

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

Worship Service every Sunday @ 10 a.m.

JULY 2025



Vacation Bible School photos from 2024

We blinked and all of a sudden it's almost July! And that means that I will be returning to Pleasant Hill for the coming year. I know that you have been used to a full-time pastor in the past, so this business of a half-time pastor is kind of hard to get used to for some folks. It's a challenge for me also, as I've always been full time, up until now.



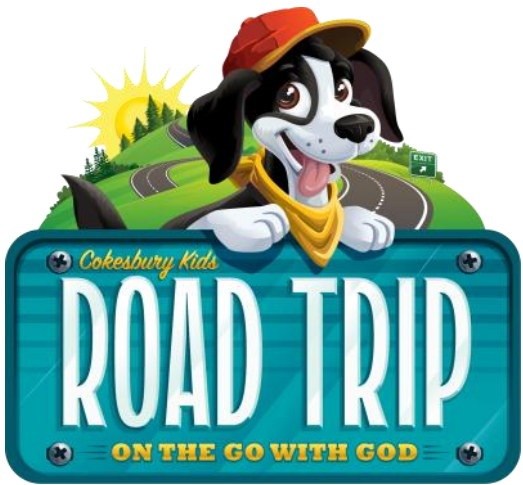
How did the church get to this point of only having a half-time pastor? I was not in on that decision, but it seems that this church, like many churches, faced some financial difficulties during the years of the pandemic. Difficult financial decisions needed to be made and this was a big decision, not taken lightly. With a full time pastor, churches are responsible for not only salary, but also housing, health insurance, pension and a larger travel and professional expense package. With a part time pastor, you are only responsible for salary, housing and some professional expenses and travel. Since I'm retired, my pension and social security make up the balance of income.

So what does that mean to be appointed to a half time position? Well, it means that I work about 20-25 hours a week, and full time would be 40-50 hours a week. As near as I can tell, my main responsibility is worship and preaching, resourcing committees and teams in the congregation, being present or participating in church activities, and some pastoral care. This means it is important for church members to step up and help in as many areas as possible, and thankfully, we have a wonderful group of members who step up and take on some pretty important responsibility.

I tend to focus on worship and preaching, and resourcing committees and other administrative things. There is a group of folks who are excellent at communicating with the congregation through emails, phone calls, prayer chains, etc. The congregational care team is great at sending cards, making calls, and offering to meet needs as we can. There are folks that are really great at taking care of the property needs, fixing and mowing and mulching, among other things. We have folks that help prepare and serve funeral dinners, and folks who tie quilts for the children of the community. There are always places for folks to serve and don't be shy-- feel free to make your wishes known.

I want to be responsive to your needs. All you have to do is let me know. It is fine to let Deb know of prayer concerns, as she always lets me know, and so does Mary. If you want to contact me directly, please know that you can. My phone number is 913-909-5113 and you can reach me by email at pastor@pleasanthillumc.org so I look forward to hearing from you how I can be of assistance to you.

Blessings to all of you!
Pastor Marge



LET'S GO ON A ROAD TRIP!

Vacation Bible School is July 7–11 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The theme is “Road Trip, On the Go with God.” Activities will focus on “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9) and will be led by road trip navigator, Sam, and his best friend Scout the dog.

There will be singing, dancing and Bible Stories. The travelers will make fun crafts, participate in exciting science projects, and learn new games. The week will conclude with a program during worship service on July 13.

Registration for VBS is open to children age 3 through those who completed 6th grade this year. Don't miss out on the fun, adventures, laughs, and chance to make new friends.

Children and Volunteers can register at <https://tinyurl.com/PHUMCVBS25> (the QR code at right will take you there!)



Join us for a Salad-themed Potluck following service on VBS Sunday, July 13!

Church families and VBS families are invited to a salad-themed potluck directly after the service on July 13. Pulled pork will be provided. VBS guests are not expected to bring anything but themselves.



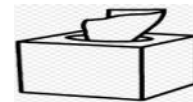
Help our VBS kids as they collect school supplies for needy North Topeka kids. We will have our little yellow school bus in the gathering area throughout the month of July.

