

# THE PLEASANT HILL MESSENGER

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PLEASANT HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2016



## Pastor's Note



The air has been crisp lately, a wonderful blessing from the oppressive heat of the southern summer sun. The changing of seasons in nature reminds me of the ways in which seasons in our lives also change. The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it this way:

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.*  
(Ecc. 3:1-8, TNIV)

What season of life are you in? Are you planting or are you uprooting? Are you tearing down or are you building? Are you weeping or are you laughing? Where, in your current season, are you experiencing Holy Spirit's movement, drawing you closer to the holy love of God? Where, in your current season, are you connecting with the community of faith? No matter what season you find yourself in, know that God is with you in it, and the community of faith needs you to share your witness of God's faithfulness. With Advent and Christmas just around the corner, there are many opportunities in the next few weeks to live in community through worship, small groups, and missions. Take some time to connect with God in the community of the faithful, and allow Holy Spirit to stir the waters of your soul with God's presence.

In addition to regular Sunday morning worship and Wednesday night Bible study, here are some additional ways in which you can be a part of the community:

November 9: 6:00 p.m. – Dinner & Christmas Shoebox Packing Party for Samaritan's Purse

November 20: 10:00 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens Worship (One Worship Service)

6:00 p.m. – Community Thanksgiving Worship with Pleasant Hill Baptist Church at PHUMC

November 27: 2:00 p.m. – OB3C Meal Delivery at Crestview Apartments

7:00 p.m. - **\*\*Advent Small Group Begin\*\*** will meet in the Family Life Center this week

December 4: 5:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas Worship: A Service of Grief & Hope During Christmastime

7:00 p.m. – Advent Small Group (location TBD)

December 10: 6:00 p.m. – Church-wide Christmas Party in the Family Life Center

December 11: 7:00 p.m. – Advent Small Group (location TBD)

December 18: Christmas Cantata in both morning worship services

7:00 p.m. – Advent Small Group (location TBD)

December 24: 6:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship

December 25: 10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day Worship (One Worship Service)

I do hope that you will take advantage of these moments of worship, connection, and mission. God longs to be in relationship with each of us, both individually and as a community. Bring yourself. Invite your neighbors. Everyone is welcome at God's House.

Yours in the Love and Ministry of Christ,  
Rev. Adam

# Outreach Ministries

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17

\*We fill our shoeboxes on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> after the FFF meal in the Family Life Center.

\*If you have any non-melting leftover Halloween candy you would like to donate for our boxes, please bring the candy before Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

\*We ask for your help in providing a Thanksgiving food basket for a few families in our community. There will be a food list in the back of the Sanctuary starting Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> if you would like to sign up to bring food items for the baskets. Please bring those items on or before Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

2016 Goals –

- At least 200 gift-filled shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child
- Monetary donations to Samaritan's Purse to help with the \$7/per box S&H expenses
- Food Baskets for several families in our communities during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Continuation of our church's community food pantry for those in immediate need
- Collecting of Campbell's soup bar-code labels, Tyson Project A+ labels and General Mills Boxtops for Education for The Red Bird Mission
- Collecting canned item pull tabs for The Ronald McDonald House
- Monetary donations to The Society of St. Andrews Spud Project

## 2016 Shoebox Items

January – Coloring Books & Activity Pads (goal met – THANKS!)

February – Washcloths (goal met -THANK YOU!)

March – Bar Soap (goal met -THANK YOU!)

April – Small Tablets/Pads of Paper (goal met -THANK YOU!)

May – Combs (goal met -THANK YOU!)

June – **Toothpaste**

July – Crayons (Any size box) (goal met -THANK YOU!)

August – Pencils & Pencil Sharpeners (goal met -THANK YOU!)

September – **New Toys (unbreakable and non-military)**

October – **Non-melting Hard Candy & Bubble Gum**



## YOUTH EVENTS

November 6: Confirmation Kick-Off  
(11:00 am worship)

November 12: Yard Sale for Youth Missions  
(7am-1pm)

November 13: Breakfast Fundraiser  
(8am-11am)



The Calendar Goes on this page



United Methodist Women



### United Methodist Women Morning Circle

The UMW Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the home of Rachel Clements.

### United Methodist Women Evening Circle

The UMW Evening Circle will meet Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Wesley Meadows.

