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Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, County Road 193, Iuka, Mississippi 38852
Directions: Near Pennywinkle

Pleasant Hill Methodist Church, located 3½ miles south of the historic city of Iuka, was founded in 1875 by Rev. Lemuel J. Hubbard. It began as a Methodist Protestant Church with 25 members.

Lemuel J. Hubbard was born in Bath County, North Carolina, to David and Martha West Hubbard. David as a successful planter and had a family of eight children: John, David (who performed the Hubbard survey of Iuka), Isaac, James, Lemuel J., Lucinda, Thomas, and Peter West. David and Martha moved to Mississippi and located in Tishomingo County in 1844.

Lemuel married Susan Simpson, and they moved to Iuka in 1846. Among the first white settlers in Tishomingo County, their home was located within a few yards of the famous Iuka Mineral Springs—which he owned. Just before the Civil War, Lemuel sold this property and purchased a 320-acre plantation 4 ½ miles south of Iuka in the Pleasant Hill Community. He and Susan had 11 children: Martha, who married M. C. Chenault; Barbara, who married William L. Lemmons; Mollie, who died in 1885; Sally, who married W. W. Harvey; Addie, who married M. D. Adams; Callie, who married Professor W. F. Hundley; Fannie, who married Mead Fairless; Permelia, who married G. H. Pruitt; Janey, who died in 1853; Thomas, who married Mollie Adams, and William C.

Rev. Lemuel Hubbard was reared to farm life. On November 7, 1879, he was elected Treasurer of Tishomingo County. He was a public-spirited man, but the glamour of public life never caused him to neglect his church. In his early life, Lemuel joined the Methodist Church and served as a local minister and circuit rider for 40 years. He was the first ordained minister of Pleasant Hill Church. Lemuel was ordained to the office of Elder in the Methodist Protestant Church and given all the rights and privileges conferred on an elder in the 19th Session of the North Mississippi Annual Conference. His certificate of ordination was signed by J. T. Whitehurst, President of the Conference, and J. Hunt, Secretary, on November 7, 1874.

William C. Hubbard, youngest son of Lemuel Hubbard, purchased three acres of land from the Laffoon family for the purpose of building a church. This was his father's desire. The church is still standing on this land today.

Rev. Hubbard and his two sons, W. C. and Thomas Hubbard, with his seven sons-in-law, Cal Chenault, W. A. Lemmons, Mead Fairless, W. C. Hundley, M. D. Adams, W. W. Harvey, and G. H. Pruitt, helped to build the first church. Among other settlers who assisted were the Laffoons, Barnetts, Leatherwoods, Williamses, Aldridges, and Idlets. The church was constructed of rough material on the exterior, and the interior consisted of handmade pulpit and benches. Kerosene lamps provided light, and heat came from an old-fashioned stove.

When the church was completed, Rev. Hubbard gave it the name "Pleasant Hill," saying: "The foundation is of rock; it will last forever. That's my faith." For more than 30 years this building served the community as a church and schoolroom. The membership was small but always faithful through the years.

The adjoining cemetery is older than the church building, with monuments dating back as far as 1851. According to church historian, Ruth Randle, slaves were buried here also. The remains of Rev. and Mrs. Lemuel Hubbard rest in this cemetery as well.

In 1905, the original building was replaced by the present structure. The material of the old church was sold for the sum of \$30, which was applied to the present building. Many liberal donations from members, neighbors, and friends were received, along with much cooperation. The carpenters employed were Charlie Robinson and John Moore.

M. D. Adams (father of Mrs. Ollie A. Ware, Mrs. Grace Sanders, and Paul R. Sanders) designed and built the pulpit that is now used. An organ was purchased. Mrs. Grace Adams Sanders was organist. Worship services and Sunday School services were well attended.

The church had difficulty obtaining ministers from 1917 to 1920. In 1920, Pleasant Hill joined the North Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. On June 26, 1920, W. A. White, President of the Methodist Protestant Conference, deeded to Perry Williams, Marshall Aldridge, and Paul R. Adams as trustees of the Pleasant Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and their successors in office, three acres of land in the Southwest Quarter, Section 36, Township 3, Range 10; instrument recorded in Tishomingo County Deed Book B-9, page 114, on October 2, 1920.