Suggested School Supplies

- ◆ 24-count Crayola Crayons
- ◆ large pink erasers
- ◆ Crayola washable paints
- ◆ Elmer's glue sticks
- ◆ spiral notebooks
- ◆ 1" 3-ring binders
- ◆ pocket folders



- ◆ disinfecting wipes
- ◆ box of colored pencils
- ◆ dry erase markers
- ◆ facial tissue
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ pencil pouch
- ◆ pencil box





We've been praying for dear baby Callahan Davis. 'Baby Cal' is the son of Raiven and Jacob Davis, the little brother of Elaina, and great grandson of Elaine Worden. Raiven is a member of our church. She was active in our youth group as a teenager, was confirmed in our church in 2007, and remains a member.



For some background, Cal was born at Stormont Vail hospital on April 11. He arrived in the world a bit premature, and in his short life has been the guest of many hospitals. Currently, he is in Wisconsin for medical care with expert consultants from around the country.

Cal was born with no trachea. Tracheal Agenesis is the name given to a rare birth defect where the trachea fails to develop. Today Baby Cal is 2 months old. He has had many surgeries, tests and struggles. He has daily PT and OT. He had a feeding tube placed and is now receiving breast milk through his feeding tube. His course of treatment is long and he will probably remain in Wisconsin until next spring.

According to his mom, during this next surgery they will create Cal's 'trach' by bringing his esophagus to the skin. They will also create a spit fistula to collect saliva since his esophagus will be severed from both his stomach and his 'airway'.

The family has been able to stay at the Ronald McDonald house at his current hospital in Wisconsin. Soon that will change. Dad, Jacob, and sister, Elaina, will be returning to Kansas. Raiven will stay with Cal as his medical adventure continues.

The Congregational Care Team will be organizing "happy boxes" for the family. Raiven will be sharing some of their needs and some of their favorites to help them through this time. Our job will be to FILL THOSE BOXES -- a "happy box" for Wisconsin AND for Kansas. We will collect some of those items July 20 and 27 after worship service for our first box. If you care to send a card, you can place it in the box. You may also include a small item to lift their spirits and let them know we are thinking of them and Baby Cal.

There is a Facebook page you may want to follow. Search "Cal's Life with Tracheal Agenesis" to be invited. Then you will learn all the latest and greatest in Cal's life.

Be watching the bulletin and listening for announcements for more details of our "happy boxes" for this precious little family.

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

Rick Colton Diana Martin

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



What a nice surprise to be honored for playing the organ for 50 years at Pleasant Hill. God has blessed me with the ability to share my love of music with each of you. Thank you all for the amazing gift and punch and cookies following worship Sunday.

*Blessings,
Mary Smith*

On June 29, Mary Smith was recognized for playing the organ at Pleasant Hill UMC for 50 years. Kevin Feleay presented her with a gift during service and CCM served cookies and punch following service.

Celebrate!

Celebrating the good stuff, large or small

- Lauren Feleay made the Dean's honor roll at Washburn with a 4.0 grade point average. Congratulations!

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

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!!



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. July 3 if you would like to receive communion in July.

<u>Birthdays This Month</u>					
Tailor Harrison	7/1	Camden Fry	7/13	Joy Jepson	7/25
Marilyn Colhouer	7/6	Atlas Henry	7/14	Ken Tidball	7/25
Serenah Saulsbury	7/6	Barrett Fry	7/18	Nova Fitzgerald	7/26
Daryl Jepson	7/9	Deesie Jackson	7/18	Brian Smith	7/29
C. J. Flowers	7/10	Elaine Worden	7/19	Patricia Wilson	7/31
Jim Boughn	7/11	Pastor Marge Cox	7/22		
<u>Anniversaries This Month</u>					
Kyle & Kendra Cochran			7/12	22 years	

July at PHUMC		Online Calendar
July 3, 8:30a, Church Breakfast at Perkins		July 16, 5:30p, Administrative Council mtg.
July 4, Independence Day! Office closed.		July 18, Newsletter 'deadline'
July 7-11, 6-8p, Vacation Bible School (VBS)		July 22, 9a, Piecing Love & Warmth
July 13, VBS Program during service - salad-themed potluck following service!		

