

# Ackermanville United Methodist Church



Pre 1930

1410 Ackermanville Road

Bangor, PA 18013

610-588-7818

*November 9, 2025*



## 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Worship Service 10 AM

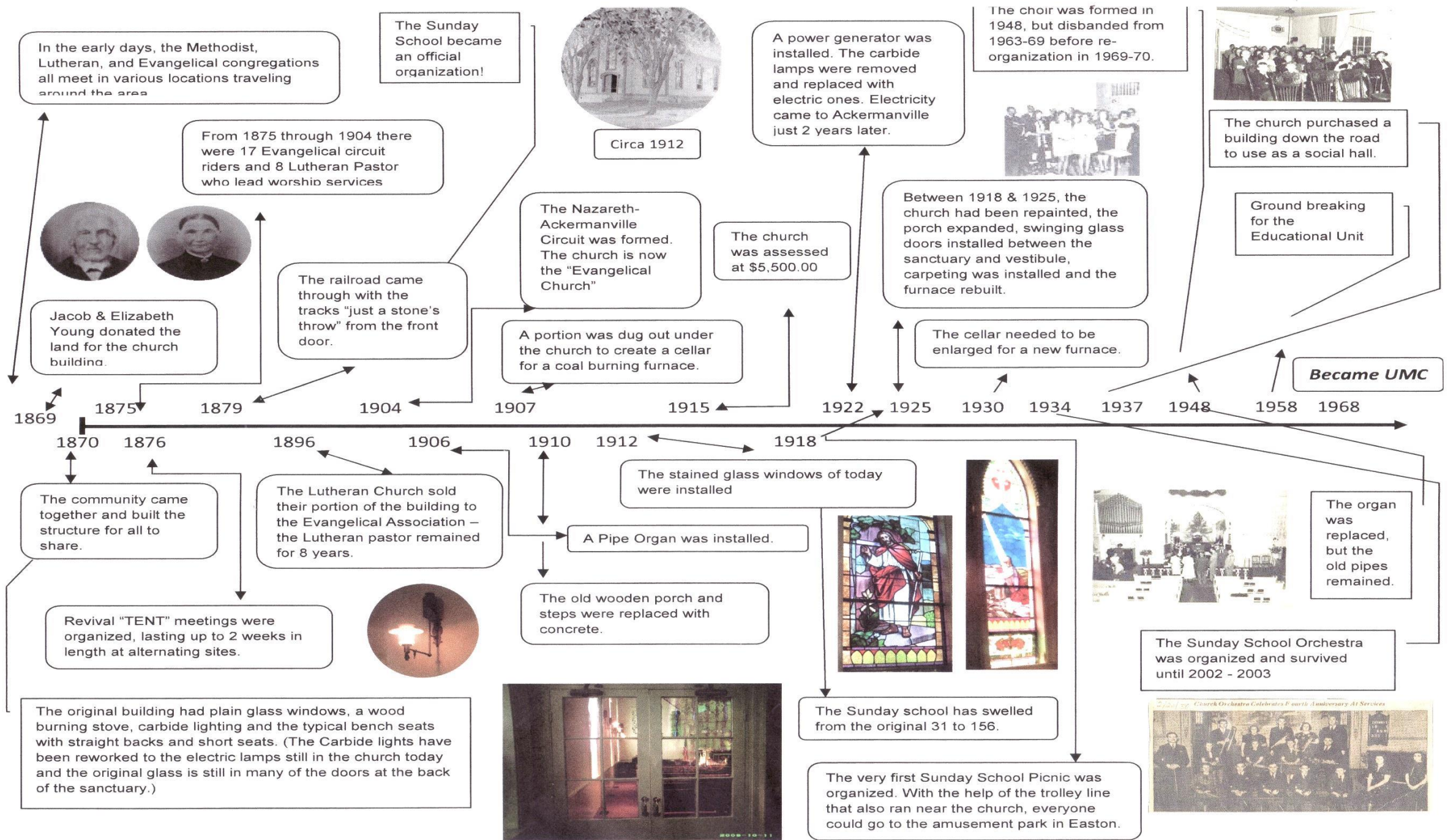
Catered luncheon to follow

### PASTORS OF ACKERMANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(date given is that of first year of Pastorate)

