

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church  
4525 NW Button Road  
Topeka, KS 66618-2507  
(785) 246-1737

[WWW.PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG](http://WWW.PLEASANTHILLUMC.ORG)

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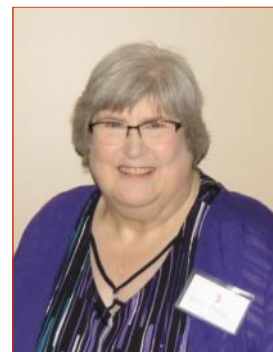
**Worship Service every Sunday @ 10 a.m.**

# NOVEMBER 2023

Trunk or Treat October 31, 2023 Decorated 'Trunks'



This year's harvest of blessings offering will be November 19. The recipient this year will be the Great Plains Conference Disaster Relief Fund. You may be wondering exactly what that is, so I thought I'd share a little bit about the fund. Our church is part of the Great Plains Annual Conference, and there is a fund set aside to help United Methodist churches or their members in time of disaster. Kansas and Nebraska have been known to experience tornadoes or floods or fires that can cause significant losses. Many of those losses are covered at least in part by insurance. But because we care, the conference wants to help as best we can, to provide a love gift to help out.



I remember the fund helping a family in a rural church I served. Their home burned while everyone was at the high school football game. No one was injured, thankfully, but imagine coming home after the football game to find your home totally destroyed. Fortunately they had family who gave them a place to sleep that night. I called the district superintendent and told him what happened and two days later, on Sunday morning, the district superintendent arrived in worship to present them a check from the conference disaster relief fund, so they could buy some immediate needs before the insurance check arrived. Naturally the community also rallied with a fundraiser dinner a week or two later, but the family was overjoyed that the conference cared about them. I've served churches where a new roof was needed after a hailstorm and there wasn't quite enough in the insurance and fundraising account to cover the cost and a request was sent to the conference, who responded with a gift from the disaster relief fund. The conference wants to help out in times of disaster, and we can be a part of helping that emergency aid to continue. There is more information available at [www.greatplainsumc.org/greatplainsdisasterfund](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/greatplainsdisasterfund) if you'd like to learn more. If you would like to learn how you can train as a volunteer just let me know. Training happens pretty regularly around the conference.

I hope you will consider making a contribution in thanksgiving for their important work.

Blessings to all of you,  
Pastor Marge



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 by 11:30 a.m. the Friday before if you would like to receive communion.

If you have been visiting and would like to **join our church**, please talk to Pastor Marge after service or contact the office during the week.

**Annual Charge Conference:** Our church's annual will be held at Topeka First UMC Sunday, November 5, 2 p.m. It is open to everyone. Packets are available in the foyer or the office. You are welcome to take a packet to read even if you don't attend.



**Fellowship Team meeting** is 6 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, at the church.

**Mission Team meeting** is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 7, at the church.

**Administrative Council meeting** is 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 8 at the church.

All three meetings are open to everyone.

**Remembrance of Saints:** Sunday, November 5, All Saints Sunday, we will have a time for Remembrance of Saints – lighting candles for loved ones who passed in the last year. If you wish to light a candle for a loved one gone longer, please feel free to do so.



**Women United** is our women's group. It is open to all women in our church. Women United invites you to meet at 1 p.m. Saturday, November 11 at Red Robin for food and fellowship. Hope you can join us! Questions, contact Deb in the office.

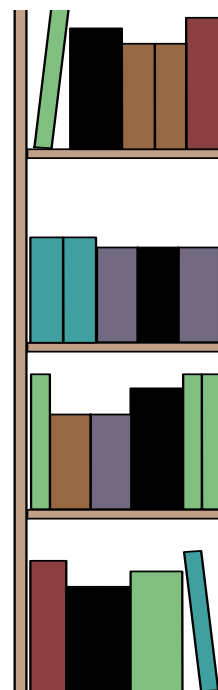


**Poinsettia Orders:** We are offering an opportunity to purchase poinsettias through the church from Jackson's Greenhouse. Orders are due by Sunday, November 12. The prices are the same as last year: 6½ inch pot \$12.00 and \$20.00 for the 8-inch pot. The plants will be delivered to church on Saturday, November 25. You can purchase plants for your home or for decorating the sanctuary. We are required to order a minimum of 10 plants per pot size that we order.