Pleasant Hill then became part of a seven-church charge with Spring Hill, Salem, Snowdown, Harmony, Camp Ground, and Bethel. Rev. W. T. Phillips was pastor of the seven churches. Pleasant Hill had Sunday School every Sunday at 10 a.m. with worship service monthly on the 2nd Sunday at 2 p.m. At this time, the annual homecoming service was celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May. Avie Lou Lomenick Hamilton always directed the children's day program at homecoming. In 1921, Mt. Evergreen was formed and added to the circuit—this made eight churches on the circuit.

1929 was an outstanding year in the improvement of the church. Paint was donated by W. H. Fairless. N. C. Furniss completed the painting and interior decoration, with material being furnished by members and others. New benches replaced the old ones. They were sold and proceeds went back to the church restoration. A piano replaced the organ. Grace Sanders remained as pianist until her death. Ruth Randle succeeded her and served faithfully for over 50 years. Marie Dell Young also played faithfully for a few years.

On May 12, 1929, memorial services were held in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Lemuel J. Hubbard. The honored guest for this occasion was Mrs. M. D. Adams, daughter of the Hubbards. Rev. E. P. Craddock delivered the address with members of the church and Sunday School in attendance.

Pleasant Hill became a Methodist Church when the three great bodies of Methodism affected union in 1939. Two churches were added to the circuit—Rocky Springs and Patrick. Salem Church moved to the Tishomingo charge, leaving nine churches on the charge.

In 1939, J. B. Hyatt built the chancel rail in the church. He also constructed the front concrete steps, with assistance from others. Parts of the chancel rail came from the Hammerly house staircase. Delco lights were installed and turned on about 3:30 p.m., April 4, 1939. The Delco lights replaced the Aladdin lamps.

Gifts to the church included the church bell that rings out its echo of welcome, by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lomenick, in memory of the Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Lemmons, parents of Mrs. Lomenick; communion table, by Mrs. Grace Adams Sanders; picture, “Rock of Ages,” by Louise Furniss Jourdan and her Sunday School class; picture, Sallman’s “Head of Christ” in the sanctuary, in memory of her mother, Mrs. W. H. Fairless; pulpit chairs by Mr. and Mrs. Odell Bullard, in memory of his brother, Herbert Bullard; pulpit Bible, by Mr. Leon Adams, Mrs. Hazel Lea, Mrs. Lorraine Fleet, and Mrs. Ruth Elaine Vanfleet, in memory of their father, Paul R. Adams; and the painting, “Jesus and the Children,” painted by Miss Louise Hayes and presented to the Primary Class.

Mrs. J. H. Lomenick, mother of Mrs. Dimple Malone and Mrs. Avie Lou Hamilton, granted an easement on her property in order for a power line to be built to the church. This enabled the church to have electricity. This gift was made in the memory of her husband, Mr. J. H. Lomenick, and her son, Pvt. William H. Lomenick, who was killed in World War II. The power line was connected to the church on March 7, 1949, and electrical lights turned on at 2 p.m. that afternoon for Mrs. Lomenick’s funeral. This was thought to be “a tribute to her memory for her thoughtfulness of her church and others.” Mrs. Lomenick was the first World War II Gold Star Mother in Tishomingo County to die.

On Tuesday, November 29, 1949, Mrs. Beulah Holder, beloved wife of Rev. J. H. Holder, organized a chapter of the Women’s Society of Christian Service (WSCS). She was assisted by Mrs. Zenobia Oaks of the Spring Hill Church. Charter members included Mrs. W. M. Bullard, Mrs. Delmar Bullard, Mrs. Eugenia Clark, Mrs. Willie Carter, Mrs. Luther Clark, Mrs. M. W. Kent, and Mrs. J. H. Holder. Names submitted for membership but unable to attend the organizational meeting included Miss Bertha Adams, Mrs. Arthur Floyd, Mrs. Hubert Murphy, Mrs. Ollie Ware, and Mrs. Avie Lou Hamilton.

