

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

4525 NW Button Road,
Topeka, KS 66618-2507
(785) 246-1737

WWW.PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG

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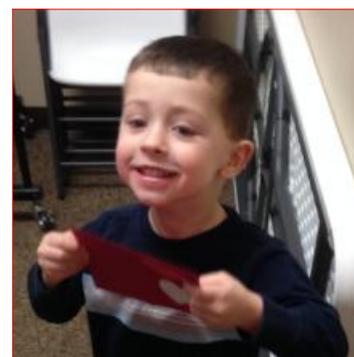
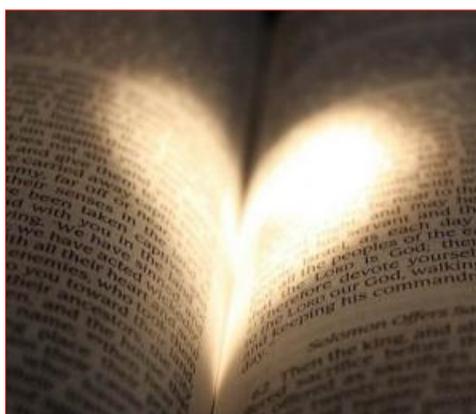
In-Person Worship Services

Sundays 10 a.m.

We ask that you wear masks when not seated (i.e. when entering, exiting, standing and visiting, etc.)

See last page for information on how to watch our service online.

FEBRUARY 2022



Pastor's Corner

Our five year old, soon to be six, granddaughter was with us this past weekend and she loves to go shopping at the mall. So – being a good Oma (grandmother in German) I took her with me and my sister, Tina, to shop. She has several places she likes to shop, as do I, and they happen to be the same places! Go figure! ☺

One time, when Coraline was only four, we went to the mall and we saw the trampoline jump that children, youth and adults can try. Coraline has always been fearless and is willing to try anything. But when I asked if she wanted to try the trampoline, she said, "Oh no!" and sounded really afraid. I didn't push her – but I told her dad about it and we figured it was because he wasn't with her. She is always willing to try most anything - if he is by her side.



Last Friday, another of my sisters, Wanda, received word from her doctor that she more than likely has lung cancer. Needless to say, Wanda is afraid. Wanda has a very strong faith and knows that God is with her in all things. But even so – when faced with such a life threatening health issue, who wouldn't be afraid?! There are so many unknowns!

As I began to think of what I could offer Wanda to encourage her, I thought of a song that Wayne and I sang in a choir back in Salina. It's titled, "Be Not Afraid," by Craig Courtney. The music from that song is now stuck in my mind – what we call an "ear bug". I've even read the scripture it is based on to reassure myself. Isaiah 43:1-7 speaks of God telling us *"Do not be afraid for he has created us; he has called us by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...."* With those words going through my mind, how can Wanda – or even I – feel alone? God is with us at every turn.

What are you afraid of? What brings you fear? It doesn't have to be anything as big as a life threatening health issue. Even through the little things in life that bring us fear – God is always there with us. The next time you feel afraid, take time to read Isaiah 43:1-7 and let the words just wash over you and bring you peace.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Faye

43 ¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² 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. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."
Isaiah 43:1-7 NRSV

Masks, Adult SS, Back In-Person in February, Communion, Administrative Council

Please Wear Masks

We ask that you wear masks in our building when not seated (i.e. when entering, exiting, standing and visiting, etc.) Once you are seated you are welcome to remove your mask if you choose.

Adult Sunday School 9 a.m.

Gary Slimmer leads an Adult Sunday School class in room 201 (SW corner of the sanctuary, a.k.a. the Cry Room) at 9 a.m. on Sundays. All are welcome.

Online-Only in January, Back In-Person in February

Our church services were online-only in January. January 2 was online-only due to the weather, in fact it was not a live service streamed online, it was a posted sermon that had been pre-recorded. Thank you to Kelly Neiman and Pastor Faye for getting together during the week to record the sermon in case the forecast winter weather materialized and caused our service to be canceled.

