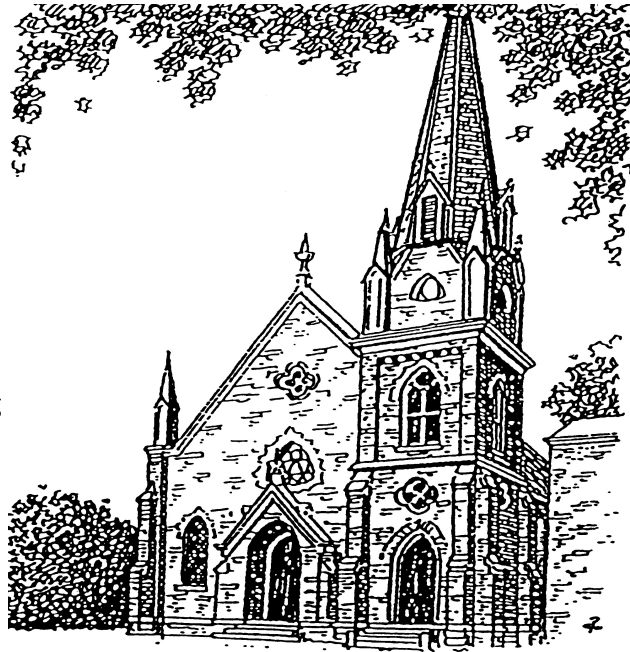


Worship Services
8:45 & 11:00am
10am Sunday School

Office:
(615) 452-1922

Web site:
www.fumcgallatin.org

Email:
info@fumcgallatin.org



A Brief History of First United Methodist Church of Gallatin, Tennessee

In 1984, Walter Durham wrote a history of this church; that is the basis for this summary. A copy of Walter Durham's work can be found in both the church archives and Sumner County Archives. Much has taken place since 1984 and an attempt is made to provide an addendum to the earlier history.

The beginning of the First Methodist Church (United was added to the name in 1968 upon merging with the Evangelical United Brethren Church) in Gallatin can be traced to the first Methodist societies in this area about 1787, the year following the establishment of Sumner County by the North Carolina General Assembly and fifteen years prior to Gallatin itself being established.

Prior to a preacher being assigned to a circuit that included most of Kentucky and Cumberland settlements in Tennessee, itinerant Methodist preachers visited the societies, usually meeting in the home of a member or at times in an improvised brush arbor out of doors.

However, very soon religious services were moved from private homes into small church buildings or a meeting house. In the same year that Gallatin was founded in 1802 an annual conference was held there. Present were two early giants of Methodism in Tennessee, Bishop Francis Asbury and William McKendree, a presiding elder at that time.

Twenty-six years later in 1828 the First Methodist Church was organized in Gallatin with 170 members and Fountain E. Pitts as pastor. Initially this congregation was part of a "circuit" that included churches in Davidson County. By 1833 preachers were assigned to "Gallatin" and "Cairo" by the conference.

By 1843 the Methodist congregation was optimistic about its future and purchased property on West Main Street, erected a building and hosted the Tennessee Annual Conference in the same year. That lot on West Main Street was the foundation block of an extensive complex of land and buildings occupied by First Methodist today with a membership of 1240.

By 1874 increased interest in religion was evident and First Methodist responded by constructing a sanctuary that continues in use today. Through the years since 1874 additional property has been purchased, new construction undertaken, renovations and additions made, and in 2002 a major renovation of the 1874 sanctuary was completed with the restoration of the steeple tower that was destroyed decades ago.

The sanctuary of 1874 with limited modification served the needs of First Methodist until 1917; at that time an educational building was erected immediately behind the sanctuary. In 1943 property was purchased to the east of the sanctuary (George Brown home) for the use of the Sunday school.

In 1953 plans were adopted to erect a large new wing east of the educational building of 1917.

In 1959, property to the west (Alexander's Funeral Home) was purchased.

In 1962 Louis A. Green and Ruth Sharp Green, his wife, provided for the construction of the Green Sharp Chapel, completing the original plans of 1953.

In 1972 the educational building erected in 1917 was demolished, making room for a large addition for classrooms.

In the middle 1980's plans were underway for a new family life center. This project when completed in 1990 provided a fellowship hall, new kitchen, gymnasium, and new administrative office space.

In early 2001 plans were finalized to renovate the original sanctuary (1874). This was completed in 2002.

Music has been an important part of the ministry since 1828.

The Mission's program initiated in 1878 has been greatly expanded in recent years.

From the earliest days of an itinerant preacher, the church staff has increased as the needs of the congregation have broadened. Today the Sr. minister has a staff of 16 persons to assist him in administering the various programs of the church.