

Historical Articles to Highlight 225th Anniversary of FUMC during 2023



The Rev. John Kobler (1768-1843) was the first Methodist Episcopal circuit rider to spread the Gospel to those living in the valleys of the Great & Little Miami Rivers of the western Ohio territory during 1798. The Frank-

lin First United Methodist Church (FFUMC) congregation considers its start to have occurred on Monday August 14, 1798 when the missionary Rev. Kobler held the first religious service by an ordained minister in the frontier settlement of Franklin with his preaching to six or eight families in the log cabin of Captain Robert Ross. Hence, 2023 will mark the passage of 225 years of Methodism in our community.

written by Robert C. Bowman, Jr. (FUMC Franklin OH 2013).

(2) "125-Year-Old Memorial Stained-Glass Windows" compiled and written by Bob Bowman., Tami G. Chamberlain, & Peggy Darragh-Jeromos (FUMC, Franklin OH, 2018).

(3) "Remembrances Under the Rainbow: A Compilation of Historian Articles Published in The Steeple Bell Monthly Newsletter between 2012 - 2020". By Robert C. Bowman, Jr. (FUMC, Franklin OH 2020).

Hardcopies of these documents are available from the FFUMC office while electronic PDF-files can be obtained by sending an email directly to Bob Bowman (rcbjr1967@gmail.com).

In order to commemorate this milestone for FFUMC, a special series of nine monthly historian articles will commence with the January 2023 issue of The Steeple Bell where each segment will cover 25 years of history and events within the Franklin Methodist community. A celebration of the 225th anniversary of FFUMC is being planned for the September 2023 Homecoming service. Congregation members and friends are invited to provide information, memories, or photos related to the history of the Franklin Methodist church for possible inclusion into these historian articles or for the September celebration.

If you wish to explore further what is being compiled on FFUMC history and past ministers and members, there are three highly recommended relatively recent resources to consult:

(1) "Franklin FUMC (1798 – 2013) A Brief History in Celebration of Our 215th Anniversary" compiled and



The first installment will cover the years 1798 to 1823.

(One of a regular series of reports on the people and events associated with the history and ministry of the Franklin First United Method Church. Robert Bowman, Historian)