The Epiphany Soup Luncheon and Get Acquainted Gathering scheduled for January 9 was postponed and the worship services January 9, 16, 23, and 30 were online-only due to the Covid-19 surge in Shawnee County. In October and November, the 7 day average of new cases per day per 100,000 residents in Shawnee County was mid-20s. December 17 that number was 64. The first week of January it was 102, the first time ever that that number was over 100 for Shawnee County. January 19 it was 180. January 24 it was 181. January 26 it was 147 - dropping finally! January 28 the number was down to 116. (All numbers from KS Department of Health and Environment.)

Since the numbers are dropping, Administrative Council has voted to **return to in-person services beginning February 6**. We will still offer online services. If you don't feel well or you are not ready to return to in-person services, please join us online!

See the back page to see options for watching or listening to recent sermons.



The Congregational Care Team will bring
Holy Communion

after morning worship on the first Sunday of each month to congregants who are unable to attend Sunday morning worship service. Please call the office at 785-246-1737 by 11:30 a.m. the Friday before if you would like to receive communion.

Administrative Council:

The next Administrative Council meeting is Wednesday, February 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Save this Date: Sunday, February 20 at 2 p.m. there will be a Zoom Informational Meeting on the Simplified Accountability Structure, aka One Board Model. More information to come at a later date.

Passings, Thanks, Financial Update, Celebrate!

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

Darlene Fiedler Gerald Haney Ann Marley

Rachelle Tidball Phil Cody Esther

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

Thank you for all the prayers over the last couple of years.

Pete & Dee Deppe

Thank you for reaching out to me after my eye surgeries. Your prayers and well wishes were so appreciated!

Joy Jepson

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Financial Update

Received	Jan-June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total	\$128,697	\$12,788	\$14,656	\$13,432	\$14,944	\$14,118	\$13,737	\$212,373
Building Fund	45,061	1,640	3,149	2,555	1,465	1,820	1,290	56,980
General Fund	66,280	9,127	11,278	10,309	10,571	11,233	9,738	128,537

We also received \$25,400 PPP loan which was forgiven.

Thank you to all our faithful and generous financial donors!

Thank you to everyone who gives time, talent, and/or treasure to PHUMC! Time, Talent, and other Treasures are not nearly as easy to track as Financial giving - but are just as appreciated!

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.

Celebrate!

Celebrating the good stuff, large or small

- Congrats to Bruce & Linda Lanning on their new great granddaughter, Bryleigh Grace Puett, born January 10!

Celebrate! is meant to be a place where together we celebrate the good stuff, large or small. You are welcome to submit items for Celebrate! that you wish to share. A new family member, a special event, a special award, a tournament finish, a special encounter ... what are you celebrating?

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Gift Cards, Staff

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

<u>Birthdays This Month</u>					
Jace Brake	2/1	Matt Christman	2/10	Sawyer Grollmes	2/19
Michelle Gonzales	2/2	Steve Boyles	2/12	Rick Strobel	2/20
Rusty Newell	2/2	Lewis Taylor	2/14	Lori Marteney	2/21
Linda Shaffer	2/7	Carrie Law	2/15	John Reed	2/26
CJ Sturgeon	2/8	Alec Strickert	2/17		
Kason Boyles	2/10	Yvonne Etzel	2/18		



<u>Anniversaries This Month</u>		
Gary & Barbara Slimmer	2/8	58 years
Jason & Lori Marteney	2/12	17 years
Ron & Linda Griffiths	2/13	56 years
Kirby & Patty Chilton	2/14	46 years
Brian & Gayle Smith	2/15	36 years
Dennis & Mary Shepherd	2/16	15 years

Our church sells plastic **Gift Cards**. They make great gifts as well as being useful for everyday shopping. We are also able to get ecards for some companies.

Contact Deb in the office (785-246-1737) or Mary Smith (785-640-1286) to make arrangements to get cards. You can pay with cash or check.

Why does our church sell Gift Cards? Because it is a fairly easy fundraiser. Cards sell for face value (\$10, \$25, etc.) and our church earns a percentage from the retailer. Funds earned from gift cards have been used to support several ministries over the years such as seminar registrations, VBS and Education Sunday materials, as well as Mission Share payments and utility bills when our expenses outran donations.

Pleasant Hill UMC 4525 NW Button Rd., Topeka, KS 66618 785-246-1737 pleasanthillumc.org

The office is open Monday - Friday 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Please enter through the west door (by the office) on weekdays.

