

Important Points on 2000 Years of History of the Christian Church and The History of Middletown United Methodist Church

- The Christian Church began with the **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit at **Pentecost**
- During the first three centuries, Christians were persecuted but in the fourth century, **Emperor Constantine** made some major changes. Soon after, **Christianity** became the official religion of the Roman Empire
- Later on, there were differences in the church which caused a split of the eastern and western churches in Europe. The eastern church became known as the **Eastern Orthodox Church** and the western church became known as the **Roman Catholic Church**.
- The church experienced many problems over the next few centuries and eventually an Augustinian Monk, named **Martin Luther**, posted 95 issues for reform on a church door in Germany. This event led to the **Protestant Reformation**.
- Now, the church split once again into Catholics and **Protestants**. Even though Martin Luther didn't really set out to start a new church, people who followed his ideas became known as **Lutherans**. Other Protestant denominations also came into being over the years.
- **John Wesley** was someone who also set out to start reforms in the **Church of England**. He wanted to bring the message of the Gospel to the poor and hungry. Also, he was very committed to taking care of people who were suffering and in prison. He started the **Methodist Movement**.
- Methodism crossed the ocean to America and the Gospel spread through the frontier by traveling preachers known as **Circuit Riders**.
- One of these people who traveled throughout Maryland and parts of Virginia was **Robert Strawbridge**. He was a very important figure in Methodism and preached throughout many areas close to here. By 1766 he was preaching the gospel as a Methodist Circuit Rider.
- In 1771, John Wesley sent **Francis Asbury** to America. Asbury became the first Bishop of the Methodist Church.
- Other denominations were part of our historical development. These were the **Evangelical Association led by Jacob Albright** and the **United Brethren in Christ led by Philip Otterbein**. In 1946, they joined to form the **Evangelical United Brethren Church** and later in 1968 joined with the **Methodist Episcopal Church** to form the **United Methodist Church** which we are a part of today.
- Middletown United Methodist Church, our church, shares its history in the workings of two denominations: **The Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Brethren in Christ**. This history began as early as 1801.

- The first church used by this congregation was known as the **Baulus Chapel** named after **Jacob Baulus** who was a leader of the community. Then came a church called the **Marten Box** in 1830. It was given this name because it looked like a bird house.
- Later on, the United Brethren Church worshiped in the **Otterbein Chapel** which is the church on the corner of Main Street and Route 17 in Middletown. The Methodist Church used the **Wesley Chapel** which was located farther down Main Street.
- Later in 1968 when the Methodist Church and the United Brethren Church merged and became the **United Methodist Church**, the entire congregation worshiped at the Otterbein Chapel. And, in 1976, the congregation moved to the place where we are now.

Name, in order, the books of the New Testament. Use Properly spelled complete names (no abbreviations).

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| 1. _____ | 10. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 11. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 12. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 13. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 14. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 15. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 16. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 17. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 18. _____ | 27. _____ |

In your own words, describe what it means to be a Christian:

In your own words, describe what it means to be a member of the church: