



Introduction

Heritage Sunday 2023 is emphasizing our connectionalism as uniquely United Methodist by focusing on "local church histories as the cornerstones of our faith."

We sent out a request for submission of local church's stories and received almost 100 entries!

All of them were fascinating, but these are some of our favorites and stood out for certain unique qualities! They will be featured on our social media pages throughout summer 2023, so make sure to follow us!



Honored "Tome"

The History of the Puffer United Methodist Church

Puffer United Methodist Church, Morrisville, Vermont

Written and compiled by Rev. Patricia J. Thompson

2019

In over two-hundred and fifty pages of history, Rev. Thompson connects the story of Puffer UMC to John Wesley, to Philip Embury who first brought Methodism to Vermont, and through the first class meeting in Morrisville as early as 1813 (if not earlier!), the first church building (1815), subsequent buildings, and various preachers. Rev. Thompson has updated the ending with three additional chapters, written in 2016, 2017, and 2019!

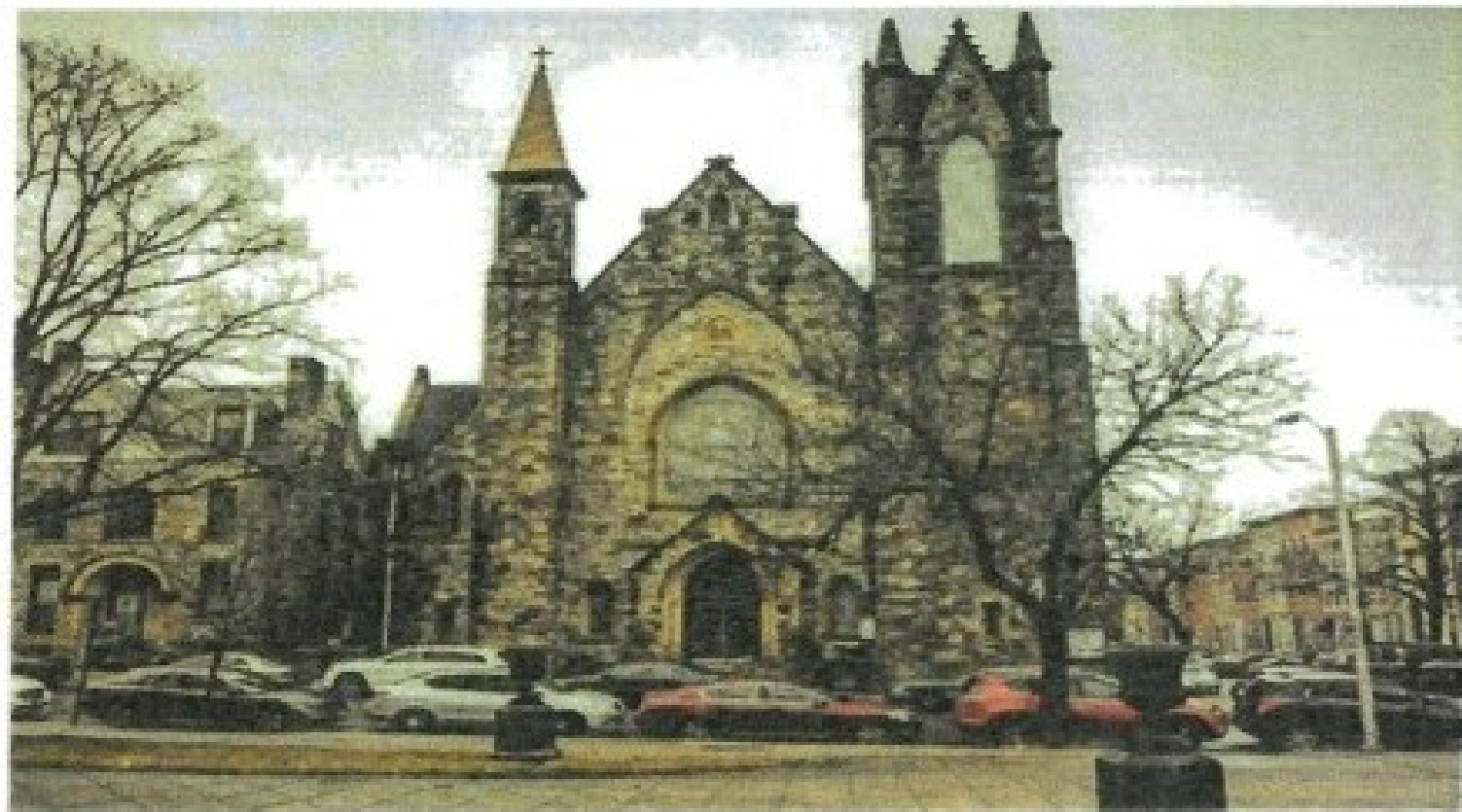
Wow! What a tome!



"Short History"

Metropolitan United Methodist Church Baltimore, Maryland

In only a two and a half pages, the story of this church comes to life! Begun in 1827, the first church was built in the middle of the night by candlelight because the movements of Black persons were heavily monitored. It was dedicated in 1839 as the Orchard Street Church and grew very rapidly amongst the Black Methodist population of Baltimore. Many additions were made to accomodate its members, and in 1927, it moved to a larger plot of land. During WWII, it housed soldiers and during the Civil Rights movement, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke from its pulpit.



MUMC Church History – A Historical Snapshot

Metropolitan United Methodist Church

Rev. Rodney Hudson, Pastor

1121 West Lanvale Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21217

"A Creative Lens"

**"If the Chapel Could Talk: A First Person Story
As Told by the Historic Chapel of Old North UMC to Today's
United Methodists"**

Old North UMC, Mechanicsville, Indiana

Told from the perspective of the building itself!

The story begins:

"I am just a little building, I was built from local oak trees, in a simple style with no particular ornamentation. I was constructed in a small community whose name has long since been forgotten. My tiny building had to be used as a church, a school, and a community meetinghouse – all three rolled into one..."

Wow! Thank you for the unique perspective, Old North!



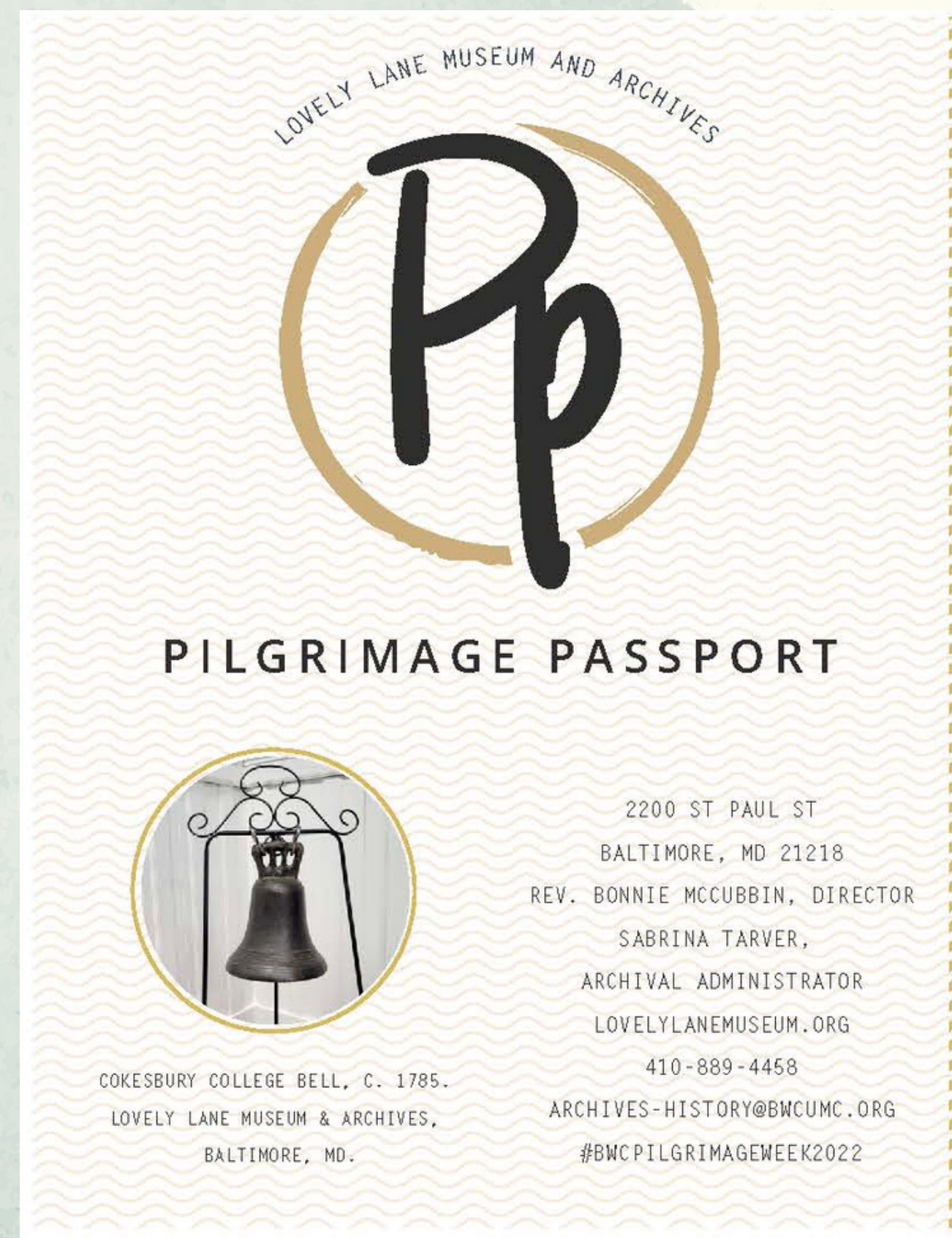
"Video Histories"

