

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

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

WWW.PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PLEASANTHILLUMCTOPEKA/

Email: ADMIN@PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG

or PHUMCTOPEKA@YAHOO.COM

In-Person Worship Services

Sundays 10 a.m.

Mask-wearing is now optional in our church building.

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

MARCH 2022



Happy Birthday Pleasant Hill UMC! The Pleasant Hill Sunday School was organized at the Pleasant Hill School House (shown above) on March 20, 1881, and in 1882 there were 85 names on the rolls.



The first Pleasant Hill church building (above) was located on 62nd near Rochester Road and was dedicated on January 4, 1885.

Pastor's Corner



It wasn't until I was an adult that I became aware of Mardi Gras - which is a day of celebration one day before the beginning of Lent. Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", which means it's your last chance to eat rich, fatty foods before we begin the Season of Lent with sacrifices and fasting. Mardi Gras is a celebration of life before the more-somber occasion of Ash Wednesday and it almost always involves the use of masks and costumes by its participants. Maybe you've seen people dressed in costumes in the colors of purple, green, and gold. The costumes are wild, often taking the shape of fairies, animals, people from myths, or various Medieval costumes. I thought it always sounded like fun - and one of the churches I served had a Mardi Gras in their basement with fatty foods, costumes - the works. Then the next day - it was time to get serious about the Season of Lent.

Just as Fat Tuesday involves eating as much fatty foods as you can, Lent is often about giving up something - which often times centers around food. One year, I gave up eating chocolate. Yes, it was hard for me because I love chocolate - until it kept me awake at night. Now it is easy for me to give it up all year round.

Something else I gave up was drinking my diet cola. Nothing goes with Mexican food like a diet cola. But that, too, had to be given up when the caffeine in the soda became a problem for me getting to sleep.

So - this year when it came time to begin my journey through Lent, I gave some serious thought as to what I could give up. Then a friend of mine told me that it isn't so much what you give up, but the attitude you take with you as you journey through Lent. That made sense to me because when I thought about what Jesus gave up when He went to the wilderness for forty days and nights, which was food - I imagine it would have been difficult if He had gone into it with the wrong attitude. Jesus knew that He was God's Chosen Son - His Beloved Son. And because of that He knew that He could resist Satan's temptations. He resisted turning the stones into bread; He resisted the authority that was offered to Him, if He would but worship Satan. He resisted these temptations throughout those forty days and forty nights because He knew that God was with Him and would provide for Him.

Sometimes we forget that God is with us, too. Maybe it's our attitude that we need to keep in check throughout this Lenten Season. What kind of attitude will you carry with you as you begin Lent?

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Faye

Masks, Adult SS, Admin. Council, Ash Wednesday, Confirmation, Lenten Events

Mask-wearing is optional in our church building.

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.

The next Administrative Council meeting is Wednesday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Council minutes are available if you are interested in them. Stop in the office or ask Deb for an emailed copy.



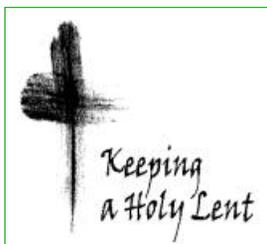
Ash Wednesday is March 2. Ash Wednesday worship service will be held at 6 p.m.

Confirmation Class 2022!!!!

We are excited to begin our class with 7 youth, 6 adult mentors and 2 leaders!!!! Please pray for our group as we travel this journey.

From the Fellowship Team

We would like to invite everyone to attend a Meet and Greet with Pastor Faye on Sunday, March 6 after service. Cookies and refreshments will be served.



Lenten Breakfast Meditations

Wednesday, March 2 will be the first 9 a.m. Lenten breakfast at the church. This will be a way to focus on the Lenten season and enjoy food and fellowship. There will be a breakfast weekly until the final on April 6.

Fellowship Team Calendar

- Wednesday, March 2, weekly 9 a.m. Lenten Breakfasts begin at the church
 - Sunday, March 6, Meet and Greet after Sunday Service
 - Tuesday, March 8, 6 p.m. next Fellowship Team Meeting
 - Wednesdays March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 9 a.m. breakfast at the church
 - Fifth Sunday Potluck Lunch after service May 29, 2022
-



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.

Passings, Guest Speaker, Youth Group, Candles

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

Cheryl Nelson Ricky Rea Bonnie McNorton

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



In a last-minute change of plans, Sam Feleay was our guest speaker on February 27. He brought us the message "Prayer on the Mountaintop".

