

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SALEM TIME LINE

1833 – Methodist Foreign Mission Society in NY decides to send missionaries to the Indians in the Pacific NW.

1834 – Rev Jason Lee, leader of the mission, Daniel Lee, Cyrus Shepard and 2 others travel west with Wyeth Trading party, members of Astor Trading Co, to S Idaho then with Capt Thomas McKay arriving at Fort Vancouver in September.

– September, first Protestant sermon preached on the Pacific Coast at Fort Vancouver by Rev Jason Lee.

– Encouraged by Hudson Bay Co, in October the mission locates to a site on the Willamette River, “French Prairie” known now as Willamette Mission State Park, 10 miles N of Chemeketa, now Salem.

1835 – Regular church services begin at the mission.

1836 – First reinforcements, a total of 13 missionaries including Jason Lee’s future wife Anna Marie Pittman, sail from NY aboard the Hamilton via the Sandwich Islands then the brig Diane reaching Vancouver May, 1837.

1840 – Great Reinforcement of men, including Rev AF Waller, women & children arrive aboard the Lausanne from NY in May with supplies and equipment for saw & grist mills. The vision of education is so strong a collection from the 20 families aboard raises \$650 towards a school in Willamette Valley.

1841 – Mission moves to Chemeketa the site of saw and flour mills on Mill Creek out of flood plain & unhealthy conditions.

– Jason Lee house built housing 4 families.

– Parsonage built near present site of woolen mill water tower 220 yards from the Manual Labor Training School, a 3-story boarding and educational facility also under construction and costing over \$8,000. Church services held in parsonage.

– Methodist Episcopal Church organized in summer with **13 members**. Meets the next year in a chapel room of still to be completed Training School. Rev David Leslie, minister, 1841 – 1848.

1842 – Oregon Mission families privately subscribe to form “Oregon Institute” to provide education for their children. Classes begin in Training School still under construction..

1843 – Formation of Provisional Government for Oregon begins. Oregon Mission members actively involved (1843 – 1848).

1844 – Jason Lee, having previously journeyed to Washington DC in 1838 with a petition to extend protection of US Government over Oregon country, returns, pleading again with government for security of Mission Lands.

– Methodist Mission Society has financial problems, removes Jason Lee as Superintendent and sells Training School to Trustees of “Oregon Institute” a decision later regretted.

– First Sunday school organized for white children, Chloe Clark Willson, teacher.

1845 – Groundwork laid for conventional preaching circuits expanding to both sides of Willamette.

– Jason Lee dies in March in his old home town, Stanstead, shortly after being exonerated from accusations he was the cause of Oregon Mission hardships and financial woes.

1846 – Salem surveyed on donated Willson land claim, 320 acres S and 320 acres N of State Street.

1848 – Law making Oregon a territory of US signed by Pres James K Polk, August 14.

– Oregon remains a foreign mission though liquidated mission sites now covered by preaching circuits. Oregon was the 2<sup>nd</sup> foreign missionary work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, being more expensive to equip and being more difficult to reach than the first mission to Liberia, Africa.

1849 – Oregon & California Mission Conference is organized in Oregon Institute. First Methodist Missionary Conference of Pacific Coast held.

1851 – Original church building for Methodist Episcopal Church under construction by Rev Waller at SE corner of Church & State Streets.

1852 – Last session of Oregon & California Mission Conference.

1853 – Service of Dedication celebrated on January 23 for the church, a 40 x 60 building costing “upward of \$8,000.” A 140 pound bell for belfry brought around Horn from NY.

– Territorial Legislature grants a charter to Methodist-sponsored Oregon Institute now Willamette U.

– Oregon Annual Conference organized in new church – 773 members in full connection. Last session of Oregon California Mission Conference in 1852.

– **Church membership recorded at 40.**

1860 – **Membership recorded at 100.**

1861 – First Sabbath School composed entirely of Indian children, numbering about 40 continuing for 2 ½ years.

1864 – Cornerstone laid for Waller Hall, first building of Willamette U. at an invested cost of \$50,000. Located a short marching distance from the Oregon Institute.

1865 – **Membership recorded at 127.**

1869 – Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem incorporated on March 29.

1870 – Decision in August to replace original church with “magnificent edifice” to cost an estimated \$30,000. **Membership recorded at 260.** New church plans to seat 800 with a second floor Sanctuary above the flood plain.

– Original wooden church moved on logs across Church Street, the present location of Wells Fargo Bank. Services continue in old building till 1875, then sold and used as private school. Again moved to Liberty Street used as Chinese laundry and finally torn down in 1926.

1871 – Trustees contracted for 600,000 bricks for new building and cornerstone laid, October. Walls raised to eaves & roof put on leaving gables open.

1872 – During the depression of the 1870’s, work stalls on new church. Rev Waller catches pneumonia and dies in December. Business in Salem paralyzed. Building remains in unfinished condition for next two years.

1875 – First meeting in new building in January in lecture hall, now the dining room. Moved in organ (500 pipes & 2000 pieces).

