

**Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church**

4525 NW Button Road

Topeka, KS 66618-2507

(785) 246-1737 [WWW.PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG](http://WWW.PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG)

Email: [ADMIN@PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG)

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**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.

# February 2019



## Pastor's Corner

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We are in the middle of a sermon series: The Disciples. As I prepare and deliver the messages, I find that my self-esteem and self-confidence are being rebuilt and made stronger because I reconfirm that God can use any person according to His will and plan.

I used to believe that Jesus' disciples were better than me. They were chosen by Jesus and trained by Him for three years. It was natural to think that Jesus chose those who had great potential with extraordinary leadership. I knew the Twelve had some weaknesses, but who doesn't? For me, those twelve people seemed like hidden gems that turned out to be diamonds while I looked at myself as just a stone with no potential.



I was wrong. Jesus' disciples were truly ordinary people like many of us. Their education level was just average for their time. Like us, they had unimpressive personalities: short-tempered, greedy, violent, narrow-minded, hard-headed and ignorant. Like anyone, they were driven by earthly glory and controlled by fear. As I look at them closer, I recognize just how imperfect they were - like many of us.

God used those imperfect and ordinary people to change the world. God didn't fix their problematic personalities; He gave them a new vision and direction instead. When those twelve ordinary people responded to God's extraordinary calling, they became special figures who transformed the world and inspired countless people.

All of us experience a twinge of fear when we are asked to serve because we know that we are not special. I want you to remember that what makes us special and empowered is not our ability and knowledge, but God's calling. When we say "Yes" to the calling, we are already extraordinary people who can transform many lives.

I encourage you to think about what extraordinary calling you have heard from God. Our church is involved in several missions, such as making blankets for displaced/homeless kids (Piecing Love & Warmth Sewing Group), Fellowship & Faith Ministry, TNO's Operation Backpack and VIP luncheons, Vacation Bible School, serving meals at the Rescue Mission, and more. Have you responded to any of those? We have committees responsible for various important areas that help our church be functional and faithful. Have you thought about serving on one of the committees? We are all ordinary people called for God's extraordinary ministry. I pray that you step up when you recognize God's calling for you.

Don't miss the rest of the sermon series on the disciples. Looking forward to seeing you in worship!

Pastor Hyunjin Cho

## Happy Gatherings, Youth Group, Celebrate!, Fresh Expressions Vision Day

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It is time to make up new **Happy Gathering Groups**. These are groups who gather for fellowship and get to know one-another outside of Sunday school, worship service, or committee meetings. They may gather for a meal, a snack, coffee, a play-date, a walk, a snowball fight, or any other activity. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for you to join the fun with fellow church members outside the walls of the church. Fellowship will divide the list into groups of about eight in March and will mail information to everyone who signs up. (Current groups should continue to meet until the new information is mailed.) If you have questions please call the church office, Pastor, or members of the Fellowship committee. Hope to see you in a group!

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### **Youth Group February Schedule** Open to everyone in grades 7-12!

Feb 3rd 3-5pm at church cookie decorating and lesson on Job  
Feb 10th sell cookies after both services 4:30-6:30 at church  
Feb 17th 4:15-6:30 Bowling (meet at church)  
Feb 24th no meeting



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### **Celebrate!**

Celebrating the good stuff, large or small

- David Arnold was one of several First Responders honored on January 10 by University of Kansas St. Francis Campus medical personnel for their efforts in assisting an elderly lady with a medical issue. The story was on WIBW TV and in the Topeka Capital Journal. David is an EMT with the Auburn Fire Department. He attended Pleasant Hill UMC, Seaman schools and Washburn Tech. He is the son of Susan and Don Arnold.
  - Ryleigh Williams won 1st place in the Living the Dream 7th-8th grade essay competition. Congratulations!
  - Ian Law won 3rd place in the Living the Dream 7th-8th grade essay competition. Congratulations!
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### **Fresh Expressions Vision Day**

February 9, 2019 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Topeka First UMC, 600 SW Topeka Blvd.

- \* Discover what it means to be the Church in new and creative ways,
- \* Learn how to renew existing congregations through fresh expressions of church, and
- \* Discern what this could mean for your region, community, or neighborhood.