Youth Group

Please contact Michelle at 785-224-3815 if you would like to donate a lunch or money towards lunch for the youth group Sunday meetings. (We have gluten free needs)

**Daylight Savings Time Starts
Sunday, March 13!!
Don't forget to Spring Forward!**

Why Do We Light Candles During Worship?

By Linda Smith, Worship Coordinator

In the Bible, light has always been a symbol of holiness, goodness, knowledge, wisdom, grace, hope, and God's revelation. By contrast, darkness has been associated with evil, sin, and despair.

Light in the form of a flame is carried into the church sanctuary to symbolize the entrance of Christ's light into the place of worship. A candle can also be lit at home when watching the worship service on Facebook.

From *Worship Matters: A United Methodist Guide to Worship Work, Vol. II* by E. Byron Anderson: "Jesus said: "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Many congregations use two candles on the altar to point out that Jesus was both a human being and God. At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve."

When we light the candles, we are reminded that God is with us at home, at school, and at work, as well as in the worship service. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Dillon's Community Rewards, Gift Cards, Staff

Dillons Community Rewards **An easy way to financially support our church**

Have you signed up to get Dillon's Community Rewards sent to our church? Just go online to dillons.com/communityrewards. Search for Pleasant Hill UMC. Confirm your choice and start earning cash for PHUMC. The church will receive cash, 6% of all your purchases at Dillon's, excluding gas, at no added cost to you.

In 2021, we had 50 families enrolled & received \$908.

It is **easy** to do, ask Mary Smith or Deb for more information. (If you have signed up in 2021 you should not need to sign up again, but it would be good to check your Dillon's account and make sure your rewards are going to PHUMC.)

Gift Cards

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

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Building History

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!

Birthdays This Month					
Allison Grollmes	3/1	Alan Shaffer	3/11	Owen Boyles	3/19
Audrey Etzel	3/1	Mary Smith	3/11	Pleasant Hill UMC	3/20
Jimmy Meek	3/2	Jillian Walder	3/11		(141 years!)
Jacob Crawshaw	3/3	Sam Martin	3/12	Bryce Cochran	3/21
Fred Patton	3/3	Chris McManaman	3/12	Billie Dupree	3/22
Jason Marteney	3/4	Gary Slimmer	3/15	Beverly Newell	3/23
Cara Etzel	3/7	Shelby Grollmes	3/16	Barry Boyles	3/24
John Holt	3/7	Wayne Wagner	3/16	Eli Wilson	3/28
John Dowd	3/10	Pete Deppe	3/17	Jeanetta Boughn	3/30



Anniversaries This Month		
Pete & Dee Deppe	3/15	66 years
Harry & Elaine Worden	3/16	30 years
Bob & Susie Forman	3/26	39 years



Building history continued from the cover:

The Pleasant Hill church building on 62nd was sold and a new building was built at 5919 NW Glenwood (shown above.) This building was dedicated on May 20, 1973.

In 2012 the building on Glenwood was sold and the current building was built at 4525 NW Button Road (below.) The first worship service in this building was held Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013.



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.

Feb 1/2: Running case count in Shawnee County over 46,000. Running case count in Kansas nearing 740,000. Running case count in the US 75 million including 880,000 deaths. Running case count worldwide nearing 380 million.

Feb 8: Running case count in Kansas over 750,000. Running case count in the US 77 million. Running case count worldwide 400 million.

Feb 16: Running case count in the US 78 million including 925,800 deaths. With the 7 day average of new cases per day per 100,000 residents in Shawnee County down to 28, PHUMC Administrative Council voted to make mask-wearing optional in the church building.

Feb 28: Running case count in Kansas 766,045 cases including nearly 8,000 deaths. The rate of new cases in Kansas has slowed dramatically, with 479 new cases reported in the state between 9 a.m. Friday, 2/25 and 9 a.m. Monday 2/28 (36 of those cases were in Shawnee County.) Running case count in the US 79 million including nearly 950,000 deaths. Running case count worldwide 436 million including nearly 6 million deaths. Germany and Russia each reported more cases in the last 28 days than the US did.

As was reported in the February newsletter, in October and November 2021, the 7 day average of new cases per day per 100,000 residents in Shawnee County was in the 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 24 it was 181. January 26 it was 147 - dropping finally! January 28 the number was down to 116.

The 7 day average of new cases per day per 100,000 residents in Shawnee County continued to drop during February and at the end of February had dropped to 13.

