

CHURCH HISTORY FOR POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

[SLIDE 1] – Title Page with music

[SLIDE 2] – First known photo of church with music

[SLIDE 3] -In 1849, after traveling for a number of years to Mt. Nebo church by foot, horseback, or horse drawn buggy, settlers from the Martic Forge and Colemanville area decided to build a Methodist Church to serve their local community.

This brick meeting house was built on ground donated by Mr. Robert Coleman and Mr. George Dawson Coleman, who owned iron works in the area. The church and local community were named after this prominent family. The church was built and dedicated in the Fall of 1849 and was part of the Mt. Nebo circuit. The location of this first building was in the front corner of the present-day cemetery at the corner of Colemanville Church and Colemanville Roads directly across the road from the existing church building. The location of the original church building is outlined in blue on this aerial view.

[SLIDE 4] - It is also noted the cemetery was marked off at the time of planning the original building. To date, there is no known photo of the original church building.

The little brick church saw many outstanding religious revivals in its lifetime of 45 years. After a growth in membership and the soft brick showing signs of deterioration, it was decided a new and larger building should be built.

[SLIDE 5] - In July 1894, Trustees met to discuss and plan the building of a new church. After looking over the ground donated by Frederick Shoff, it was decided to break ground for a new church building. This church would be located across the road from the original brick meeting house and is where the existing church building stands today. Men agreed to bring their horse teams, plows and scoops to help clear the land.

[SLIDE 6] - On August 1st, the Trustees appointed a Finance Committee and a Building Committee. It was decided to build a frame structure 36 by 48 by 16 feet to the square, one main auditorium room having a raised floor with a vestibule at the entrance, low pulpit, square topped windows with folding blinds, oak seats lined with inch boards and covered with paper latched with plaster.

[SLIDE 7] - On August 7th, the Building Committee and Trustees met at the church. Specifications were drawn up [by Rev. J. R. Hartman and Samuel Stevenson] read, discussed, and some changes were made. The deed for the ground [donated by Fred Shoff] was received at this meeting.

[SLIDE 8] - On August 11th, the Trustees met again to open proposals for the mason work [which was awarded to Jacob Henry]. J.W. Gardner was appointed to secure a cornerstone. One week later bids were opened for the construction of the building [which was awarded to S. C. Stevenson and]. The old church structure was sold [to him] for \$125.00.

[SLIDE 9] - The mason work was completed on September 4, 1894. The Building Committee inspected and approved. Construction of the building was ready to begin.

[SLIDE 10] - By December 1894, the church was ready for occupancy with only one minor problem which was corrected. A heater was purchased and installed. On December 26th men of the church met to lay the matting and carpet for the finishing touch. The dedication day of services was held in December 1894. According to church history records, the building was constructed for a cost of \$1,481.66.

[SLIDE 11] - After 48 years in the Mt. Nebo Circuit, the Colemanville Methodist Episcopal Church was transferred to the Safe Harbor Circuit by action of the Philadelphia Conference.

[SLIDE 12] - In the early 1900's there were many improvements made consisting of: plastering and painting, installed basement door and new coal heater. In 1911 gas lights were installed to replace the oil lights.

Being proud of their church, after improvements were made, the Trustees decided there should be a set of rules regarding the behavior in the church during services. [By order of the Trustees,] On June 1, 1912, the Trustees adopted six rules. These rules are listed in the church history book.

[SLIDE 13] - Appearance of the church was again altered between the years 1913-1915. In the fall of 1913, members and friends gathered with their horse teams, plows, scoops and whatever else was needed to grade the church lawn after a stone wall was erected in front of the church. [Expenses were shared by the Trustees and Ladies Aid which was founded in 1911]. In 1914 a committee was appointed to have the interior of the church papered and painted. A year later a bell tower was added to the south end of the building to house a church bell donated by Brother Harry Warfel.

[SLIDE 14] – Picture of church with trees surrounding building & music

[SLIDE 15] - Prior to the building of the tying shed, suppers and activities were held at members' homes or other community locations as noted in these newspaper clippings.

[SLIDE 16] - With the church being in good shape and growing in attendance the attention was next directed to improving the tying grounds. Discussion began in January 1916 when a location was decided upon. However, the shed was not started until a year later.