Pleasant Hill UMC Staff

Pastor:	Pastor Faye , pastor@pleasanthillumc.org
Office Administrator:	Deb , admin@pleasanthillumc.org or phumctopeka@yahoo.com
Youth Director:	Michelle , youth@pleasanthillumc.org
Custodian:	Jill , admin@pleasanthillumc.org
Praise Band Coord. & Adult Bell Choir Dir.:	Kelly , praise@pleasanthillumc.org
Organists:	Mary S and Marty R

Coronavirus COVID-19 Timeline

Here is a continuation of the **Coronavirus COVID-19 timeline** in the newsletters since April 2020. This is meant to be a place where certain statistics can be found because some are difficult to find online even the next day. If you do not want to look at the numbers, please feel free to ignore this.

Jan 3: Running case count in Shawnee County 32,163. Running case count in Kansas 534,399 including 7,044 deaths. Running case count in the US 55 million including 826,057 deaths. Running case count worldwide over 290 million including 5.44 million deaths.

Jan 6/7: Running case count in Shawnee County over 34,000. Running case count in Kansas over 550,000. Running case count worldwide over 300 million.

Jan 10: Running case count in the US over 60 million.

Jan 12: Running case count in Shawnee County over 36,000. Running case count in Kansas over 600,000. Running case count worldwide nearing 315 million including 5.5 million deaths.

Jan 14: Running case count in Shawnee County over 37,500. Running case count worldwide over 322 million.

Jan 16: Running case count in the US over 65 million including over 850,000 deaths.

Jan 19: Running case count in Shawnee County over 40,000. Running case count in Kansas over 650,000. Running case count worldwide over 335 million.

Jan 21: Running case count in Shawnee County over 42,000. Running case count in the US over 70 million including over 865,000 deaths. Running case count worldwide nearing 345 million.

Jan 26: Running case count in Shawnee County over 44,000. Running case count in Kansas over 700,000. Running case count worldwide over 361 million.

Jan 30: As of the January 30 update from Shawnee County, Shawnee County reported a record high 8,564 new cases in the month. This is over 2-1/4 times the next highest month, 3760 new cases in November 2020. Shawnee County reported 24 deaths from Covid-19 in January 2022. This is 1/4 of the 99 deaths reported in November 2020.

Jan 31: Running case count in Kansas 730,670 including 7,536 deaths. Running case count in the US 74.7 million including 885,801 deaths. Running case count worldwide 376.5 million including 5.67 million deaths. The FDA approved the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine (now called Spikevax) for people 18 years and older.

As of January 31, 2022 Covid-19 Comparison of Shawnee and surrounding counties						
County:	Douglas	Jackson	Jefferson	Osage	Shawnee	Wabaunsee
Running case count ⁺ :	22,992	3,723	4,527	3,716	45,505	1,548
Covid death total ⁺ :	125	24	55	42	524	21
Population*:	110,826	13,462	19,126	16,295	177,934	7,053

⁺ Case counts and death totals from KDHEKS.gov * population on April 1, 2020 from census.gov