Baltimore-Washington Conference
Pilgrimage Passport Series
Compiled by Rev. Bonnie McCubbin

This video series combines the church histories of nine historic sites within the Baltimore-Washington Conference and connects their narratives through a Pilgrimage Passport! Fantastic idea, Rev. McCubbin! Thank you for allowing us to virtually tour these important spaces with you!

Watch here:

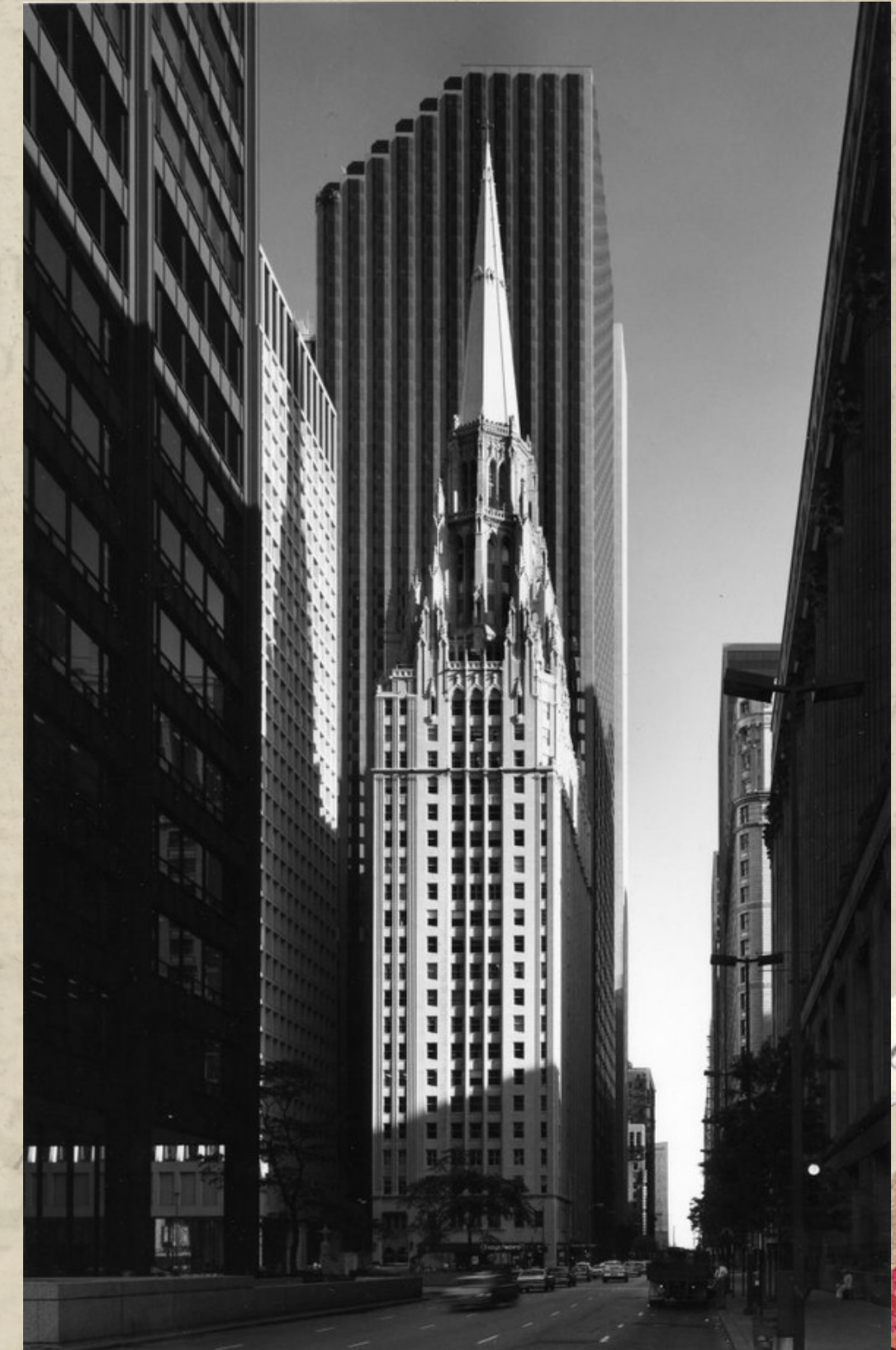
<https://www.bwcumc.org/about/history-archives/pilgrimage-week/>



