

NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT GROVE PEWS

OCTOBER 2026

A Glorious Time

'Tis the season for crisp weather and crunchy leaves, harvest festivals and craft fairs, bonfires, hayrides and trick-or-treating. Fall is here in all its glory — and we're ready to dive right in and reap our own harvest of glory to God. It all starts here at Pleasant Grove.

Pastor Bill Koch is ready for the harvest of blessings that God gifts to us. We hold His gifts in trust and must be good and generous stewards, he says. Read more on page 2.

Also on page 2, find out how we're getting generous with sweet treats for the troops this month as we Fill The Cart with candy for our U.S. servicemen. Stumped on what to buy? Read the list of the most popular Halloween treats and throw in some extras for our brave defenders to enjoy.

Associate Pastor Macy Storts is contemplating the rhythm of the growing season this month. The harvest is a blessing, a reward for a hard week that we can see, she says, but what we don't see is the really important work of putting down roots. Without roots, Macy reminds us, there is no harvest. Read more of her perspective on page 9.

NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal checks in this month with a fall challenge for us all: Follow Jesus. Love people. Invite someone along. Find out how that fits in to your

routine this season in his NextGen Notes on page 11.

That packed calendar on page 5 should lead you to our announcements on page 13 — get the details on this month's gatherings, a Bible study, an all-church tailgate, a road trip to Glasgow and Halloween fun. Turn the page for more news from the pews — this month we're delving into Hatton Craft Day and a celebration of community.

Our young people took leadership in hand again this year for See You At The Pole, a student-led global day of prayer. The photos on page 15 will show you why we're so proud of our Pleasant Grove youth.

Pleasant Grove's older generation thinks young and likes to have fun as they travel together in the On the Road Again group. Check out the photos of the September trip they took to Branson on pages 18-21.

The opportunities for outreach never stop. See what's available this month and find your fit on page 23.

And as always, dear reader, you are the reason for *News from the Pleasant Grove Pews*. Share your news, events, photos and suggestions with Kathy Casteel at kcasteel@ktis.net. We can't wait to hear from you!

PLEASANT GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3686 State Road E
Auxvasse, MO 65231
Office: 573-387-4822
MyPGUMC.org

*Our Mission: To know Jesus Christ
and to make Him known.*

PASTOR

Bill Koch
bill@mypgumc.org

PASTOR OF CARE & CONNECTION

Macy Storts
macy@mypgumc.org

NEXTGEN MINISTER

Kris O'Neal
nextgen@mypgumc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nancy Linville
admin@mypgumc.org

For prayer requests, our Prayer Tree
number is 573-597-2102,
email macy@mypgumc.org.
For announcements or Information
Tree: nalinville.church@gmail.com.



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BILL AND MARTI KOCH

A Season of Harvest and Gratitude

BY PASTOR BILL KOCH

October is a beautiful month in Missouri. The days grow shorter, the temperatures begin to cool, and the fields and gardens remind us that another season of planting and growing is coming to an end. October is, in many ways, a season of harvest.

Harvest is also a time for remembering. Farmers know that a harvest does not happen simply because seeds were planted. There has been rain and sunshine, hard work and patience, favorable conditions and, ultimately, blessings that are beyond our control. The harvest reminds us that much of what we have received is a gift.

That same truth applies to our lives. The Bible repeatedly calls us to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is more than simply giving money to the church. It is the faithful management of everything God places in our hands — our time, abilities, possessions, relationships and financial resources.

As we enter October, perhaps we can think about our financial giving in the same way we think about the harvest. We do not give because God

**HONOR THE LORD WITH
YOUR WEALTH, WITH
THE FIRST FRUITS OF
ALL YOUR CROPS.**

PROVERBS 3:9

needs our money. We give because we have received God's blessings, and giving is one way we express our gratitude.

John Wesley encouraged Christians to "gain all you can, save all you can, give all you can." His point was not simply about accumulating wealth. Wesley believed that what we possess should ultimately be used for God's purposes and for the good of others.

This October, as we see the evidence of harvest around us, may we also take time to count our blessings. And as we count them, may our gratitude lead us toward generosity.

The harvest is God's gift.

Our resources are God's trust.

And our generosity is our response.