[SLIDE 16] - As automobiles replaced horses, the tying shed changed its appearance and need for existence. Starting in 1928, many changes were made to accommodate for serving church suppers, Sunday School picnics and other activities. Over a ten-year period, improvements made included installation of a cistern and pump, enclosing four sections of the shed, windows and additional wiring added, and a furnace was purchased and installed to heat iron cooking kettles.

[SLIDE 17] - Over the decades the shed was used on Sunday mornings for parking during Sunday School and worship service. Other activities included a place to cool and pick up mincemeat pies, hide Easter eggs, **[SLIDE 18]** - Vacation Bible School, youth meetings and yard sales **[SLIDE 19]** - husking and silking corn, Ministry Fair, Halloween parties **[SLIDE 20]** - and hosting a live Nativity at Christmas time.

[SLIDE 21] - In 1939, ninety years as the Colemanville Methodist Episcopal Church, the Philadelphia Conference changed the name to Colemanville Methodist Church. The name change was not the only change. Necessary changes were made by the Trustees, Stewards and members of the congregation who worked together to support the church and its mission.

[SLIDE 22] - In December 1946, a special meeting of the Trustees, Stewards and pastor met to discuss organizing an Official Board with [Rev. Homer,] the pastor, serving as Chair.

At the second Official Board meeting the following committees were set up: Membership, Finance, Pastoral Relations, Nominating, Auditing, Hospital and Home, Music, and Parsonage and Property. In 1952, [the Commission] committees on Evangelism, Education and Missions were also set up [and representatives appointed by Rev. Homer.]

[SLIDE 23] - The first major topic of the newly formed Official Board may have been discussion of the bell tower. In 1948 a committee was appointed to evaluate the old bell tower. After evidence of deterioration, it was suggested a new bell tower and vestibule be constructed to the front of the church. Having met with the District Superintendent, it was announced, motioned, and agreed on May 23rd to proceed as planned. At a congregational meeting on October 10th, the plans for the vestibule and two Sunday School rooms were presented and approved. Construction was to begin in early Spring of 1949.

Looking ahead to the 100th anniversary, on September 8, 1949, an anniversary committee was appointed. [Rev. Homer was pastor at this time.]

[SLIDE 24] - With the arrival of 1949 came the congregation's \$6,000 renovation program to get their church in tip-top shape for their 100th Anniversary celebration in the fall. The removal of the bell and dismantling of the old bell tower was first.

[SLIDE 25] - A new bell tower and vestibule located at the front of the church and construction of two Sunday School rooms at the back of the church were the biggest changes to be made. Several trees were timbered, wallpaper was selected for the interior as well as a cross and crown paper for the center front. The exterior was painted, and an oil burner installed to replace the coal furnace.

[SLIDE 26] - Sunday morning, May 22nd, at a special ceremony [conducted by Rev. Homer,] the century-old cornerstone from the original church was unveiled. This forgotten marble tablet, found by a member in an accumulation of material in the church basement, was cleaned and prepared to be enclosed in the wall of the new vestibule.

[SLIDE 27] - Renovations were completed and in October 1949 a week-long celebration was held marking 100 years. A dedication service was held for the addition of the two Sunday School rooms, bell tower and vestibule.

With these services well attended, it became evident that Colemanville Church was important both socially and spiritually to many.

[SLIDE 28] – Picture of church with music playing.

[SLIDE 29] - It was in the early 1950's when discussion began about having a basement built beneath the church. In 1953 [Frank Morrison presented] blueprints were presented, examined and approved. With a kitchen area, furnace room, two rest rooms and a large social room, the plans were accepted, and construction began. At this time, a well was also drilled.

With completion of the basement, the primary Sunday School classes were moved downstairs. The Women's Society and Co-Ed Club also had ample space for their activities.

[SLIDE 30] - In 1967, the church name was changed to Colemanville United Methodist Church through the merger with the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

[SLIDE 31] - In 1968, interior sanctuary improvements included new pews, altar railing, communion table, chancel furniture, carpeting, lights, organ and hymnals.

[SLIDE 32] - In 1970 exterior improvements were aluminum siding of the church building and awnings were placed over the exterior doors.