"Visual History"

Chicago Temple UMC
Chicago, Illinois

Visually stunning! This history is image after image on high quality glossy photo paper. The images capture primary sources in their original handwriting, photos of the original building, prominent pastors and members, as well as beautiful maps and images of downtown Chicago. The Chicago Temple is the oldest Methodist building in Chicago and houses one of the highest chapels in the world!



"Oral History"

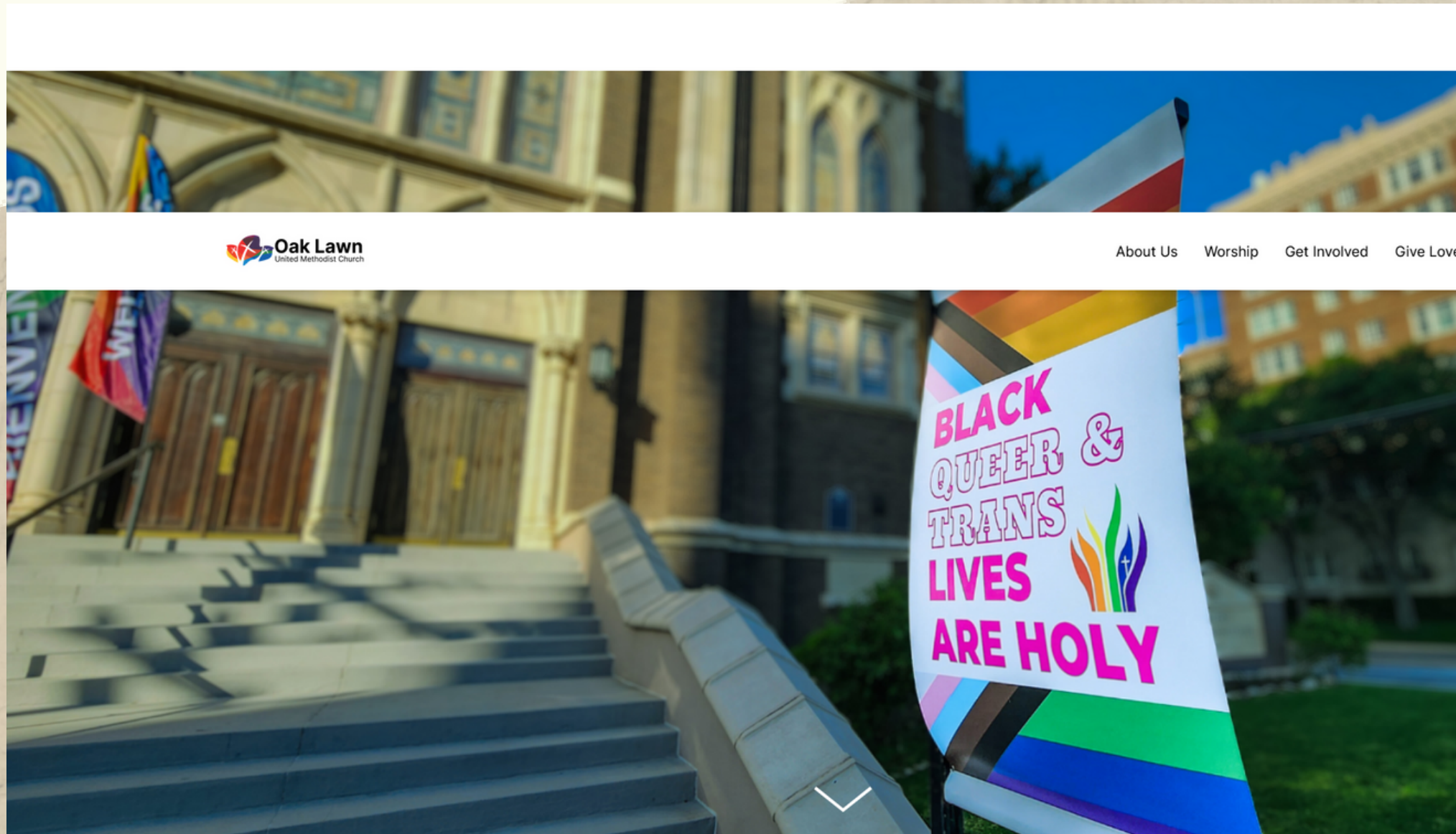
