


# The Historians' Newsletter

Winter 2026

Ohio Methodist Historical Society, est. 1839

[www.ohiomhs.org](http://www.ohiomhs.org)

 @OhioMethodistHistoricalSociety



**OMHS President  
Mary Ann Stotts**

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## President's Welcome

I would like to share with you what the President of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society (OMHS) has been doing for the last few months. I have been attending many Church Anniversary Celebrations. I was impressed with the creative ways the churches chose to acknowledge their history. One church chose to do a brief play and another chose to have some of their members share their stories about what the church was like as they were growing up in it. In the Newsletter you will find several articles which tell about the churches and their Anniversary Celebration. I want to thank all those who worked so hard on making these Anniversary Celebrations a success. To God be the Glory!

We invite these folks and anyone who enjoys learning about Methodist History to join us at our Ohio Methodist Historical Society's Annual Meeting. We will be recognizing the churches who had Anniversary Celebrations during our meeting on Saturday, May 9, 2026.

The Center for EUB Heritage will be our host for our 187<sup>th</sup> OMHS Convocation. The Convocation will be May 8 - 9, 2026, at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. We will be looking at our Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) roots. The theme for the meeting is a "Year to Remember and our EUB Heritage." Members of The Center for EUB Heritage will be having a meeting on Friday morning, and we will be able to fellowship with them during our lunch on Friday. A Year to Remember is referring to the 300<sup>th</sup> Birthdays of the founders of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (UB), Martin Boehm on November 30, 1725, and William Otterbein on June 3, 1726. The Center for EUB Heritage and a couple

*President's Greeting continued . . .*

of other organizations have an archive at United Theological Seminary, which houses their records and several special collections. These may be of interest to some of you as well as some of their displays. We hope you will plan to join us for this informative weekend. More information can be found in the Newsletter or you can check on our website: <https://www.ohiomhs.org/convocation.html> Plus follow us on Facebook: Ohio Methodist Historical Society.

Many changes have occurred in the last couple of years and with these changes come opportunities. We are looking for volunteers to help us with several projects. These projects are in cooperation with the East Ohio Commission on Archive and History and the West Ohio Commission on Archive and History. We would like to offer our help to them.

- Identify significant people who contributed to our Methodist History
- Update information on Methodist Historical Sites and Historical Landmarks
- Write an article about Historical Sites, information for web pages
- Making and Manning a display at the Conference Mission Fairs

These are only a few examples of the opportunities we have for volunteers to get involved. If you are interested, please send me an email, [ma215stotts@gmail.com](mailto:ma215stotts@gmail.com), and I will forward your contact information to the appropriate person. We are working in cooperation with the EOCAH and WOCAH.

God Bless You,  
Mary Ann Stotts  
OMHS, President

## ***Church Anniversary Celebrations*** **LaPorte United Methodist Church**

LaPorte United Methodist Church in Lorain County, Ohio, Celebrated their 200<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary on September 13 - 14, 2025. In 1825 the First Circuit Rider visited LaPorte. The 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a two-day Celebration, Saturday was a community festival from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday was a worship service led by Rev. William Baker. During the worship service several former pastors shared their memories of how the church members had ministered to them and their families when they were serving the church. They also had a video where several members shared their memories of the Church. During the presentation of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate, they asked several longtime members to join us up front to receive the OMHS Certificate.



**Above:** 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration Quilt with LaPorte United Methodist Church Pastors' names

## *Church Anniversaries Celebrations Con't*

(continue from previous page) Mary Ann Stott, OMHS president, presented the OMHS Certificate to Dave Van Arsdale, the local church historian. He presented to Mary Ann Stotts a copy of their updated Church History. They had several displays of historical information. The women of the church had made a quilt with all the pastors' names on it (see previous page for picture). Dave had a wood engraving done with three images of the church through the years (see picture to the right). Ethan Greenly was the Chairman of the 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee, he and his committee did a wonderful job preparing for this Celebration. We join them in thanking God for his faithfulness to this community. In true Methodist fashion the Celebration was followed by a pot-luck fellowship meal.



