
The United Methodist Church

Where did we get our name?

John & Charles Wesley (*Priests in the Church of England*) started organizing small groups at Oxford University in 1729. These groups were accountability groups that helped its members become better Christians. Their devotion to growing in faith and serving their neighbors was so great that other students teased them by calling them “Bible Moths” and “Methodists.”
The name stuck!

What’s distinctive about us?

The United Methodist Church is not a creedal church that requires members to subscribe to a closely detailed system of beliefs. ***The only requirements for church membership is a personal belief in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior and a commitment to support Christ’s Church by your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.***

What Methodists Believe:

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| * We believe in a triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. | * We believe in the primacy of grace and its availability for all people. |
| * Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. | * The unity of faith and works. |
| * Two Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. | * With God’s help we seek holiness in our lives and in our world. |
| * The authority of Scripture in matters of faith. | * We believe in conversion and new birth. God forgives sins and changes the human heart. |

Being a Methodist Means:

- | Commitment | Nurture | Outreach |
|--|---------------------------------|--|
| * Believing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. | * Studying the Bible. | * Sharing our faith with others. |
| * Living as faithful Christian disciples. | * Attending worship. | * Caring for those in need. |
| * Growing in holiness of heart and life. | * Regular prayer. | * Striving to make the world a better place. |
| | * Celebrating God’s sacraments. | |

History of Gonzales UMC

A Proud Past...A Faithful Future

Methodist Circuit Riders first arrived in Texas in 1825, the year Gonzales was founded.

Organized by Rev. J.P. Sneed in 1841, First United Methodist Church was the first Methodist church in Gonzales. The congregation has continued to meet at this site since its founding, building larger facilities through the years as membership grew and serving the community through a variety of programs.

The current sanctuary was built in **1900**, with remodeling in **1925** and **1948**.

Gonzales has the oldest continuous Methodist church in the conference and is known as the
“Mother of Methodism in Texas.”

More history and information on the church can be found in the Church Library, from the United Methodist Women, and from the book:

*“One Hundred and Fifty Years
of Dedicated Worship”*

1841-1991

by Tillie M. Bright

The **MURAL** in the Narthex is a pictorial history of Gonzales painted by Lynn Looney. Information about it can be found in the Narthex or the Church office.