Enjoy active discussion as well as an opportunity to build networks and relationships among those in your area. This event is **Free** for Great Plains Conference UMC Clergy and Laity thanks to Mission Shares. Register at [FreshExpressionsUS.org/event/VisionDayTopeka](http://FreshExpressionsUS.org/event/VisionDayTopeka)

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If you provide us your email address, you may receive your giving statement and our newsletter by email, as well as prayer chain emails and general information emails... You can opt-out of any or all of these emails - simply reply to one of the emails and state your preference or contact Deb in the office during the week (phumctopeka@yahoo.com or 785-246-1737) and tell her. You can also contact her to give your email address to start receiving any of these emails!

## Thanks, Guest Speaker, Attendance and Financial Updates

*Thank you for all of the wonderful birthday cards and wishes! I'm humbled and grateful for your kind gestures.*  
*Gladys Law*

*Thank you to everyone who gave time, talent, and/or treasure to PHUMC in 2018! Financial giving is shown below. Time, Talent, and other Treasures are not nearly as easy to track but are just as appreciated!*

### **2018 Average Weekly Attendance**

Worship: 131  
 Sunday School : 36  
 Children's Church: 20  
 (Children's Church included in Sunday School)



Cameron Renfro,

guest speaker on January 6, brought us his message "The Power of God's Forgiveness".

### **Financial Update**

Received	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	<b>Jan-June</b>
Total	\$26,621	\$35,305	\$17,062	\$23,312	\$18,437	\$18,558	<b>\$139,295</b>
Building Fund	6,844	16,916	3,981	5,706	6,942	3,406	<b>43,795</b>
General Fund	16,806	17,290	10,934	14,930	10,198	11,682	<b>81,841</b>

Received	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	<b>Total</b>
Total	\$17,370	\$26,221	\$22,793	\$17,888	\$15,882	\$30,598	<b>\$130,751</b>
Building Fund	3,831	6,531	5,686	5,951	3,296	12,366	<b>37,661</b>
General Fund	12,233	11,399	13,146	11,381	10,831	16,370	<b>75,359</b>

Received	Jan-June	July-Dec	<b>Total</b>	<b>2018</b>			
				Total Bldg Fund Receipts	Bldg Fund Paid Out	Mortgage Principal Paid	Bldg Fund Balance 12/31
Total	\$139,295	\$130,751	<b>\$270,047</b>	\$81,456	\$66,285	\$45,845	\$104,778
Building Fund	43,795	37,661	<b>81,456</b>				
General Fund	81,841	75,359	<b>157,200</b>				

<b>Received in December</b>		<b>Month of December</b>			
		Total Bldg Fund Receipts	Bldg Fund Paid Out	Mortgage Principal Paid	Mortgage Balance at month end
General Fund (Electronic Giving)	\$4,965	\$12,366	\$4,000	\$2,497	\$336,846
General Fund (in Offering Plate)	11,046				
Building Fund (Electronic Giving)	2,261				
Building Fund (in Offering Plate)	10,105				

## Workshop About Depression, From the Music Director

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The Congregational Care Team will be sponsoring a workshop about depression:

**March 2, 2019 10:00 to 11:30 am**

### **Let's Talk About Depression**

**Workshop presented by Calvin Shope, Licensed Master Social Worker, Valeo Behavioral**

He will provide information on how to identify signs of depression, behaviors triggered by depression and ways to cope with depression. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Look for more information in the bulletin and flyer in the foyer.

We welcome anyone who is interested and would like to learn more about depression. Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Pre-registration is recommended but not mandatory. You may contact the church at [admin@pleasanthillumc.org](mailto:admin@pleasanthillumc.org) or call the church office 785-246-1737 to register.

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### **From the Music Director's Corner**

By Marjorie O'Konski, MM, MME, SPC

During the year ahead, you will have the opportunity to hear many fine small vocal ensembles: duets, quartets, sextets, and octets. Some performances will be sung a cappella, unaccompanied; some accompanied; and some will include additional instruments, such as the flute and/or violin.

Participation in small ensembles is a unique experience. Musicians must listen to each other to achieve a pleasing blend in which one particular voice does not predominate. All members strive for musicality; i.e., incorporating dynamic changes and nuances, breathing together to enhance the text, using clean articulation, and forming round vowel shapes. The performers must know their music well, having studied the words and score to the point where the piece is practically memorized. Singing a cappella requires the ability to stay on pitch, a skill that can be developed through practice and self-recording.