**Above:** 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration Three images of LaPorte UMC through the years.



**Above:** LaPorte United Methodist Church – presentation of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate. Pictured are Donna Smith, Alice Dean, Karen Sims, Donna Witherall, Sheree Vajda, Denise Burkey all members of the LaPorte UMC , Mary Ann Stotts of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society, Dave Van Arsdale the Local Church Historian at LaPorte UMC and Rev. William Baker pastor at LaPorte UMC.

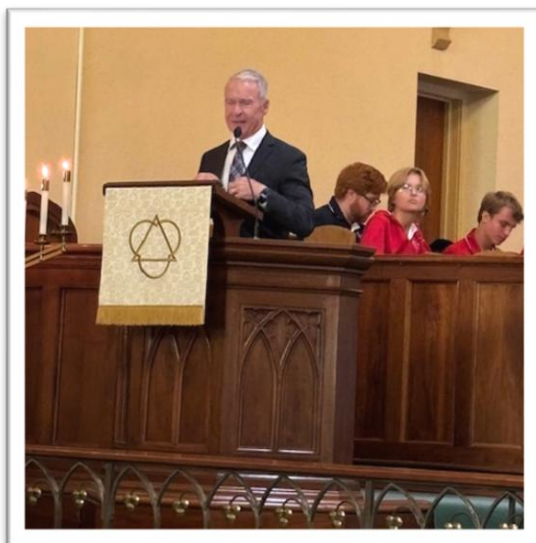
## **First United Methodist Church**

First United Methodist Church in Shelby, Ohio, celebrated their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 5, 2025. Sunday's worship service began with music presented by The Cardinal Chorale and other musical selections sung from the hymnal. A welcome was given by Pastor Michael Padula. The Mayor of Shelby came and told how the first church in Shelby was a Methodist Church, then he presented a proclamation to the church from the City of Shelby. Mary Ann Stotts then made the presentation of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate to Linda Cline on behalf of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society. She spoke about the importance of recording our "Faith Stories" as well as the dates for building additions. Former pastors were recognized and most of them  
*(continue on next page)*



**Above:** Mary Ann Stotts of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society and Linda Cline the chairman of the Shelby First United Methodist Church 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Below:** Message presented by Rev. Joel Hunter, Pastor of Community Benefit at Action Church in Winter Park, Florida, at the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Shelby First United Methodist Church.



## *Church Anniversaries Celebrations Con't*

*(continue from previous page)* participated by being apart of the choir for the Choir Anthem. Several people spoke about their memories of the Church and of growing up in the Church. Dr. Joel Hunter was the guest speaker for the event. He grew up in the First United Methodist Church in Shelby. He shared how the church provided a safe environment to learn and explore his faith. He did not expect to ever become a pastor one day, but with words of encouragement and mentoring, he did become a pastor. He is Pastor of Community Benefit at Action Church in Winter Park, Florida. After the service a fellowship dinner was given. Gail Adams passed out an Updated Church History to the members after the dinner. It was a very nice celebration and well attended.

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### **Fields United Methodist Church**

Fields United Methodist Church in North Ridgeville, Ohio, celebrated their 200th Year Anniversary on October 4 - 5, 2025. Saturday, they had a catered dinner in their fellowship hall where they had a slide show running, which showed many historical activities the church was involved in. After dinner everyone was asked to move to the sanctuary where they had a brief reading of the church history as well as a play depicting the brief history. They showed the first gathering of seven people at one of the parishioner's home for the first-class meeting. Each time the church location or name changed, they had someone put up a new sign with the name on it and changed the style of the cross up front. It was a nice way to briefly tell the history in a visual way. We had a time of Worship and then we had the presentation of the 200th Anniversary Certificate. Rev. Sondra Snode and Jeff Sigsworth, the local church historian, joined Mary Ann Stotts at the front of the Sanctuary for the presentation. After the presentation Rev. Sondra Snode gave everyone a light, which we activated during the last song. She challenged everyone to continue to be the light of Christ to the community. Sunday, they continued their celebration and had invited a former pastor to come and give the message.

*(continue on next page)*



**Left:** A play telling the history of the Fields UMC. Each time the place or name of the church changed, they changed the sign and the cross up front.

