

The Historians' Newsletter

Pre-Convocation 2026

Ohio Methodist Historical Society, est. 1839



www.ohiomhs.org

@OhioMethodistHistoricalSociety



**OMHS President
Mary Ann Stotts**

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President's Message

The Ohio Methodist Historical Society is embarking on exciting new season. We have been through many changes the past couple of years and are beginning to charter a new path forward. Our Goal remains the same as it was in 1839 when our organization was founded. The Goal was to collect and preserve materials for a complete and authentic history of the Methodist Episcopal Church, west of the Allegheny Mountains. Since the writing of this Goal, the Methodist Episcopal Church has been involved in several mergers such as the Methodist Protestant Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. It has also seen some folks stepping away and forming other churches due to a difference in belief on a certain issue. Examples of this would be the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the African Methodist Episcopal Church just to name a few. All this to say that our goal remains the same in that we want to collect and preserve the Methodist History throughout all of the changes. Because we are Historians, we need to record all of the changes in the Methodist History. We also want to share the history with all interested groups and people.

With that goal set before us, our Convocation this year will be exploring our roots in the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The 187th Convocation will be held at the United Theological Seminar in Dayton, Ohio, on May 8 – 9, 2026. This is where The Center for the EUB Heritage is located, and they have offered to be our Host for the Convocation. Many of your Church Histories include an EUB link. I hope you will come and join us as we explore that part of our Methodist History. We will also celebrate the 300th Birthday

President's Message Con't

of the leaders of the EUB Church, Rev. Martin Boehm and Rev. William Otterbein. Dr. Wendy Deichmann, Otterbein Chair of EUB and Methodist Studies, will be sharing her knowledge of these two EUB Leaders.

We are trying some new things this year, which you may have already noticed. Our Newsletter is now being sent out to the members as an e-mail. We still will send a paper Newsletter if you are unable to receive it by email. The Newsletter will also be available on our Website: www.ohiomhs.org

We are also asking that people register for the Convocation online. Registration by paper will be accepted (option selection during the online registration process), but we would prefer to have you Register on line. Register at <https://united.edu/2026-omhs-convcation/> or on our Website: www.ohiomhs.org, *Convocation*.

Hope you will come and join us for our 187th Convocation and Annual Meeting. Look forward to seeing all of you then.

God Bless You,
Mary Ann Stotts
OMHS, President

The Ohio Methodist Historical Society congratulates the following congregations who celebrated significant anniversaries in 2025 and early 2026. Looking to submit your Methodist's congregation anniversary, visit www.ohiomhs.org, *More..., Church Celebrations*. Or contact OMHS Membership Secretary Meg Sondey at m.sondey@yahoo.com.



Church Name	Anniversary	Date of Celebration
Cory United Methodist Church	150 th	June 1, 2025
Westlake UMC	200 th	September 7, 2025
La Porte United Methodist Church	200 th	September 14, 2025
Fields UMC	200 th	October 4, 2025
Shelby First UMC	200 th	October 5, 2025
Bowling Green Trinity UMC	150 th	October 12, 2025
Powell United Methodist Church	200 th	October 12, 2025
Lakeside United Methodist Church	150 th	November 2, 2025
Anderson Hills Church	200 th	November 2, 2025
Monroe Street UMC	200 th	November 9, 2025
University Circle UMC	100 th	February 28, 2026



187th Convocation

of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society

A Year to Remember

The Center for the EUB Heritage Invites you to the
187th Convocation of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society (OMHS)
at United Theological Seminary!

Sponsored by:



Join us for a walk through Ohio's EUB and Methodist stories and
celebration of the 300th birthdays of Martin Boehm and William Otterbein!

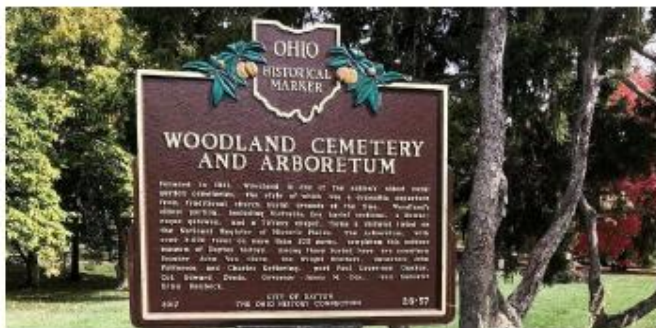
Key Highlights:

Friday Lunch & Afternoon Tour | Noon

- Fellowship Lunch with EUB Heritage Council and OHMS
- Visit Woodland Historic Cemetery and Arboretum, resting place for dozens of missionaries, editors, educators and 7 of the 40 UB bishops
- Visit beautiful Breyfogel Memorial Chapel on the former campus of United Theological Seminary