*This list is taken from the Historical Record of the church. The duplication of dates may be due to the fact that in earlier years, both an Evangelical and a Lutheran congregation worshiped here.*

|                |              |                          |      |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|------|
| W. A. Leopold  | 1870         | A.E. Miller              | 1912 |
| W. Hambright   | 1870         | H. Wentz                 | 1915 |
| I. W. Yeakel   | 1871         | J.W. Romberger           | 1916 |
| H. R. Yost     | 1871         | C.H. Kichline            | 1917 |
| G. B. Fisher   | 1872         | Homer Miller             | 1920 |
| J. M. Rinker   | 1873         | R. Norman Taylor         | 1920 |
| J. J. High     | 1875         | Horace H. Romig          | 1922 |
| T. A. Hess     | 1876         | H.E. Hildt               | 1923 |
| G. W. Gross    | 1878         | W.L. Teel                | 1926 |
| J. W. Whoerle  | 1878         | Leslie H. Kiefer         | 1929 |
| A. Kindt       | 1879         | W.S. Harris              | 1931 |
| W. H. Weidner  | (2 yrs) 1881 | J. Marco Hunsberger      | 1939 |
| W. H. Stauffer | (1 yr.) 1881 | O.D.E. Pottieger         | 1944 |
| W. Schuler     | 1883         | C.P.E. Pottieger         | 1946 |
| R. Deishler    | 1885         | Harold L. Ulmer          | 1951 |
| A. E. Williams | 1885         | Clair W. Matz            | 1961 |
| C. D. Dreher   | 1886         | Richard C. Voigt         | 1966 |
| H. Freeman     | 1889         | Harry T. Wells           | 1970 |
| N. L. Bechtel  | 1890         | Gordon L. Clark          | 1972 |
| C. K. Wieand   | 1890         | Luke E. Rau              | 1978 |
| H. C. Lilly    | (2 yrs) 1891 | Evelyn A. Shegog (Stupp) | 1981 |
| B. C. Krup     | 1892         | Ted Bach                 | 1990 |
| N. L. Bechtel  | 1893         | Claire Harris            | 1996 |
| Jerome Smith   | 1897         | Sandy Parsons            | 2002 |
| J. W. Hammet   | 1902         | Gil Clark                | 2006 |
| W. H. Stahl    | 1905         | Monica Guepet            | 2012 |
| F. W. Solver   | 1906         | Alice Ann Bonham         | 2014 |
| W. F. Savidge  | 1907         | Sukja Bang               | 2018 |
| W. L. Ketner   | 1910         |                          |      |
| C. N. Debrcy   | 1911         |                          |      |



## THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

The hub of the area in 1844 was Ackermanville. The post office was here. Pen Argyl was just a few farms scattered along the mountain. Uttsville (which is now Bangor) was a number of farms along the creek. There were no stores, only a school. The stagecoach line ran from what is now Portland, to Easton where you could shop. You also traveled by covered wagon or buckboard to any place at a distance.

Into this area came the Circuit Riders. They were dedicated men of God, traveling on horseback, preaching to all who opened their doors to them. They came from all faiths, and lived in the homes of the people or in tents until they moved on. To a farm in Factoryville came the Evangelical Riders. Here Jacob and Elizabeth Young had a meeting house and school, and also a cemetery which contained up to 150 grave stones. It was past this farm that the stagecoach made its way to Easton. Joseph Kellow, the local preacher, had married Matila Young. He preached and served the people when the riders were not available.

In 1864 the Lutheran Mission Group met in the school house that was at the intersection of 191 & 980. About this time Jacob (now 73) and Elizabeth (now 60) decided to donate the land & money to build a church. Those meeting at Factoryville were of the Evangelical Association. But the Young's were Methodist. With the help of the Lutheran Mission and Rev. Burrell of Martin's Creek, a Lutheran pastor, along with the Evangelical Association, Young's built the church in 1870. It was called the Methodist-Lutheran Church of Ackermanville.

### 1870 - 1924

The Rev. J.I. Burrell served the church until 1875. During this time nine Evangelical pastors served with him. Up to 1904, we had five Lutheran pastors and fifteen Evangelical ministers. In 1896, the Trinity Lutheran Church of Martin's Creek examined the Deed of our church, and sold their share to the Evangelical Association.

In 1898 the Evangelical Association formed the Nazareth-Ackermanville Circuit which continued until 1939. For only one year, 1903, Ackermanville was on a Circuit with Miller and Paradise churches. There were twelve pastors to serve our church, until, in 1921, we were considered a Charge! All through these years tent or camp meetings were held. The first was 1876 in Achenbach's Grove. In 1919, revival meetings took their place. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rutt built two cabins in Bowmentown, and our people were urged to attend those meetings.

