12 or 19 for a Merry Makers outing . Time and place TBA.

Images from the Garden Tour July 23



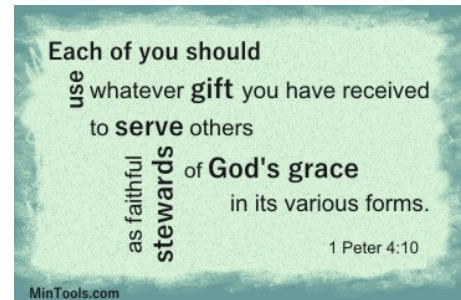
Thank you, hosts
for sharing your
beautiful
gardens!

Stewardship Committee News

Mark your calendar for Consecration Sunday, coming up on October 20.

Consecration Sunday is that once-a-year formal opportunity we each have to seriously contemplate our relationship with God - an occasion for each of us to re-evaluate what we and what God agree is our share of funding God's work.

Consider it an opportunity to answer the question, "what is the Lord calling me to do, in fulfilling my relationship with God?" It's up to each of us.



You may not know about electronic giving, but it's an easy way to make your weekly offering by simply having it deducted from your checking account.

Why?

- It allows you to contribute without ever forgetting (ever get to church and realize you forgot to write that check?)
- It is totally private and secure (the church contracts with a service that handles the whole process)
- You are able to adjust or change the amount at any time
- It makes giving automatic and easy (when the contribution comes directly out of your account, you find that it's totally painless)
- Lastly, you save considerable book-keeping and accounting effort on behalf of our church

Contact the church office, and we can make it easy, convenient, and painless to become an Electronic Giver!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
<i>Fellowship Hosted by: Personnel</i>				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> <i>7 pm First Friday Movie Night Gentleman's Agreement</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 10 am Worship, Communion, Green Tape Sunday, CE	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> No Bible Study	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 10 am Worship, CE, Second Sundays: Adult Ed Following Worship - L	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> 7 pm Stewardship Mtg. - FH 7 pm Worship & Music Mtg. - L	<i>14</i> No Bible Study 6 pm CE Mtg - YR	<i>15</i> 5 - 10 pm SCA - FH, K, L	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 10 am Worship, CE -	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> No Bible Study	<i>22</i> 5 - 10 pm SCA - FH, K, L	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 10 am Worship, CE	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> No Bible Study <i>Riverside Community Meal</i>	<i>29</i> 5 - 10 pm SCA - FH, K, L	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1 10 am Worship, Communion, Green Tape Sunday, CE Minute for Mission	2 Labor Day Church Office closed	3	4 9 am Bible Study - L <i>The Ten</i> <i>Commandments:</i> <i>No Other Gods</i>	5 5 - 10 pm SCA - FH, K, L	6 7 pm First Friday Movie <i>Mean Girls</i>	7
8 10 am Worship, CE, Fall Kick Off, Bless backpacks, Minute for Mission, Stewardship pledge drive begins Second Sundays: Adult Ed Following Worship - L Session Committee	9 2 pm Calendar Planning Mtg - L 7 pm Handbell practice	10 7 pm Worship & Music Mtg- L	11 9 am Bible Study - L <i>The Ten</i> <i>Commandment:</i> <i>A Jealous God</i>	12 5 - 10 pm SCA - FH, K, L	13	14
15 10 am Worship, CE - Minute for Mission Session Committee packets are ready for pick- up	16 7 pm Handbells	17	18 9 am Bible Study - L <i>The Ten</i> <i>Commandment:</i> <i>The Sabbath</i> <i>Rest</i> 6 pm CE Mtg - YR 7 pm Session mtg - L	19 1 pm Hats for Cancer 5 - 10 pm SCA - FH, K, L	20	21
22 10 am Worship, CE - Handbells, Minute for Mission <i>Church Mouse Newsletter</i> articles due for October/November issue	23 7 pm Handbells	24	25 9 am Bible Study - L Riverside Community	26 9:30 am Church Mouse Newsletter collating 5 - 10 pm SCA - FH, K, L	27	28
29 10 am OUTDOOR WORSHIP at Nature Park, Blessing of the Animals Potluck following service	30 7 pm Handbells			Fellowship Hosted by: Stewardship		

Peoples Presbyterian Church

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