

The Good News

The mission of Pleasant Hills UMC is to offer Christ through meaningful worship, faith centered education, compassionate outreach, genuine hospitality, and to be His hands, feet, and heart in the southwest communities of Greater Cleveland and the world.

Rev. Dr. Beverly Hall, Pastor
Rev. Linda McCowen, Deacon

February, 2017
9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship



Foundations in February

Last fall we launched the S.H.A.P.E. Groups. I know everyone was anxious about forming a group and giving their opinions about the church, but it went well and we did get some vital information and a few new ideas to try. We are still going to do a YOUTH S.H.A.P.E. Group, but here are the foundational principles we shared with the groups we have already met with: We have never developed an identity for PH. We have been lukewarm in our faith. What do we stand for? Who are these people and what do they believe? We worry about the wrong things. We get caught up in trivial things rather than focus on truly loving and supporting each other and Christ.

We are called individually and collectively to be working out our salvation in Christ. Do we desire to be in worship? Some identified needs: Fast food fellowships, more potlucks. Use term “lobby” not narthex. Find out who has a passion to do tasks and ideas (let them do it!) Old-New Building creates a division with the double doors. Need to do more with what we have. Youth need a role. Kids are bored. Hearing assistance in worship. Transportation for those unable to drive to worship, doctors, etc. We should put up a “Needs” bulletin board. (match needs-like kid’s clothes or chores to be done – with people who could/would meet those needs). We need more small group experiences - more Bible Studies (not book studies), adult discussion groups, Women’s and Men’s Fellowship reactivated, a Men’s Retreat, more Sports Teams (like a bowling or volleyball team), VBS at the Islander, coffee house atmosphere in adult SS classroom, remote TV access for our services? Use our church as a gathering place for weeknight activities. We need to better reflect our ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Seniors need a meal each week and a place to “hang out.” We must include different kinds of music with a state of the art music/sound system and a variety of musicians representing a variety of ages. We need to bring the “Hymn Sing” back on a regular basis, need to sing more of the “old standards.” Perhaps start a Saturday evening service. Do activities with other area churches. We all need to remember that the sanctuary is a sacred setting. The old guard is retiring. The younger people do not step up. The old guard needs to hand over the reins. We must set aside our differences so that people don’t leave.

Does any of this resonate with you? Pleasant Hills is at a crossroads and we can either grow or decline. It is entirely up to you who faithfully attend and support our church. When was the last time you invited someone to worship? Or to a group you attend? If we are going to be disciples and disciple-makers, then we need to get busy. We are NEVER going to grow unless you invite others! The pastor is like the sheep dog, nipping at the heels of those sheep who need to meet the Good Shepherd. Sheep beget sheep. So, go forth and start bringing in more sheep. And remember all of the foundation “stuff.” It’s important!

God bless!
Rev. Bev

From the Margins

Have you noticed the bulletin boards in the hallway? Did you notice a theme? It's all about discipleship isn't it? One of the bulletin boards even has paper on it so that you can share your thoughts about what or who is a disciple.

So what is a disciple? The quick answer is Someone who walks with Jesus. How are you walking with Jesus? Do you walk with him in the way you treat people? Do you walk with Jesus in the books you read, the TV shows you watch or the movies you see? How about in your FB posts or the way you treat the cashier or the housekeeper or the server? Do you walk with Jesus during the week or just on Sunday morning?

Blessings on your daily walk,
Rev. Linda

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY CHILI SALE AND FAST FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, February 5th there will be a Fast Food & Fellowship . There will be Chili and Vegetarian Chili . A good will collection will be taken at the dinner.

Quarts will also be for sale for \$8.00 a quart.



Bringing Jesus Home

The church is talking about discipleship this year. Did you know that children are disciples in the way they participate in worship/ StoryTellers and Sunday School, in the way they welcome people to church, in the way they read the Bible at home, in the way they serve others and in the way are generous with their gifts? You can help your children to be disciples by encouraging them to serve, to share, to pray and to read their Bibles.

This month, the children are learning about Jesus healing a paralyzed man (Mark 2:1-12), Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41), The widow's offering (Mark 12:38-44) and the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36).