1900 began the years of church improvements. First, papering and a new roof.

1906 - the first pipe organ was installed.

1907 - a heating plant.

1910 - concrete porch.

1911 - the stained glass windows.

1915 - the Lutheran people of our church left the congregation. This put a strain on the budget of the church. Fund raising projects were a continuing part of the church plans.

1916-17 - The church was remodeled.

1916 - Prayer meetings were started.

1920 - Autos and trucks replaced the horse and trolley. The trolley had run past the front of the church from 1902-1925.

1922 - The church was wired for electricity which was supplied by a gas motor and a generator.

1924 - Electricity was hooked up to the Bangor Power Company, the beginning of a new era.

(OVER)

### 1925 - 1959

We now come to the 60th anniversary (1930) of our church building. This was an all-day program. The guest speaker was the President of Albright College, Dr. W.L. Teel. He was a son of the church. Prof. Oscar Ackerman, Supt. of schools in Bangor, also a church son attended. At the Homecoming afternoon service, thirteen letters from former pastors who couldn't attend were read. Pastor C.N. Debroy voiced his desire to see this 120th anniversary greater than the 60th. All spoke of the great joy in serving Ackermanville.

1930 - also saw the digging out of the cellar, and 1934 a furnace installed there.

1934 - in February, the orchestra began their ministry to the peoples of the Sunday School and Church.

1945 - the Youth church camp program began with  $\frac{1}{2}$  the cost being paid by the church.

Only fifteen years later we had our 75th anniversary. A committee was chosen to look up our past. Only the Lutheran pastors were found. The church papers and records had been locked in the safe and were forgotten. Only the fact that the Evangelical work began on the Young Farm was mentioned.

In 1946 the Evangelical and United Brethren Churches united, and we became the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The church was in need of more room by 1958. Plans were underway for an Educational Unit, and the ground breaking and building got under way. Sept. 20, 1959, the Unit was dedicated to the Service of the Lord. Now Sunday School classes and other activities were able to perform here. We now had a social hall area.

### 1959 - 1990

With the church roll and attendance growing, we thought of building a parsonage. We built it close to the church. After many meetings and much planning, the parsonage was dedicated on January 16, 1966. This gave the pastor quick access to the church building and the people's needs. In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church united with the Methodist to form the United Methodist Church of Ackermanville.

1970 - Preceding the 100th anniversary we completely redecorated the inside of the church with new pews, pulpit furnishings and carpeting. The front of the church was squared off. It had been an arch. The lighting was also changed. Former pastors were invited, and the program included Sunday School and church in the morning. Homecoming was in the afternoon with a Centennial Buffet Supper. Later there was an Evening Service of Praise and Music. Great joy was felt because we had a beautiful church and had completed 100 years of Service to the Lord.

Since then we have grown in size and in service. Ten years ago we became a full-time Charge with Rev. Evelyn Shegog (Stupp) as the first full-time pastor.

We again have a son of the congregaation in the ministry. Gregg Schaffer is serving as an Associate Pastor at Wesley UMC in Phillipsburg, N.J.

We give praise and thanks to all persons who have served and are serving in God's Work in this Little Village Church by the Road in Ackermanville.

Research done by Adaline Smale.



Front of Church July 1958



New Sunday School Unit Summer 1959

### 1990 to 2025

During Claire Harris' tenure (1996-2001), a second floor was added to Young Hall. This floor holds the Sunday school classrooms and church office and features an elevator.

During Gil Clark's tenure (2006-2012), the sanctuary was refreshed with new carpet and paint. The beautiful stain glass windows are now fully visible, with the framed arches cut out. The internet facilitated AUMC online presence, and we created a website which enabled us to post our history, share good news, and extend our community outreach.

Air conditioning was added to the sanctuary during the month of August in 2019, and also to the church office in the month of August 2024.

Ackermanville's mission is to support our community. We are successful with many activities within our church and outreach. These activities include Vacation Bible School, Easter cantata and egg hunt, spaghetti dinners, ice cream socials, fall and Halloween activities.

In collaboration with other churches in the Slate Belt, we host a monthly free community meal. Initially we were hosting about 40 people for sit down meal. Then in 2020, the world experienced Covid outbreak. As we emerged from mandatory shut down, AUMC pivoted and began a drive through take out meal. In 2025 we serve approximately 150 meals!

As result of the Covid shut down, church services also changed. During shutdown, our weekly services continued with online Zoom. Post-Covid we continue to host Zoom service weekly along with in-person attendance.