

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church

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(785) 246-1737

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# FEBRUARY 2024

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



As we begin the season of Lent this month, some religious traditions encourage spiritual practices that anyone can do. Some say followers should 'give up' something for Lent, such as chocolate, soft drinks, eating meat for instance. Others say 'take on' something that might involve a sacrifice of time, or talents --like volunteering for a worthy cause, or being intentional about random acts of kindness each day.



Recently, a friend sent me this, which is reported to be from Pope Francis. I cannot verify the source, but I do like the sentiments that are expressed here. Perhaps it will be helpful for you.

"Do You Want To Fast This Lent?"

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

No matter how you choose to observe Lent, I pray that you will choose to be a blessing to others.

Blessings to you this Lenten season.

Pastor Marge

Church service was canceled January 14 due to a bitter cold weather forecast.  
Pastor Marge posted her message that day on Facebook.

**Directory Update**

If your contact information has changed, please let the office know by Wednesday, February 7. A directory update will be out soon.

**February 11 is a big day!!**

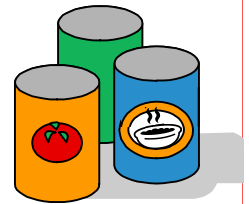
**Valentines:** We are sending Valentines to those people near and dear to our church family who can't attend PHUMC at this time. We will have Valentine boxes at church through February 11 for

Clifford Hurst, Karen Smith, Berniece Chadwell, Kay Jones-Ray, Gladys Law, Aurel Marney, Marguerite Pond, Mary Hudson, Camille & Gene Schoettlin, Pete Deppe, Dee Deppe (please note, the Deppes are at two separate locations at this time.)

Your Congregational Care team thanks you.



**Soup-er Bowl Drive:** It's time for a food drive for the USD 345 Resource Room! We will celebrate our love of football and giving with SOUP-er bowl Sunday at Pleasant Hill UMC on February 11. Bring cans of soup or boxes of unopened crackers to church through February 11 to help our cause. Mission team thanks you for your support.



Wear your **favorite team colors** on February 11! (Grade school, high school, college, pro – whichever is your favorite!)



Plan to stay after church and enjoy a **Potluck Lunch** on February 11!



In addition, the Youth will be selling **Valentine cookies** after church on February 11 - \$5 a bag – Yum!

**Administrative Council** meets **Tuesday, Feb 13,** 5:30 p.m. at the church. It is open to the congregation.



**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**  
6:30 p.m. February 14.

The next Pleasant Hill Women's food and fellowship outing will be Saturday, February 24, 12:30 p.m. at The Big Biscuit, 29th and Wanamaker. All are invited.

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

Dennis Parry      Larry Miles      Ardith Griffin

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

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Feb. 1, 8:30a, Church Breakfast at Perkins | Feb. 13, 5:30p, Administrative Council mtg |
| Feb. 11, Wear Team Colors                  | Feb. 14, Valentines Day                    |
| Youth selling cookies                      | Feb. 14, 6:30p, Ash Wednesday Service      |
| Potluck following service                  | Feb. 21, Newsletter 'deadline'             |
| Soup Drive & Valentine collection ends,    | Feb. 24, 12:30p, Women's Group at          |
| Feb. 13 & 27, 9a, Piecing Love & Warmth    | The Big Biscuit, 29th & Wanamaker          |
| sewing group meets                         |  |

# 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.

## Pleasant Hill 2024 Lenten Planner

We are all familiar with the Advent season when we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and renew the anticipation of His return. The meaning of the Lenten season may not be as familiar with us. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. The 40-day season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and ends on Holy Saturday, March 30. To help guide us through this season and prepare us for the joy of Easter Sunday, we are providing a Lenten Planner. The daily planner is appropriate for all ages. It includes activities for meditation, ideas for fasting or restricting, activities for acts of kindness and many more.

A copy is included in this newsletter.

More copies of the Pleasant Hill 2024 Lenten Planner can be found in the church gathering area.



