

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

4525 NW Button Road

Topeka, KS 66618-2507

(785) 246-1737 WWW.PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG

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or PHUMCTOPEKA@YAHOO.COM

Sunday Morning Schedule

Traditional Worship Service: 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Non-Traditional Worship Service: 11 a.m.

Children's Church: 11:10 a.m.

December 2018



Deer at Heine pond, central KS, 2012, used by permission

Pastor's Corner

Merry Christmas! What a beautiful season it is for us! When I was a boy, this was my favorite season because winter events at the church gave me opportunities to see my friends and church people more often. Whenever they gathered to prepare for the Christmas cantata, play, and meal, there was always laughter. Even though they had limited time and resources for the events, they knew how to find joy while working together.

Let me share some of the secrets. They tried their very best to make the events meaningful and enjoyable, but they were not obsessed with perfection. They understood the importance of accepting mistakes and imperfections. When they gathered, they also naturally shared joys and concerns about personal and community issues while they worked. Most importantly, they shared a moment of prayer about those joys and concerns on that day before departing. They knew what Christian gatherings should be like: sharing faith not gossip; and praying for others not just for one's own.

The Christmas story also teaches this. Joseph, Jesus' earthly dad, was concerned about gossip. He hesitated to have Mary as his wife because of gossip. But, when he kept faith after receiving the message from the angel of God, he was able to accept Jesus as his son. What about Jesus? Did he come to make his life wonderful and enjoyable? No! He came to deliver us. He came to save us. He came for us. This is what the Church learns from Christmas story about what it means to be the Church.

Being the Church is simple: sharing faith and life. So, as you observe this Christmas season, think about it. When you gather for church events, be the Church. When you attend Christmas parties with family and friends, be the Church. When you are alone, be the Church. Jesus calls us to become the Church, so the kingdom of God can become visible through us like we see salvation through Jesus. Let's be more like the Church this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Hyunjin Cho



Pastor Jin and the Congregational Care Team will bring **Holy Communion** between 2 pm and 4 pm the first Sunday of each month to congregants who are unable to attend Sunday morning Worship Service. Please call the office, 785-246-1737, by 11:30 am the Friday before if you would like to receive communion. The next opportunities will be December 2 and January 6.

Christmas Breads Tea, Adopt-a-Family, Youth Group, Christmas Services

Fellowship is hosting a **Christmas Breads Around The World Tea** on Saturday, December 1 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the church. This event is open to all church family members. Please sign up by November 29 if you plan to attend.

**No Lite Bite
in December.**

Adopt-a-Family

PHUMC adopts less fortunate families each Christmas season as part of our mission outreach through TNO. The Mission Committee has posted mittens with names, age, gender and wants on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church. They are color-coded so you can choose for a man, woman, boy, or girl. On the back of the mitten is what they are in need of. If it's clothing, sizes are provided. The suggested amount to spend per person is \$40. With no services held at our church on Sunday, November 25 due to the weather, we are going to need help in getting the adoptions completed. Mittens need to be adopted by Sunday December 2 and then the gifts purchased and returned the following Sunday (December 9). Normally we would have had a two week turnaround but Mother Nature put a kink in our plans. Please attach the mitten to the gift for sorting purposes when bringing your gift back. There is a clipboard by the bulletin board for you to register the mitten you adopted. A Mission Committee member will be available on Sunday to assist you.

ALSO, we provide food boxes to these families and PHUMC is providing instant potatoes and stuffing mixes. Your generosity in providing for this need will also be appreciated. Please help make Christmas bright for those less fortunate than us by providing gifts and food through this program.

Youth Group December Schedule

Youth Group is open to everyone in grades 7-12!

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Dec 2 | 4:30-6:30 at church |
| Dec 9 | 4:30-6:30. Shopping and wrapping for adopted family, \$5-10 per youth
(will need another driver to go to Walmart) |
| Dec 16 | 4:30-6:30. Deliver to adopted family and back to church for Christmas yummys |
| Dec 23 | no meeting |
| Dec 30 | Movie! Either at church or theater (will decide closer) |

Christmas Eve-Eve and Eve Services

There will be two evening Christmas services. The Christmas Eve-Eve service will be at 7:00 pm on December 23. This more traditional worship service will include lighting candles in the Advent wreath, communion, and special Christmas music. The service will conclude with a candlelit singing of *Silent Night*.

The December 24 Christmas Eve service will be at 11:00 pm. In addition to communion and lighting the Advent wreath, the Christmas story will be told through the eyes of the Angel Gabrielle. The play, with a cast of children, youth, and adults, will be narrated by Brian Smith. It includes familiar Christmas carols sung by the cast and congregation as well as a candlelit singing of *Silent Night* by all.

Passings, Celebrate!, From the Music Director, Hanging of the Greens

On to Eternal Life: Members of our extended church family who passed on to Eternal Life in the past month:

Gary Stout Bobbie Sowards Ken Oldridge Barbara Slimmer's Aunt Ruth

Even though we know they are gone to a better place, we still miss them here with us.