**Book Fair:** Our Cokesbury book fair will be November 12 and 19 before and after church. We hope this provides a number of opportunities. To enhance our beautiful new library facilities, we would like to add to and update our inventory. You may certainly purchase a book for our library. Donors' names will be noted in each book donated. We will have books on display from Cokesbury for you to purchase. Fiction, non-fiction, devotionals... you'll find a wide range of topics for all ages. We would be happy to accept donations for our church library, but you will also find wonderful gifts for the special people in your life.

Since this is the holiday season, this is a perfect time to purchase a high-quality gift for someone you love. Take advantage of this book fair to do some shopping. Spoil yourself. You deserve a spark of motivation during this hectic time. You have OUR permission to buy yourself a treasure.

Join us November 12 and 19 in the Pleasant Hill gathering area to shop.





**Veterans Day Sunday November 12:** Pleasant Hill UMC will recognize veterans affiliated with our church on Sunday, November 12. The official public holiday is observed annually on November 11 and honors military veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and National Guard.) This day marks the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.

Veterans will be honored with a slide show during the service and a photo display in the foyer. These men and women are our grandparents, parents, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, and grandchildren. We salute your many sacrifices so that we may enjoy freedom and peace.

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**Harvest of Blessings Offering:** As we prepare for our annual Thanksgiving celebrations, we should set aside time to thank God for the blessings He continually gives us. We can be thankful for salvation, redemption, healing, deliverance, favor, provision, protection, guidance, peace, joy, family, spiritual gifts, talents and more. This is our Harvest of Blessings.

A Harvest of Blessings offering will take place on November 19. The offering will be given to the Great Plains UMC Disaster Relief Fund.

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**Hanging of the Greens and Lighting the Advent Wreath:** In preparation for Advent and the Christmas season, a Hanging of the Greens ceremony will take place during the November 26 first Sunday of Advent service. This is a ceremony in which we will adorn our church with evergreen garlands and wreaths symbolizing the eternal life available when Jesus comes into our lives. We hang the greens to reflect our joy in the abundant life we find through Christ.



The Advent wreath, a never-ending circle, reminds us of the endless love of God. The wreath is created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life during winter as the evergreen is continuously green. Advent candles are nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding His blood for our sins. Pinecones symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection.

On November 26, the first candle in the Advent wreath, representing Expectation & Hope, will be lit.

Everyone is invited to stay after service to help finish preparing the church for Advent.

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The Fellowship Team will provide a **Baked Potato Bar** November 26 after service. Please plan to stay, eat, and help decorate the church for advent. If you plan to attend please sign up in the foyer. You are also invited to bring a dessert to share if you choose, there is a sign-up for this as well.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries, Caregiver Conference, SS/JAM, Baptism **Nov. 2023**

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!

<b><u>Birthdays This Month</u></b>					
Kenny Saulsbury	11/2	Austin Marteney	11/11	Terri Godbout	11/24
Jay Van Hove	11/4	Glen Smith	11/13	Larry Wilson	11/24
Billie Winsor	11/9	Jammie Serrano	11/21	Laynee Talley	11/27
Joy Chapman	11/10	Larry Miles	11/22		

<b><u>Anniversaries This Month</u></b>		
Tailor & Santina Harrison	11/12	1 year
Gregg & Roxann Williams	11/12	36 years
Steve & Gita Noble	11/25	23 years
Rick & Mary Colton	11/30	60 years

Congregational Care Team invites you to attend:

### **A Caregiver Conference on Dementia and In-Home Care**

presented by Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging

at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wednesday, November 8, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

There will be speakers to provide information about caring for someone with dementia. This will help you to help your loved one maintain their independence as long as possible. Lunch provided. There is a flyer in the foyer. You may register yourself or call our office, 785-246-1737, by Nov. 3, and we will register as a group. If you would like to carpool to the conference, contact our office.