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>Birthdays This Month</b>					
Jace Brake	2/1	Lewis Taylor	2/14	Gregory Jenson	2/23
Rusty Newell	2/2	Carrie Law	2/15	John Reed	2/26
Linda Shaffer	2/7	Lori Marteney	2/21		

<b>Anniversaries This Month</b>		
Gary & Barbara Slimmer	2/8	60 years
Jason & Lori Marteney	2/12	19 years
Ron & Linda Griffiths	2/13	58 years
Brian & Gayle Smith	2/15	38 years
Dennis & Mary Shepherd	2/16	17 years



<b>2023 Financial Update</b>							
General Fund	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	6m Total
Receipts	\$10,454	\$24,724	\$12,992	\$14,273	\$10,740	\$8,989	<b>\$82,173</b>
Expenses	12,645	8,392	10,509	15,183	9,268	11,182	<b>\$67,179</b>
General Fund	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year Total
Receipts	\$12,489	\$10,408	\$8,174	\$11,849	\$12,918	\$9,994	<b>\$148,004</b>
Expenses	13,533	9,162	12,671	12,415	9,380	7,819	<b>\$132,158</b>

Thank you to all our faithful and generous 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!

Cover: Some of our Team Pride pics from 2020 and 2023.

<b>Pleasant Hill UMC Staff</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>

The Congregational Care Team is looking at the possibility of purchasing tablets to be available to congregants who are unable to attend church and would like to watch Sunday morning worship live. These tablets are user-friendly, simplified technology. The tablets will come with instructions, and communications team members will be happy to help if needed. If interested, please let Deb or Mary Smith know.

Do you have trouble hearing the sermon on Sunday morning? Do you sometimes guess at what the liturgist is saying? Would you be interested in a hearing device that would enable you to hear the entire service easily? The Congregational Care Team is looking at listening devices that could help. Let Deb or Mary Smith know if you would be interested in using a device.

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

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



On January 7, Lewis & Debbie Taylor joined our church. Welcome!

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.

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.

**In Case of Inclement Weather:**

If Seaman Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the church office is also closed. If our worship service is cancelled due to the weather, it will be listed on WIBW and KSNT.

# Lenten PLANNER

PLEASANT HILL UMC 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



## Ash Wednesday

Come to our PHUMC service at 6:30 p.m.

Talk with your children about giving something up for Lent. Why is sacrifice important?

Decide with your family what to give up for Lent - social media, eating out, etc...

Give of your time by helping someone like your neighbor, grandparent, friend.

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

Make time in your day for family Bible time and prayer.

Pray for your siblings and ask God to help you show kindness to them when it is hard.

Read a children's story about Easter.

Decorate a small box for 'almsgiving' and put in money to donate to others.

Bake some treats for someone special.

Deliver the treats you made yesterday.



SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

Make time in your day for family Bible time and prayer.

'Honor God with your Body' by doing something healthy with your family.

Make a coin-covered cross (Link in NOTES below.)

Make a list of what you are grateful for today. Have each family member do it too.

Pray for your pastor and ministry team members at your church.

Watch a Christian movie together as a family.

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

Make time in your day for family Bible time and prayer.

Pray for a friend going through a hard time and send them an encouraging note.

Do a random act of kindness for someone who wouldn't expect it.

Share one thing you love or appreciate about each of your family members.

Make Prayer Pretzels (Recipe link is in the NOTES below.)

Print out, color and sign Easter cards to send in the mail to family and friends.



## Notes:

**Coin-covered Cross** - <https://www.momontimeout.com/coin-covered-cross-paid-in-full-easter/>

**Prayer Pretzel recipe** - <https://buildfaith.org/making-pretzels-a-traditional-activity-for-lent/>

**Easter cards** - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uaWuvb0E2J4ePhfWR1JaLd\\_92faOme3Q/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uaWuvb0E2J4ePhfWR1JaLd_92faOme3Q/view)

# Lenten PLANNER

PLEASANT HILL UMC 2024

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

**FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT**

Make time in your day for family Bible time and prayer.

Read John 14: 25-31 together. Discuss how following Jesus can change your life.

Clean up a mess without being asked.



Donate some gently used items you no longer need.

Listen to Christian music together or sing a song about Jesus with your family.

Take prayer requests and pray for each member of your family.



**FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT**

Make time in your day for family Bible time and prayer.

Call or Facetime a loved one who you won't be able to see at Easter.

Give up some screen time and do something fun with your family instead.

Create a 'Lamb of God' craft. (Website in the NOTES below.)

Write to someone who has helped you grow in faith to say thank you for their example.

Help with a chore that you don't like to do as an act of service to your family.

**PALM SUNDAY**  
Attend our egg hunt after worship

Make time in your day for family Bible time and prayer.

Compliment someone who isn't expecting it following Christ's example in Phil. 2: 3-4.

Send or deliver the money in your almsgiving box to its recipient.