In 1973, the slate roof of the church was replaced with a shingled roof.

[SLIDE 33] - In 1978, the kitchen was extended with the counter being moved forward. At the back of the church a new Sunday School room was added.

[SLIDE 34] - Church Building Expansion Plans slide with no sound

[SLIDE 35] - According to Administrative Board meeting minutes on March 11, 1985, discussion was held regarding improvements to the church building. On June 10, the Ad Board granted approval for the Trustees to select a committee to further address improvements noted in March 11 meeting minutes.

[SLIDE 36] - An Architect attended the September 5 Ad Board meeting to explain plans he made for renovations to the church building. A motion was made and approved to have a detailed drawing of the presented plans to be submitted to the Lancaster District Committee on Church Location and Construction for approval. A congregational meeting was held on October 9 to review the plans and church model.

[SLIDE 37] - During 1986, revisions were necessary in order to proceed with the building expansion project. At this time, there was another project in the making.

[SLIDE 38] - On January 11, 1987, Colemanville Church and Safe Harbor Church members totaling 114 people met to discuss and vote on building a parsonage in preparation of sharing a full-time pastor by June 1988. It was voted and approved to move forward with this plan.

[SLIDE 39] - On Sunday, May 31, 1987, [at 4:00 PM] the groundbreaking ceremony was held at Colemanville for a parsonage for both churches.

[SLIDE 40] - On November 15, 1987, the parsonage dedication was held following a dinner served by the women of both churches. Documentation indicates the total cost of the parsonage was \$90,661.55. At the time, the parsonage fund totaled \$81,820.08. The balance of \$8,841.47 was paid by the United Methodist Women.

[SLIDE 41] - By January 1988, necessary revisions were made to the church building expansion project and bids were sent out. On March 20, a congregational meeting was held to discuss cost of project and whether or not to proceed with building now. Votes to build now tallied 52/yes and 17/no.

[SLIDE 42] - On April 17, the groundbreaking service was held.

[SLIDE 43] - The building expansion project included:
The length of the sanctuary was increased by adding four rows of pews on each side of the center aisle. Space was also provided for the existing sound system.

[SLIDE 44] - The narthex and bell tower were moved to accommodate the additional rows of pews. The narthex was enlarged, and restrooms were added. Storage space was added under the narthex on the lower level.

[SLIDE 45] - A wide inside stairway with a chairlift was added leading from the narthex to the social hall on the lower level.

[SLIDE 46] - At the back of the church building on the lower level, much needed kitchen storage space was added and a walk-in refrigerator.

[SLIDE 47] - At the back of the church above the walk-in refrigerator a Sunday School classroom was built.

[SLIDE 48] – Picture of church 1988 Renovations (new narthex area) -- taken from the bank side of church. No sound.

[SLIDE 49] - A new steeple replaced the existing church steeple.
A ramp was constructed leading from the front of the church narthex to the parking lot.

[SLIDE 50] - On Sunday, September 18, 1988, the old cornerstone dated 1894 that was removed from the front exterior wall of the church was opened after the worship service. The box included a small Bible, a song book without music, a Book of Discipline, and two newspaper articles, one dated January 1, 1894, and parts of "The Christian Advocate" dated December 7, 1893. Some items were not salvageable. The salvageable items were placed in a new copper box.

[SLIDE 51] - On Sunday, September 25, 1988, following the sermon, time was set aside to lay the old and new date stones in the cement block wall of the new addition. Items selected by the Administrative Board were placed in a Time Capsule.

These contents included: a letter from Rev. Richard Rimert, Jr.; a list of church officers; a membership list; a list of Sunday School classes with each class age, teacher, and children as well as their favorite song; a September 25 church bulletin; the 1988 budget; addition and renovation information; a list of building committee members; a set of photo 'proof sheets' [donated by Barry L. Zecher]; a coin 'proof set' [donated by Jake and Edna Charles]; and an MYF History Book, "The Past Years At Colemanville 1849-1983".

Each box was sealed with one box being placed in each date stone [by Glenn Morrison, George Garrett and Doug Rankin.]

[SLIDE 52] - One year after breaking ground for the church building expansion project a Dedication Service was held [in the afternoon] on April 9, 1989.

[SLIDE 53] - In December 1990, the final payment for the church building expansion project was made. The final payment totaled \$3,372.43 and was paid by the United Methodist Women. The total cost of the church building expansion project documented was \$228,357.33.

The Mortgage Burning Ceremony was held on April 21, 1991.

The following is noted in the 1991 history update "the message delivered during the service brought to light that with hard work and faithfulness Christians can make a difference around the world as well as here at home. This project was finished through faith, prayer and dedication."

[The history notes also read "As we sat in the church with the aroma of roast beef, we were reminded of God's care in providing our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones and the great opportunity to gather together to enjoy worship, fellowship, and food." A delicious meal was prepared and served by the UMW.]

[SLIDE 54] – Two pictures of church: Pre-1988 & 1988 – Present. With music)

[SLIDE 55] - In January 1992, a windstorm blew through and destroyed the 100-foot-long tying shed flipping it backwards off its foundation.

[SLIDE 56] - After opposing points of view and much intense discussion, it was decided to rebuild half the shed. A 50-foot shed was reconstructed with one end being enclosed for storage and two open bays for parking and hosting activities. In 2015 the shed was removed to provide additional parking when the classroom building was built.

[SLIDE 57] - The year 1994 was an eventful year at Colemanville. During a morning worship service in February the members of the congregation voted to become a one-point charge with a full-time pastor.

The 100th anniversary of the present church building was celebrated on October 8 & 9, 1994. In the sanctuary, new carpeting was installed, and new drapes were hung to adorn the windows.

[SLIDE 58] - In 1995 a Mission statement was drawn up. "We Love Because God First Loved Us." Our church is a strategic base from which to show God's love and a light in the community. Our members are bound together and strengthened through a variety of worship, Christian education and fellowship activities. As servants of God our mission is: To reach out in love, expressing attitudes of care, concern and support. To make God visible to the inactive and unchurched in our neighborhood, our community, our place of work, and those difficult areas where God is not visible. To witness and share with others the good news of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ.

[SLIDE 59] - In 1998, a new sound system, speakers and cabinet were installed.

[SLIDE 60] - Colemanville Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of the founding of this congregation in 1999.

[SLIDE 61] - Also in 1999, an Expansion Study committee was appointed to address the need for additional Sunday School classroom space.

[SLIDE 62] - Core Values were adopted in the year 2000. Values being what we believe is important about the life of our congregation. "In all that we do we seek to: reflect God's image in our daily living; keep prayer and the Bible at the center; introduce people to Christ – nurturing, equipping, and sustaining them as His disciples; help each person discover and use his or her gifts for ministry to touch lives and make a difference in the community; be joyful in 'giving from the heart' our time, talents, gifts and tithes in Christ's service; focus much of our efforts outward, knowing that God's love and grace are to be shared with all people."

[SLIDE 63] - In the year 2000, a three-room 12' x 68' portable trailer was purchased and located in the parking lot for additional Sunday School classroom use. This was to be a temporary solution, with temporary defined as five years.

[SLIDE 64] - In 2001, the following Mission statement was adopted “To Love Others As God Loves Us”.

[SLIDE 65] - A Building Fund was started in 2004 working toward a goal of raising funds to replace the temporary portable trailer used for Sunday School classes. In 2005, a Building Study committee was formed to determine a permanent solution to replace the trailer.

[SLIDE 66] - In 2007, a Building committee was formed to replace the Building Study committee. The church contracted INJOY Stewardship Services.

[SLIDE 67] - In April 2009, a three-year “Lighting the Way” campaign began to raise funds for a permanent classroom building.

[SLIDE 68] - By the end of March 2012, through continued faithful giving, the funds raised totaled \$243,115. April 2012 began a second campaign to run through 2014. Preliminary plans began for Conference and congregational approval of a new classroom building.

[SLIDE 69] - In 2013, the Building Committee presented preliminary classroom building plans to the District Committee on Church Location and Building. The District Committee approved these plans. By December 31, 2013, the building fund totaled \$413,344.

In 2014, the building fund total reached \$444,982.83. The congregation voted to proceed with a new permanent classroom building.

