

Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Mt Jackson United Methodist Church
141 Orkney Dr
Mt Jackson, VA 22842



A brief History

On March 30, 1786, Methodist purchased one acre of land for a church at Red Banks three miles north of Mount Jackson, at a much-used river crossing on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. The purchase price was five shillings. Its name was Bethel Ford Methodist Meeting House, and the minister was Rev. John James. Nearby structures included John Wyyett's dwelling house and a School House.

Bishop Francis Asbury, on a preaching trip through the Valley on his way to the Baltimore Conference, visited this place on Tuesday, August 17, 1790, noting in his journal: "We had a crowd of people at Bethel who appeared very insensible"! Worship was discontinued in this building for unknown reasons, but the congregation then moved to a small building on Orkney Grade in Mount Jackson. The congregation numbered some of the very best citizens, both from the town and the rural districts.

Church website: <http://www.mtjacksonumc.com>
Telephone: (540) 477-2128

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After the abandonment of the Orkney Church, the Methodist congregation worshiped for some years in a schoolroom located on the ground now occupied by the Veterans Memorial. That property use to be the home of the old Mount Jackson Town Office. Sometime after leaving this location, the group worshiped in the vine-clad brick church now known as the Union Church. There the congregation grew and flourished, and it became evident that a new church would have to be acquired in which to hold worship services.

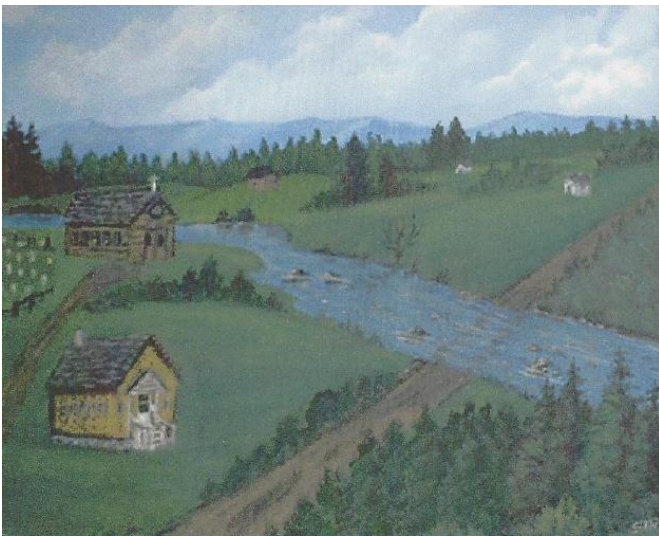
Under the guidance of Rev. Hopkins, who served the church from 1884 to 1888, the present structure was built on Orkney Drive (then called Doyle Street) in 1884. The land (one fourth acre) was purchased from L. Triplett, Jr. & Laura, his wife for two hundred twenty-five dollars. In the 1930's Rev. Lambert, helped by his members, remodeled the original structure and added the memorial windows. In the 1940's Rev. Early led the members in constructing the basement.

In 1985, a new Education and Social Building was added. The new addition has two floors which include a kitchen, a social hall, church offices, church school rooms and rest rooms.

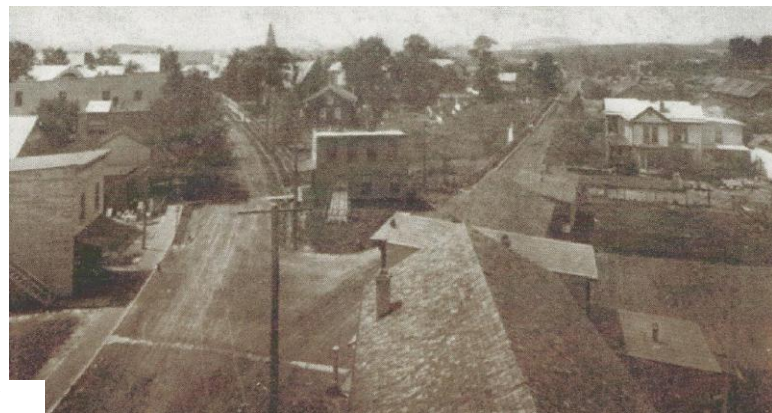
In 1988 a major restoration of the sanctuary was completed. It included a beautiful vaulted ceiling in the shape of a cross, accented by round leading glass windows. Also, the church nave was enlarged, insulated, air conditioned and carpeted.

People called "Methodists" have been present in this community for more than 200 years, and we continue to serve God and God's people here as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Written by Barry Davis, Trustee Mt Jackson UMC February, 2012



Rendering of Bethel Ford Methodist Meeting House by Sally Rutherford



South Main Street going off to the left and Orkney Springs Grade to the right, the steeple is the Lutheran Church. And the building in the center is where the old town offices stood, about 1900

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Church with completed Education and Social Building October 1985



Sanctuary Remodeling Complete and Dedicated on December 24, 1988

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