May God make us faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

FILL THE CART

CANDY IS DANDY

As you stock up on Halloween sweets for trick-or-treaters, toss some extra candy into your shopping basket and bring it to Pleasant Grove in October. We're going to Fill The Cart with sweetness this month to show our appreciation for American service members. The candy we collect this month will be delivered to the National Guard armory in Jefferson City for distribution to our brave service members from the Show-Me State.

If you want to score big with the troops, pick some of the most popular confections in America, which, according to Door Dash, include:

- Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
- Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bar
- M&M's
- Snickers
- Nerds
- Skittles
- Airheads
- Sour Patch Kids
- Haribo Gummies
- Kit Kat

And if your purchasing tastes run to licorice, add some Twizzlers to your stash and you'll be in good company. Door Dash says Missourians order more Twizzlers than any other candy.

So Fill The Cart with yummy treats this month. Let's show our heroes we care and give them a sweet reason to smile.

YOU'RE INVITED!
PLEASANT GROVE
TAILGATE

FOOD-FUN-FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER | 16 | FRIDAY
5 - 7 P.M.

NORTH CALLAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

HOSTED BY PGUMC
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES





TRUNK OR TREAT

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28

6-8 P.M.

PLEASANT GROVE GYM

SEE YOU THERE!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.	2 BUILDING IN USE	3 HATTON CRAFT DAY 8 A.M.-3 P.M.
4 WORSHIP 9 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. WORSHIP 11 A.M.	5 CANTATA CHOIR PRACTICE 7-8:30 P.M.	6 YOGA 8 A.M. BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.	7 KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.	8	9	10 COFFEE WITH SISTERS IN FAITH 8:30-10 A.M.
11 WORSHIP 9 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. WORSHIP 11 A.M.	12 CANTATA CHOIR PRACTICE 7-8:30 P.M.	13 YOGA 8 A.M. BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.	14 QUILT GROUP 7 P.M.	15 BABY GRACE PICKUP 11-2 P.M. SERVE FOOD BOX PICKUP 11-2 P.M. COMMUNITY LUNCH 12 NOON MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.	16 ALL-CHURCH TAILGATE (NCHS) 5-7 P.M. 5TH QUARTER POSTGAME GATHERING	17
18 WORSHIP 9 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. WORSHIP 11 A.M. BUILDING IN USE IN AFTERNOON	19 CANTATA CHOIR PRACTICE 7-8:30 P.M.	20 YOGA 8 A.M. BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.	21 KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.	22 ON THE ROAD AGAIN DAY TRIP TO GLASGOW 10 A.M.	23	24
25 WORSHIP 9 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. WORSHIP 11 A.M.	26 CANTATA CHOIR PRACTICE 7-8:30 P.M.	27 YOGA 8 A.M. BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M. BOARD MEETING 7 P.M.	28 TRUNK OR TREAT 6-8 P.M.	29	30	31



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

VISITS

GLASGOW, MO

for lunch at

Rolling Pin Bakery

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Carpool leaves Kingdom City Hall
10 A.M.

JAN HANKINSON

573-999-2139

janhankinson@gmail.com



COUNTRY FRIENDS
Quilt Group

All local quilters are invited for
fellowship and fun! Bring your finished
products to show off!

Pleasant Grove @ 7:00pm

We meet on the second
Wednesday of each month.

PRAY WITH US



Let's support and uplift each other
through the power of prayer.

4 Ways To Request Prayer

1. Submit your prayer requests through the PG App by tapping Contact and the Prayer tab. Fill out the brief form and submit.
2. On our website, MyPGUMC.org, click on the Prayer Request graphic on the home page or click on the Prayer Concerns under the Stay Connected menu (MyPGUMC.org/stay-connected/prayer-concerns). Fill out the brief form and submit.
3. Contact the church office at 573-387-4822 or Pastor Bill Koch at 660-216-4662.
4. Call the Prayer Tree at 573-597-2102 or email macy@mypgumc.org.

CONNECT WITH US!


MYPGUMC.ORG


FACEBOOK.COM/PGUMCHATTON


FACEBOOK.COM/LIMITLESS


INSTAGRAM.COM/MYPGUMC


MYPGUMC.ORG/YOUTUBE



THREADS OF CARE



KALEB AND MACY STORTS WITH BOONE

Put Down Roots and Grow

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR MACY STORTS

There is something special that happens when we feel the change in temperature. The cool air, the brisk mornings, the sweatshirt weather in the evening — it feels like fall! Maybe it feels good to know that change is coming. If you're like me, it helps me get in the mindset that a new season is starting and it can bring new blessings.

