

Banning United
Methodist
Church



1887-2022



Celebrating 135 years of Christian Ministry

Committed to serving and sharing the Love of God

BANNING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Celebrating 135 Years

of God's Grace

October 30, 2022

Methodism began in Banning in the parlor of Mrs. Samina G. Carpenter in 1885. A year later, Rev. I.G. Sigler came here for his health. Services were held two or three times that year in the Union Church building on the southwest corner of Ramsey and Murray streets on open Sundays. In 1886, Rev. L.L. Rogers preached both in Banning and Beaumont a few times, and such a large response was given him at Beaumont, that a request for a minister was made at the Conference in 1887.

Sunday, October 14, 1887, Rev. W.F. Wenk, from National City, held services for the first time in Banning, preaching in the Union Church. The third Sunday of each month was allotted to the Methodists, the other denominations using other Sundays. On November 20th, five charter members were received into the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Banning. One of these was Mrs. Carpenter. On October 30th, the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Beaumont was organized in Rev. F.F. Sigler's parlor with ten members. The pastor's promised salary was \$700.00, \$600.00 to be paid by the Beaumont charge and \$100.00 by the Banning congregation. At the close of the year, Rev. Wenk reported for the circuit, 23 full members and 5 probationary members.

For several years the Banning congregation met in the Union Church and in the Town Hall on the southeast corner of Livingston and Murray. According to Tom Hughes' "History of Banning", on Sunday, November 17, 1889, a Methodist Church on San Gorgonio was dedicated (this may be confused with the building built in 1892). During this period, baptisms were performed by sprinkling, pouring, or immersing in such places as Highland Home and Gilman Reservoirs.

On July 16, 1892 the Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated. At the same time a promise of a \$250.00 gift and a \$250.00 loan was received from the Church Extension Society. A brick foundation was begun in September on San Gorgonio, north of Ramsey and south of Hays. The first service in the new building was held November 20, 1892.

The records indicate a serious financial panic in Southern California in 1892. The Banning Church paid two tax assessments in 1893, one to San Bernardino County for 52 cents, divided into two installments, and one to Riverside County for \$5.25, also in two installments. The Church was valued at \$1,730.00, indebtedness \$500.00. The Trustees met in September to consider purchase of pews, lamps, stove, and to "procure and set hitching posts for the church." In December, they authorized one of their members to take a loan of \$250.00 from his mother-in-law at 10% to complete payment of the contract.

Under the pastorate of Frederick Miller, a successful revival was held in 1896 and many were converted. Under the same ministry, a parsonage for the pastor was secured at Third and Williams. In 1890 a Young People's Society was organized which grew into a very popular organization, which nearly all the young people of the community joined and attended. It had a marked effect in offsetting evil tendencies toward which they were drifting. A Junior League was organized which most of the children in the neighborhood joined.

1899 saw the pastor of the Banning congregation assisting the Presbyterian pastor in meetings in Beaumont. The following year, 1900, the members of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Banning united. The story is told by old-timers that in the horse and buggy days, the Presbyterian pastor from Beaumont and the Methodist pastor from Banning would pass each other going to preach in the other's field, whereon they would discuss the futility of too many little churches. Eventually the Methodists sold their property in Beaumont to the United Presbyterians and they have no church in Banning.

In 1907, the Methodist Church building was moved to the southeast corner of Second and Ramsey. The old structure was located at the rear of a new building and used for Sunday school classes. Five lots were purchased in 1927 at the corner of Second and Williams at a cost of \$3,000.00. In 1928, the old church site on Ramsey was sold to the J.C. Penny Co. for \$17,500.00 and the congregation moved to its present location to “get away from the highway.” In this move, the church spent \$23,000.00 for a building, \$3,000.00 for furniture, and \$5,000.00 for the 651-pipe Hinners organ. The cornerstone was laid in 1928, and the church building, with mahogany pews, was dedicated April 14, 1929.

In 1932 the property was sold to the State for tax delinquency, but was redeemed later. Over the years, several re-modeling projects have taken place. A name change to Community Methodist Church came about in 1948. The educational facilities and offices were constructed in 1964. The name was again changed in 1968 when the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist church merged. At that time the name became Banning United Methodist Church.