## Church Anniversaries Celebrations Con't

(continue from previous page) They had several nice displays of the history in their entry way. One was a time line, showing the former pastors and other activities through the years. They did not have their church history updated, but Jeff Sigsworth did provide OMHS several pieces of information such as a brief outline of the 200 years of history and a list of past pastors, 1825-2025.



**Left:** Jeff Sigsworth, church historian at Fields UMC, Mary Ann Stotts, of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society presenting their 200th Anniversary Certificate, and Rev. Sondra Snode, Pastor of the Fields UMC.

**Below:** Jeff Sigsworth, church historian, and his wife Karen standing in front of the Church timeline.

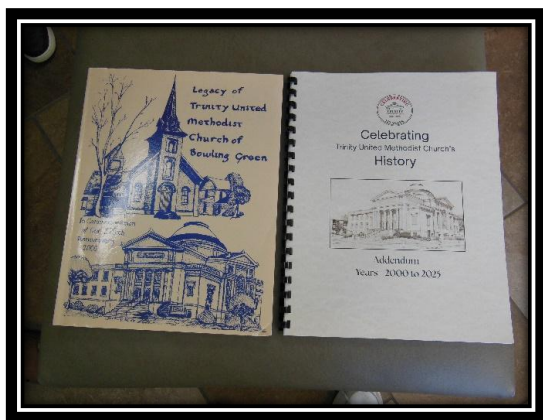


**Above and Right:** Historical displays at the Fields United Methodist Church.



### Trinity United Methodist Church

Trinity United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, Ohio, celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 11 -12, 2025. Saturday's activities began with a tour of the Church offered by local Church Historian, Beverly Miner. Julie Carle of the *BG Independent News* interviewed Beverly Miner concerning the Trinity United Methodist Church's History. Mary Ann Stotts had a chance to meet Charlene Avery. Charlene collected information from various groups in the church and helped with compiling their Church's Addendum to their History, which covers the last 25 years.

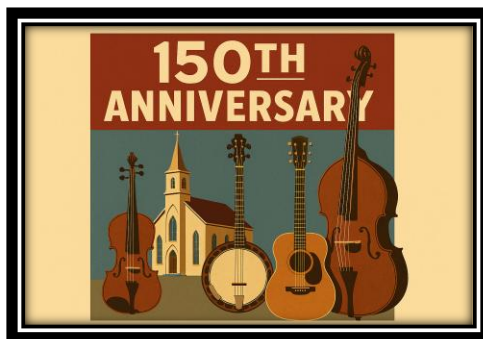


Left: Trinity UMC History and Addendum



Above (l to r): Charlene Avery and Beverly Miner, local church historian, with Trinity UMC History and Addendum

Later that evening they had a catered dinner and Celebration Program. They used this time to also have a Silent Auction of 40 - 50 items, which were displayed around the room. People were encouraged to bid on items throughout the program. It was during this time that OMHS President Mary Ann Stotts presented Beverly Miner, local church historian, with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate. After dinner they had some entertainment by Cottonwood Jam String Band. *(continue on next page)*



*Church Anniversaries Celebrations Con't*

*(continue from previous page)* Sunday morning Worship was opened with greetings from Rev. Mary Sullivan. She welcomed one of the churches' previous pastors, Rev. John Searle. In just a few days he will turn 100 years old. What a special gift for him to be able to come and join them. Rev. Amy Haines, District Superintendent of the Maumee District gave a wonderful message . She spoke about keeping our focus on Christ and seeing our lives as a faith journey that is based on endurance. Things around us may change, but if we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will accomplish our goal for the Lord. A group of people from the congregation are learning to play the Ukuleles. They played several songs, one was specifically about the Trinity United Methodist Church. It was a very nice Celebration