What happens in the fall, as most of us know, is that harvest begins. Farmers and their families work endlessly to reap the crops they have sown in the previous seasons.

It is intentional work to grow something — planning, praying for the right weather, getting equipment ready for use, and long days of work put in to ensure a good harvest in the fall season. The work we don't see happening is the roots that establish in the ground. Sure, we see the crop above the soil rise with the sunshine, but we don't always see the roots that run deep. There is a holy reminder in that. When we nourish ourselves from the beginning, the roots we develop will help anchor us for the harvest.

When we are intentional, we are fruitful. Our fruits of the spirit are not meant to be kept to ourselves, friends. They are meant to be shared.

In Colossians Paul reminds us that as we have received Christ Jesus, we shall continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith with thanksgiving. As we enter this new season, may we continue to put down deep roots in Christ and in one another. May we be a church that welcomes, encourages, serves and loves our community well.

JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD,

LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN

HIM, STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH AS YOU WERE

WERE TAUGHT, OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS.

Women's Ministries Yoga

join us in the gym

8:00 AM

Every Tuesday

FOR MORE INFO
CONTACT
JULIE HUFFMAN
jfhuffman@hotmail.com

(First yoga session is FREE)

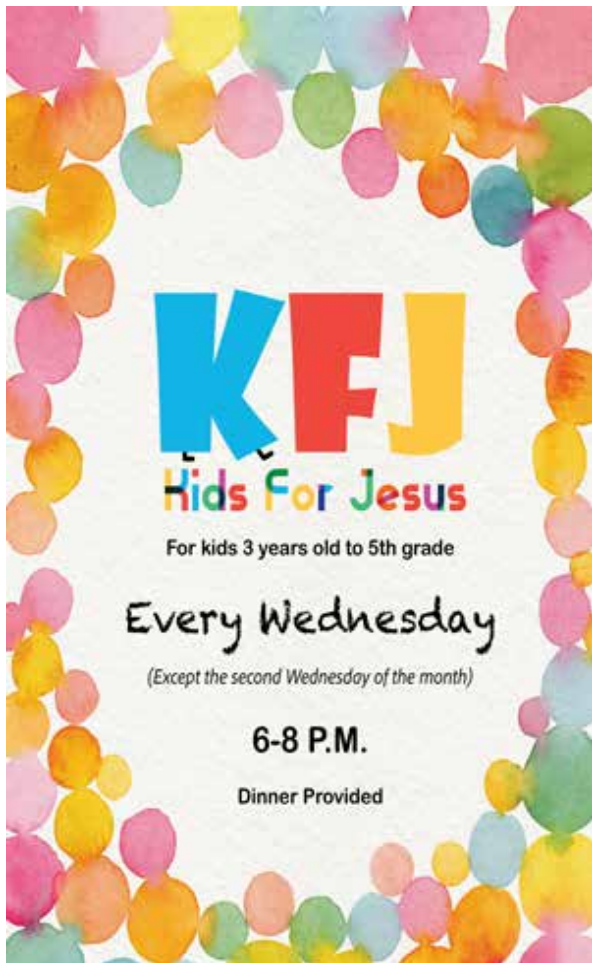
5TH QUARTER

at Pleasant Grove

Join us after every HOME football
game for pizza, games and
fellowship!

KRIS O'NEAL
nextgen@mypgumc.org
417-718-4772





FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KAYLA, KRIS, KIERSTYN AND KOURTNEY O'NEAL

Follow Jesus. Love People.

BY NEXTGEN MINISTER KRIS O'NEAL

I don't know about your family, but this time of year always seems to get busy in a hurry! Once school starts, it doesn't take long for calendars to fill up with practices, games, homework, activities, and everything else that comes with getting back into a routine. It's also a time when we begin figuring out where everything fits — and what our priorities will be.

School schedules have made youth programming a little difficult this fall, so I especially want to say “thank you” to the students and families who have found a way to be here. We love having you with us, and your presence matters!

Jesus said, “Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.” (Matthew 4:19)

Following Jesus is more than simply showing up. It means making Him a priority and allowing His love to show through us.