Oak Lawn UMC

Dallas, Texas

Compiled by Kent H. Roberts

Telling the history of the last fifty years, Roberts turns to the voices of the congregants to tell the congregation's history of inclusive ministries. "As I wrote this history, I sought to capture the energy and flow of the conversation. They tell the story...The voices presented help understand the passion and vitality of this community" (11).

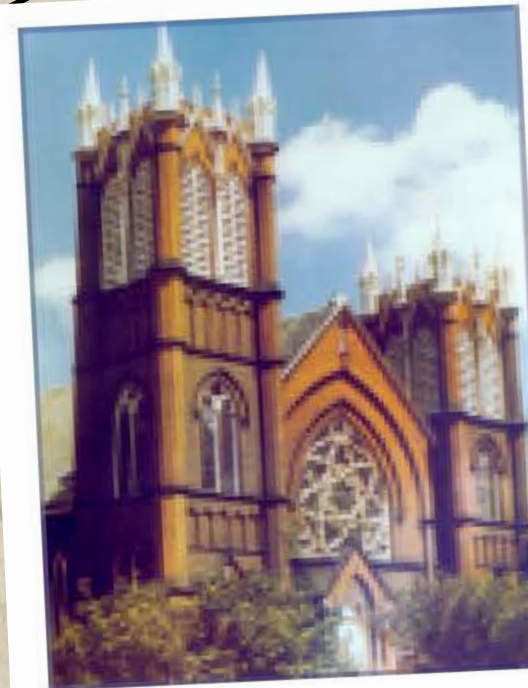
Thank you Kent for capturing this oral history!