**Left:** Trinity United Methodist Church, Bowling Green, Ohio

**Right:** Trinity UMC  
Historical Information that  
was on display outside of  
the History Room



## **Monroe Street United Methodist Church**

Monroe Street United Methodist Church in Toledo, Ohio, celebrated their 200th Anniversary all year long. They had several special Sundays, one for all the former choir members to return for a reunion and one they asked all the people who had been married there to return for a celebration. The church serves the community around them by having a community garden behind the church, it also has six tiny houses which it rents out to people. I met one of the renters and he has a vision problem and it is a blessing to him to be close to his church family. Part of the stone building houses the "Bridge Ministry" and "The Neighborhood Center," (*pictured below*), non-profits, which provides clothing, food and transportation for the community members in need. The Monroe Street UMC has a very diverse congregation that love each other and care for their community. (*continue on next page*)



**Above:** Monroe Street United Methodist Church



**Above:** Monroe Street United Methodist Church: The Bridge Ministry & Neighborhood Center

**Below:** One of six Tiny Houses Monroe Street UMC rents out to people



*Church Anniversaries Celebrations Con't*

*(continue from previous page)* In 1825 John G. Baughman, a circuit rider who came to the Ten Mile Creek area and asked Eli Hubbard, if there was a clearing where he could go to preach the Gospel. John Boughman is said to be the first ordained Methodist minister in Northwest Ohio. A small group of people met together in an old log schoolhouse by Tremainsville Bridge over Ten Mile Creek. Later they met in Noah A. Whitney's home on Detroit Ave. near Monroe Street. This was the beginning of Monroe Street United Methodist Church. Over the 200 years the church has ministered to the settling pioneers as they settled a new frontier, then they ministered to a flourishing community settling the countryside, and finally to the factory workers in the suburb of a growing city. Even through the changes, they remained faithful to the Lord's calling. As the membership declined, they have remained faithful to minister to the people in the



**Above:** OMHS President Mary Ann Stotts presents OMHS 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Certificate to Monroe Street UMC Pastor Joshua Wynn

community that surrounds them. The 200th Anniversary Certificate was presented to Pastor Joshua Wynn by Mary Ann Stotts of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society during the Sunday Morning Worship Service on November 9, 2025. We want to thank their Local Church Historian, Bill Hoover and his team for putting the Monroe Street UMC History together. Thanks to Sarah Twitchell for leading the Celebration Team. After the worship service they had a fellowship meal in their fellowship hall where two quilts hung (*pictured on next page*). One was recently done as a part of the 200th Anniversary Celebration. Mrs. Margaret Hull asked members to select a color block and embroider their name on it. She offered to do it for those unable to do their own. She also included a block for the circuit rider, a picture of the church, and a block for the various church activities and organizations supported by the church. After it was completed, it was dedicated on January 12, 2025, and hung on the fellowship hall wall.



## Church Anniversaries Celebrations Con't



**Left:** Monroe Street UMC 200th Anniversary Quilt representing the Monroe Street UMC membership in 2025.



**Right:** Another Quilt hangs on the opposite wall of the Fellowship Hall. It was made in 1925 by members of the Monroe St. UMC. This is during

*(continue from previous page)* the time when the present building was being built. It was not uncommon for women to make quilts and auction them off as a way to make money for different projects. This quilt had been gone for 84 years when a man from Florida emailed the church and asked if they wanted to buy it back. His family had it and most of them were gone and did the church want it? They were able to get it back and after some needed repairs and cleaning it now hangs in their fellowship hall. Each piece of the quilt has the names of members on it.

### **OMHS Life Member: Katherine B. (Barnett) Fuller Obituary January 29, 1928 ~ October 2, 2024**



We are saddened to share the passing of Katherine B. (Barnett) Fuller, age 96, of Willoughby, on October 2, 2024. Katherine was a devoted member of the Ohio Methodist Historical Society and an active participant in many Methodist and community organizations. A lifelong librarian and educator, she served Willoughby United Methodist Church as its church librarian for many years and contributed her talents to historical, educational, and social justice groups throughout her life. Katherine's commitment to preserving history and strengthening community was evident in all she did, and she will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family during this time. Obituary available at <https://www.davisbabcock.com/obituaries/katherine-fuller>

# Ohio Methodist Historical Society

## Executive Board For 2025-2026

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## 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
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



May 8 - 9, 2026

Dayton, Ohio

[www.ohiomhs.org](http://www.ohiomhs.org)

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

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