

Perrysville Charge

The oldest church on the charge was founded in 1833 as the Perrysville Methodist Episcopal Church. It was part of the Leesburg(Leesville) Charge in the Steubenville District of the Pittsburgh Conference. Roughly thirty years earlier Methodism had entered the Ohio Territory and had an impact even in those areas where regular meetings were not held. It is certain there was some fellowship activity prior to 1833 though the exact form could not be named.

In 1848 a new church was organized in Perrysville and a structure was built the next year. The Perrysville United Brethren in Christ was part of the Muskingum Conference. Originally the church was yoked to the UB church in New Rumley. As the years passed these two congregations, of course, interacted.

In October, 1949 District Superintendent Dr. Robinson formed the Methodist Perrysville Charge to include Pleasant Hill, Mt Pleasant, Perrysville Methodist Episcopal and Palermo.

Thus, when in 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren(The former UB's and the Evangelical Association) merged with the Methodists, the local church chose to do likewise. The new congregation, the Perrysville United Methodist Church decided to hold meetings in the former UB building and in 1974 gave control of the Methodist Church to the Carroll County Historical Society. Services were held by community groups several times throughout the years in that building and the congregation celebrates Heritage Sunday there.

The other two churches of the charge have common roots. A Christian fellowship, following Methodist class guidelines, decided to establish a regular church. This was done in 1835 and the building for services was a log structure called the Morrison Meeting House. After almost twenty years, one group of the congregation decided to build a new structure, now Pleasant Hill Church. This church remained aligned with the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The group congregation remaining at the Morrison site did not officially form a new congregation until two years later. The Mount Pleasant Church, as it became known, associated itself with the Methodist Protestant denomination.

The history of Methodism speaks on issues of lay participation and the authority of bishops as the principal, though not exclusive, causes for the schism between Methodist Protestants and Methodist Episcopalians. On the local level, it has been suggested, slavery was the central moral

question—to allow slow reform or to have immediate emancipation. In any event, there were certainly some conflicts in personality and the split became permanent. In 1939 the ME and MP churches merged again, but Mount Pleasant and Pleasant Hill, separated by time and place chose to remain distinct.

In 1949 they joined Palermo and Perrysville on the Perrysville Charge. In 1956, Palermo decided to have its own part-time pastor and so the three churches remain as the Perrysville Charge of the United Methodist Church, part of the Steubenville District of the East Ohio Annual Conference.

<u>Pastors who have served:</u>
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Perrysville ME	Pleasant Hill
1949-1950 Roger Ortmayer	1949-1950 Jack Spencer
1950-1952 Clyde Onyett	1950-1951 Robert Irwin
	1951-1952 Leon Linard
Mt Pleasant	Palermo*
1949-1951 Jim Brown	1949-1951 Jim Brown
1951-1952 Dick McIntarfer	1951-1952 James Davis
	1951-1952 James Wise

Methodist Churches shared the same pastor	Perrysville EU Brethern
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1953-1956 Rev. Forrest Nees	1946-1959 Rev. S. V. Huffman
1956-1958 Rev. Scott George*	1959-1961 Rev. James Richel
1958-1960 Rev. Paul Haering	1961-1963 Rev. Richard Carson
1960-1964 Rev. Charles Tulga	1963-1965 Rev. Donald Earlenbaugh
1964-1966 Rev. Don McCoun	1965-1967 Rev. Clarence Berry
1966-1968 Rev. Howard Williams	1967-1968 Rev. Bruce Storm

* Palermo left the charge in 1956. The last service was June 5, 1988. The building was sold in 1991.

Perrysville EUB and Perrysville Methodist merged leaving Perrysville Methodist, Pleasant Hill and Mt. Pleasant as a 3 point charge. Pastors who have served since April 23, 1968.

1968-1969	Rev. Howard Williams
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1969-1971	Rev. Raymond Swinehart
1971-1972	Warren Hayes, Lay Minister
1972-1976	Rev. Robert Randolph
1976-1978	Rev. Millicent Moore
1978-1980	Jack Lumley, Lay Minister
1980-1981	Rev. Kenneth Birney
1981-1985	Rev. Jim Thobaben
1985-1991	Rev. Andy Angel 1988-1991 Rev. Gail Angel(part time)
1991-1995	Rev. Lee Fetters
1995-2000	Rev. Dale Thomas

Mt. Pleasant went as a single station church in July 2000, leaving Perrysville and Pleasant Hill.

Pastors serving the charge were:

2000-2006	Rev. Tom Dawson
2006-2010	Rev. Steven Browning
2010-	Invited Lay Leaders

Source: Carol Walter

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