I am proud of our ensemble members and look forward to the upcoming season. Their commitment to presenting quality performances is commendable. Thank you Musicians!

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When we deny those fleeting moments of happiness that each day brings, we are denying ourselves our very life ... the sight of a soaring bird, the scent of fresh air, a lost item found. Rejoice!

from 365 Meditations and Reflections for 2018 for Women Who Do Too Much  
by Anne Wilson Schaefer

## Worship Committee Report

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### Worship Committee Report

By Linda Smith, Worship Committee Chairman

The 2019 Worship Committee has started planning spring worship services. Committee members are Betty Domer, Carrie Law, Kerry Lovewell, Kim Smerchek, and Linda Smith.

**March 1** - World Day of Prayer. This is a worldwide movement that began in the U.S. and Canada in the 19th century. The continuing motto for this very special day is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." Watch for more information at Sunday services to help guide your time in prayer on World Day of Prayer.

**March 6** - Ash Wednesday. There will be meditation stations in the sanctuary and an evening Ash Wednesday service.

**March 31** - United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

**April 14** - Palm Sunday

**April 18** - Maundy Thursday

**April 21** - Easter Sunday

Comments or requests for worship committee can be directed to anyone on the committee.

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### New Christmas Tree Needed

By Linda Smith, Worship Committee Chairman

The lights on the large Christmas tree that stood in the sanctuary are no longer safe and are considered a fire hazard. The tree cannot be used again and needs to be replaced before the next advent season.

Since there are currently no funds available for a new tree, does anyone have a tree they no longer need and would be willing to donate? Does anyone have fund-raising suggestions? Are there any undesignated memorial funds that families would like to apply to purchasing a new tree?

The beautiful tree added greatly to the advent church decorations and it would be disappointing if it cannot be replaced. Your fund-raising suggestions or thoughts are welcome and can be sent to Linda Smith at [lkfrsh@yahoo.com](mailto:lkfrsh@yahoo.com) or sent to the church.



### Education Committee Report

By Terri Godbout, Education Committee Chairman

The Education Committee needs volunteers for their events this spring and summer. Currently, we are **looking for a VBS director** that will use the Cokesbury Curriculum Director's Guide to plan Vacation Bible School that will be in the middle of July. The director will maintain and use the registration website to organize volunteers and the number of registrants. There is already an experienced decorating crew and t-shirt volunteer team formed. Thank you for considering the VBS director volunteer position. Any questions can be directed to Terri at [terrigodbout1@gmail.com](mailto:terrigodbout1@gmail.com) or 785-554-0241.



tentatively set for July 8th-12th. We can take frozen cookies that you made ahead as well.

Our theme for VBS is **To Mars and Beyond**. Day 1 will be the story of Daniel trusting God in the Lions' Den-Go Beyond with Faith! The decorating crew will be asking for donations of hula hoops, rope light, and Husky Tyco Polyethylene Plastic sheeting-color black. A detailed list will be shared in April. Any monetary donations can be made for decorations, craft and/or science materials, the purchase of Bible Story posters, or t-shirts that will be purchased for participants and staff. Thank you in advance for any way that you choose to support this event. For those that like to bake cookies, we will also need 15 people to volunteer to bring 4 dozen cookies each. VBS is



The **Palm Sunday Egg Hunt** will be held Sunday, April 14 at 10 am. We ask for peanut butter and jelly donations as well as candy donations. Peanut butter and jelly will be so children can donate to Fellowship and Faith. We will collect for Fellowship and Faith from March 3- April 7. However, candy donations will be due on Tuesday, April 2 from 9:30-11:30 when the church office is open.

We will need volunteers to help us put candy in the eggs. Those two work days will be April 2nd or 3rd, and Saturday, April 6. Each volunteer should bring two containers (example gallon ice cream bucket) to keep candy in one and filled eggs in another.

The committee will work at 6 pm. If anyone wants to work during the day on this, then call Terri and she will assist you on where to put the filled eggs. Again this year, we will have a snack, story, and a mission discussion before the egg hunt. After the egg hunt, children will carry the palms into the church service.



## Gift Cards and Other Easy Ways to Donate, Adult Sunday School Classes

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

... when you buy Gift Cards at church on Sunday morning that the church receives a percentage of the dollars that you spend on the Gift Cards.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

... when you shop at **Dillon's** or purchase items from **Amazon** that our church can receive a percentage of your dollars spent?

