

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

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

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PLEASANTHILLUMCTOPEKA/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PLEASANTHILLUMCTOPEKA/)

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

or [PHUMCTOPEKA@YAHOO.COM](mailto:PHUMCTOPEKA@YAHOO.COM)

# JANUARY 2024

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



Many thanks for the very generous Christmas outpouring of blessings! The cards and gifts are so very much appreciated and yes, I love you all! May 2024 be a wonderful year of ministry and mission!



I found a prayer by Howard Thurman that I think sets the tone for the year ahead and I want to share it with you.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the people,  
To make music in the heart.

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Marge

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.



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.



All church members are invited to join in celebrating the 90th birthday of **Charles (Nick) Nicolay** on Saturday, January 6, 2-4 p.m. at the church.



You are invited to stay after church on January 14 and help take down the advent decorations.

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. Know someone who'd like to receive the monthly packet? Let Lauren, Kelly or Deb know.

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

**Administrative Council meeting:** 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 10 at the church. It is open to everyone.

**In Case of Inclement Weather**

If Seaman Schools are closed due to inclement weather, then the church office is also closed.

If our worship service is cancelled due to the weather, it will be listed on WIBW and KSNT.



Mark your calendars for BINGO! Wednesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m. White elephant prizes! You are welcome to bring white elephant gifts to share as prizes if you choose.

**Happy Gatherings**

The Fellowship Team is organizing another year of Happy Gatherings groups. These are smaller groups that gather once a month or so for food and fellowship. Groups are kept to 6-10 members.

Members take turns planning get-togethers. If your family, or you as an individual, are interested, sign up by April 1. Groups will be assigned by April 5th.

We have plastic **Gift Cards** available in the church office for many retail and eating establishments, such as Amazon, Wal-Mart, Bath & Body Works, Sonic, Subway, Chili's/On The Border, Olive Garden/Longhorn, Starbucks, & more. Most of them are \$25 face value, some we can order \$100 face value. Visit the church office during the week to purchase.

Mary Smith, our Gift Card director, 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, Olive Garden, Pizza Hut, VUDU, Texas Roadhouse, several hotel chains and several cruise lines. Most eCards are in multiples of \$20, though a few come in multiples of \$5. You can either call 785-640-1286 or email [mksmith1926@gmail.com](mailto:mksmith1926@gmail.com).

You purchase the card at face value, \$10, \$25, \$50, etc., and our church earns a small percentage of the face value of each card from the card retailer. Not only do they make nice gifts, but they are an easy way to keep personal information safe while shopping.



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



J.A.M. Sessions continue to be fun and successful.

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

Brad Hendrix      Zoey Knight

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

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Jan. 1 & 2, Office Closed                   | Jan. 10, 5:30p, Administrative Council mtg |
| Jan. 4, 8:30a, Church Breakfast at Perkins  | Jan. 14, 11-ish, Take down advent decor    |
| Jan. 6, 2-4p, Nick's 90th B-day Celebration | Jan. 17, 6:30p, BINGO                      |
| Jan. 9 & 23, 9a, Piecing Love & Warmth      | Jan. 17, Newsletter 'deadline'             |
| sewing group meets                          | Jan. 29, Kansas Day                        |



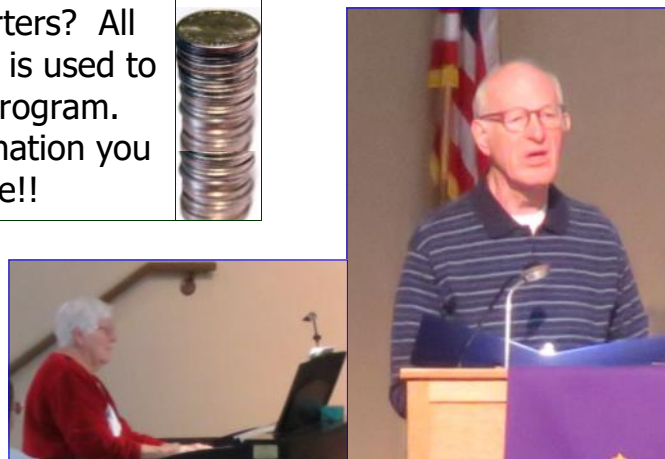
Kevin Feleay presented gift bags of appreciation and Christmas wishes to each of the staff (paid and unpaid) on December 23. Jill was not in attendance so she received her gift bag later.

