

History

A century after John Wesley began spreading the message of Methodism in England, circuit riders began to preach the Good News across the United States. In 1850, David Evans served as the first circuit rider appointed to Maryville. Sixteen years later, the first Methodist church building was constructed on the southeast corner of present day First and Main Streets. The congregation was devoted to their church and ensured that improvements and renovations created a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The congregation in Maryville grew rapidly. In 1869, the rolls contained 41 members. By 1880, membership had expanded to 217. With an expanding congregation came the need for a larger facility. The cornerstone was laid on October 30, 1894, at the present location. The final brick of the exterior was laid on Christmas Eve of the same year. Finishing work on the interior continued throughout the winter and spring. After 10 months of industrious labor, the new First Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated on May 19, 1895.

First Methodist Episcopal Church continued to grow and thrive. In 1957, the education wing was added to supply much needed classrooms and office space. The Wesley Foundation building was purchased in 1961 followed in short order by the addition of the west parking lot. The Agape House (formerly the Physicians Building) was also purchased in the 1960's. Membership grew as well, with the official roles recording over 1200 members. The Methodist Episcopal Church of Maryville was not complete, however, until 1968 when the Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren churches merged. It was at this time that the church moniker changed to First United Methodist Church.

The late twentieth century brought additional changes for FUMC. These changes included a major renovation, the installation of air conditioning, and an expanded parking lot. The beautiful stained glass windows were protected and the sanctuary completely renovated. FUMC celebrated 100 years of service to the Lord in 1994 and 1995. The most recent additions to the church include the purchase of the Cornerstone building, the Theater building, a gazebo, and a playground built as an Eagle Scout Project.

The year 2008, FUMC celebrates its 800+ members, its thriving programs (COOL Kids, Bible Jam, Mid High & High School Youth, weekly bible studies, Wednesday night meals, and others) and its bountiful blessings. May we continue to glorify God and spread the Good News as Christ has called us to do!