Encourage your children to share with you what they learned in Sunday School, read the stories again together and share how you have experienced Jesus in the stories.

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE NEWS

We have three new members joining our team this year: Jan Hasselbusch, Hannah Mutti and Randy Whittington. Our other team members are Rob Haslett, James Szakacs, Margie Walter, Bill Riccardi and Co-conveners Sally Holt and Paula Gustin.

Our first planning meeting is this week and we will discuss mission projects proposed for 2017. If you have any mission ideas you'd like to share, or large or small, please contact one of our members. We'd like to thank you all for your generosity toward this important ministry of our church.

A special thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Giving Tree program. Because of your generous spirit of giving, those who are less fortunate were able to have a very blessed Christmas!

Paula and Sally

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

The Extravagant Generosity Ministry continues to ask God's guidance as we begin another year. Your generous giving for the month of December exceeded our estimated offering receipts by \$7,384.96 and for the year by \$29,490.11. Your Christmas offering totaled \$3,085.00. The extra giving enabled us to reduce our General Fund deficit to \$5,557.86 which we how we start 2017. This results in a deficit budget for 2017 of \$64,986.86. With only 49 pledging units, we will all need to very generously give to support the mission and ministry of Pleasant Hills Church. Hopefully we can all be cheerful givers as we endeavor to ascertain what God wants us to do for the ministry and mission our church.

We will continue to engage in fund raising efforts: Easter candy sale, Raising Forks for Funds at Bakers Square or Dining to Donate at Applebee's. If you have fund raising ideas, please let me know. Everyone is welcome to participate in our monthly meetings which are held the third Monday of each month beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Our endowment funds total \$258,180.25 and our Memorial Funds total \$5,568.77, some of which are designated for certain purposes. Maybe you would like to establish an endowment fund in honor or memory of a loved one. It would be an investment in the future of Pleasant Hills Church and would generate income years after the initial gift has been given.

With our prayers and God's help we can overcome our monetary challenges and strengthen our church here, in the conference, and in the world.

Mary Tuley
Extravagant Generosity Convener

Living water for Adults *(aka small groups)*

Would you like to learn from and talk with others about your faith journey? Maybe you've made a new year's resolution to grow your faith. You are in the right place at the right time! All are welcome!

Sunday	8am	Covenant Group	Rev. Bev
Sunday	9am	Adult Sunday School class	Jan Bower
Tuesday	1pm	Women of the Old Testament	Rev. Linda

Services and Sermons in February

February 5 - Communion

Luke 14:16-24

“I Can’t Come to the Party!”

February 12 - Boy Scout Sunday

Luke 19:2-10

“Lost in Leading”

February 19

John 2:1-11

“Don’t Drink the Water”

February 26 - Transfiguration Sunday

John 4:46-54

“Yet Shall He Live”

Brookdale Service – 2 p.m.

Don Bower will preach the Journey service



Worry Group meets on Feb. 19 at 3 p.m.



The Drama Team begins on Feb. 12 at 4:30 p.m.
Interested? Just join us in the Church office.

Drama Team

The Dr. Who study will end on Jan. 29.



Thursday Senior Afternoons Out begins Thursday Feb 2

Attention seniors----If you find that you eat most of your meals alone and would like something to do on Thursdays, come to Pleasant Hills on Thursdays at noon! We’ll have a nutritious lunch and an unstructured afternoon of getting to know one another. As we all know, eating with others helps our appetite and is just more fun. We also know that sometimes when we eat by ourselves, we don’t fix a nutritious lunch just for ourselves. Having a safe place to go to be with friends is a blessing. The lunch will be \$5 (you can’t eat at a fast food place for much less than \$5!) and it will be more nutritious than fast food. We need a name, but lunch and the afternoon will begin the first Thursday in February and take place every Thursday from noon to 3 except for the days in which Senior Connection has activities planned. This does not compete with Lunch Bunch because this is for folks who cannot afford to go out to a restaurant, do not want to go out or are from the community.

Speaking of Senior Connection, their first activity will be on Thursday, March 2nd at the Middleburg Hts Rec Center. More information will be available closer to the event.

If you have any questions, or would like to help with one or more of our lunches, please see Rev. Linda.

