SHAKER VILLAGE
of Pleasant Hill

Preserving the Past to Inspire the Future

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Simple Reflection

…to inspire generations…

These three words are a powerful call to action, and at the heart of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill's mission. For guests to the Village, inspiration may be found in many ways.

In the laughter of friends gathered around the dinner table.

From the exploration of historic spaces and unique architecture.

In the curiosity of a child, reaching out to feel the soft wool of a sheep for the first time.

From a bench overlooking the prairie at sunset.

In the story of the Shaker brothers and sisters that lived at Pleasant Hill, and recognizing the common, human connections we all share, despite being separated by ideology, geography, or time.

Last year, more than 100,000 guests visited Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. They came carrying all the burdens of life in 2025. Stress from a 24-hour news cycle. Overstimulation from social media. Economic and political pressures. And, increasingly, a pessimistic view of the world.

Shaker Village is not a time capsule where the world has stood still for 200 years. It is an active participant in today's society, telling the story of a unique people, preserving our shared heritage, stewarding the land and its resources, and providing a community of kindness and curiosity to inspire us all.

After 65 years, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is more relevant and more necessary than ever before. Thank you for joining us to provide a place of inspiration for generations of guests.

Billy Rankin
President & CEO

BY THE NUMBERS

Every visit, every program and every act of stewardship contributes to the life of Pleasant Hill.
Together, these moments reflect the impact of a community that continues to care for this remarkable place.

12,681 guests attended our nine signature events

34 historic Shaker structures cared for each day

More than **100,000** guests explored Shaker Village

$4,147,282 raised in philanthropic support

63 volunteers gave their time to Pleasant Hill

4,025 members called Pleasant Hill their own

1,826 acres of forest and prairie land stewarded

234
children attended Explorer Summer Camp

163 employees powering daily operations across the Village

$1,438,548 secured through competitive grants

3,696 students inspired through school field trips and youth programs

11 miles of historic, dry stacked, stone fences maintained

Preserving the Past to Inspire the Future

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is on a mission to inspire generations through discovery by sharing the legacies of the Kentucky Shakers.

Across nearly 3,000 acres of historic buildings, farmland and natural landscape, the Village continues the careful work of preservation, stewardship and education. None of this work happens alone. It is made possible by a community of donors, members, volunteers and guests who believe this place matters.

Because of that shared commitment, 2025 was a year of meaningful progress across the Village. Together we preserved historic buildings, welcomed new visitors, introduced students to Shaker history and cared for the remarkable landscape that surrounds Pleasant Hill.

Built to Last

Pleasant Hill is home to 34 historic Shaker structures, each one offering a tangible connection to the people who once lived and worked here. Caring for these buildings requires steady attention, skilled craftsmanship and a deep respect for the past, making preservation one of the Village's most important responsibilities. Each project completed is another step in ensuring these structures continue to stand and share their stories for generations to come.

KEY PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025:

- The 1839 Trustees' Office project advanced from the feasibility study to the design phase, moving this landmark of Shaker hospitality towards expanded guest experiences.
- Restoration of the 1835 Carriage House was completed following significant damage.
- Preservation began at the 1835 East Family Wash House, focusing on structural framing and exterior carpentry.
- Funding was secured to begin a three-year restoration project of the 1816 North Lot Family Dwelling.
- Preservation advanced at the 1830 West Lot Timber Frame Stable with repairs to structural timbers.
- Fresh paint renewed the Stables, Preserve Barn, run-in sheds and the 1813 Old Ministry's Workshop.

The preservation team is led by:

- Mike Worthington, *Paint Foreman*
- Robert Brown, *Preservation Carpenter*
- Terry Cowart, *Shop Carpenter*

A Living Landscape

Beyond the historic buildings, the land itself tells an essential part of the Pleasant Hill story. Nearly 3,000 acres of prairie, woodland, farmland and riverfront reflect centuries of thoughtful stewardship. In 2025, that work continued through careful management of wildlife, restoration of native habitats and ongoing care for the landscape to ensure Pleasant Hill remains both as a historic site and a thriving natural environment.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE PRESERVE IN 2025:

- Long-term ecological monitoring continued, including bird banding, butterfly tagging and habitat surveys that expand conservation knowledge for the region.
- Prairie restoration progressed alongside a comprehensive plank fence replacement program to strengthen ecological health and restore the historic viewshed.
- Goats joined stewardship efforts as a sustainable, chemical-free method for managing invasive plant species.
- The riverfront boat ramp was replaced, improving safe access to the Kentucky River and its Palisades.

The Preserve is cared for by:

- Ben Leffew, *Natural Resources Director*
- Laura Baird, *Preserve Manager*
- Judson Collins, *Preserve Technician*
- Gabrielle McMahon-Csaki, *Preserve Technician*
- Hewitt Rowland, *Landscape Foreman*

DID YOU KNOW: The Village sits along 1.25 miles of Kentucky River frontage?

From Soil to Table

The Farm at Shaker Village carries forward the tradition of working the land with care and intention. Each season, it produces fresh food that supports hospitality experiences and connects guests to the rhythms of agriculture. In 2025, that work continued as crops grown in the fields made their way to the dishes of The Trustees' Table, reinforcing the connection between the land, the food it produces and the shared experience of gathering for a meal.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE FARM IN 2025:

- Nearly 3,000 pounds of fresh ingredients were grown and served at The Trustees' Table, saving the Village approximately $12,000 in food purchasing costs.
- *Taste of Fresh*, a seasonal education program, highlighted the Village's seed-to-table philosophy, connecting the garden to the dishes prepared at The Trustees' Table.
- Guests engaged with the farm through daily programs like *First Flavors* and *Farm Friends*, where they explored how agriculture continues to shape life at Shaker Village

The Farm team is led by:

- Dr. H.P. Lovelace, *Farm Manager*
- Ezra Smith, *Livestock Coordinator*
- Patrick Balcom, *Farm to Table Coordinator*
- Janet Mayer, *Garden Supervisor*
- Georges Gawinowski, *Draft Animal Coordinator*

DID YOU KNOW: the Farm grows more than 150 different crops and varieties including 10 different varieties of tomatoes ranging from heirloom slicing tomatoes to cherry varieties.

We Make You Kindly Welcome

The tradition of Shaker hospitality continues today through The Trustees' Table, The Inn and The Shops. These spaces invite guests to slow down, share a meal, stay overnight in historic buildings and experience the quiet beauty of the Village. In 2025, guests continued to make Pleasant Hill part of their travels, returning for the sense of peace and authenticity that defines this place.

KEY EXPERIENCES & ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025:

- Family-style dining returned to The Trustees' Table, serving more than 53,000 guests with dishes crafted with produce grown in the Village's own certified-organic garden.
- The Inn welcomed more than 16,800 overnight guests across its 72 rooms, many returning year after year.
- The Shops retail mix includes products made by 140 Kentucky vendors, connecting guests with locally made goods while helping sustain the mission of Shaker Village.

The hospitality team is led by:

- Kristen Flick, *Vice President of Hospitality Services*
- Shelby Jones, *Chief Marketing Officer*
- Kristen Boussu, *Inn Manager*
- Amber Hokams, *Executive Chef*
- Lisa Cloon, *Restaurant Manager*
- Lorrin Ingerson, *Retail Manager*

Gathering Together

Throughout the year, Pleasant Hill brings people together for moments both large and small. Weddings, performances, group tours and seasonal events fill the Village with activity and celebration, offering meaningful ways to experience the historic landscape. In 2025, families, travelers and community members gathered and deepened their connection to the Village.

EVENTS & GATHERINGS IN 2025

- More than 12,600 guests attended our nine signature events, which run April through December.
- The Chamber Music Festival of the Bluegrass and a landmark performance by the Louisville Orchestra in the Meadowview Barn brought new audiences and filled the Village with music.
- 14 couples were married at The Village, with family and friends gathering in one of Kentucky's most beautiful settings.
- More than 90 bus tours and adult groups explored the Village as part of their travel.
- 76 private events, meetings and retreats brought guests together for meaningful gatherings.

The Sales and Events team is led by:

- Kristen Flick, *Vice President of Hospitality Services*
- Michelle Crepeau, *Senior Sales Manager*
- Haylee Jones, *Event Sales Manager*
- Ambert Cagle, *Sales Coordinator*
- Rene Baril, *Catering Manager*

DID YOU KNOW: Craft Fair was the biggest Signature Event in 2025 with 4,674 people in attendance over two days!

Inspiring Generations

Discovery has always been at the heart of the Pleasant Hill experience. Each year, students and visitors explore the Village's history through programs, exhibits and hands-on learning. In 2025, these experiences continued to spark curiosity and keep the story of Pleasant Hill vibrant for new generations.

LEARNING IN 2025

- More than 3,650 students explored the Village through field trips and immersive programs that brought Shaker history to life.
- Explorer Summer Camp welcomed more than 230 children, with scholarships helping ensure access for families across the region.
- *Shaker Made*, a photography exhibit by Carol Peachee, invited visitors into a fresh, artistic exploration of Shaker life in the Centre Family Dwelling.

The collections, education and programming teams are led by:

- Rebecca Soules, *Collections & Education Director*
- Becca Bowles, *Education Manager*

DID YOU KNOW: three local children received scholarships to attend Explorer Summer Camp in 2025?

It Takes a Village

The care of Pleasant Hill is strengthened by the generosity of volunteers who give their time and talents throughout the year. Their efforts support everything from landscape stewardship to special events, helping keep the Village welcoming and vibrant. In 2025, that commitment continued to make a meaningful difference across the property.

Learn more at *shakervillageky.org/career-opportunities/* or scan QR code.

- More than 60 volunteers gave their time to Pleasant Hill in 2025.
- Together they contributed over 370 hours of service.
- Seven recurring volunteer roles created consistent opportunities to support the Village year-round.

Every volunteer hour is a gift to this place. We are grateful to each person who contributed.

DID YOU KNOW: you can volunteer as a Shepherd? Help care for grazing animals across the Village's landscape, supporting the Farm Team from April to October.

Belong to Something

For many people, Pleasant Hill has become more than a destination. Over time, visits turn into traditions and the landscape feels familiar in every season. Membership grows from that connection, bringing together those who return not just to visit, but because they care about this place and the experiences it offers.

Recently, a member shared:
"My wife purchased annual passes for us several years ago, and after a few visits I wondered what more the Village could offer. But here we are years later, still returning for all that it has to offer. At some point, we stopped being 'annual members' and became connected to the mission of Shaker Village and the work of preserving this place in Kentucky."

In 2025, more than 4,000 people across 1,396 households called Shaker Village their home away from home. We are thankful they are part of our Village family!

DID YOU KNOW: 437 new households signed up for a membership in 2025?

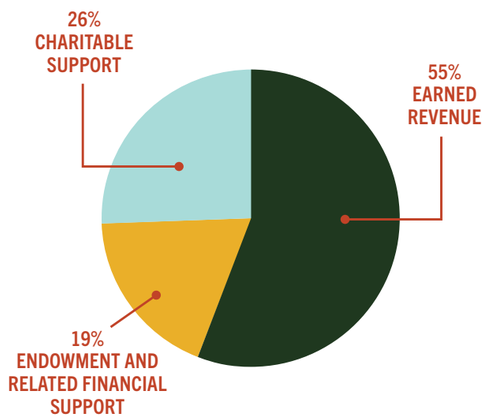
Explore membership options and benefits by scanning the QR code.

