

Bi-Centennial Moment Mentor United Methodist Church November 2018

Throughout this bi-centennial year of the Mentor United Methodist Church, we have discussed many subjects. We began with the beginnings of the congregation with a circuit riding preacher. We covered the various church buildings that have sat on this site. We discussed the additions and modifications to these physical structures. We talked about some of the ministries that this church is involved in and their impact throughout the world. We highlighted the church's commitment to education and to the Christian training of our youth. Events highlighting the great music traditions at MUMC, recommitment to marriage and reuniting with former pastors have made this a special year.

This is the final bi-centennial moment and I want to use it to pay a tribute to you, the members of this church. It is said that a church is its people and it is certainly true at this church. History has witnessed for 200 years, the time, talents, money and devotion that has been given by the people of this church. It would take too much time to acknowledge all of the committees, commissions, and other groups who have made this congregation a wonderful place for Christ-centered discipleship.

We will mention some of them. The nineteenth century saw the creation of the Women's Missionary Society, the Epworth League for the youth, and even the organization of a YMCA chapter.

The twentieth century saw the establishment of a church library in the old Petit Room, the University of Life program where adults learned subjects both religious and of a secular nature. A food pantry was created by the missions committee to ease the distribution of food to the needy. Methodist Men and Methodist Women groups both provided untold service to the church. Other groups such as Fellowship Forum and the Asbury Fellowship provided opportunities for both social and service missions, they have lead to our present day Cornerstone. The annual pledge campaign known as the "Pony Express" was a reminder of the circuit riding system that brought Methodism to this area.

More recent years have seen the creation and growth of Journey Groups to help with Christian growth. The community benefits from the More Than a Meal dinner held each month. The number of people involved in committees such as Missions, Worship, Caring Methodists, Altar Guild, Evangelism and Fellowship, the Scouts, GEM, Scholarship, Trustees, and many more illustrate the breath and depth of commitment of our congregation to Christian living. So as these bi-centennial moments close, we salute you the members of this church. You have celebrated the past, lived in the present and no doubt will prepare us for the future. We hope you have enjoyed our church's 200th birthday. God Bless you all.