  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
-talk with family about the Last Supper

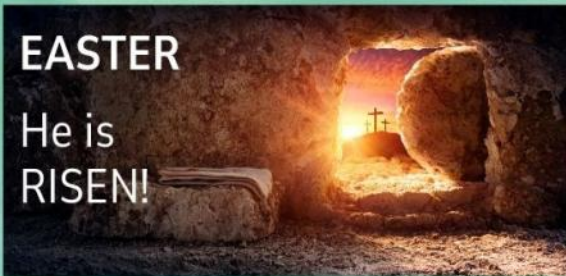
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
Read about Jesus' death in Luke 23: 26-42 as a family.

**HOLY SATURDAY**  
Dye eggs together and talk about how Jesus brings new life.



**EASTER**

He is RISEN!



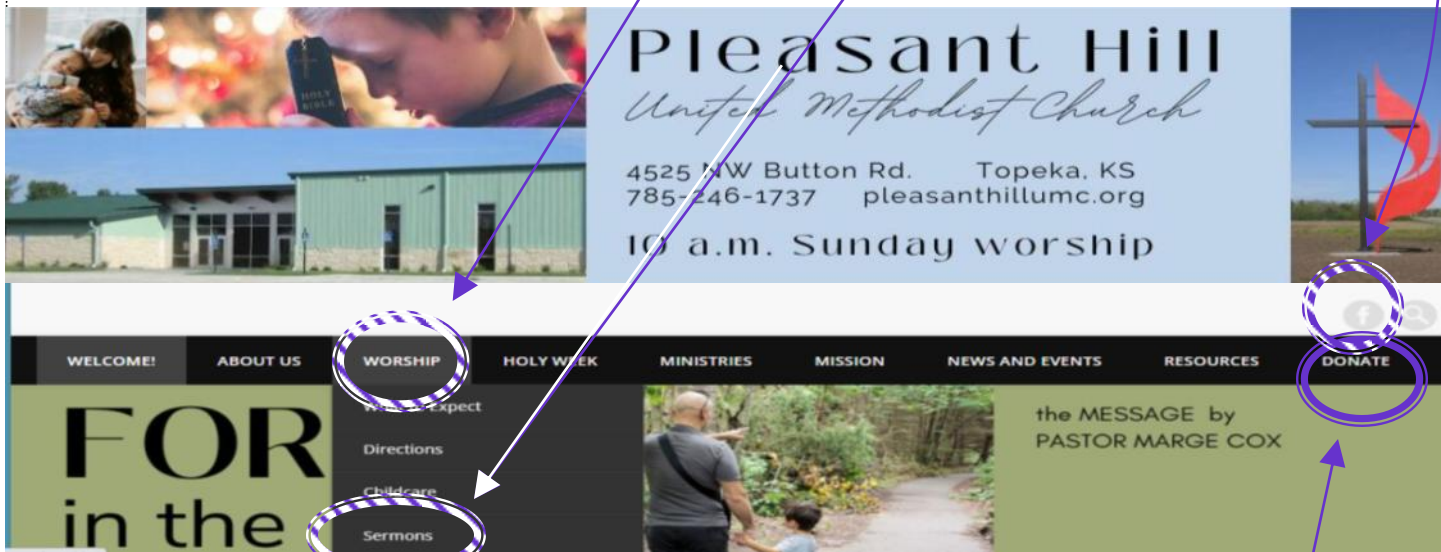
**Notes:**

Lamb of God craft (#3 on this blog) - <https://thepurposefulmom.com/10-simple-toddler-lent-activities.html>



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.

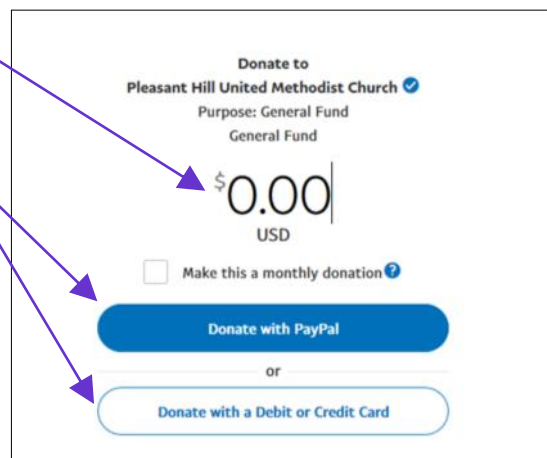
You can find the service on the Facebook page by 10 a.m. on Sunday. Later in the week, you can also start from our website, click on "Worship", then "Sermons", then, on the Sermons page, click the link to the Facebook video you want to watch.



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!**

**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.