Offices of the newly organized WSCS were:

President	Mrs. M. W. Kent
Vice President	Mrs. Delmar Bullard
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs. Luther Clark
Education	Mrs. Avie Lou Hamilton
Soc. Rel.	Mrs. Ollie Ware

The WSCS had many projects over the years. One in particular was a quilt that had 20 blocks. Each block had space for 16 names. For 25 cents, your name would be embroidered in a space.

Sealed bids were accepted for the purchase of the completed quilt. The highest offer was for \$100 submitted by Alvin and Annie Mae Deaton. All funds went in the church building fund.

A 1960 WSCS fundraiser was centered on a shirt of Rev. Jodie Morris. Friends and members sewed donations under patches on the shirt. Funds from this project helped purchase a piano for the fellowship hall.

Another project was the Golden Age Club. The WSCS hosted the event, and furnished refreshments and transportation for the elderly members. Flower cuttings were exchanged at each meeting and each member was asked to describe how they met their husbands. Golden Age Club members included Alice Deaton, Mary Bostick, Blanche Williams, Bertie Monroe, Mrs. J. H. Moser, Mrs. George Gober, Mrs. George Sutton, Doshie Bullard, Maude King, Pinkie Floyd, Dora Martin, Mrs. A. Lovelace, Alice Pannell, Mrs. Whitfield, and Mrs. S. W. Emmerson. Sponsoring WSCS members were Annie Mae Deaton, Lucille Gurley, Mabel Floyd, Bonnie Bullard, Linda Wildmon, and Ruth Randle.

In 1952, Rev. Garland Knott was appointed to the circuit. Miss Cora Lee Glenn was also assigned to the charge. This was a time of great church development. The MYF was organized, the first Vacation Bible School was conducted, and Christmas programs were presented. Under their leadership, additional worship services were available at each church. The love, concern, and spiritual leaders of Rev. Knott and Cora Lee Glenn will never be forgotten!

In 1954, the church recognized a need for additional space—with 25 members crowded into one corner of the one-room church for Sunday School lessons. The new addition—two Sunday School rooms, kitchen, and fellowship hall—was built by Dock Bullard, Herman Bullard, Roy Curtis, Bobby Paden, S. W. Emmerson, and Rev. Knott. The ladies of the church furnished lunch and refreshments for the workers. On March 10, 1957, the new addition was dedicated by Bishop Marvin Franklin with Rev. Knott and District Superintendent George Williams in attendance.

The Methodist Men's Club was organized on March 7, 1958, with seven members. Charter members were John R. (Dock) Bullard, Jim Walker, Herman Bullard, W. Odell Bullard, Travis Gurley, Millard Kent, and Harold (Bounce) Kent. A total of 30 charter members came from the charge.

In 1959, the nine churches of the circuit were divided. Snowdown, Pleasant Hill, Spring Hill, and Mt. Evergreen made up the south charge. The Millard Kent family donated an acre of land, and a new parsonage was built. Rev. Sale Lilly was the first pastor to live in the new parsonage.

Over the next several years, many changes took place at the charge level. In 1964, the south circuit raised the pastor's salary and was able to get off the conference minimum salary.

In 1964, the front of the church was remodeled. Doing most of the job, Dayton Jourdan replaced the two single doors with one central entrance. Then, in 1965, the sanctuary was remodeled. Herman and Dock Bullard installed paneling, new windows, and tile floors. The corrugated roof of 1931 was replaced in 1968. Beautiful curved pews were added—a gift from Mrs. Darrell Jourdan of the Iuka Methodist Church. Herman Bullard and Frank Jaynes adapted them to fit our building. Carpet was installed in 1969.

Pleasant Hill became a United Methodist Church on April 23, 1968, when the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches joined together to form one church organization.

Rest rooms were added to the annex in 1972. Again, Dayton Jourdan purchased most of the materials that were needed, and he worked with Bobby Paden and Herman Bullard to complete the project. In 1973, the kitchen and dining area were extended, and the exterior of the church was painted. Dayton and Herman finished the kitchen cabinets in 1975. Central air and heat was installed in March 1979. New carpet was installed in time for homecoming, the third Sunday in July of that year. Delmer and Edith Bullard made covers and padded the new church pews in 1980. Brick underpinning and new front steps were added in 1980 as well. The front entrance was enclosed in 1981, and a permanent canopy was placed over the front entrance in 1984. In the spring of 1988, a new roof was installed over the Sunday School rooms. Mr. Alva Randle first saw the need for a larger fellowship hall. As a result of his vision, Bobby Paden, Dayton Jourdan, and Herman Bullard completed construction of a new fellowship hall in 1992.

The new millennium brought great vision to the members of Pleasant Hill Church. In 2001, following a very generous gift from Dayton and Louise Jourdan, a major renovation of the church building began. This project included replacing floor sills, leveling the sanctuary, the addition of vinyl siding, and a metal roof. Dale Vandiver was the contractor for this project. During the reconstruction of the sanctuary, pews were moved into the old fellowship hall. Bonnie Bullard, Audrey Paden, Bobby Paden, Jim Walker, and James Mobley refinished the pews. Audrey, Bonnie, and Edith Bullard Johnson replaced the pew covers to match the new carpet installed in the sanctuary. The new carpet was donated by Brett, Jill, and Olivia Malone. Bonnie and Audrey also refinished the pulpit and chancel rail. Stain glass replaced the old sanctuary windows. Various church members and friends purchased windows in honor and memory of loved ones. The front porch was extended to provide a covered access to the church. A “handicap” ramp was added with access to the side of the front entrance. A new central heat and air system was contributed by the Bobby Paden family.

It would be impossible to describe the hard work, spirit of cooperation, and dedication of church members working on this last renovation project. In addition to members already mentioned, Brett and Jill Malone worked extremely hard. Ricky and Jill Long toiled on the project as well. Their daughters, Olivia Malone and Mollie and Maggie Long entertained the workers when they were allowed to accompany their parents. Andy, Heather, and Andrew Crawford helped move pews, cut grass, use the weed eater, and plant the flower beds. Barbara Hathcock made new flower arrangements. Heather, Barbara, and Richard Hathcock painted Sunday School rooms, halls, and the kitchen. Jimmy Seago helped with the outside work.

The renovated building was dedicated at the July 2001 homecoming service. Present among all the church members and friends were Brett and Jill Malone—a fifth generation descendant of Rev. Lemuel J. Hubbard. Their daughter, Olivia, is a sixth generation descendant of Rev. Lemuel. Remember his words: “It is built on a rock—it will last forever! That is my faith.”

List of Preachers

Lemuel J. Hubbard, founder of church	Luke A. McKeown
W. A. (Bill) Barnett, father of	Rev. Bill
Mrs. Anne Hyatt	Rev. Knight
W. A. Lemmons, son-in-law of	Rev. Potts
Rev. Lemuel J. Hubbard	Rev. Jones
John Jeeters	W. A. White
Rev. Satterfield	W. T. White
John Jourdan	Harris Bazzell
Joe T. McKeown	W. T. Bazzell

Pastors Since 1920

Date	Minister's Name
1918-1922	W. T. Phillips
1922-1923	C. M. Ray
1923-1924	N. N. Maxey
1924-1929	E. P. Craddock
1929-1931	J. C. Nelson
1931-1932	E. M. Sharp
1932-1935	J. W. Holiday
1935-1938	L. P. Jumper
1938-1939	A. C. Bishop
1939-1943	M. N. Hamil
1943-1944	Joe Carothers
1944-1946	R. B. Burks
1946-1952	J. H. Holder
1952-1957	Garland Knott
1957-1959	Sale Lilly, Jr.
1959-1960	Joseph Morris
1960-1962	Charles W. Arnett
1962-1964	James P. Perry
1964-1968	Don Wilemon
1968-1971	O. Lex Elliott
1971-1972	Kenneth McClain
1972-1977	Grady Baily
1977-1978	Robert McCoy
1978-1979	Rowland Hyde
1979-1982	William A. Strange
1982-1985	Jim McKeithen
1985-1987	Shelby Mainers
1987-1988	Paul Harris
1988 (for 3 weeks)	Charles Boyer
1988-1992	Dale Hathorn
1992-1994	Frank Rushing
1994-1997	Brad Hodges
1997-2000	Lester Shows
2000-present	Dwain Whitehurst