Here's how it works!

**Dillon's Community Rewards Program** – go online and add Pleasant Hill UMC as the organization you want to support. Once you confirm that you want PHUMC, whenever you use your Dillon's Plus card (except when buying gas) you earn cash for our church.

**Amazon Smile** – The Smile program is a program that gives money to charities for shopping at Amazon. To choose PHUMC as your recipient go online to <https://smile.amazon.com>, sign into your Amazon account, choose to support Pleasant Hill UMC. After you sign in at Amazon Smile, you are ready to shop and earn cash for the church.

**Gift cards** – are sold at the church. Each card is sold for face value and a certain percentage is returned to the church. We have cards for many commonly used retail stores, movie theaters, and restaurants, for example Walmart, Hy-Vee, Bath & Body Works, Menards, IHOP, Dairy Queen, Subway, Red Lobster, and many more. We can order other cards when requested.

### **WHAT DOES CHURCH RECEIVE?**

**Dillon's – 6% of your purchase**

**Amazon Smiles – 0.5% of your purchase**

**Gifts cards – vary** for example IHOP – **8%**, Bath & Body Works – **12%**

Red Lobster – **8%** Subway – **6%**

In 2018 we received approximately \$2000 from charitable contributions through Dillon's, Amazon Smile, and Gift Cards Sales. It is a great way to give money to the church while making everyday purchases.

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At PHUMC we have two Adult Sunday School classes:

- \* One class meets in room 201 and uses the Adult Bible Studies curriculum, each a three-month series. The month of February they will finish the "Our Love for God" series. In March they will begin the "Discipleship and Mission" series.
- \* The other class meets in the sanctuary and uses a variety of videos to study the Word. This class is finishing their study of Romans. They will begin a new study soon.

All adults are invited to join either class! Both meet at 9:45 a.m. Sunday mornings.



## Calendaring, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Communion

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

Feb 7: 8:30a, Breakfast at Perkins	Feb 18: 4:45p, Serve at Rescue Mission
6p, Pack Operation Backpack (offsite)	Feb 20: Newsletter Deadline
Feb 9: Fresh Expression Vision Day (offsite)	Feb 23: 2p, Eagle Scout Ceremony
Feb 10: Valentine Cookies available from Youth	3:45p, Serve at Rescue Mission
Feb 13: 5:30p, Finance Committee meeting	Feb 26: 6 p.m. Women United meeting (offsite)
6:30p, Administrative Council	

All ladies of the church are invited to join the Women United group for food and fellowship on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. at El Dorado in Hunters Ridge. RSVP on the church Facebook event or to Yvonne Etzel at [yvonneetzel@yahoo.com](mailto:yvonneetzel@yahoo.com) or 785-969-9091.

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](mailto:phumctopeka@yahoo.com). Thanks!

<b><u>Birthdays This Month</u></b>		
Autumn Neblett 2/1	Marjorie O’Konski 2/13	Helen Matson 2/18
Michelle Gonzales 2/2	Lewis Taylor 2/14	Rick Strobel 2/20
Linda Shaffer 2/7	Janet Baldwin 2/15	Lori Marteney 2/21
Kason Boyles 2/10	Carrie Law 2/15	John Reed 2/26
Matt Christman 2/10	Yvonne Etzel 2/18	
<b><u>Anniversaries This Month</u></b>		
Gary & Barbara Slimmer	2/8	55 years
Jason & Lori Marteney	2/12	14 years
Ron & Linda Griffiths	2/13	53 years
Kirby & Patty Chilton	2/14	43 years
Brian & Gayle Smith	2/15	33 years
Bruce & Becky Tomlinson	2/28	43 years



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 February 3 and March 3.

## 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!

### **February 18 Rescue Mission Servers (Monday, 4:45 pm):**

Steve, Dee, Darian Sanner

### **February 23 Rescue Mission Servers (Saturday, 3:45 pm):**

Brook, Jamie, Ahryis Sexton, Elise Cartolano



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 over 600 local school-kids-in-need to take home on Friday so the kids know they will have access to food over the weekend.

We ask for donations of money or items for a lot of reasons and sometimes we ask pretty often.

It can be overwhelming if you don't know one important fact:

***We don't expect you to give to everything!***

We make you aware of lots of opportunities through-out the year; you decide which ones touch your heart and what support you choose to give.

### **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**