Pastors

1887-2022

1887 At the Annual Conference, Rev. W.F. Wenk was appointed to the “Beaumont-Banning” Circuit.

1888 Rev. James M. Hilbish was appointed to the Circuit. The record of baptisms during his ministry shows Rev. Hilbish “poured” Robert Carpenter on a sick bed in his home; he “sprinkled” William Ingelow and the Hanna family at the church, and he “immersed” Charles Carpenter and others from Beaumont in Gilman’s reservoir.

1890 Rev. A.A. Holden began his ministry with us.

1891 Rev. Dr. Edwin J. Inwood— Union Church was given to the Baptists, so lots were purchased on San Gorgonio north of Ramsey.

1892 Rev. Edward Hoskyn—within a month the church building was started and ready. Total cost \$1,277. Pews, lamps and stoves were added, plus “hitching posts.”

1893 - 1895 The Reverends Alfred Inwood; A. W. Pottle; F. M. Warrington began their ministry with us.

1896 Rev. Frederick Miller—a parsonage was purchased at the corner of 3rd and Williams.

1898 Rev. L. D. Lloyd— during his ministry, a neutral commission was appointed and the Methodist church was assigned to Banning and the Presbyterian church to Beaumont.

1900 - 1904 The Reverends William Pittinger; J. C. Livingston; E. Vaughn; and Charles W. Dane ministered to Banning Methodist Church.

1905 Rev. Jabez Blackhurst began his 5-year ministry. A lot was purchased at the corner of 2nd and Ramsey where the church was “enlarged.”

1910 - 1923 The Reverends Frank Lucas; O.N. Oleson; H. C. Mellen; W.H. Harkness; E.R. Morgan; Dr. E. A. Palmer; R. W. Plannette served here.

1924 Rev. Dr. Leonard Oechsli—served until 1927, during which time a new site was considered and 5 lots on the corner of 2nd and Williams Streets were decided upon.

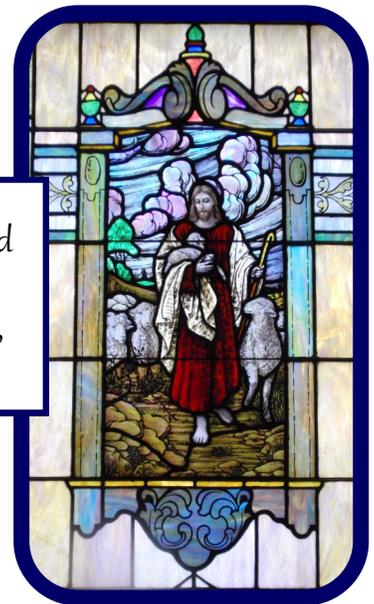
1927 Rev. B. F. Davis—the old property was sold to J.C. Penny Co. and new building begun. The “Good Shepherd” stained glass window, dedicated to Samina C. Carpenter, 1st charter member, was moved to the new building in the West entrance.

1928 Rev. Thomas F. Allen—the church was dedicated and contained \$3000 worth of furniture and a \$5,000 pipe organ.

1929 Rev. J. Crawford Trotter—the Depression came and with it a \$10,000 mortgage and large debts on the furniture and organ.

1932 Rev. Dr. Lawrence E. Warren— he tried heroically to stem the trend but to “the other defeats”

West entry stained glass window, “Good Shepherd.”



were added both tax delinquency and sale of the property to state for taxes. (Later the church was able to buy it back.)

1936 Rev. Paul A. Lomax— “The church began slowly to overcome its defeatist mental attitude...a slight increase in membership and attendance created hope.”

1940 - 1967 The Reverends Davis L. Mounts; Frank D. Lawyer; Harry L. Branton; Burl Long; Paul E. Biesemeyer; Eugene C. Wood; Charles Neigh served here.

1967 Rev. Frank E. Knouse—merging with the United Brethren Church, we became The Banning United Methodist Church.

1969 - 1998 The Reverends Clarence B. Word; Suichi Fujishiro; Stanley N. Fix; Robert G. O’Kane; Harold Kingsley served Banning United Methodist Church.