Sermon by Phone, Watch or Listen Online, Donation Options

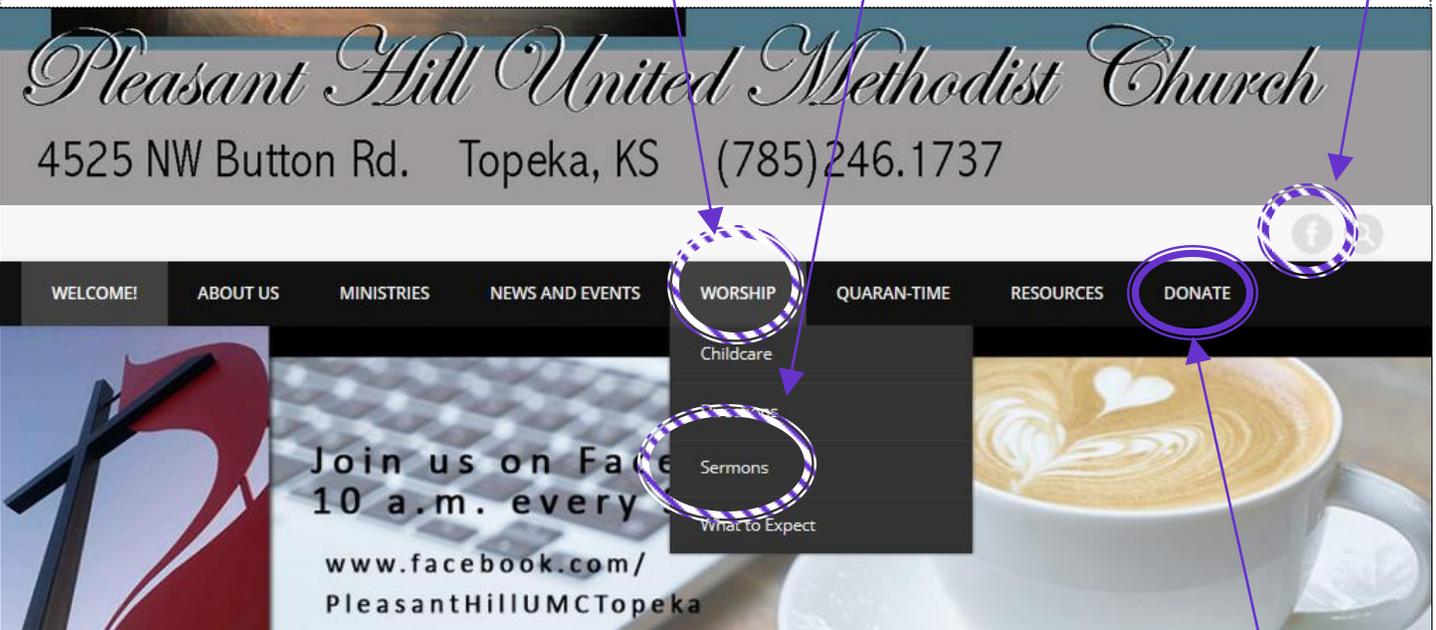
Sermon By Phone: Call this phone number: **785-246-5691** to listen to the scriptures and sermon from the most recent Sunday. We try to have it updated by Monday afternoon each week.

A Facebook account is not necessary to watch **the Sunday morning service online**. Simply go to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/PleasantHillUmCTopeka/ and click on the video.

On our website, www.pleasanthillumc.org, a link to our Facebook page can be found here.

You can find the service on the Facebook page by 10 a.m. on Sunday. Later in the week, you can also start from our website, click on "Worship", then "Sermons", then, on the Sermons page, click the link to the Facebook video you want to watch.

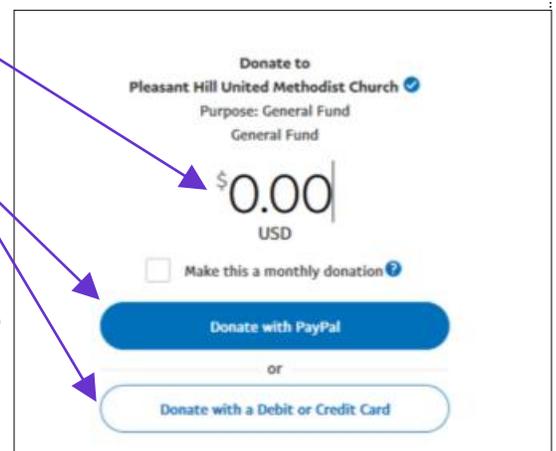
Also on the Sermons page is a link to our **Audio Archive**, where all recent **audio files** of scriptures and sermons are available for listening.



To donate through **PayPal**, go to our website, www.pleasanthillumc.org, and click on "Donate". This will bring up a page with a donate button for General Fund (shown below left). Click on the 'donate' button on this page and it will bring up a PayPal page such as is shown below.



Enter the amount here and choose the option you want from the buttons at the bottom of the page.



If you are interested in giving by **automatic withdrawals**, please get an EFT form from Deb in the office.

You are always welcome to **drop off** or **mail** donations to the church:

Pleasant Hill UMC, 4525 NW Button Rd., Topeka, KS 66618.

We are always grateful for our generous donors!