1877 – New parsonage (226 Church Street) built adjacent to S end of church (\$3,100).

1878 – New church completed & dedicated March 17. **Membership of 362.** Salem population, 2500.

1879 – First recorded organization of church women, “Ladies Aid.”

1880 – Completion of exterior work and 185-ft spire.

1884 – Congregation pays off \$45,000 debt.

– 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of birth of Methodism in US and 50 year celebration of establishment of Willamette (Oregon) Mission. **Membership recorded at 362, Sabbath school enrollment, 220.**

1886 – **Membership recorded at 415.**

1890 – **Membership recorded at 462.**

1893 – First church directory.

1895 – **Membership recorded at 637.**

– Methodist Brotherhood established eventually growing into Men’s Six O’Clock Dinner Club.

1900 – **Membership recorded at 525.**

1905 – New pipe organ is installed (\$2,375). **Membership recorded at 540.**

1907 – Six new stops are added to pipe organ (\$6,750).

1908 – Weekly Bulletin established in church.

1909 – Women’s Home Ministry Society found Methodist Old Peoples Home at Ferry & 12th on donated land. Renamed Methodist Home and moves to 1625 Center Street in 1920.

1910 – Plans approved for new 10-room parsonage (\$12,000). **Membership recorded at 980.**

1911 – New parsonage completed (636 State Street) furnished by Ladies Aid. Church Street parsonage transformed into Sunday school, called Epworth Hall.

1914 – Electric lights installed in Sanctuary replacing old gas lights.

1915 – **Membership recorded at 943.**

1918 – Plaque prepared commemorating 133 church members serving in Armed Forces.

1920 – **Membership recorded at 1271.**

1923 – First telephone originally installed in church kitchen but moved to Epworth Hall. A reported “revolt” by church women resulted in phone being reinstalled in the kitchen.

1925 – **Membership recorded at 1075.**

1930 – **Membership recorded at 1185.**

1935 – Completion and dedication of Sunday School Temple, a 50 x 100 2-story & basement structure including new heating plant costing \$37,300. Replaces Church Street parsonage. Carrier Room dedicated with gifted furnishings. **Membership recorded at 1258.**

1939 – Name changes to (First) Methodist Church with union of 3 branches of Methodism; Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church South and Methodist Protestant Church. .

1940 – **Membership recorded at 1524.**

– Three women’s organizations; Ladies Aid, 1879; Women’s Home missionary Society, 1888; Women’s Foreign Missionary Society, 1885; combine becoming Women’s Society for Christian Service, 455 women.

1944 – Pays off Sunday school debt.

1945 – **Membership recorded at 1555.** Plaque prepared commemorating 132 church members serving in Armed Forces.

1950 – **Membership recorded at 1686.**

– Plans begin for extensive exterior renovation and interior remodeling.

1951 – Proceed with exterior repairs, fireproof roof, shingles, brick cleaning and steeple including floodlights to illumine spire at night.

1952 – Interior remodeling continues with owners of Elsinore theater offering their building to congregation during remodeling, an 8-month period.

1953 – Completion of remodeling and repairs costing \$320,588.55: Sanctuary (new chancel & choir seating, extension of balcony & new stairway); enlarged vestibule & stairways; elevator; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor restrooms; new sidewalks; & new concrete floor in kitchen.

1955 - **Membership recorded at 1587.**

1956 – Great Dedication held. Gifts recognized: the Aeolian Skinner organ (new 1200-pipe organ), carillon bells, chancel rose window above alter, pulpit & lectern, Sanctuary hearing aids, carpet & pews. “Book of Remembrance” in dining room rests on church’s old pulpit to record memorial gifts to the church.

1958 – Approves plan to construct 2-story education & office addition, 40 x 60 with basement.

1960 – 1950’s remodeling debt paid in full.

– **Membership recorded at 1540.**

1961 – Purchase new parsonage at 480 Washington St S for \$28,000 (sells in 2005 netting approximately \$320,000).

1962 – Columbus Day storm damaging old chimney and windows in Sanctuary. Chandelier weakened and falls in 1994.

1965 – **Membership recorded at 1522.**

1966 – Approves final plans for education wing addition estimated cost of more than \$200,000.

– 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

1967 – Completes east wing in fall and consecrated in October.

1968 – Changes name to (First) United Methodist Church through the union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church..

1970 – **Membership recorded at 1426.**

1971 – 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

1975 – **Membership recorded at 1215.**

1980 – **Membership recorded at 1101.**

1981 – Restoration & refurbishing of dining room, kitchen, ramp & back hall.

1982 – Replaces Spire costing \$131,780, the highest structure in Salem – 185’.

State Capitol Pioneer Statue – 170’  
 Capitol Tower – 130’

1983 – Building put on National Register of Historic Places and Methodist Historic Sites.

1985 – **Membership recorded at 1024.** Memorial metal sculpture on east wall of dining room dedicated.

1986 – Dedication held for bronze Sanctuary cross, 10’2” high, 5’2” wide, weighing 750 pounds.