Jesus reminds us in John 13:35 that people will know we are His disciples by the way we love one another.

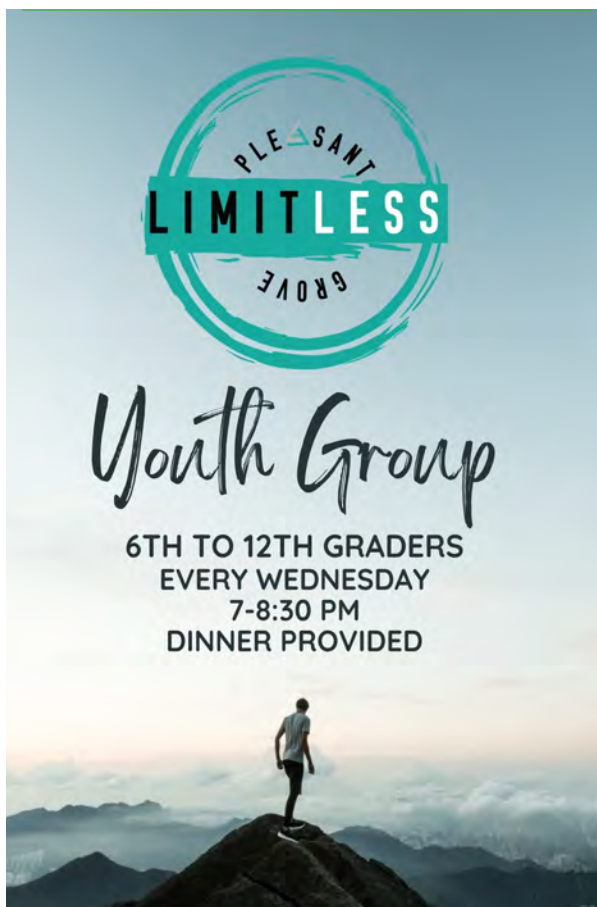
So here's our challenge this fall: Follow Jesus. Love people. Invite someone along.

As your family settles into its routine, I hope Limitless will be part of it. And students, spread the word and bring a friend! Sometimes all it takes is one invitation to help someone find a place where they belong.

Let's keep following Jesus together!

**WHOEVER WANTS TO BE MY DISCIPLE MUST DENY THEMSELVES
AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW ME.**

LUKE 9:23





SERVE and Baby Grace

Pleasant Grove is a mobile site for SERVE food pantry and Baby Grace.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 11 A.M.-2 P.M.

(We are open every third Thursday of the month.)

If you are in need of a food box from SERVE,
please stop by! You can register that day and
participate in the food pantry.

The Baby Grace store offers free diapers, wipes and gently used
or new clothing for ages birth through 5 years.



COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Discipleship Sunday School class invites
you to join us for a homemade meal.
Stay for a game of cards, dominoes, or
bring a suggestion!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 12 NOON



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Man Talk

The Pleasant Grove Men's Group will meet on the first and third Thursday this month, Oct. 1 and 15. The meetings take place at 7 p.m. at Pleasant Grove. For more information, contact Russ Hardesty at 573-819-0712.

Coffee Time

Pat Hardesty will host Coffee with Sisters in Faith on Saturday, Oct. 10, at Pleasant Grove, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Find out more about Sisters in Faith from Angie Raebel at 573-416-6438 or email Plote.hogan@gmail.com.

Cantata Rehearsals

Pleasant Grove's music makers continue to practice for the Christmas cantata, "Come and Behold Him," every Monday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the church. Questions? Contact Choir Director Jan Hankinson at 573-999-2139, email janhankinson@gmail.com, or Linda Norwald at 573-253-0346, email lnorwald@socket.net.

Tailgate With Us!

Women's Ministries will host an all-church tailgate at the North Callaway-Van-Far football game on Friday, Oct. 16, at the high school. We'll start about 5 p.m. and plan to eat at 5:30: sliders, chips and brownies are on the menu. Food is provided; bring lawn chairs if you wish. Come visit, eat and ramp up the school spirit to cheer the Thunderbirds on to victory on Senior Night!

5th Quarter Wraps Up

All youth are invited to hang out at Pleasant Grove after the North Callaway-Van-Far football game on Friday, Oct. 16. Enjoy food, fun and fellowship at the last 5th Quarter gathering of the season. (No 5th Quarter on Oct. 2 due to Homecoming activities.) Find out more from NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal at 417-718-4772 or email nextgen@mypgumc.org.

Trunk or Treat

Hey, kids! Come to Pleasant Grove for some early Halloween fun on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Food, treats, candy, crafts and games are on tap from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gym. Older (but young at heart) folks may contact the church office (573-387-4822) if you would like to volunteer.



On The Road Again ... to Glasgow

Pleasant Grove's intrepid travelers are out to lunch. The On The Road Again gang is headed to the Rolling Pin Bakery in Glasgow for a delightful midday meal on Thursday, Oct. 22. The bakery is a popular spot in this quaint town on the Missouri River, known for its delicious pies and sweet treats. The lunch menu features soups, salads and sandwiches.

Plan to meet at 10 a.m. at the Kingdom City Hall parking lot or at 10:25 a.m. at the Home Depot parking lot in Columbia to travel to Glasgow together. For more information, contact Jan Hankinson, On The Road Again trip coordinator, at 573-999-2139 or email janhankinson@gmail.com.



MORE NEWS FROM THE PEWS

CRAFTS AND COMMUNITY ... AND PIES!

The first weekend of October is always a celebration in Hatton. Saturday, Oct. 3, marks the 54th annual Hatton Craft Day, a festival of arts and crafts and everything homemade wrapped up in an atmosphere of a country fair. The one-day event runs from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and attracts thousands to our little corner of the county to shop, eat, enjoy music and other old-time fall activities.

Make a day of it and arrive hungry. Get here early to grab your share of the ever-popular doughnuts and cinnamon rolls before they run out. Lunch options are more varied: chicken salad sandwiches, ham and beans with cornbread, hamburgers, hotdogs, nachos, caramel apples and other quick snacks. Prompted by years of former Pleasant Grove maven Marilyn Jones calling for “pies, pies and more pies,” Hatton’s bakers will load the shelves with their famous homemade pies in Hatton Hall and the church.

More than 150 vendors will fill booths along the length of Hatton stretching from the old store and Hatton Hall to Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. Shop to your heart’s content for handcrafted gifts and knickknacks, furniture, home décor, clothes, jewelry, toys, baked goods and so much more. If you get tired of walking, hitch a ride on one of the tractor-pulled wagons that continually circle the grounds. At the church, Limitless youth group will again be running a bounce house for the kiddies. Last year, Pleasant Grove reached out and manned a prayer booth on the walking trail.

All this fun started in 1973 when the local Extension club voted to hold a fall craft fair. There was one simple rule: everything — crafts and food — had to be homemade. The first event drew a good crowd and vendors filled Hatton Hall. In just a few years, the crowds and the vendors grew so fast that organizers asked Pleasant Grove for permission to use the church basement for additional space for exhibitors. As the hall and church spaces have grown, so has the vendor space expanded on Craft Day to cover all of Hatton.

It takes a lot of work and a lot of volunteers to pull off an event of this size in a tiny community of our size. But all agree — the community and the good times are worth it (and so is the pie)!





SEE YOU AT THE POLE

North Callaway students gathered around the flagpole to pray before class at the high school and the middle school early on Sept. 23 for See You At The Pole, a global student prayer rally. The teens were among the millions of students around the country who came together at their school flagpoles to pray for their schools, teachers, principals, fellow students and the nation.

See You At The Pole is a student-initiated, student-organized and student-led event that occurs annually on the fourth Wednesday of September.



PLEASANT GROVE MEN'S GROUP

**JOIN US ON THURSDAYS AT
PLEASANT GROVE**

**3686 STATE ROAD E
AUXVASSE, MO**

**OCTOBER 1 & 15
7 P.M.**

**RUSS HARDESTY
573-819-0712**

*Coffee
with
Sisters in Faith*



JOIN US AT
PLEASANT
GROVE
THIS
MONTH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
8:30 - 10 A.M.

HOSTED BY
PAT HARDESTY

SHOWTIME

in Branson

Pleasant Grove's On The Road Again gang enjoyed another annual pilgrimage to Branson last month, where they explored the Shepherd of the Hills Conservation Education Center and Dogwood Canyon Nature Park, and took in shows at Hughes Brothers Theater, the Haygoods at Clay Cooper Theater and the IMAX production of the gospel musical comedy *Smoke on the Mountain*.