Celebrate!

Celebrating the good stuff, large or small

- The Seaman High School Band performed in the Veterans Day Parade in New York City!
- Reed McManaman returned from deployment. Welcome Home!
- Bruce and Becky Tomlinson are proud grandparents! Hagen Oliver Tomlinson, their second grandson, was born at 12:30 a.m. November 21, 2018, 7 lb 11 oz. Congratulations!

From the Music Director's Corner

By Marjorie O'Konski, MM, MME, SPC

December promises to be a virtual musical wonderland for Pleasant Hill UMC. The liturgical season will burst with music from ensembles, soloists, actors, and musicians from all walks of life.

Highlights include performance of the **Cantata, O Come, Let Us Adore Him** on December 16; **favorite Christmas hymns** sung during the December 23 traditional and second services; the **Christmas Eve service** on December 23 at 7:00 p.m.; and the **Christmas Eve Pageant, The Journey to Bethlehem**, on December 24 at 11:00 p.m. The musicians and Worship Committee have dedicated hours of preparation to create a moving experience for the Christmas season, an experience that will undoubtedly stay in your hearts and memories for years to come.

Happy Holidays!

Hanging of the Greens

By Linda Smith, Worship Committee Chairman

The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit." Advent season begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. It is the time we prepare for the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by His first coming. December 2 is the first Sunday in Advent. In preparation for Christ's coming, United Methodists decorate the church by hanging greenery traditionally associated with everlasting life. As we prepare for Advent, the evergreen boughs and trees remind us to enter this season of expectant preparation with open hearts, minds, and doors. Christ will come again. Thank you to Camille Schoettlin, Karen Domer, Billie Winsor, Anita and David Link, and Linda and Glen Smith for decorating the church after the weather canceled our initial plans for Hanging of the Greens.

New Members



Welcome to our New Members!

Above from left: Morgan & Rodger and Shirley & Bill joined at the 8:30 service on November 11.

At left, Monique & Kenny joined at the 11:00 service on November 11 with their daughters, Myra (at right) and Serenah.

On November 18 at the 11:00 service we welcomed new members (below from left) Cory & Jolene with their son, C. J., and Cathy & Jahnnie with their son, Jace.



Worship Volunteer Spotlight

Worship Volunteer Spotlight

The Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church family is blessed with many volunteers who enhance our worship experience every week. They greet us at the door with a welcoming smile, a warm handshake, and sometimes if we're lucky, a hug. They bring the Lord's message to the children during that time in the service. They lead the music portions of the service and share talents through individual performances. Volunteers prepare and serve communion every Sunday. The altar guild prepares the sanctuary and altar for the celebration of worship. Acolytes bring the light of God into the church by lighting the candles. Fellowship time is enhanced with a cup of coffee prepared by volunteers and the liturgist leads the congregation in prayers.

These many volunteers help to fill hearts with praise during our time in worship. In recognition and thanks, the worship committee will spotlight one of these roles each month. More volunteers are always welcomed. Contact Deb or Pastor Jin if you want to help with any role. They will put you in touch with the worship committee.

Thank You to The Altar Guild

Church paraments are the cloths that adorn the altar, pulpit, and communion table. The colors of the paraments reflect traditional colors of the seasons of the Christian year. The paraments are changed as the seasons of the Christian year change.

- * Purple paraments during Advent and Lent represent times of preparation leading up to Christmas and Easter. During Advent, purple is also associated with the royalty of the coming Christ.
- * White and gold paraments mark joyful holidays and key points in Christ's life. Churches use these colors during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Other Sundays for white and gold liturgical colors include Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration of the Lord, Trinity Sunday and Christ the King.
- * Green paraments are traditional during what is called Ordinary Time, the seasons from Epiphany to Lent and from Pentecost to Advent. Green symbolizes a time of growth in the Christian faith as the church studies and strives to practice the teachings of Jesus.

The Altar Guild is a group of dedicated persons in our church responsible for our church's paraments. They oversee the changing, care, cleaning, and storage of these paraments. They have responsibility for any necessary preparations for baptisms, Holy Communion, funerals, weddings and weekly services.

A special thank you to these volunteers. Their efforts in managing the paraments and adorning the sanctuary with seasonal flowers add to our worship experience.

Pets, Blizzard



This is Maggie, 5-1/2 years old, a beloved pet of Glen and Linda Smith. Unfortunately, Maggie was hit by a car and died after Thanksgiving. She will be greatly missed in the Smith home.



Calling All Pet-Owners!

If you are willing to share photos of your pets, I'd like to print them. All pets are welcome: current pets, beloved previous pets, and if your pet happens to be made of fabric, that's fine, too!

Please submit a photo and tell me the pet's name, breed/type, age, your name, and anything else you'd like to share. I'll print the photos and info as space permits. Since this is an on-going piece, there is no deadline so just submit as you have time. *Deb*

The photos below were taken Sunday morning, November 25, in the early stages of the blizzard that dropped a little rain, a little sleet, and then 6 or 7 inches of snow in our area. Church services were canceled on Sunday at our church and dozens of other area churches, as well as school on Monday in dozens of area school districts.



Calendaring, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Here are highlights from the church calendar this month. For the full calendar, please go to the [calendar on the website](#).

Dec. 1: 9:30a, Christmas Breads Tea	Dec. 18: Bulletin deadline for Dec 23/24
Dec. 5 6p, Leadership Training	Dec. 19: Newsletter Deadline
Dec. 6: 8:30a, Breakfast at Perkins	Dec. 22: 3:45p, Serve at Rescue Mission
6p, Pack Operation Backpack (offsite)	Dec. 23: 7p, Christmas Eve service
Dec. 9: Deadline to return gifts and donate food for adopted families	Dec. 24: Office Closed
Dec. 12: 5:30p, Finance Committee meeting	11p, Christmas Eve Service
6:30p, Administrative Council	Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!
Dec. 16: Christmas Cantata	Office Closed
Dec. 17: 4:45p, Serve at Rescue Mission	Dec. 26: 10a, Bulletin deadline for Dec 30
	Dec. 31: Office Closed

Our "**SCRIP Card**" program has a variety of gift cards available for purchase on Sunday mornings. Purchase the card at the face value of \$10, \$25, \$50, etc., and our church earns a percentage of the face value of each card, usually 5 to 15%, from the card retailer. It's an easy way to keep your personal information safe while shopping and to help our church financially.

If you shop on Amazon.com you can link your Amazon account to donate to Pleasant Hill UMC each time you buy on Amazon! Sign-up at **Smile.Amazon.com** or [click here to get started!](#)

Do you shop at Dillon's? You can register your Dillon's card to support Pleasant Hill UMC . Sign up at <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>.

If the office does not have your birthday and anniversary dates, or you are unsure whether the office has the information, please send to phumctopeka@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Birthdays This Month

Shawn Herrick 12/3	Eva Noble 12/19	Gayle Smith 12/24
D.J. Knight 12/4	Ray Dupree 12/21	Mary Hudson 12/25
Lori Rea 12/6	Michelle Gower 12/21	Karla Savoie 12/26
Christine Farmer 12/7	Roxann Williams 12/21	Dick Newell 12/27
Myra Saulsbury 12/8	Chloe Wilson 12/21	Jill Schreiner 12/29
Yul Cho 12/11	Zachary Patton 12/23	Judy Glasgow 12/31
Emma Dowd 12/12	Cory Flowers 12/24	
Marguerite Pond 12/14	Gladys Law 12/24	

Anniversaries This Month

Steve & Marlene Schilds	12/1	21 years
Jim & Jeanetta Boughn	12/3	53 years
David & Kelly Neiman	12/8	34 years
Wayne & Bonnie DeBusk	12/20	15 years



Rescue Mission, Operation Backpack, Giving, Staff



We would love your help serving meals at the **Topeka Rescue Mission**, 600 N. Kansas Ave., on the **3rd Monday** and the **4th Saturday** each month.

Serving starts at 4:45 p.m. on Mondays and 3:45 p.m. on Saturdays and takes about 2 hours. If you can serve, please sign up in the foyer or call the office. When you go to serve, please sign in under our church name with the pin 1737. Thanks!

December 17 Rescue Mission Servers (Monday, 4:45 pm):

Steve & Dee Sanner, Darian Sanner

December 22 Rescue Mission Servers (Saturday, 3:45 pm):



Volunteers are invited to the old Indian Creek School, NE 43rd and Indian Creek Road, at 6 p.m. the **first Thursday of every month** September through June to help pack food sacks for TNO's **Operation Backpack**. No special skills needed. Operation Backpack provides a sack of kid-friendly single-serve food to 600 local school-kids-in-need to take home on Friday so the kids know they will have access to food over the weekend.

Received in October		Month of October			
General Fund (Electronic Giving)	\$4,795	Total Bldg Fund Receipts	Bldg Fund Paid Out	Mortgage Principal Paid	Mortgage Balance at month end
General Fund (in Offering Plate)	6,240				
Building Fund (Electronic Giving)	2,151				
Building Fund (in Offering Plate)	3,800				
		\$5,951	\$6,043	\$4,337	\$337,874

Office Info

The office is open Mon - Fri 9:30-11:30 a.m. Church phone number: 246-1737.
Please enter through the west door (in the education wing) on weekdays.

Newsletter
Deadline is the
third Wednesday
of the month.
Items submitted
after that may
wait until the next
newsletter.

Pleasant Hill UMC Staff

Pastor: Rev. **Hyun-Jin Cho**, pastor@pleasanthillumc.org
Office Administrator: **Deb**, admin@pleasanthillumc.org
 or phumctopeka@yahoo.com
Youth Director: **Michelle**, youth@pleasanthillumc.org
Custodian: **Jill**, admin@pleasanthillumc.org
Director of Music Ministry: **Marjorie**, music@pleasanthillumc.org
Organists: **Mary S and Marty R**