[SLIDE 70] - The Classroom Building project started February 6, 2015. The project was completed and paid for in cash before the end of the year.

[SLIDE 71] -Picture of Classroom Building Entrance Facing Church.

[SLIDE 72] - 2020 was the year of the pandemic that resulted in a halt of in-person worship service, Sunday School, and other activities on March 22. Worship services were held via Zoom. The offering of two worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 AM ended.

A parking lot service was held beginning June 21, at 9 AM, and continued through September 20. Indoor worship service resumed September 27, at 9 AM, with seating restrictions and mask requirement.

By October, the church transitioned to a temporary part-time pastor.

In 2021, the church transitioned to an Interim part-time pastor. Livestreaming of worship services started.

[SLIDE 73] - The bell housed in the church steeple was out of service for a number of years. In 2022, repair work was performed on the bell.

[SLIDE 74] - Once again, on Sunday mornings, the bell is now heard echoing throughout the valley.

[SLIDE 75] - In 2023, the Conference appointed Colemanville Church to a two-point charge sharing a pastor with Boehm's UM Church. The pastor serves each church half-time.

[SLIDE 76] - In the mid to late 1960's the stone walls in front of the churchyard were constructed. For some of us our fathers, brothers, grandfathers and uncles worked on this project. Many of the field stones were transported to the church either on wagons pulled by tractors or by truck. The stones were unloaded by hand, placed in wheelbarrows, then pushed to the areas where needed.

That was over 50 years ago!

In 2022 it was noticed that the cement holding the stones together was cracking and should be repaired to avoid further deterioration of the walls. The Trustees acquired an estimate to have these stone walls repaired. The estimated cost was projected to be \$20,000 - \$24,000.

In 2023, the shorter of the two walls was repaired at a cost of \$8,000. In 2024, the longer wall was repaired for \$17,500.

[SLIDE 77] - In 2024 Colemanville Church celebrates its 175th anniversary. **WE THANK GOD FOR HIS ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, FAITHFULNESS, GRACE, LOVE AND MERCY! AS THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US, MAY WE CONTINUE TO SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE AND FOLLOW WHERE HE LEADS OUR CONGREGATION AND CONTINUE SERVING HIM THROUGH SERVING THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND. WE INVITE YOU TO JOURNEY WITH US!**

PASTORS

[SLIDE 78] - Throughout 175 years, sixty-one pastors have served Colemanville Church. Our church has been blessed with numerous wonderful pastors! From July 1994 through October 2020, Colemanville was served by a full-time pastor. In 2024, Colemanville is presently served by a half-time pastor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

[SLIDE 79] - Sunday School as signified by the name “school,” was an hour set aside each Sunday morning to teach the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Sunday School study material, supplies, activities, and donations are supported by the weekly Sunday School offerings. Financial support has also included missionaries and various other causes when the need arose. Sunday School classes offered include children through adult ages. Throughout the years, Colemanville Sunday School has been tremendously blessed with dedicated and faithful teachers, helpers, leaders, piano players, secretaries, and treasurers.

[An annual Children’s Day program offered in place of a worship service on a Sunday morning in June was a time for the children to share their memorized verses and singing songs of God’s love to those in attendance. These programs were usually well attended. Another annual occurrence was the Sunday School Christmas treat consisting of an orange and a box of candy.]

[SLIDE 80] - For about ten years after World War II, the Administrative Board paid for bus service for Sunday Schoolers without transportation. According to this newspaper article dated January 23, 1948, the bus service began on January 25, 1948. [The first stop on the bus route was Colemanville store followed by a stop at the Pequea bridge. The bus continued through Pequea to Maple Spring Road to Martic Forge Hill before arriving at the church.] Perhaps there is someone listening who remembers or rode the Sunday School bus!

[SLIDE 81] - Historically, the best recorded activity of the Sunday School was the annual picnic or celebrations as they were called in the 1800’s. Originally these were a day long affair with preaching, singing, eating, and all kinds of games and contests. In earlier years, bands were often hired for entertainment – either the Mt. Nebo band or the General Reynolds band from Conestoga.