Children are invited to **J.A.M. Sessions** (**J**esus **A**nd **M**e) during worship service. Following Children's Time, they meet in the room just west of the kitchen.

**Adult Sunday School** is offered every Sunday at 9 a.m. in room 201 (SW corner of the sanctuary.)

**Daylight Savings Time** ends Sunday, November 5, "Fall Back" 1 hour!

I apologize for the late newsletter! The Conference Packet took precedence. *Deb*

Evelyn Van Hove was baptized on October 29.



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

Larry Hahn      Megan Gracey      Jack Danner      John Patch      Jimmy Hummel

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

**Christmas Décor and Winter Coat donations Appreciated:** During the holiday season, you will notice three large 'presents' in the gathering area to collect Christmas décor and winter coats.

**Christmas Décor:** Our refugees from the Ukraine left their homeland with bare necessities. Any decor you are willing to part with will be a holiday blessing in their Topeka homes.



**Winter Coats for the Needy.** If you have a coat you would like to donate, bring it to church. We'll find it a new home.

Questions? Chat with Dave or Kelly Neiman or any member of the Mission team.

**Purchase a Bag of Hope for the less fortunate:** Each of our Bags Of Hope cost \$25. This holiday season, we hope to raise enough in donations to send 50 Bags Of Hope to the Topeka Rescue Mission. If you would like to make a donation, put your check in the collection plate with "Bags Of Hope" in the memo, and we'll put that money to good use. Questions? Chat with Dave or Kelly Neiman or any member of the Mission team.



**Date set for "Keep Hope Alive":** "Keep Hope Alive" night will be Sunday, Dec. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. This night began last year as a time to work on mission projects for our community during the holiday season. Many of our church committees spearhead portions of the evening.

- The Mission team will direct the packing of 50 red Bags of Hope for our local rescue mission.
- For a personal touch, our Congregational Care team will be leading the charge writing Christmas messages for each bag.
- Our youth will shop for the kids of Alpha Christian Home. Help us wrap those gifts on "Keep Hope Alive" night.
- Pastor Marge and J.A.M. Session leader Lauren will teach us how to make Chrismon ornaments. These beautiful decorations have Christmas symbols very important to us. We will use these ornaments to decorate the church during the holiday season.

And all the while, enjoy the holiday music and tasty snacks sure to put you in a holiday mood.

So mark your calendars now. PHUMC is the place to be on December 10. Questions? Chat with Dave or Kelly Neiman or any member of the Mission team.

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Have you signed up to get **Dillon's Community Rewards** sent to our church? Just go online to [dillons.com/communityrewards](https://dillons.com/communityrewards). Search for Pleasant Hill UMC. Confirm your choice and start earning cash for PHUMC. Questions? Contact the church office.





Part of the Pack 193 October meeting was a pumpkin carving / decorating contest. They sure are creative!



Littles in arms at Trunk or Treat.



We had a super turn out for **Trunk or Treat**, around 170 kids and lots of parents! Having it inside (a change decided on Monday, October 30) gave a warm and very safe place for children. There were eight 'trunks' (tables) where kids could collect goodies. With the event moved inside, hot cocoa, games, and music were added to the event and Mission Team offered a drawing for three \$10 egift cards. In addition, given that parents could stand anywhere and see their treater walking, talking and playing, a lot more fellowship happened in the warmth of the building than usually happens in the cold of the evening. Congrats to the Youth on winning the decorating contest! Their 'trunk' was the "Polar Express, Your One-Way Ticket to Heaven." Thank you to Annie McDowell for sharing many of the photos!











Extra items at Trunk or Treat: Angie Feleay served hot cocoa. Lauren, Sam, and Kinzie ran games.

**Blankets Made With Love:** Whoohoo, we made and exceeded our goal for blankets this year!!!

Last January our group set a goal of 500 blankets. This calculates to making 50 blankets a month for 10 months. With only 7 women in our group at the time, it was a pie in the sky reach. The week before the Blanket Blessing, Marty and the group did a blanket count and there were only 499 - so, Marty ran home and did one more to help us meet the goal. On delivery day we discovered two boxes that hadn't been counted and our new count became 507! We lifted our praises up high.