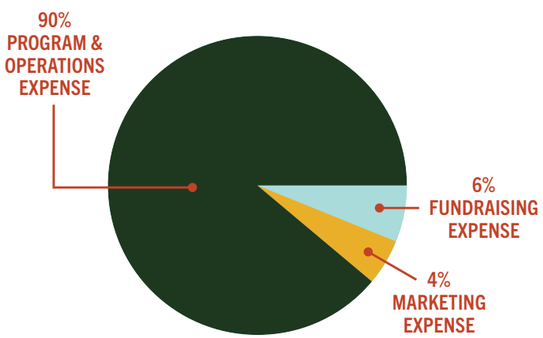
Funding The Mission

The preservation and stewardship of Pleasant Hill is made possible by a community of supporters who believe in the importance of this place. Since 1961, donors have played an essential role in protecting the Village and sharing its story with the world.

In 2025, that support continued to sustain this work. Contributions from individuals, foundations and partners helped support daily operations and advance important preservation projects across the Village.

Today, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill operates with a $6.7 million annual budget sustained by earned revenue, charitable support and the Shaker Village Endowment.





In addition, $2.4M was raised for specific capital projects in 2025.

A generation of visionaries came together to save Shakertown. Your support carries their legacy forward.

A Legacy of Care

The Shaker Village Endowment, valued at $11,784,512 at the end of the fiscal year, provides dependable annual support for preservation and stewardship. Through a conservative draw, it helps cover essential costs while allowing annual gifts to go further and ensuring critical work continues regardless of year-to-year fluctuations in revenue.

ENDOWMENT SUPPORT IN ACTION

Endowment income and related financial support provided more than $1.2 million in operating support in 2025. While this funding helped sustain approximately 19% of the Village's annual core expenses, additional endowed support remains essential to help care for:

- Historic preservation and building care
- Education and interpretation
- Agricultural operations
- Stewardship of the natural landscape

Endowed funds provide more than stability, they create opportunity. When core needs are sustained, annual gifts can go further, expanding the mission, enhancing guest experiences and creating new ways for individuals and families to connect with Pleasant Hill.

Many supporters extend their annual giving through a planned gift, such as designating a portion of a retirement account or including a bequest in a will or trust. These thoughtful commitments can transform a yearly gift into a lasting source of support for the Village.

For example, a donor who gives $100 each year may include a gift of $2,500 in their plans, creating a permanent investment that continues to give back over time.

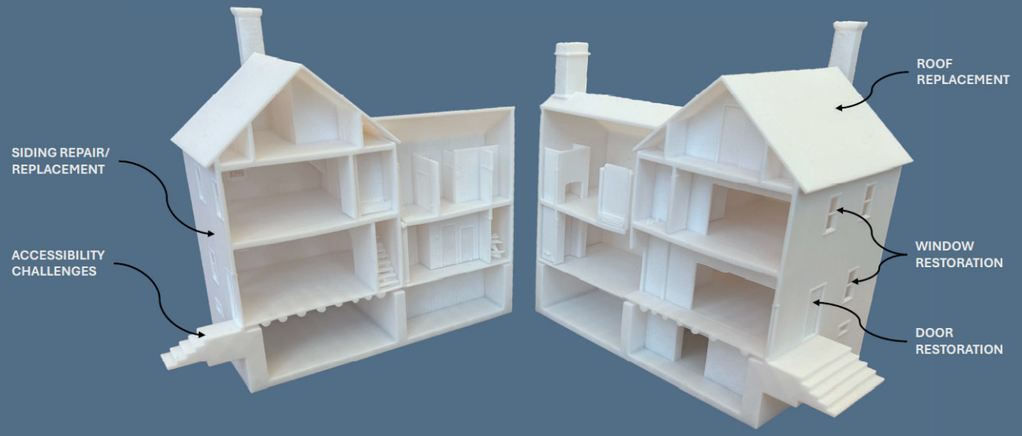
Growing the endowment ensures Pleasant Hill remains cared for, protected and inspiring for generations to come.

HOW AN ANNUAL GIFT CAN BECOME A LASTING LEGACY

Annual Gift	Endowed Gift	Annual Support (5% Draw)
$1,000	$25,000	$1,250/year
$1,500	$37,500	$1,875/year
$2,000	$50,000	$2,500/year
$2,500	$62,500	$3,125/year
$5,000	$125,000	$6,250/year

Endowed funds are professionally managed and overseen by the Board of Trustees.