[SLIDE 82] - In decades following these earlier celebrations, picnics were held at Rocky Springs Park, York Furnace, and the church tying shed. For several decades beginning in 1958, the annual Sunday School picnic was held at Safe Harbor Park. As attendance decreased, and the outside temperature and age of attendees increased, the picnic returned to being held at the church. In 2024, the church picnic was held at the West Willow fire company pavilion in Willow Street with Boehm’s church congregation attending also. In 2025 and 2026, Colemanville hosted a combined outside worship service and inside picnic held in the social hall with Boehm’s congregation.

[Other information regarding Sunday School is recorded in our church history book titled “Past Years at Colemanville 1849-1983” compiled by the Youth Fellowship that is available today.]

BIBLE SCHOOL

[SLIDE 83] - According to church history notes, the first “Daily Vacation Bible School” was held on June 1 through 11, 1937 at Colemanville Church. [Years following when Bible School was offered were 1948, 1953 (enrolled 100 students), 1954, 1959 (with Safe Harbor), 1964 (55 students) and 1965 (71 students).] Bible School was an enrichment program for the local children and consisted of singing songs, memorizing scripture, class study, crafts and refreshments. Vacation Bible School, in later years referred to as VBS, has been offered at Colemanville typically during the morning hours. Some years bus service was provided, paid for by our women’s group, with average attendance around 100-115 children. Since the pandemic attendance has averaged 25-35 children. In 2024 in place of VBS we offered a Kid’s Night on Thursday evenings during June.

SUNDAY AIDS IN WORSHIP AND PRAISE

[SLIDE 84] - Sunday worship services were a time for worship and praise, fine messages, good music and fellowship. The history of the bulletin used for Sunday worship services provide the order of the service and information relating to upcoming events and activities. [The duplicator machine was followed by the mimeograph machine. The manual typewriter followed by the electric typewriter. Now a computer and copier are used to provide the bulletins which continue to be used in worship services today.]

Does anyone remember the flower chart when we would sign up for a Sunday to sponsor flowers for the worship service? It was a rush to get to the flower chart to sign up for the week(s) you wanted to sponsor flowers! With the exception of special occasions, such as Easter and Christmas, artificial flowers now adorn the front of the sanctuary.

Remember the ushers who would assist with seating, accept the offering during the worship service and organize movement to the altar rail for communion? Offering plates are now located at the back of the sanctuary as you enter to receive your tithes and offerings. Presently, the method of Intinction used for receiving Communion does not require ushers. Ushers do collect prayer cards, count attendance and tithes and offerings.

[SLIDE 85] - A church nursery was organized in 1971 to aid parents with young children during the worship service. This lasted for several years. Then was reoffered again in 1983 for a number of years. Presently, there is a nursery area available, if needed.

Junior church has been offered intermittently for older children the last several decades and is presently being offered during worship service.

SUNDAY AIDS IN WORSHIP AND PRAISE (Continued)

[SLIDE 86] - Our church history book indicates “music is an important ministry of the church and Colemanville has a rich history of providing this special ministry.” Unrecorded evidence indicates that an adult choir participated in Sunday services early in the 1900’s.

A youth-junior choir was present in the 1950’s. In 1969 a junior choir was formed and sang monthly, as well as for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Children’s Day.

In the 1980’s the junior and senior choirs jointly performed musical dramas.

At the present time, there is an adult choir and a worship team. A youth choir sings on special occasions.

[SLIDE 87] - Microphones and a PA system were introduced in worship service in **1972**.

The recording of sermons for shut-ins started in the 1980’s using a tape recorder and cassette tapes.

[SLIDE 88] - To assist with the enhancement of the worship experience, an electronic drum set and a clavichord were purchased to use during worship services.

A laptop and projectors were introduced to project words to music and images on the front walls of the sanctuary.

A computer was added to create Power point presentations for the worship service that includes order of the service, words to songs, and visuals.

In March 2021, livestreaming of worship services began [following the return to in-person worship]. Livestreaming continues and is available to watch on YouTube and the church website.

In 2023, two cameras were mounted at the rear of the sanctuary to record the worship service, and two TV monitors were mounted on the front sanctuary walls – [one on either side of the pulpit area in line with the pews].

In 2024, a new computer with upgraded software to create improved livestreaming replaced the existing computer and software. A third TV monitor was mounted on the back wall of the sanctuary to assist those leading the worship service.

