

Churches in the Shenandoah Valley

Walkers Chapel Church of the Brethren
267 Walkers Chapel Rd
Mt. Jackson, VA, 22842



A brief History

Walker's Chapel is a local congregation of the worldwide Church of the Brethren. This denomination had its beginning in Schwarzenau, Germany in 1708 by the baptism of eight adults by a threefold immersion in the Eder River. The church was founded on the biblical instruction that we are to "believe and be baptized". Because baptism of adults, who had been baptized as infants denied the validity of their first baptism the Brethren were persecuted and forced to leave their homes. In 1719 and 1729 two shiploads of the religious dissenters came to Germantown, PA and the followers of Alexander Mack, Jr. who settled there, began establishing churches in the surrounding countryside. Eventually the Brethren reached the

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west coast of our country.

The present day Church of the Brethren was known as the German Baptists or “Dunkards” because of their mode of baptism. Walker’s Chapel was originally called the German Baptist Church.

The church began as a mission project of the Flat Rock Congregation at Forestville.

Beginning in 1885 worship services were held in the Willow Grove School located across the road from the present church building. In 1894 the original church was built on land donated by Robert J. Walker. The church was named in his honor.

In 1910 the Flat Rock Congregation divided and Walker’s Chapel became part of the newly formed Pleasant View Congregation which included Pleasant View, Wakeman’s Grove, and Walker’s Chapel. In 1974 Walker’s Chapel was given congregational status by the Shenandoah District Conference.

In 1952 the church building was remodeled. Two Sunday School rooms and a boiler room were added at the back of the church, and a furnace was installed for heating the church. During the 1950’s the pulpit area was moved from the back of the church to where it is now. In the 1970’s the fellowship hall was built. In the 1980’s a vestibule was built in front of the church and a baptistry was added. In 1992 an air conditioning system was installed. From its beginning in 1995 Walker’s Chapel has continued to minister to the spiritual needs of people in the surrounding area in the Brethren tradition: simply, peacefully, together.

Submitted by Bonnie Clatterbuck from a church directory dated 2008



Original Church building

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