To learn more about including Shaker Village in your plans, visit **shakervillageky.org/donate** or call **859.734.1563**



1816 North Lot Dwelling
Key Findings: Exterior

What Comes Next

In many ways, 2026 will be a milestone year—poised to be the most active preservation year since the Village's earliest years as a nonprofit. Work will move forward on the 1848 Post Office, the 1847 Cooper Shop, the 1816 North Lot Family Dwelling, the 1821 West Family Dwelling and the final phase of the 1835 East Family Wash House and 1830 West Lot Timber Frame Stable.

At the same time, new exhibits will be installed across the Village, landscape stewardship will continue and the farm will expand its production and role in the guest experience.

You're invited to visit the Village, see this progress unfold and be part of the story.

None of this happens without you. Support—through charitable giving, volunteering or returning visits sustain this Village and the story it exists to share.

We are grateful to be part of this work together.

Explore what's ahead by scanning the QR code.

Thank You

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is deeply grateful to the generous donors whose support made 2025 possible. Contributions to the Annual Fund, fundraising events and capital projects helped preserve Pleasant Hill, care for its historic buildings and cultural landscape, and share the legacy of the Shakers with guests from around the world. The following reflects gifts received during the fiscal year of April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

$100,000 AND ABOVE
Ann B. Bakhaus
Bakhaus Family Foundation Donor Advised Fund
Commonwealth of Kentucky
The Community Foundation of Louisville
Henry V. Heuser, Jr. and Donald H. Whitfield
Nana Lampton
Lois Mateus
Tall Grass Farm Foundation
Tirbracken Green Foundation, Inc.

$50,000–$99,999
Alexander G. Campbell Jr. Foundation
Rodes Campbell
Rory Harris and Laura Nesbitt
Dorothy M. M. Kersten Trust

$25,000–$49,999
Baird Trust
Baird Wealth Management
William and Ellen Chapman
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Walter L. Gross III and Mary Emily Gross
Stephen L. and Patricia Grossman
Randy Kemper
National Christian Foundation Kentucky
Carroll and Libby Stevens
Jane Winegardner

$10,000–$24,999
Ann L. Allen
Tom and Cindy Bloch
Blue Grass Community Foundation
Hilary Boone Foundation, Inc.
Christina L. Brown
Rose Cooper and Allen Bush
Dorothy C. Cordray
Crutcher Family Foundation, Inc.
Leigh A. DeLair, MD
Tracy Farmer Foundation, Inc.
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Robert W. and Meme Griffith
Barbara Hall
Harrodsburg-Mercer Co. Tourist Commission
George and Alyce Hoskins
G. Watts Humphrey, Jr. and Sally Humphrey
Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Kentucky Historical Society
John H. Kerr, III and Alston Kerr
John and Sarah Lechleiter
LG&E and KU
Kathy Mounce and Don Garton
Mt. Folly Enterprises, Inc.
Maegan F. Nicholson
Ralph Kurtz
Rusty and Terri Saunders
Mrs. John P. Stewart
W. Plumer Wiseman, Jr.

$5,000–$9,999
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David A. Bates and Andrea Yancey
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Davis H. Elliot Company Foundation
Phil and Rose Mary Dow
Cindy Ellsworth
Douglas W. Ferris and Dot H. Neale
Sandra A. Frazier
Nina Hahn
Donna Heitzman and Michael Paynter
John and Elizabeth Hickman
David and Katherine Johnson
Kiel Thomson Company
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Stephen and Denise Kirzinger
Martha Givens Nicol Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
Mildred V. Horn Foundation
Eleanor Miller
Mac Reid and Tay Breene
Reese and Becky Reinhold
Elizabeth Ruch
Christine and David Shannon
Alan and Jennifer Siebenthaler
Dean Smith
Superior Ag Insurance, LLC
Ian and Elaine Thomas
Ludwig and Jean Weaver
Holly B. Wiedemann and Bart J. Van Dissel
Toby and Melissa Williams