As of February 28, 2022	Covid-19 Comparison of Shawnee and surrounding counties					
County:	Douglas	Jackson	Jefferson	Osage	Shawnee	Wabaunsee
Running case count ⁺ :	24,681	3,869	4,730	3,888	47,818	1,623
Covid death total ⁺ :	130	27	58	43	561	22
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

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.

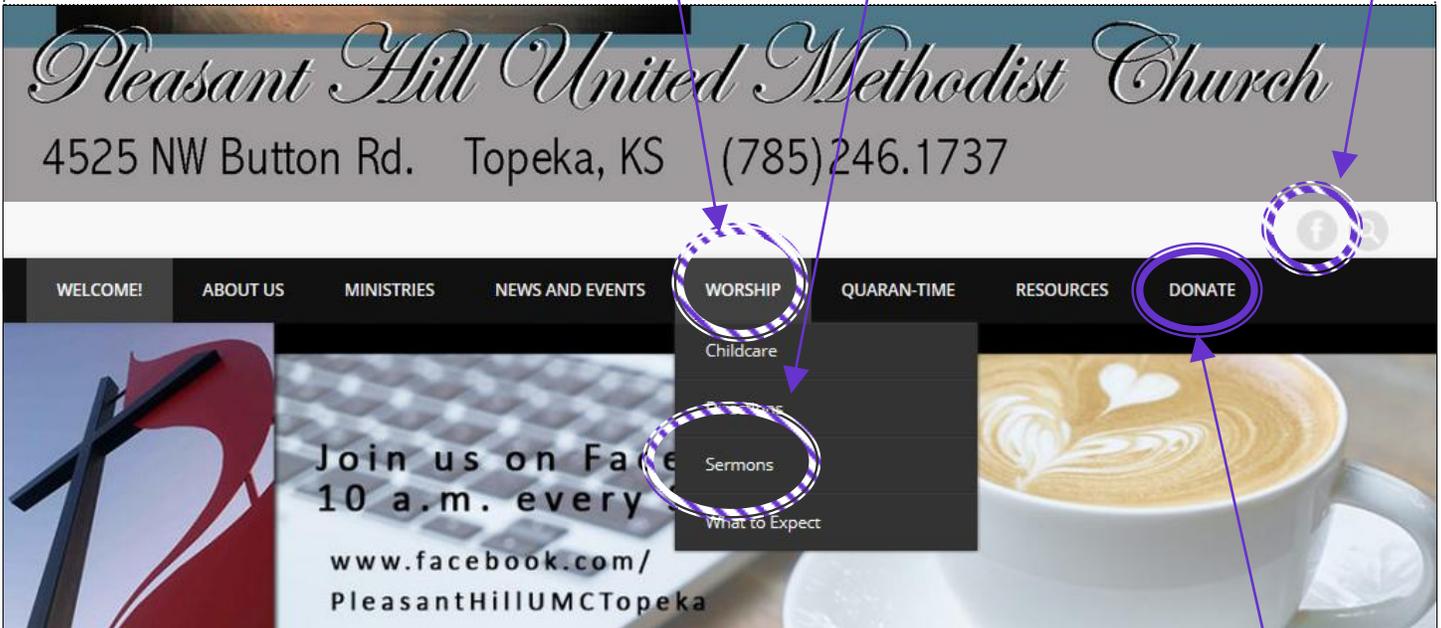
Watch or Listen Online, Donation Options

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.

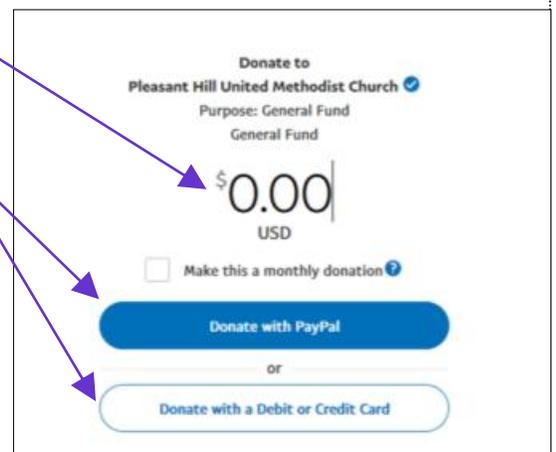
Also on the Sermons page is a link to our **Audio Archive**, where all recent **audio files** of scriptures and sermons are available for listening.



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!

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.

– Albert Einstein