1987 – **Membership recorded at 892.**

1988 – Sanctuary is painted, carpet is replaced, pews refinished, new audio system added, & bricks again repointed.

1989 – Hand bells gifted. The beginning of Hand Bell Choir.

1991 – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

1992 – Purchase Elks building for \$525,000. A pledge drive raises \$474,000 over a 3-year period. \$500,000 spent making building accessible.

1993 – Elks building consecrated as MICAH (Methodist Inner City Activity House).

1994 – Carrier Room is renovated & refurbished.

– **Membership recorded at 986.**

1995 – New Sanctuary sound system & cabinet is installed in balcony.

1997 – **Membership recorded at 1067.**

– MICAH worship service came into being.

2000 – Completion of Aeolian Skinner Memorial Organ. Fund campaign began in 1998 raising more than \$100,000.

2001 – New hand bell tables & cabinets dedicated.

– **Membership recorded at 1078.**

2004 – Celebration for new church elevator (\$350,000).

– **Membership recorded at 782.**

2005 – Cabinet is built and donated for Mission Café whose purpose is fund-raising for missionaries and mission trips. Open every Sunday.

- Congregations Helping People set up through FUMC with consortium of churches coming together to assist through governmental programs for people in need. Joins other FUMC community commitments by offering use of church facilities.

- Rededication of completed Play Yard.

2007 – **Membership recorded at 705.**

2009 – Brick pointing.

- Repairs needed to both buildings addressed: MICAH elevator, signage, sound systems, lighting, sidewalks & restrooms to name a few. Searching for MICAH tenants and energy audit conducted.

- MICAH is a net positive effect on First Church's operating budget.

2010 – Economic downturn catches up with MICAH building.

- Continuing discussions of major MICAH repairs including wheelchair accessibility, storage, fire escape, building codes & security systems.

2011 – Balance on church mortgage, \$75,000.

- MICAH Building Task Force to deal with financial and potential operational alternatives. Major questions are aired.

- Bell choir tables upgrade with \$7,000 fund raising.

2012 – Major interior clean-up, upgrades, and restructure of education wing: painting; new phone, internet, WI-FI system & computers; relocation & restoration of nursery and children classrooms to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor amid safety issues.

- Major financial planning for coming 5 years & future of MICAH building.

- Stewardship campaign successful, estimated at \$427,000 for 2013.

2013 – MICAH receives good report, is sound & remains an integral part of Salem FUMC.

- Continuing look into costing of capital improvements. Trustees continue diligent work in keeping building & grounds in good condition working with conservative return on endowment funds.

- Fund raising for MICAH, new Praise Service chairs.

- Developing 2014 Capital Improvement Plan.

- MICAH loan balance, \$38,000.

2014 – Work-in-progress includes Preservation Grant writing, new cash flow model and Capital Funds Drive with needs grown to \$1.3 million. A prioritized list brings the funds needed to about \$800,000.

– Cosmetic upgrades to women’s restrooms & “Heritage Hall” is adorned with pastor photographs, a series of pictures showing the churches historic progress, and a decorative wall of Memorial Crosses.

– Capital Funds Campaign announced & presented:

MICAH ballroom renovation, \$200,000  
 MICAH kitchen, \$110,000  
 MICAH elevator upgrade, \$60,000  
 Audio visual system, \$35,000  
 Organ repair & upgrades, \$65,000  
 Spire, \$120,000  
 New roofs, \$120,000  
 Heating efficiency, \$30,000  
 Upgrade to ADA standard doors, \$30,000

2015 – \$670,000 pledged to 2014 Capital Funds Campaign & \$299,000 collected.

Projects completed:

Roof repairs and wood crosses reproduced & replaced  
 Church elevator “behind the scenes” upgrade  
 Heat system zoning  
 ADA door  
 MICAH elevator  
 MICAH ballroom & kitchen with “art deco” designs circa 1925 year Elks Lodge built.  
 United Methodist Women donate \$10,000 from rummage sales for refrigerator, freezer and warming oven

2015 – United Methodist Ministries of Salem Keizer organized – 6 area Methodist churches joined together to build new ministries that are not possible individually - “Sharing our faith through worship, service, outreach, Christian education and social justice.” Goal to substantially increase the number of United Methodists serving the community in next 5 years.

– Funds pledged towards sidewalks repairs in conjunction with the City of Salem for work to be completed in 2016.

– Oliphant Room reclaimed by archives and rededicated to provide an on-going showcase of First Church history.

2016 – Capital Improvements Celebration held in MICAH recognizing a 3-year \$680,000 renovation. Transformation, countless hours of volunteer labor & Salem’s First Church generosity & accomplishments are unprecedented.



– Projects for completion by end of 2017. . . MICAH roof, Sanctuary audio system, and adding \$50,000 to the organ maintenance endowment fund.

– Youth Mission Auction raises \$15,000 for youth mission programs and mission trips. First youth mission trip to San Francisco in 1991.

– 175<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration.