

Welcome to Confirmation Class

Confirm Series: Lessons 7-10

As we wait to begin, take a moment to review our goals and expectations for class:

Lesson Goals

As a result of this lesson, I will be able to...



- Explore John Wesley's personal history and how it influenced him to start the Methodist movement.
- Discover more about the history of the Methodist church in the United States.
- Explore the history of Kingswood

Class Expectations



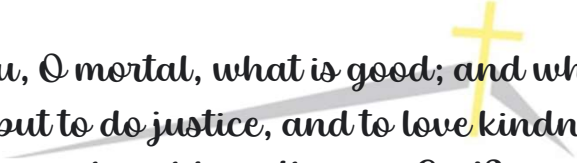
- WORK HARD
- BE KIND
- No phones should be out (*unless instructed to use them for class*)

For Fun!



Talk to your neighbor or the table:

- Would you rather be able to speak any language or speak to animals?
- Which is your favorite meal...breakfast, lunch, or dinner?
- What was the best part of your week? What was a low from the week?


“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord
require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk
humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

Tentative Agenda

5:00-5:05= Welcome/Opening Prayer

5:05-5:20= Lesson 7: The Reformation

5:20-5:30= Lesson 8: Wesley and the Methodists

5:30-5:50= Lesson 9: The Growth of Methodism

5:50-6:00= Break/Snack

6:00-6:10= Lesson 9: The Growth of Methodism

6:10-6:25= Lesson 10: The Local Church

6:25-6:30= Wrap Up/Closing

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we gather today with hearts open to learning and growing in faith. As we explore the life of John Wesley, help us see how his journey with You ignited a movement that continues to touch lives around the world. Guide us in understanding the roots of the Methodist Church and its history in the United States. May we be inspired by the faith of those who came before us and seek to live boldly for You today. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Unit 2: Our History and Heritage

Lesson 7: The Reformation



- The Protestant Reformation was a major movement in the 1500s when people began to challenge the way the Catholic Church was operating.
 - A German monk named Martin Luther was one of the main people who started it by writing down 95 complaints (called the "95 Theses") about things he believed the Church was doing wrong, like selling forgiveness (indulgences) for money.
 - Martin Luther and Dr. Martin Luther King are two different people with similar names!
 - **Martin Luther** (1483–1546) was a German monk and a key figure in the **Protestant Reformation** in the 1500s. He challenged the Catholic Church's practices, especially with his 95 Theses, and his actions led to the formation of Protestant denominations like Lutheranism.
 - **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** (1929–1968) was an **American civil rights leader** in the 1950s and 1960s, best known for his work to end racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. He gave the famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 during the March on Washington.
 - Dr. King was named after Martin Luther, but they lived in very different times and had different roles in history. One was a religious reformer, and the other was a civil rights activist.
 - Luther and others felt that people should be able to read the Bible in their own language and have a direct relationship with God, without needing the Church to control everything.

- This led to the formation of new branches of Christianity, like Lutheranism and Calvinism, which became known as Protestant churches because they "protested" against the Catholic Church.
- Over time, the Reformation changed the way people practiced Christianity and led to many new denominations that still exist today.
 - It also influenced the Catholic Church to make some reforms of its own, leading to what we now know as both Protestant and Catholic forms of Christianity.
- The **Diet of Worms** sounds strange because of the English words, but it actually has nothing to do with food or worms!
 - "**Diet**" in this case refers to a formal assembly or meeting, usually of political or religious leaders.
 - "**Worms**" (pronounced "Verm") is the name of a city in Germany where this important meeting took place.
 - So, the **Diet of Worms** was simply a meeting held in the city of Worms in 1521. At this meeting, Martin Luther was put on trial for his writings, which challenged the authority of the Catholic Church. It was a big moment in the Protestant Reformation, as Luther refused to take back his ideas, famously saying, "Here I stand, I can do no other."
 - In short, the name just comes from the location and the type of meeting—it has nothing to do with actual worms!

Unit 2: Our History and Heritage

Lesson 8: Wesley and the Methodists

THE CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE

TRUE: The first General Conference that founded the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was held in Baltimore, Maryland. It happened on December 24, 1784.



<https://um-insight.net/in-the-church/umc-global-nature/the-christmas-conference-10-days-that-started-a-church/>
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/methodist-history-the-christmas-conference>

THE ALDERSGATE EXPERIENCE

TRUE: The moment when John Wesley felt his heart “strangely warmed” by God. It occurred at a meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. It happened on May 24, 1738.



