

Church of the Cross UMC History

One hundred fifty years have passed since eleven people began to meet in the #5 School House in Madisonburg in 1874. Just four years later the first church, a single-story building with a tall belfry, was built. Starting in 1882 the church became part of the Georgetown circuit, and it remained on various circuits for 48 years until 1930, when the first full-time pastor began, and attendance had grown to about 100 each week.

In 1932, now called United Brethren Church of Madisonburg, a basement was added for classrooms. The digging was done by hand until there was enough room to work under the building. Horse and mule teams, hooked to slip-scrapers, continued the back-breaking, dangerous work and after many days the block was laid.

At the end of WW 2 the United Brethren Church and the Evangelical Church united and the merge resulted in a new name- Madisonburg Evangelical United Brethren Church. As attendance continued to grow, it was evident in 1960, with 171 members, that the old church was too small. Groundbreaking for a new church building began in August 1962 and the current church building was dedicated on September 15, 1963. Five years later, the Methodist Episcopal and Evangelical United Brethren merged which formed the United Methodist Church and the church's name changed once more to Church of the Cross United Methodist Church.

By 1978 membership had increased to 333 and the fellowship hall, with classroom space, and a kitchen were added. Groundbreaking was a gala event with released balloons and celebration for all God was doing in and through the church. 1984 recorded its highest membership of 384.

One hundred fifty years later, we proclaim with the Psalmist, "One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."