Saturday Program | 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- Hymn sing and EUB Center tour
- Presentation & Lunch Celebration of Boehm and Otterbein 300th birthdays led by Otterbein Chair of EUB and Methodist Studies, Dr. Wendy Deichmann
- Papers on Ohio's Methodist Protestants and Evangelicals & United Brethren
- Two panels: "Historic Sites and Archives" and "Local and Congregational History"
- Show and Tell & OMHS Business Meeting



United Theological
Seminary in Dayton, OH

May 8–9, 2026

More info/register:
united.edu/2026-omhs

Friday morning: The Council for the EUB Heritage Center will have its spring board meeting from 10 a.m. – Noon. OMHS registration opens at **11 a.m.** A fellowship lunch with the EUB Council and OMHS begins at **noon.**

Friday afternoon is a guided tour of Woodland Cemetery, an important historical site in Dayton, providing a unique glimpse into the area’s rich United Brethren heritage. We will be leaving from United Theological Seminary at **1:30 p.m.** for the tour. After Woodland, we will visit the former Harvard Blvd campus of United to visit the beautiful Breyfogel Memorial Chapel named in honor of the founding light of the Evangelical School of Theology in Pennsylvania.

Friday night join us for an optional “Dutch treat” dinner at Rays Wine Spirits Grill at **6 p.m.** located at 8268 N Main Street, Dayton.

Saturday’s program will begin with a registration and a continental breakfast at **8 a.m.** The program will begin at **9 a.m.** Join us!

During the Annual Meeting, the Society will also recognize Methodist churches celebrating milestone anniversaries this year, honoring their continued faithfulness and service.

All are welcome to attend this meaningful time of learning, fellowship, and celebration.

Registration information is available at www.ohiomhs.org, *Convocation* page and <https://united.edu/2026-omhs-convocation/>.



Our Host: United Theological Seminary
is located at **4501 Denlinger Road,**
Dayton, Ohio

Looking for hotel options around Exit 29?

- Days Inn by Wyndham, 20 Rockridge, Englewood, Ohio
937-315-4519
- Hampton Inn & Suites, 180 Rockridge, Englewood, Ohio
937-319-4370



University Circle UMC Celebrates 100 Years

The University Circle United Methodist Church goes by several names, such as “Holy Oil Can” Church, “Church in the Circle, and Epworth-Euclid UMC. It has acquired one of these names due to its location on the University Circle in Cleveland, Ohio. There is a lake with some very impressive buildings encircling it, Cleveland Art

Museum, the Natural History Museum, University Hospital, several Case Western Reserve University buildings and “Church in the Circle” (pictured to the right). The Church is sometimes referred to the “Holy Oil Can” Church because of its steeple. The original steeple burned in 1958 and a new copper steeple was put on the church and it resembles on oil funnel. Euclid-Epworth UMC comes from the merger of these two churches.

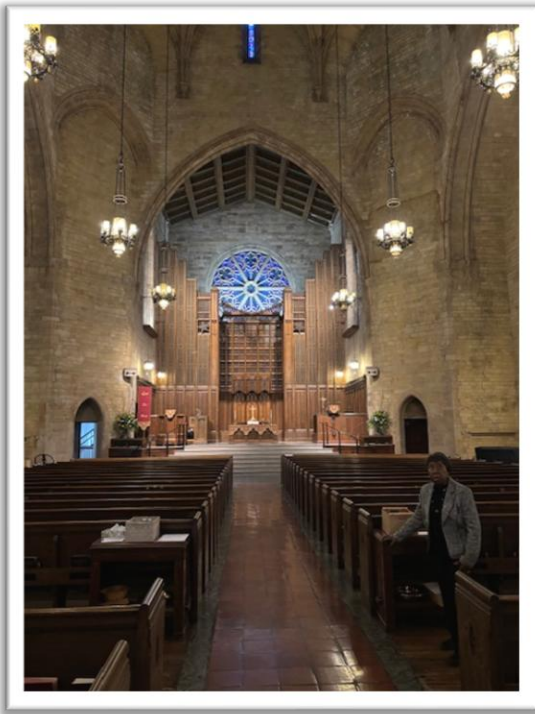


The Euclid Avenue Episcopal Methodist Church and the Epworth Memorial Church merged and built a Cathedral style church in the University Circle in 1928. In 1919 The Epworth Memorial Church was one of the largest churches in Cleveland with a membership over 1,000. The Euclid Avenue Episcopal Methodist Church also found that their Church was too small for their growing congregation. At that time, it was also thought that a church was needed in the University Circle area. Both churches found that in their present location, businesses were developing along Euclid Avenue and people were moving further to the east. A rumor had started that Euclid Avenue Church was thinking about moving and the Epworth Memorial Church began talking to them about a possible merger. The Conference approved the merger in 1919 and in 1921 the property was purchased for \$186,000 and a fund raising campaign began.