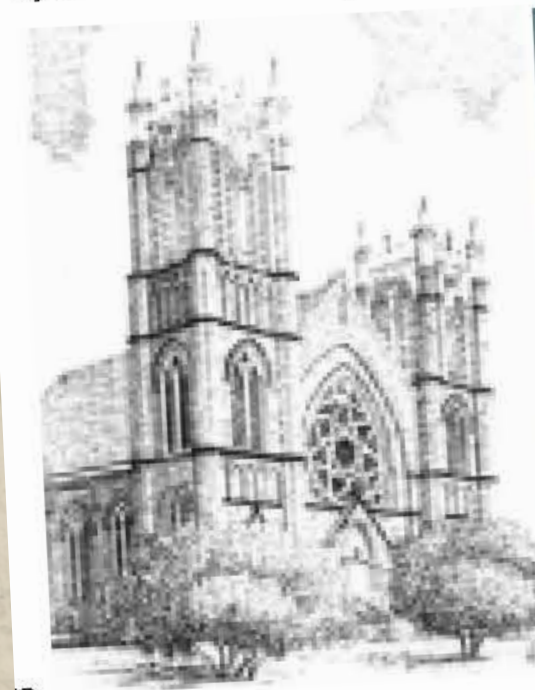
"Architectural History"

Painesville United Methodist Church
Painesville, Ohio

From blueprints to construction photos to images of the stained glass, this pamphlet has an incredibly detailed history of the building of and maintenance of Painesville UMC. What a beautiful space that speaks to the ministries within and without!



1984 Church History





"Use of Primary Sources"



Wolcott United Methodist Church

Wolcott, Vermont

Compiled by Rev. Patricia Thompson

One of the things that makes this history stand out is that it's built upon prior histories. Rev. Thompson has added later testimonies to the two prior narratives. All of these relied heavily on the documentation of the church's archive and records. They incorporate official records, drawings, images, woodburnings, architecture, and more. The extensive use of primary sources is definitely worthy of note!



"Contextual History"

"Many Witnesses: A History of Dumbarton United Methodist Church, 1772-1990"

Washington D.C.

Edited by Jane Donovan

Wow! Over five-hundred pages of American history which perfectly weaves the history of a local congregation into the larger narrative of American history. If you have an interest in American history and want to know how one church was active in and amongst its community, state, and nation, you have to check this history out!

Thanks, Jane!

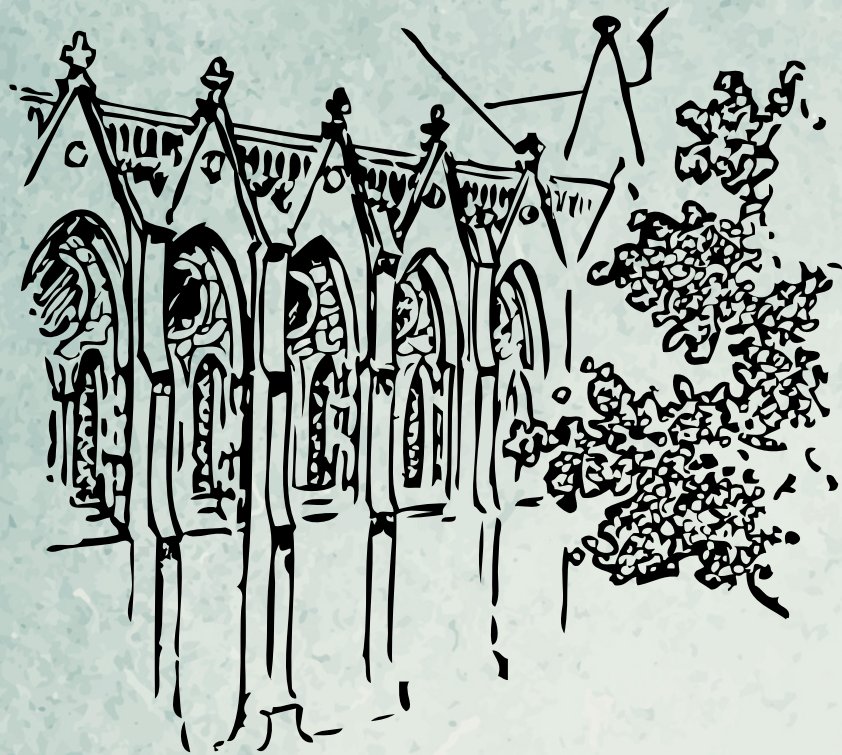


"Creative Representation"

First UMC Seattle, Washington

Outside their sanctuary, an entire hallway is dedicated to a timeline of the church's past. It combines dates, names, narrative, and photos from the church's archive and the community's history into an absolutely beautiful and prominent representation of this church's story!





*Thank
you*

from the General Commission on Archives and History