$2,500–$4,999
Julie Ballard and William C. Ballard, Jr.
Katharine Barnhart
Edward S. Barr
Ken and Carol Bebak
Edith S. Bingham
Edward J. Brown and Judith Taylor
William and Anne Burleigh
Pete and Barbara Chiericozzi
Leonard S. Coleman, Jr.
Lawrence and Janet Cox
Dorothy B. Davis
Louise F. Gardner
Allen and Lamar Grimes
David Hart
Robert Hoglund
Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels
Elsbeth Johnson
Joseph and Margaret Jones
Ben Kaufmann and Janet Zusman
John and Paula Keith
Fred and Callie Keller
Kentucky Eagle, Inc.
Patricia Monohan
William and Nancy Moore
David L. Morgan
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Bruce and Vickrie Nicol
Michael Potapov and Nancy Barnett
Carol Pye
Peter Reed and Alden Warner
Phil and Kay Richardson
The Sam Schubert Foundation
Wayne and Myra Schuetter
Alan and Kay Smock
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Mary Clay Stites
William and Eileen Wilson
Frank and Keitt Wood
Thomas Wynne and Mary Margaret Bell

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Garland H. and Donna F. Barr
Jameson A. Baxter
Dee Beverly
James and Julie Biddle
Cornelia Bonnie
Kevin and Susan Borders
Katherine Brewer
Katherine Bright and Daniel Moran
George and Katherine Brooks
Elisabeth M. Brown
Martin Brown, Jr. and Cathy Stewart Brown
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Michael and Judy Campbell
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Joseph Clark
Sandra K. Collins and Thomas Joel Chawk
Barry and Laura Crume
Bront and Carol Davis
Gregory and Lynn Davis
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Jeffrey Williams
Orme and Mary Wilson
Chris and Josefine Young

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Lendy Firestone Brown
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Gail Clayton
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Kathlyn Crown-Weber
W. Lisle and Kathy Dalton
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Everett and JonAnn Horn
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Cynthia Marsteller
Merriwether Mclean

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Gia Baker
Lori Baker
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Tim Johnson
Michael Johnson
Rick and Debbie Johnson
Walter and Helen Johnson
Miranda Johnson-Haddad
Anne Jones
John Jones
Bari Joslyn
Karl Jost and Lori Schmied
Larry Jude and Mary Kerr-Jude
Douglas Katz and Linda Katz
Mary Keffer
Sarah Kelly
Lewis and Linda Kelly
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Benjamin King
Nancy Kinsey
Kirk and Margaret Klaphaak
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Patricia Kocur
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Mary Lalonde
Willie Ann Lansing
Davant Latham
Wanda Lay
Carl and Sally Lay
Kathlyn Lay and Peg O'Grady
Todd Leatherman and Holly Tincher
Elizabeth Lehmann
Todd and Alice Lemley
Harold Lester
Elizabeth Lewis
Mike and Molly Lippert
Kathy Lockard
Hunter and Blair Louis
Evan Lowe
Thomas and Elizabeth Lowe
Jamie Lucke
John and Kathleen Manchester
John Manos and Leah Johnson-Manos
Janet Margerum
David Martin
Mike and Emilia Martin
Carolyn Sue Mash
Marjorie Matthews
Brenda Matunas
Douglas and Barbara Maxwell
Daniel Maye
Daniel McBride
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Jessica McFarlin
Joseph and Sandy McKenna
Mike McKinney and Leah Ashworth
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UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC ON THE LAWN
Friday and Saturday evenings May – October

MERCER COUNTY WEEK
July 6-12

FRESH FOOD ADVENTURES
July 18, August 22, September 19, November 21

CRAFT FAIR
August 1 & 2

ELEMENTS OF PHOTOGRAPHY
August 8

HARVEST FEST
September 26 & 27

TRICK-OR-TREAT
October 23 & 24

WATERCOLOR PAINTING
October 24

CHRISTMAS MARKET
November 14

COOKIES AND COCO with MRS. CLAUS
December 5

ILLUMINATED EVENINGS
December 5,12 & 19

SCAN TO VIEW THE FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
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