Left: Ground breaking was February 28, 1926, and the corner stone was laid on October 10, 1926. On June 3, 1928, Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church was formally dedicated.

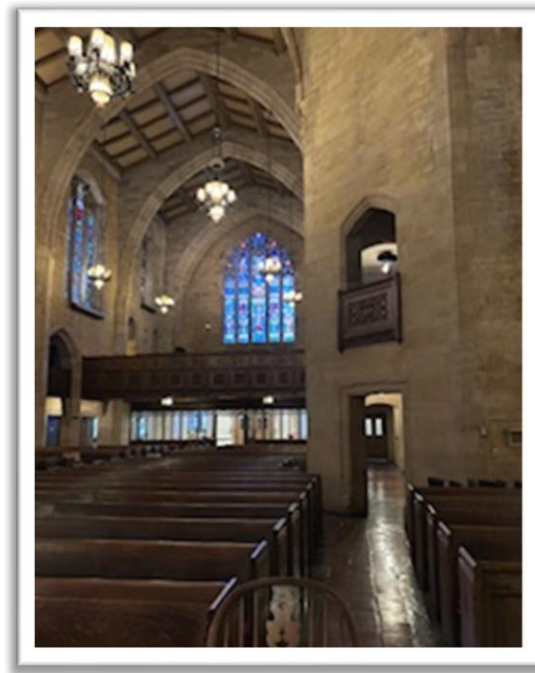
University Circle UMC Celebrates 100 Years Con't



Vivian Harris gave OMHS President Mary Ann Stotts a tour of the church. Top left: view of the font the Sanctuary. Bottom left: view looking towards the back of the Sanctuary.



Above: Front steps of the University Circle UMC.



Above Left: stain glass image of Euclid Avenue Episcopal Methodist Church. Above Right: stain glass image of Epworth Memorial Church. Both stain glass items are at University Circle UMC.

University Circle UMC Celebrates 100 Years Con't



Left: These are stain glass windows of Charles Wesley and John Wesley. They were originally a part of a large stain glass window in the Epworth Memorial Church.



The Centennial Anniversary Celebration was a great success. The Celebration committee planned a sit-down catered meal for about 100 people. Several families returned to Cleveland from out of State to join in the celebration.

John Wheeler (pictured left) presented the History of the “Holy Oil Can” Church. He also put together a wonderful display of historical artifacts.

Mary Ann Stotts presented the Leadership Council with a 100th Anniversary Certificate from the Ohio Methodist

Historical Society. Sandra Beard was also present and represented the East Ohio Commission on Archive and History. Jeff Day provided us with all the information about the Church and Hosted during the Celebration.

They had eight former Pastors return to share their memories with the people and entertainment was provided by Dr. Thea Wilson and Michael Dixon singing, “Unforgettable.” The Leadership Council of University Circle UMC (pictured right) hosted the event. They included: Jennifer Bier, Andrew Cox, Jeff Day, Vivian Harris, Willie Howard, Jan Jenkins, Tom Janoch, Kip Reader, and Thea Wilson. Two days after the Celebration the church closed (March 2, 2026), and the building is to be sold by the East Ohio Conference Trustees.



Ohio Methodist Historical Society

Executive Board For 2025-2026

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To Be Announced

ARCHIVIST OF OHIO UNITED METHODISM:

Email: Historyarchives@wocumc.org

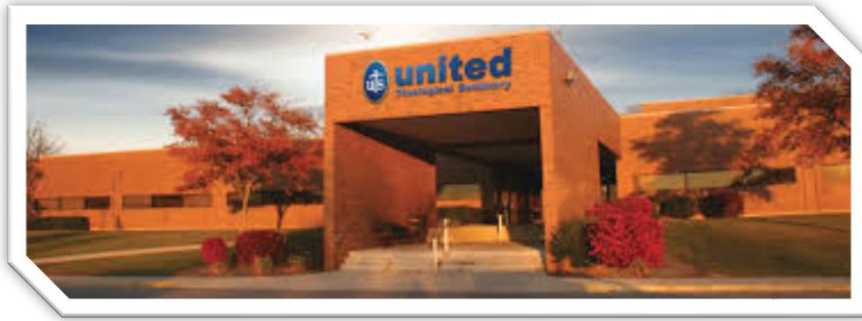
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First UMC of Springboro, Springboro, OH