<https://www.umc.org/en/content/holy-spirit-moments-learning-from-wesley-at-aldersgate>

HOLY CLUB

TRUE: The group started by John and Charles Wesley at Oxford where members dedicated themselves to living a holy life.



<https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-method-of-early-methodism-the-oxford-holy-club>

CIRCUIT RIDERS

TRUE: Ministers who rode around on horseback and preached to a lot of churches. Francis Asbury was one of the first circuit riders.



<https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-hard-road-of-a-methodist-circuit-rider>

KINGSWOOD SCHOOL

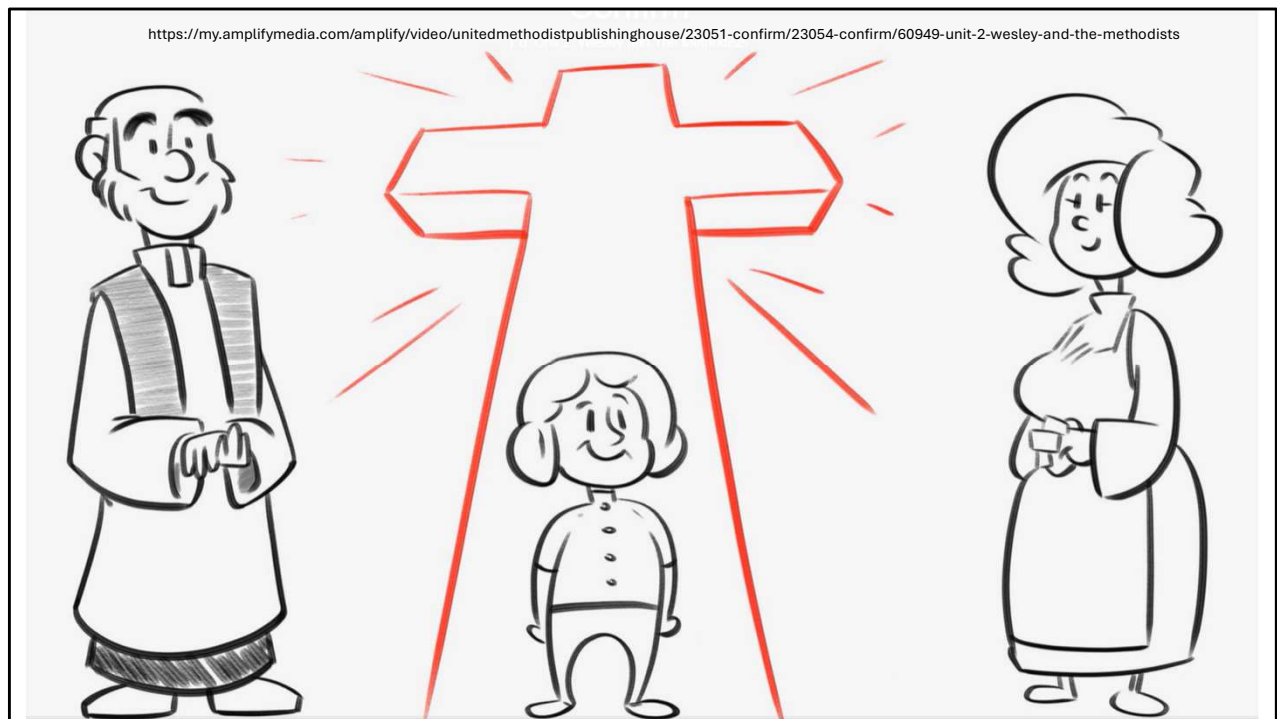
TRUE: Wesley founded Kingswood School to educate the children of colliers, emphasizing the importance of education within Methodism's social mission.

The first school was in the forest outside of the King's castle, the King's woods in Bath, Somerset (England).



<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-was-the-first-school-started-by-methodists>

<https://www.kingswood.bath.sch.uk/why-kingswood-/about-the-school>



- Go to:
<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/video/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/23051-confirm/23054-confirm/60949-unit-2-wesley-and-the-methodists>
 - Log in: cedwards@kingswoodumc.com
 - Password: Youthminmvnu!1
- The founder of the Methodist movement was John Wesley, an English priest in the 1700s who focused a lot of his work on the ideas of holiness and God's grace.

Unit 2: Our History and Heritage

Lesson 9: The Growth of Methodism

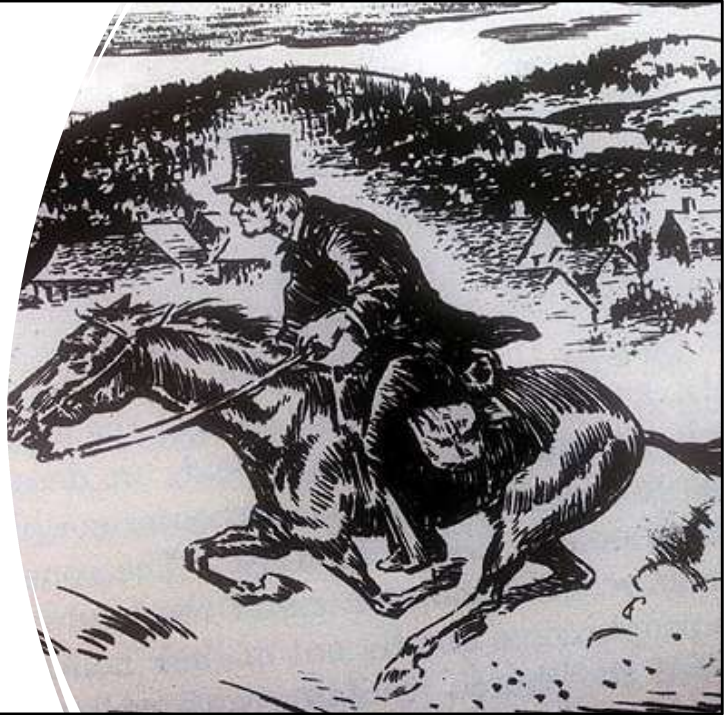
Methodist on the Frontier	African- American Methodist Churches	German Methodists	The Church Splits (northern/ southern)	The Church Reunites in 1939
Women in the Church	Segregation in the Church (The Central Jurisdiction)	Social Justice	Lay Leadership	Education (Methodist schools)

- There are a lot of stories and events that went into the formation of The United Methodist Church.
 - Just like you have important moments in your life, some of these stories are powerful moments that the church wants to remember and some moments we would rather forget.
 - It's important though, that we remember the good and the bad so that we can keep doing good and remember the consequences of when we do something bad.
- Going through all of this information can be overwhelming.
 - The purpose isn't to memorize or become Methodist experts in one session but rather to learn that our history is complex and full of ups and downs, which helps us better understand where we have come from to see more of where we want to go.
 - After going through these events, each person will share one thing that they learned about the history of Methodism that you didn't know before today.

Methodists on the Frontier

Q: What was the name given to these preachers who rode around from church to church and town to town?

- a) Traveling ministers
- b) Circuit riders
- c) Parish missionaries

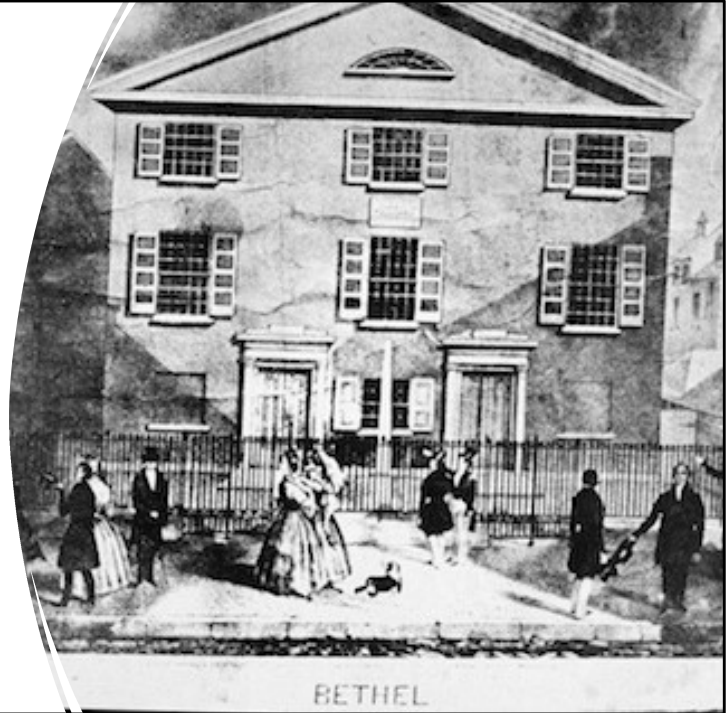


- Methodist on the Frontier
 - As the frontier went west, so did Methodism. Preachers who rode on horseback to many churches and towns went with pioneers. They preached, held revivals, started classes, and planted new churches in almost every new town. Methodist pastors and Methodist churches seemed to be everywhere. Francis Asbury was among the first of these preachers, but he was far from the last.
 - Q: What was the name given to these preachers who rode around from church to church and town to town?
 - A: Circuit riders

African-American Methodist Churches

Q: Which denomination was **founded first** by African American Methodists in the 1800s?

- a) The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- b) The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- c) The African Methodist Episcopal Church



- African-American Methodist Churches
 - In the 1800s, as our country struggled with slavery, numerous African American Methodists experienced discrimination in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Many broke off and started their own Methodist denominations. These churches still exist. They are separate denominations but still part of our Methodist family. In numerous ways, these denominations and the United Methodist Church work together. Together, they are called Pan-Methodists.
 - Q: What is one of the three denominations created by African American Methodists in the 1800s?
 - A: The African Methodist Episcopal Church, The African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion, and The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

German Methodists

Q: What was the name of the new church created by The Evangelical Association and the United Brethren in Christ?

- a) The Evangelical Church of the United States
- b) The Evangelical United Brethren
- c) The United Evangelical Church



- German Methodists
 - During the early years, as Methodism was getting organized, there were numerous German-speaking people who were Methodists. Mainly due to language reason, they did not join The Methodist Episcopal Church. Instead, they formed their own churches: The Evangelical Association and The United Brethren in Christ. Later these churches united and formed a new church. In 1968, this new church united with The Methodist Church, creating the United Methodist Church.
 - Q: What was the name of the new church created by The Evangelical Association and the United Brethren in Christ?
 - A: The Evangelical United Brethren

The Church Splits

Q: In what year did the church split into a northern and southern church?

a) 1805

b) 1844

c) 1961



- The Church Splits
 - In the years leading up to the Civil War, the church split into three major denominations. First, the United Methodist Protestant Church broke off over several issues, including the role of laypersons and bishops. Then several years before the Civil War, the church split over slavery becoming a northern church (The Methodist Episcopal Church) and a southern church (The Methodist Episcopal Church, South).
 - Q: In what year did the church split into a northern and southern church?
 - A: 1844

The Church Reunites

Q: In what year did the three branches of Methodism reunite to form The Methodist Church?

a) 1939

b) 1975

c) 2001



- The Church Reunites
 - After the end of the Civil War, it took a long time for the three branches of Methodism that had split apart before the war to come back together. When they did, they formed The Methodist Church. Then in 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Church united to form the United Methodist Church.
 - Q: In what year did the three branches of Methodism reunite to form The Methodist Church?
 - A: 1939

Segregation in the Church

Q: What was the name of the jurisdiction created by The Methodist Church to keep black churches segregated?

- a) The Western Jurisdiction
- b) The Central Jurisdiction
- c) The Racial Division Conference



- Segregation in the Church
 - After the three branches of Methodism reunited to form The Methodist Church in 1939, they arranged the annual conferences into five jurisdictions based on geography. However, they also segregated the black churches into a separate jurisdiction totally unrelated to the geographical location of the church. Black Methodists rightly saw the creation of this segregated jurisdiction as a betrayal and contrary to the mission of The Methodist Church and movement. But change did not come quickly. In 1956, the Church softened their policy, but the segregated jurisdiction was not eliminated entirely until the merger with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968.
 - Q: What was the name of the jurisdiction created by The Methodist Church to keep black churches segregated?
 - A: The Central Jurisdiction

Women

Q: Who was the first women to be ordained as clergy in The Methodist Church?

a) Anna Howard Shaw

b) Maud Keister Jensen

c) Frances Willard



- Women
 - Women played a vital role in the Methodist movement from the very beginning. Susanna Wesley, John and Charles's mother, was the primary religious influence in their early life. John Wesley even permitted women as lay preachers, a move that was both uncharacteristic and controversial for his time. In 1889, the United Brethren in Christ ordained a woman as a pastor. Years later, in 1956, The Methodist Church became the first large denomination to ordain women as clergy. Women were also vitally important in missions and social justice work in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
 - Q: Who was the first women to be ordained as clergy in The Methodist Church?
 - A: Maud Keister Jensen
- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/timeline-of-women-in-methodism>

Social Justice

Q: What is the name of the document that outlines The United Methodist Church's position on different social issues?