Next stop for our intrepid travelers: Glasgow, Missouri, on Oct. 22.









WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

STUDY GUIDE + STREAMING VIDEO
FIVE SESSIONS

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

MAX LUCADO



You Were
MADE FOR THIS MOMENT

HOW THE STORY OF ESTHER INSPIRES US TO
STEP UP AND STAND OUT FOR GOD

**9:30 A.M. TUESDAYS
AT PLEASANT GROVE**

OUTREACH PLANS

Make Some New Friends

The Missouri United Methodist Foundation (MUMF) invites everyone to a “Friends of the Foundation” gathering this month to explore opportunities for growing ministry in Missouri; learn how the foundation helps clergy, individuals and churches; and collect resources and ideas to share with our church.

For nearly 60 years, the MUMF has partnered with churches, leaders, donors and students to support ministry across the state. Through grants, scholarships, legacy giving and financial stewardship, the foundation helps resources grow so the mission of the church can thrive for generations. Find out more at the “friends” gathering, which takes place Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the law offices of Husch Blackwell, 630 Bolivar St., Suite 300, in Jefferson City with catering by Madison’s. This is not a fundraiser but simply a chance to make new friends and learn more about the MUMF connection we all share. If interested in attending, contact Pastor Bill Koch or Pastor Macy Storts in the church office. Find out more at <https://MUMF.org/friends-of-the-foundation>.

Step Up

Pleasant Grove is looking for leaders to fill some volunteer positions in several programs. Find your fit in one of these ministries.

- **Sunday School:** We have openings for teachers in the nursery, prekindergarten/beginners, primary and middle school classes. Get the details from Macy Storts in the church office, 573-387-4822, or email macy@mypgumc.org.
- **Bethlehem Store:** After 10 years, Bethlehem Store coordinator Cindy Feutz is stepping down. This ministry of relationship building seeks a new leader to take the program to new levels of Christian community care. Learn more about Bethlehem Store from Cindy at 573-473-6316 or email cfeutz53@gmail.com.
- **L.I.F.T.:** Ladies In Faith Together is on hiatus until the group finds a new leader to coordinate meetings. The young women of L.I.F.T. meet once a month (on the second Wednesday) to study God’s Word, pray together and build friendships rooted in Christ. For more information about L.I.F.T., contact Macy Storts at 573-387-4822 or email macy@mypgumc.org to volunteer.

Who We Are ... and Why

Wondering about Methodism — how and why we do what we do? The Missouri Conference is offering a free Zoom class in November that unpacks the history of Methodism, along with why we believe what we believe. Using videos and the book *Life Together in the United Methodist Connection* by Beth Galbreath, the four-week class will meet on Mondays, Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register this month at <https://missouri-reg.brtapp.com/2026WinterPolity>.

BLESSINGS

**BRING THE WHOLE TITHE
INTO THE STOREHOUSE
... AND SEE IF I WILL NOT
THROW OPEN THE FLOOD-
GATES OF HEAVEN AND POUR
OUT SO MUCH BLESSING
THERE WILL NOT BE ROOM
ENOUGH TO STORE IT.**

MALACHI 3:10

Join us in our mission to know Jesus Christ and make Him known. Your generosity enables us to help more and more people experience a life-changing relationship with Him. We are truly grateful for your donations and hope the convenience and simplicity of our ways of giving are helpful to you.

1. Try scanning our QR code.



2. To use mobile giving, download the “Church By Ministry One” app to your mobile device. Search for Pleasant Grove by entering the zip code 65231.
3. Online giving can be found at www.mypgumc.org/donate.
4. Text “GIVE” to 573-312-2909.
5. Cash and checks can be placed in the offering plates during worship services or mailed to the church office at 3686 State Road E, Auxvasse, MO 65231.

Consider becoming a recurring giver. Church statistics show that churches with high numbers of recurring givers experience the most growth.

If you need assistance or have questions about our digital giving methods, please reach out to Nancy Linville in the church office Monday through Thursday, by phone at 573-387-4822 or email admin@mypgumc.org.



PLEASANT GROVE

Worship Times

FIRST SERVICE 9:00 TO 10:00 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 TO 10:50 A.M.

SECOND SERVICE 11:00 A.M. TO NOON