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 throughout the year; you decide which ones touch your heart and what support you choose to give.

Have you signed up to get **Dillon's Community Rewards** sent to our church? It's easy! Go to 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.

<u>Pleasant Hill UMC Staff</u>	
Pastor:	Pastor Marge , 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
Organist:	Mary S

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

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

2025 Annual Conference Report

by Lay Member, Linda Smith

The 2025 Great Plains Annual Conference was held June 5-7 at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. Theme for the conference was Loving God based on Deuteronomy 6:5. **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your being and with all your strength.**

A new UMC vision statement was introduced at the conference. "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in local communities and worldwide connections." Each phrase is tied to scripture, we: • Love boldly (Matthew 22:37-39). • Serve joyfully (Psalm 100:1 and 1 Peter 4:10) • Lead courageously (Joshua 1:9) — "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Bishop David Wilson officiated the inspiring and powerful conference. One of the guest speakers was Retired Bishop Gregory V. Palmer who stressed the importance of knowing our community, "We've got this notion that we want to go to church, and we don't want to be disturbed" ... "What if the United Methodist Church said, 'We're gonna love the zip code, and we're going to know everybody by name?'"

In Bishop David Wilson's presentation he reminded us, "We are called to be people who know there is much to do in our communities and in our churches. People need our loving, serving and prophetic voices to know that God is still so ever present. Folks need to know that there is more that we can do, not on our own, but being led by the Holy Spirit. We will do this because of our Love for God that drives us to do all that we do. Like the Exodus story, may we never forget what God has done for us in the past, but more importantly, that God will continue to be so faithful to us for our future."

The Great Plains Conference voted on four proposed amendments to the United Methodist constitution, all of which passed overwhelmingly at the 2020/2024 General Conference. These included:

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

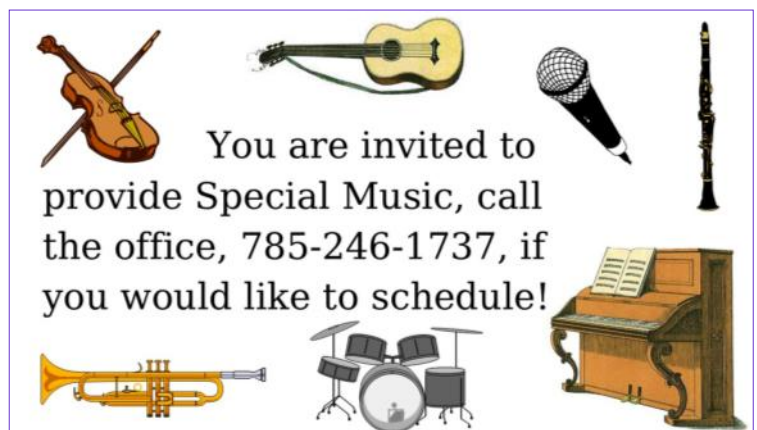
- ♦ Regionalization — Would transform the United States to a regional conference and rename central conferences as regional conferences for United Methodists outside the United States. It puts United Methodists around the world on equal footing by no longer assuming the way the United States “does” church is “normal” and those outside are abnormal. It also allows the United States to adapt the Book of Discipline in certain sections as central conferences have done for many years.
- ♦ Inclusiveness of the Church — Adds the words “gender” and “ability” to a list of descriptions to which people will not be measured for being allowed to participate in the full life of the church.
- ♦ Racial Justice — Adds a statement that racism must be eradicated and that The United Methodist Church commits to doing its part to confront and eliminate racism, racial inequity, colonialism, white privilege and white supremacy in society.
- ♦ Educational Requirements for Clergy — Impacting mostly central conferences (outside the United States), this amendment would set minimum education requirements for clergy to be eligible to vote for General Conference delegates.

The vote totals for the Great Plains will not be shared. Our totals were tabulated by our conference secretary and will be sent to the Council of Bishops, where they will be compiled with votes from other annual conferences around the world to see if the two-thirds threshold for each has been met. We may not know the results until late fall of this year.

More details about the conference can be found on the Great Plains website:
www.greatplainsumc.org.