Reginia, manager of the McKinney-Vento program at 501 school district, shared that numbers of displaced and homeless children have continued to rise. They attribute some of it to the closure of homeless hotels in Topeka. She said once the hotels closed many calls came in for tents. Currently, many of these children live in tents. Also, she communicates, that all of the 2022 blankets were given out prior to November 1st, and many families continued to call for blankets. This year's 507 was a true blessing for all in need.

Huge thank you to Marty, Priscilla and Debbie for helping load and deliver all our boxes. Plus, a big thank you to our group, Joy, Orvina, Lynda, Mary, Marilyn, Barbara, Priscilla, and Marty for making this year so successful.

Piecing Love and Warmth will take a break October – December. January 2024 begins our new year with a new goal. We encourage anyone who wishes to make a difference in a child's life to join us. Donations of fleece and batting, or funds to buy materials, are always needed and appreciated.

Debbie Taylor, Chairperson, Piecing Love and Warmth



We have plastic **Gift Cards** available in the church office for many retail and eating establishments, such as Amazon, Wal-Mart, Sonic, Subway, Chili's/On The Border, Olive Garden/Longhorn, Dairy Queen, & many more. Visit the church office during the week to purchase.

Mary can order **eCards** for many establishments, such as Ace Hardware, Amazon, Applebee's, Baskin Robbins, Best Buy, Buffalo Wild Wings, Carter's, Ebay, Foot Locker, Home Depot, Hotels.com, IHOP, Lowe's, Pizza Hut, VUDU, Texas Roadhouse, several hotel chains and several cruise lines.

Most of our cards are \$25, but we can order \$10 cards for some places. \$10 cards make good stocking stuffers for Christmas. Contact Mary at 785-640-1286 to order eCards or to let her know if you would like special cards for Christmas.



**November at PHUMC** [Online Calendar](#)

Nov 2, 8:30a, Church Breakfast at Perkins	Nov 12, Veterans Remembrance Sunday
Nov 5, Daylight Savings Time Ends!	Nov 12, Book Fair
Nov 5, All Saints Service	Nov 15, Newsletter 'deadline'
Nov 5, 2p, Annual Conference (offsite, see pg 3)	Nov 19, Book Fair
Nov 7, Election Day	Nov 19, Harvest of Blessings Offering
Nov 7, 6p, Fellowship Team meeting	Nov 23, Thanksgiving, office closed
Nov 7, 6:30p, Mission Team meeting	Nov 24, Office closed
Nov 8, 5:30p, Administrative Council meeting	Nov 26, Potato Bar after worship service
Nov 11, 1p, Women United @ Red Robin	Nov 26, First Sunday of/Decorate for Advent

Looking Ahead:

- December 23, 7p, Christmas Eve-Eve worship service
- December 24, 10a, Christmas Eve worship service