### United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the FLC.

# November

# Birthdays



Mark Evans .....	1 <sup>st</sup>
Alana Magliolo.....	1 <sup>st</sup>
Bill Harrell.....	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ann Bridgforth .....	4 <sup>th</sup>
Sloan Sparrenberger .....	6 <sup>th</sup>
Whitney Wright.....	9 <sup>th</sup>
Mark Catalani.....	13 <sup>th</sup>
Pam Flowers.....	17 <sup>th</sup>
George Fernandez .....	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Joe Hovater.....	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Allie Spencer .....	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Dill Yates.....	30 <sup>th</sup>

*These are the birthdays that we have on file. If you have November birthday that isn't on the list, please call the church office so we can update our files.*

## Christmas Poinsettias

As is the custom at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, when Christmas time draws near, we have an opportunity to place a Poinsettia in the church in remembrance of a loved one or in honor of someone we wish to show respect.

Each six inch Poinsettia is **\$10.00**

If you desire to be a part of this commemoration, please fill out the form below and place in offering plate or return to the church office with your check.

Please make your check payable to Pleasant Hill UMC with note in memo line, "Poinsettia".

*Orders must be received by 12pm on Friday, November 11.*

### September Stewardship

Date	Attendance	Offering
October 2.....	86 .....	\$6,541.78
October 9.....	109 .....	\$3,801.50
October 16.....	105 .....	\$3,412.00
October 23.....	107 .....	\$4,179.25
Total .....	407 .....	\$17,934.53

### November Counters

- November 6 – Louise Sadler & Betty Ward
- November 13 – Mary Ruth & Richard Sadler
- November 20 – Ruth Joyner & Sue Harding
- November 27 – Sheila Morris & Tina Morris



## Advent Small Group

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. Begin the "New Year" off right with a time of conversation and learning by joining the Advent Small Group!

This year's small group will be gathering at 7:00 pm on Sunday, November 27, and will be using Jan Johnson's, *Taste and See: Experiencing the Stories of Advent and Christmas* (Upper Room Books, 2104) to help guide the group's conversation. The cost of the book is \$10.00 and can be pre-ordered through the church. The order list will be available to sign up on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights or by contacting the church office.

Prayerfully consider this great opportunity to experience the story of Christ's coming in a new way this year, and join our Advent Small Group! Questions? Contact Rev. Adam Gordon or Margaret Crook.



## All Saints' Day: Methodists and Sainthood

"United Methodists believe in saints, but not in the same manner as the Catholic Church.

We recognize Matthew, Paul, John, Luke and other early followers of Jesus as saints, and countless numbers of United Methodist churches are named after these saints.

We also recognize and celebrate All Saints' Day (Nov. 1) and "all the saints who from their labors rest." All Saints' Day is a time to remember Christians of every time and place, honoring those who lived faithfully and shared their faith with us. On All Saints' Day, many churches read the names of their members who died in the past year.

However, our denomination does not have any system whereby people are elected to sainthood. We do not pray to saints, nor do we believe they serve as mediators to God. United Methodists believe "... there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human who gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:5-6a).

United Methodists call people "saints" because they exemplified the Christian life. In this sense, every Christian can be considered a saint.

John Wesley believed we have much to learn from the saints, but he did not encourage anyone to worship them. He expressed concern about the Church of England's focus on saints' days and said that "most of the holy days were at present answering no valuable end."

Wesley's focus was entirely on the saving grace of Jesus Christ."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/do-united-methodists-believe-in-saints>

# Community Thanksgiving Worship

## November 20, 2016

### 6:00pm

We will be hosting our annual Thanksgiving service this year as we worship & fellowship with our sisters & brothers from Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

The Nurture & Hospitality Committee asks for all who are able, please bring a finger food or dessert.

Please contact Sissy Sanford if you are able to help with this ministry opportunity.



Happy  
Thanksgiving

A decorative graphic featuring the words "Happy Thanksgiving" in a large, orange, cursive font. To the right of the text is a brown cornucopia overflowing with pumpkins, gourds, and other autumn produce.

**The Pleasant Hill Messenger**  
Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church  
3787 Pleasant Hill Road  
Olive Branch, MS 38654

*A FAMILY OF FAITH SEEKING TO  
SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH YOU."*

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