Life Members of Ohio Methodist Historical Society (OMHS)

1. Rev. Millard W. Mead (deceased Jan. 2019) by Galion St. Mark UMC
2. Norma Coe Anderson (deceased March 2023)
3. Mrs. Mary Miller (deceased Feb. 2001)
4. Louise Morrison (deceased Oct. 2014)
5. Mary Beard (deceased Feb. 2010)
6. Rev. Marvin D. Bean (deceased Feb. 2016)
7. Mrs. Willard A. Shaw (deceased April 2012)
8. William Drown (deceased April 2017)
9. Rev. Fred Gaston (deceased March 2004)
10. George H. Theuer (deceased July 2004)
11. Dr. William Creasy (deceased March 2021)
12. Gladys Nicholas (deceased July 2020)
13. Dr. Paul Boase (deceased Dec. 2000)
14. Carol Ann Beck (deceased Nov. 2008)
15. Harriette Snoga (deceased Aug. 2008)
16. Robert L. George
17. Susan J. Cohen (deceased Jan. 2003)
18. James Callihan (deceased Oct. 2022)
19. Ruth Craig (deceased Sept. 2015)
20. Louis Risser (deceased Jan. 2020)
21. Jennie B. Lepley-Newton (deceased May 2024)
22. Detterman Log Church – UMC Heritage Landmark (Bishop John Seybert/Flat Rock Cluster) by Seybert Museum
23. Church of the Master UMC, Westerville, Ohio, by Mary Bigham
24. Hanby House – UMC Heritage Landmark by Mary Bigham
25. Dr. Roy Rauschenberg (deceased Feb. 2011)
26. Beverly M. Miner
27. Mary E. Ramser (deceased Dec. 2020)
28. David W. Einsel, Jr. (deceased Oct. 2006)
29. Mary Fraser-Moots (deceased Nov. 2010)
30. Phillip K. Moots (deceased April 2007)
31. Rev. John W. Beers by West Ohio Commission on Archives & History
32. Rev. Millard J. Miller, D.D., by Westerville Historical Society (deceased Aug. 2011)
33. Martha Sprout (deceased Aug. 2022)
34. Richard W. Rash by Ebenezer Zane Cabin (deceased April 2002)
35. Maurice Blue by Ebenezer Zane Cabin (deceased June 2002)
36. Rev. Terry G. Washburn
37. Dr. Allan W. Hall (deceased June 2014)
38. Rev. Don Trigg by East Ohio Commission on Archives & History
39. Requested name not be published
40. Ellen Roth (deceased June 2016)
41. Mary Mortimer by Ebenezer Zane Cabin Committee
42. Dicey Ann Carter-Crain
43. Requested name not be published
44. Katherine B. Fuller (deceased Oct. 2024)
45. Rev. Lowell Peterson by West Ohio Commission on Archives & History
46. Joanne Miller (deceased Feb. 2020)
47. Betsy Fletcher (deceased Dec. 2010)
48. Bellpoint United Methodist Church
49. Rev. Harley Roston
50. Jim Barbee by West Ohio Commission on Archives & History (deceased March 2018)
51. Sandra Beard
52. Dr. Robert C. Bowman, Jr.
53. Malinda L. “Mindy” Klawitter
54. Dr. Janet Rice McCoy
55. Anne Dallas Budd
56. Dr. Sarah Brooks Blair
57. Sandra Nihiser
58. Charles Rudy Heath II
59. Carol Holliger by UMHSO Executive Board
60. Gretchen Herron Wilson
61. *Requested name not be published*
62. Irma Wolf
63. Eloise Toth by West Salem UMC (deceased Dec. 2024)
64. Dr. Ed Duling
65. Mary Ann Stotts by Ontario UMC
66. Mark Ramser
67. Betsy L. Bowen
68. Janet W. Harlamert (deceased June 2021)
69. William L. Smith
70. Margaret “Meg” Sondey
71. Deborah A. Saito
72. Angela G. Finney
73. Gregory A. Johnson
74. Christy Culver
75. Rev. Elizabeth Brown
76. Jack R. Hott
77. Sue E. Culver
78. Mary H. Bronson
79. Joe Newberry
80. Phillis Barnette by West Salem UMC
81. Amy Reed
82. Suzanne Kennedy

187th Annual Meeting & Convocation



Host: Exploring the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Heritage @ United Theological Seminary



Dayton, Ohio

Register at

www.ohiomhs.org

OMHS, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
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