**LADIES AID SOCIETY / WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE /
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN / UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH**

[SLIDE 89] - On September 27, 1911, during a meeting held at the home of a church member, consideration was given to the idea of organizing a Ladies Aid Society. The rest of the story, as they say, is history. Through the years since then, the group's name has changed to Women's Society of Christian Service, United Methodist Women, to more recently United Women of Faith.

The initial purpose of the women's group was to plan events for fellowship within the church family and community and invest the profits in the church ministry. In early years, planned events included Oyster suppers, social activities such as Birthday, Sock, Dime, Apron and Hat, Strawberry festivals, Rummage sales, and Quilting projects. In 1919 the women's group started a quilt containing the many church members and family members names. The quilt was completed in 1922.

[SLIDE 90] - Before the addition of the kitchen facilities in 1953, the church building did not have indoor facilities for the numerous events held by the women. As these newspaper clippings indicate, suppers were held in a cement house in Martic Forge located behind the trolley station in the area of the former Martic Forge Hotel, at Kepler's Lodge at Martic Forge, at a cottage in Pequea, or at church members' homes. When the church's tying shed was constructed, many events were then held in the shed.

[SLIDE 91] - Over the years, the women's group has held many suppers including chicken and waffles, ham, oyster, cafeteria and beef. The annual Chicken Corn Soup Supper, first held by the wives of the Trustees in 1910, has been continued and held annually by the women's group. More recently, the supper has changed to a soup sale with soup being sold by the quart. [Along with chicken corn soup, chicken noodle and vegetable beef soups are available to purchase, in addition to baked goods.]

[SLIDE 92] - The first annual Easter Egg Hunt was recorded as being held on April 15, 1922, by the women's group, and they continue to sponsor this annual event. The date of this photo is 1948.

[SLIDE 93] - Mincemeat making and pie baking continue to be the largest annual project. Held the week before Thanksgiving dating back to 1934, it was discontinued during the depression, then started again in 1950 and has been held every year since, except during the pandemic in 2020.

[SLIDE 94] - Though sales are declining, orders continue to be filled for approximately 1,200 pies which is less than half of what orders once totaled [3,000 pies].

[SLIDE 95] - A more recent project initiated is an apple dumpling bake sale, usually held in January or February. Approximately 1,100 dumplings are baked and sold.

LADIES AID SOCIETY / WSCS / UMW / UWF (Continued)

[SLIDE 96] – Using Their Talents to Serve. It is next to impossible to recall every contribution made by the women's group to further this church's ministry.

The name of the women's group has changed several times over the years. However, the support of the women's group remains constant and reaches beyond our church ministries, families and food banks of local communities. Their financial support to various outside groups and organizations continues today.

The historical records of the women's group reflect the use of talents combined with fellowship to give, love, and serve the Colemanville Church family, community, and beyond. May we draw strength from the example of those who served before us to help us continue to serve our church and beyond today.

YOUNG PEOPLE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP / YOUTH GROUP / YOUTH

[SLIDE 97] - In 1945, church records indicate a Young People Friendship Society. By 1946 the name changed to the Methodist Youth Fellowship. This young people's group led by adults provided an opportunity for youth to mature in the Christian faith.

Through the decades the youth have played a vital role within the church through their service. To highlight a few of the activities that are well remembered by those who participated are the Christmas Eve Candlelight service, Easter Sunrise service, providing carnations for Mother's Day and Father's Day, sponsoring the annual hike and doggie roast, hayrides, and Halloween parties.

As did many church organizations, the M.Y.F. supported various ministries through fundraising projects. To name a few, they sold cards, candy, candles and washed cars. They made and sold subs. And, starting in 1980 who remembers a fundraising project preparing a special personalized Colemanville Church calendar?!

As years passed the Youth experienced trips to the mountains and to the shore, holding their first Rock-a-thon in 1981. The profits from the Rock-a-thon were earmarked for the church history book, "The Past Years at Colemanville 1849 – 1983". [Copies of this history book are available today.]