- a) The Social Principles
- b) The Book of Discipline
- c) The Methodist Creed



- Social Justice
 - From the very beginning, the Wesleys and the other early Methodists were involved in the social issues of the day. They visited in prisons and jails, they cared for the sick, they opposed slavery (which is one reason why the history of the church is so troublesome), and they fought to keep children from working in the coal mines. As society changes, new issues emerge, and The United Methodist Church continues to respond to these changing issues...even if it is slow to make progress. For a church to take stands on controversial issues was surprising in 1908, when our church wrote its first Social Creed. Then, just this year, in May 2024, the church's governing body marked a new era of LGBTQ inclusion by voting to lift the bans on LGBTQ clergy and on pastors performing same-sex unions. They also removed the language that said homosexuality was “incompatible with Christian teaching”.
 - Q: What is the name of the document that outlines The United Methodist Church's position on different social issues?
 - A: The Social Principles (and it's supposed to be updated every 4 years but with the pandemic, it was 6 years ago)

Lay Leadership

Q: What does the word “lay” mean in The United Methodist Church?

- a) Someone who volunteers occasionally
- b) Someone who is not ordained but is baptized and confirmed
- c) Someone in training to become clergy



- Lay Leadership
 - From the beginning, laypersons were key to the Methodist movement. Wesley was an ordained priest in the Church of England, but he could get few other pastors to join him in the movement. What he did find were lots of eager laypeople. Lay preachers and lay leaders gave the movement its momentum. Today, General Conference, the governing body of our denomination, is 50% laypersons and 50% ordained clergy in membership. Laypersons have as much right as clergy to submit legislation and ideas to General Conference. In The United Methodist Church, all baptized persons are ministers. Some are ordained; but all are ministers of the gospel. You are a minister of the gospel.
 - Q: What does the word lay mean in the context? What does someone need to do to become a layperson in The United Methodist Church?
 - A: Lay means someone who is not ordained. To become a layperson in the UMC, someone must be baptized and confirmed.

Education

Q: As of October 2025, approximately how many educational institutions does the UMC support?

a) 95

b) 109

c) 125



- Education
 - John Wesley was a scholar. He believed in education, in books, and in learning. From the beginning, Methodists started schools everywhere they went. Methodism was active in the Sunday school movement in the 1700s, originally started to teach impoverished children to read. Today, the UMC supports a number of colleges, universities, special schools, and seminaries.
 - Q: How many educational institutions does the UMC support? Name one of them.
 - A: 109 (as of October 2025)
- Cokesbury College founded in 1787 in Maryland, no longer there
- More than 1,500 over time (closed, merged, changed affiliations), at most 200 at a time
 - Boston University, Duke, Emory, Syracuse, North Central College in Naperville, Wesleyan near ISU (but is now more independently operated)
- <https://www.gbhem.org/education/students/schools-colleges-universities/>
- <https://www.gbhem.org/education/education-naamscu/naamscu-directory-of-schools/>

Unit 2: Our History and Heritage

Lesson 10: The Local Church



- Over the last few sessions, we have discussed the growth and development of the church as a worldwide institution, but today we are going to focus on this church in particular and how it came to be a part of that larger story.
- Before we get into the story of how this church began and how it's changed over the years, let's talk about your personal story as a part of this church.
- All of our stories are part of the same story of our congregation!



Wrap-Up

Confirm Series: Lessons 7-10

As we wrap up class, lets go over a few things together:

Objective

The objective of class today was...

Application

Today's lesson is important to me because...

Closing Prayer

One confirmand will lead us in a closing prayer.

Upcoming Dates

- October 18
 - HarvestFest volunteer opportunity (10-2p)
- October 19
 - Sunday Night Live (5-7p)
- October 26
 - YPB (4-5p)
 - Confirmation Class (5-6:30p)
- November 3
 - SNL (5-7p)
- November 9
 - Mentor Meet Up (10-10:30)
 - Confirmation Class (5-6:30)
- November 13
 - World Kindness Day Open House (6-8p)
- November 15
 - Feed My Starving Children (5-6:30p)