**Pleasant Hill UMC**

4525 NW Button Rd., Topeka, KS 66618 785-246-1737 [www.pleasanthillumc.org](http://www.pleasanthillumc.org)

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

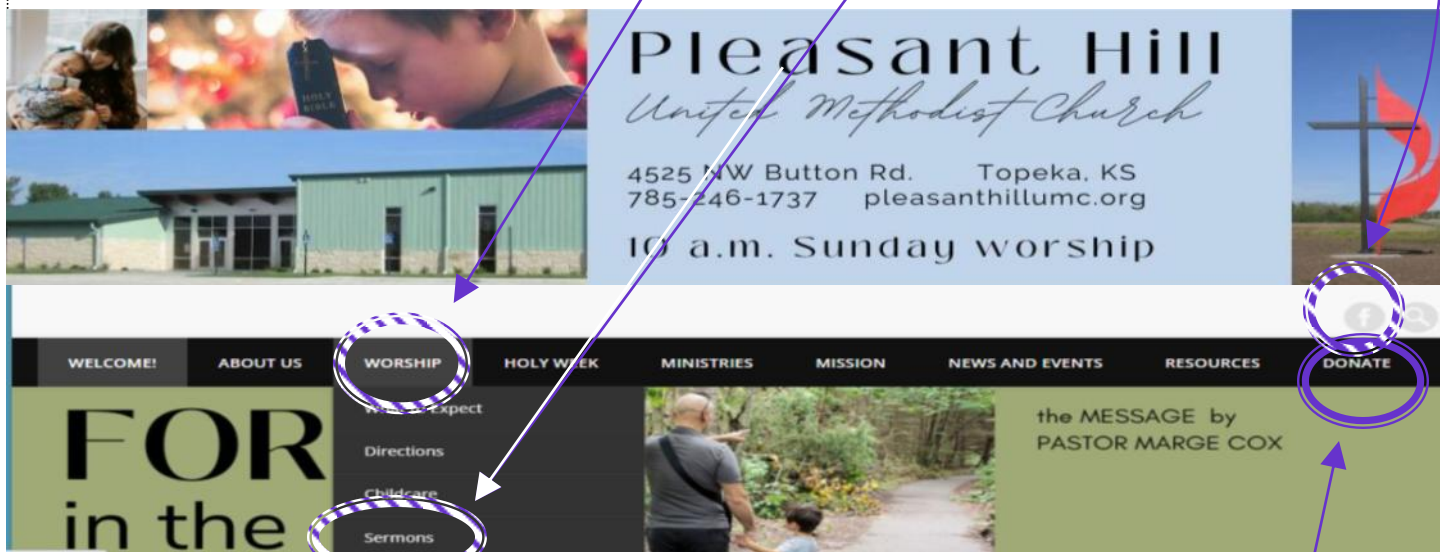
Please enter through the west door (by the office) on weekdays.

**Pleasant Hill UMC Staff**

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Pastor Marge</b> , <a href="mailto:pastor@pleasanthillumc.org">pastor@pleasanthillumc.org</a>
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	<b>Deb</b> , <a href="mailto:admin@pleasanthillumc.org">admin@pleasanthillumc.org</a> or <a href="mailto:phumctopeka@yahoo.com">phumctopeka@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Youth Director:</b>	<b>Michelle</b> , <a href="mailto:youth@pleasanthillumc.org">youth@pleasanthillumc.org</a>
<b>Custodian:</b>	<b>Jill</b> , <a href="mailto:admin@pleasanthillumc.org">admin@pleasanthillumc.org</a>
<b>Praise Band Coord. &amp; Adult Bell Choir Dir.:</b>	<b>Kelly</b> , <a href="mailto:praise@pleasanthillumc.org">praise@pleasanthillumc.org</a>
<b>Organists:</b>	<b>Mary S and Marty R</b>

A Facebook account is not necessary to **watch the Sunday morning service online**. Simply go to our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/PleasantHillUmcTopeka/](http://www.facebook.com/PleasantHillUmcTopeka/) and click on the video. On our website, [www.pleasanthillumc.org](http://www.pleasanthillumc.org), a link to our Facebook page can be found here.

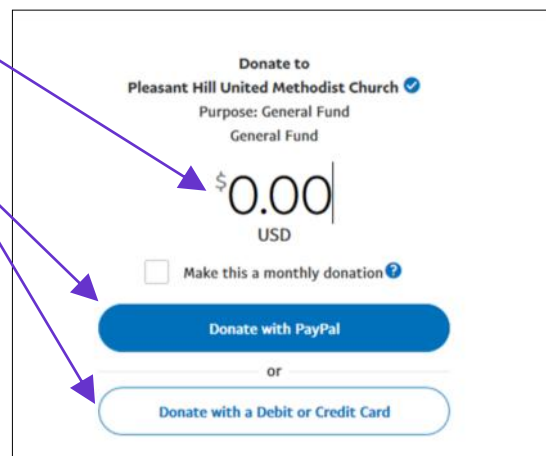
You can find the service on the Facebook page by 10 a.m. on Sunday. Later in the week, you can also start from our website, click on "Worship", then "Sermons", then, on the Sermons page, click the link to the Facebook video you want to watch.



To donate through **PayPal**, go to our website, [www.pleasanthillumc.org](http://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 ask Deb in the office for an EFT form.

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!**

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.