Pancake Luncheon

February 12th

11:30 a.m.

The Boy Scouts will be hosting a Pancake Luncheon after worship service on Feb. 12. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex so that they can have an idea of how many people will be attending.



New Members Class

New Member Classes continue to meet in the Church Office from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

If you are interested – or just curious – join us!



Bible Reading Plan Through the New Testament in 5 days a week, 5 minutes a day

5 minutes a day— If you're not currently reading the Bible, start with 5 minutes a day. This reading plan will take you through all 206 chapters of the New Testament, one chapter per day. The gospels are read throughout the year to keep the story of Jesus fresh all year.

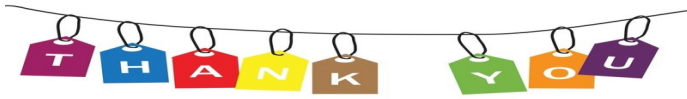
5 days a week - Determine a time and location to spend 5 minutes a day for 5 days a week. It is best to have a consistent time and a quiet place where you can regularly meet with the Lord.

5 ways to dig deeper - We must pause in our reading to dig into the Bible.—Below are 5 different ways to dig deeper each day. These exercises will encourage meditation. We recommend trying a single idea for a week to find what works best for you. Remember to keep a pen and paper ready to capture God's insights.

1. Underline or highlight key words or phrases in the Bible passage. Use a pen or highlighter to mark new discoveries from the text. Periodically review your markings to see what God is teaching you.
2. Put it into your own words. Read the passage or verse slowly, then rewrite each phrase or sentence using your own words.
3. Ask and answer some questions. Questions unlock new discoveries and meanings. Ask questions about the passage using these words: who, what, why, when, where, or how. Jot down some thoughts on how you would answer these questions.
4. Capture the big idea. God's Word communicates big ideas. Periodically ask, "What's the big idea in this sentence, paragraph, or chapter?"
5. Personalize the meaning. When God speaks to us through the Scriptures, we must respond. A helpful habit is personalizing the Bible through application. Ask: "How could my life be different today as I respond to what I'm reading?"

	February
DATE	CHAPTER
Acts 1	8
2	9
3	Reflection
4	Reflection
5	10
6	11
7	12
8	13
9	14
10	Reflection
11	Reflection
12	15
13	16
14	17
15	18
16	19
17	Reflection
18	Reflection
19	20
20	21
21	22
22	23
23	24
24	Reflection
25	Reflection
26	25
27	26
28	27

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Dear Pleasant Hills Family~

A belated thank you to all the men & women who volunteered in the Fellowship Hall, Choir Room, and Narthex for the ChurchLights evenings. Each name could fill a page of this newsletter! Some have helped every year, some were first-timers, but the adage is true that many hands help to make a job easier and lighter. Your help did not go unnoticed!

Sue Strizak

Looking For Your Favorite Container?

From the Cookie Walk: Some decorative tins and a white plate with a blue circle have been left in the kitchen. Please go the kitchen for pick-up of your items.

Thank you

Pleasant Hills UMC Recycling Fun Facts

For November:
We Recycled 3,780 pounds of Paper/Cardboard

We Saved:
32.13 Trees
472 Pounds of CO2
6.24 Cubic Yards of Landfill Space
13,230 Gallons of Water
7,749 Kilowatts of Electricity
113.40 Pounds of Air Pollutants

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bower, Jan	February 1
Riccardi, Dana	February 1
Kyler, Cynthia	February 5
Szakacs, Robin	February 6
Harper, Gus	February 8
Jokkel, Jaret	February 8
Ettinger, David	February 9
Ettinger, Lynn	February 9
Gillahan, Michael	February 11
Hnytka, Michael	February 11
Price, Natalie	February 12
Kyler, Thomas	February 17
Zrenner, Dorothy	February 17
Fiffick, Laura	February 19
Fekete, Melvina	February 21
Anderson, Chris	February 24
Huntley, Joanna	February 25
Louie, Ngun	February 26
Stone, June	February 28

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Kathleen Kyler February 5



LUNCH BUNCH
February 9th at 12:30 p.m.
Santo's

7565 Pearl Rd

LUNCH BUNCH