SOFTBALL TEAM

[SLIDE 98] - Teamwork was the secret of success in many endeavors at Colemanville Church and the softball team was no exception. According to the church history book, the earliest recollection of a ball team was from 1939 to 1941. Lack of players due to World War II forced its discontinuation. Being reorganized from 1951 to 1958 and again in 1973 the team was made up of church or Sunday School attendees. Team efforts were not only on the field but off the field as well, holding many fundraising projects to meet their needs. The team was also supported by individual and group donations.

Softball fields the team called home varied through the years including Martic Elementary and Marticville Middle Schools, Hobo Hollow, and the Buck. In earlier years, there were several fields close to the church along Rt 324 where the team also played.

In the early 1980's, the Southern Church League teams began playing games on a centralized diamond in Willow Street named Garrett Park.

[SLIDE 99] - Colemanville's softball team has won several Southern League trophies. The team was champions in 1955, 1956, 1957, 1990; second place finishers in 1985; Runners up in 1991; State B Church champions in 1993 and ASA Runner up in 1998. In addition, the team was presented with the team sportsmanship trophy in 1980, 1982, 1983 & 1989.

A display case holding softball team trophies is located in the social hall of the church.

[OTHER GROUPS – Not included in presentation, but interesting]

[Through the decades other groups within the church included: Men's Brotherhood of America 1915-1919; the Co-ed Club 1944-1964; and the Queen Esther Society. The Queen Esther Society is one I had not heard of before. {February 1924.}]

RAWLINSVILLE CAMP MEETING

[SLIDE 100] - Colemanville Church is a founding member of the Rawlinsville Camp Association. The church continues to support the annual two-week session by serving lunch and dinner one of the days.

[SLIDE 101] - In this 1951 photo of children marching in a circle at Rawlinsville Camp, notice the "Colemanville" banner on the right-hand side of the photo. Also, note the tents in the back of the photo.

CEMETERY

[SLIDE 102] - The cemetery started behind the original church on the opposite side of the road from the present-day church building. The cemetery was enclosed with a white picket fence until 1907 when a new iron fence replaced the wooden fence. In 1962 the iron fence was replaced by a stone wall.

In 1908 an acre of land was purchased from the Pennsylvania Railroad for \$60.00. The ground was cleared, and the trees sold for \$15.00. The cemetery took on a fresh look in 1910 when all stumps, stones and roots were removed. The ground was raked, and all headstones were set in line as near as possible. Footstones were removed. The Trustees purchased slate to be placed on all unmarked graves.

In 1953 the cemetery again purchased approximately eighteen acres of adjacent railroad ground for \$6,611.24.

A driveway around the cemetery was extended and paved.

[SLIDE 103] - The largest burial took place in June 1906 when the shocked and grieving relatives gathered to pay last respects for the eleven men killed in a dynamite explosion near Shenk's Ferry in Conestoga Township.

[SLIDE 104] - On May 31, 2025, a Veterans Dedication and Remembrance Service was held to acknowledge veterans laid to rest in Colemanville Cemetery. At the front of the cemetery by the stone wall, a display board was donated [by Bob and Pam Porterfield] and includes the names of military service members laid to rest in Colemanville Cemetery.

PAVILION

[SLIDE 105] - In the Spring of 2025, a pavilion was constructed on church property. On Sunday, June 8, 2025, a combined worship/dedication service with Boehm's Church congregation was held in the pavilion. The total cost of the pavilion project was \$22,122.50.

REACHING OUT TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND

[SLIDE 106] - A Colemanville Church mission statement has been “To love others as God loves us”. Our serving and love for God extends beyond the walls of our church building. Examples of activities offered by the Outreach Committee include the Spring and Fall Fests, Bicycle Rodeo, monthly Community Meal, and the church picnic. The United Women of Faith organize the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Sunday School sponsors Vacation Bible School. These activities are offered to our local community residents as a way for us to share God’s love with others.

The Missions team collects pennies and coin donations to share within and outside our community including local food banks, Meals on Wheels, and Water Street Mission. Hats, gloves and scarves are collected and sent to Red Bird Mission.

The Acts of Mercy team, formerly the Mission trip team, has provided manual labor to support work projects locally, traveling to different states within the continental United States, and outside the continental US.

[SLIDE 107] - Thank you for taking the time to view this presentation. We invite you to join us for worship services or other activities!