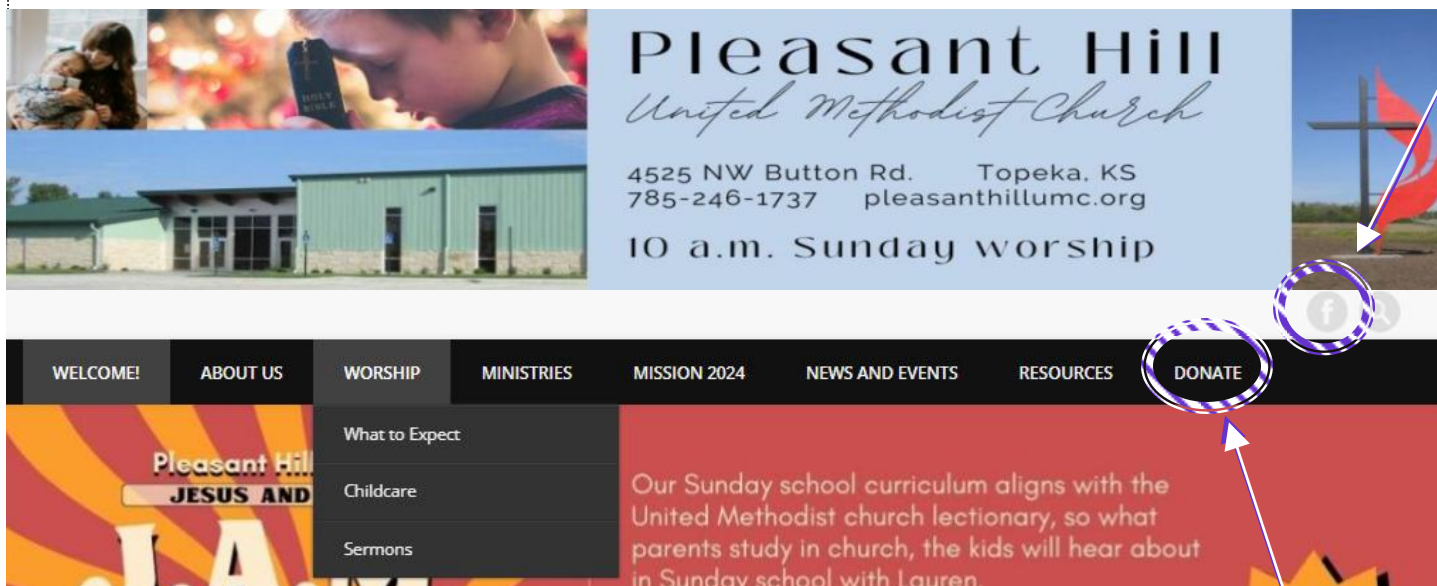
Administrative Council meeting is Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 p.m. and is open to the congregation.

Favorite Hymns: if you didn't write down your favorites on the sheets previously or if you have found a new favorite, we have sheets in the gathering area for you to write them down.



A Facebook account is not necessary to **watch the Sunday morning service online**. Simply go to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/PleasantHillUmcTopeka/, click on "Videos", and click on the video. On our website, www.pleasanthillumc.org, a link to our Facebook page is here. You can find the service on the Facebook page by 10 a.m. on Sunday.

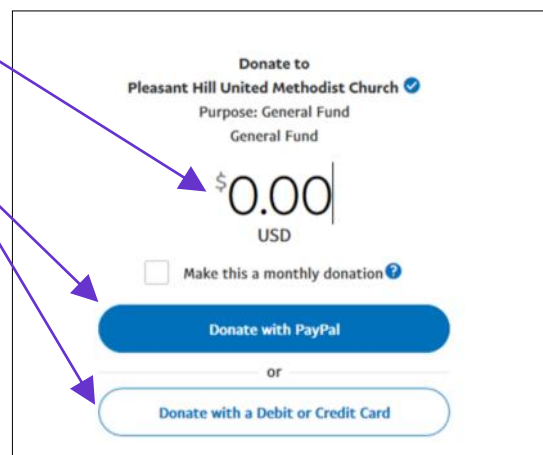
Facebook no longer always keeps all videos and may delete those older than a month at any time.



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 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

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

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