**Quarter Tube**

Have you noticed a tube in the foyer filling with quarters? All money put in the tube is used to support the Youth program. Thank you for any donation you choose to make!!



Rev. Larry Buss was our guest speaker on December 31. He brought us the message "There Is Only One..."



On December 3, John Wilson sang "I Wonder As I Wander, accompanied by Mary Smith.



Alpha Christian and our youth group at Zoo lights

I wanted to say thank you for taking us out to the Zoo Lights!! The kids had a great time and enjoyed the lights. The group with me had a bunch of fun, running through the tunnels and playing!! It is always hard to combine two groups that don't know each other, but I think they did pretty good.

Thank you so much for the Gift Cards!!

It will be so good to have the ability to make memories with the kids!

Thank you again and God Bless you all!!

Jeff Mulpas

Director of Development, Alpha Christian Children's Home

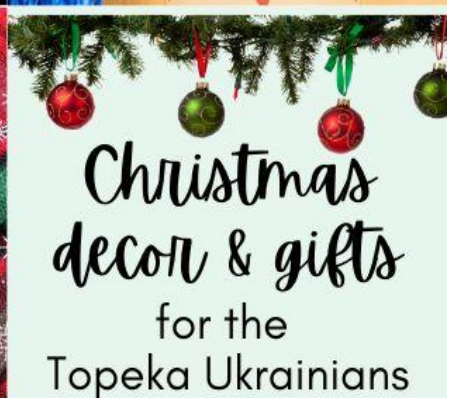
Thank you for all the kind words of appreciation, gifts, and the many warm Christmas wishes given to us this holiday season.

Pastor Marge, Deb, Kelly, Jill, Mary, Michelle

Thank you to everyone who gave to PHUMC in 2023! Time, Talent, and other Treasures are not nearly as easy to track as Financial giving - but are just as appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who gave to Harvest of Blessings for the Great Plains UMC Disaster Relief Fund. \$841 was received/forwarded!

Thank you to everyone who gave Christmas Eve Eve for TNO's Emergency Assistance Fund. \$697 was received and forwarded.



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>					
Seth Sauer	1/1	Brayden Cochran	1/12	Danette Martin	1/24
Nick Nicolay	1/2	Marvin Smith	1/13	Sutton Fry	1/25
Michelle Caudill	1/3	David Neiman	1/14	Dorothy Tefft	1/28
Clifford Hurst	1/3	Linda Griffiths	1/18	Madison Feleay	1/31
Gregg Williams	1/3	Hannah Caudill	1/20	Kim Smerchek	1/31
Dennis Smerchek	1/4	Rick Colton	1/20	Debbie Taylor	1/31
Zack Wilson	1/4	Chloe Flowers	1/20		
Linda Lanning	1/5	Kendra Cochran	1/23		



<b><u>Anniversaries This Month</u></b>		
John & Linda Reed	1/2	53 years
John & Dorothy Holt	1/26	67 years



On December 10, Bell Choir played "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" for prelude.



Praise Band performs weekly. This photo was taken December 10.

<b><u>Pleasant Hill UMC Staff</u></b>	
<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Pastor Marge</b> , pastor@pleasanthillumc.org
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	<b>Deb</b> , phumctopeka@yahoo.com
<b>Youth Director:</b>	<b>Michelle</b> , youth@pleasanthillumc.org
<b>Custodian:</b>	<b>Jill</b> , admin@pleasanthillumc.org
<b>Praise Band Coord. &amp; Adult Bell Choir Dir.:</b>	<b>Kelly</b> , praise@pleasanthillumc.org
<b>Organist:</b>	<b>Mary S</b>



**Keep Hope Alive Night** started at 6:30 p.m. December 10. 50 Bags of Hope were packed to give to the Topeka Rescue Mission to give out to homeless (right

and bottom.) Santa was on-hand for photos and helped packed Bags of Hope. Some folks decorated Christmas ornaments which were then used to decorate two of the trees on stage (below.)

No Alpha gift-wrapping this year, as they requested we gave experiences, not items.







December 23 and 24, Christmas Eve Eve and Eve services, were services of Lessons and Carols with nine scripture readings and lots of music. Both services included lighting of the advent wreath, communion, and ended with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight.



December 23 service included Bell Choir playing "Christ Is Born Today" for prelude (above,) Kevin Feleay singing "O Holy Night" accompanied by Mary Smith (left,) Marc Serrano performing "Hallelujah" (below) and playing "Silent Night" on guitar.

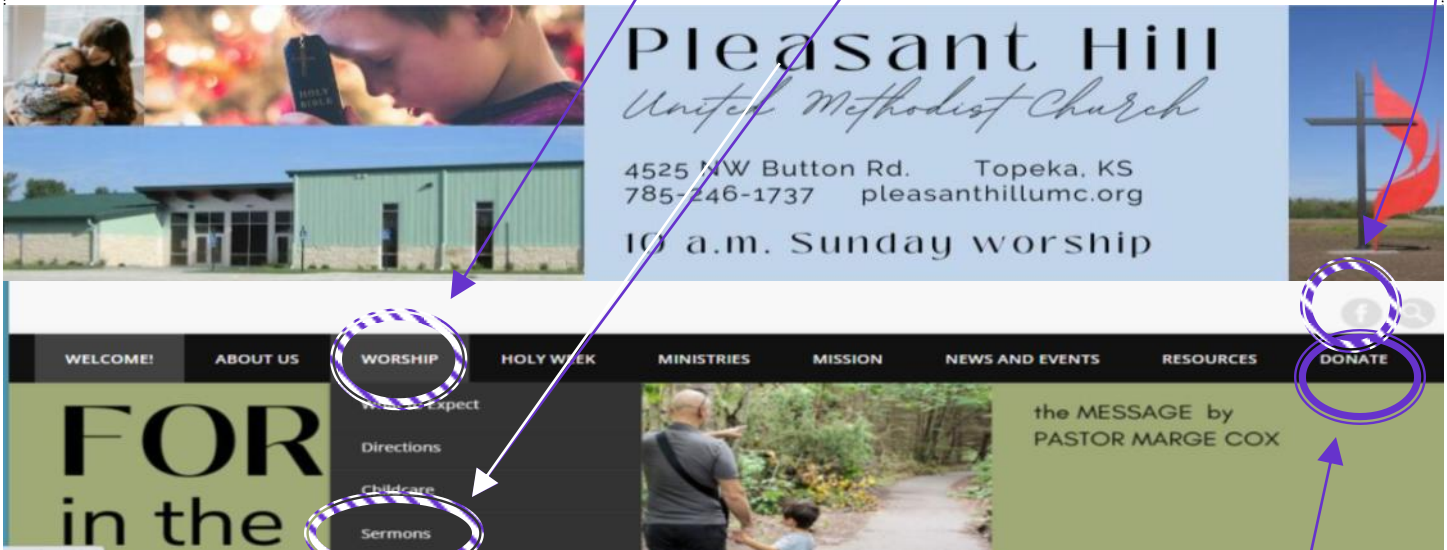


December 24 service included more hymns than on the 23rd, baptism and joining of Nova Fitzgerald (below, she's in the center,) Mary Smith playing an instrumental solo of "Messiah" on the Clavinova and playing "Silent Night" on the pipe organ.



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!**

Cover: Some of our advent decorations

**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.