1999-2013 Rev. George F. Rosemier began his 14-year ministry here at Banning United Methodist Church. At the end of Pastor Rosemier’s first year, he reported: “I continue to be impressed with the dedication and energy exhibited in this faith community...and look forward to the ministry opportunities to which God has called us.”

2013 Rev. David R. Horning began his ministry here at Banning United Methodist Church.

2018 Pastor Brenda Torrie began her ministry here as interim pastor.

2018 Rev. Tom Tran began his ministry here at Banning UMC and faithfully served through July 2022.

2022 Pastor Doug Purcell began his ministry here at Banning United Methodist Church.

Since the celebration of our Centennial in 1987, the last 35 years have found the congregation moving out in faith in many ways with the support for many local charities and mission projects, as well as nurturing and care of our church family with prayer groups and Bible studies.

Attempts over the years to keep our pipe organ working eventually brought us to make a difficult decision. An electronic organ now graces the sanctuary.

The Trustees have been diligent in the maintenance of our church with repairs as needed, adding security measures for the office and enhancing the property in many ways. The addition of the beautiful Garden of Remembrance, in the patio area, currently has sixty names of departed church members and constituents; we upgraded the Sanctuary with two monitors and a new sound system; our Fellowship Hall received a complete transformation; and we also installed a beautiful desert landscape to the east of our office building, which includes the Methodist Cross and Flame.

As your pastor, it has been an amazing few months with all of you. I appreciate your commitment to God, the Church, and the surrounding community. This Church has been a labor of love for one hundred and thirty-five years. Isaac Newton was purported to say that. "I stand on the shoulders of giants." So, my vision for this church is to continue the legacy of sharing the love of Jesus Christ and developing the personal faith that my predecessors initiated. And to continue to make a difference in the community by performing acts of compassion, mercy, justice, and Christian service.

Pastor Doug

...to be continued...



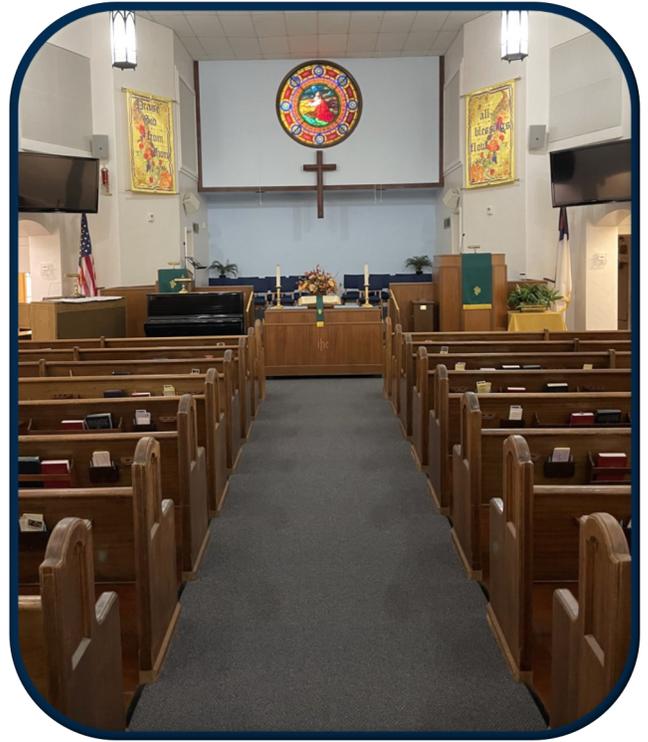
Photo taken in 1942 of south wall.



Photo taken in 2022. The tree has grown quite a bit in 80 years!



Chancel stained glass window, "Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane."

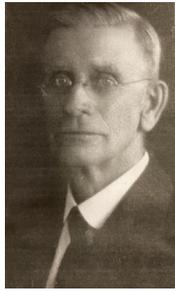


Pastors

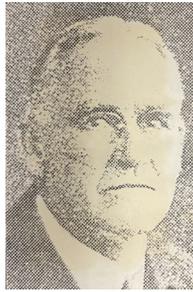
1887-2022



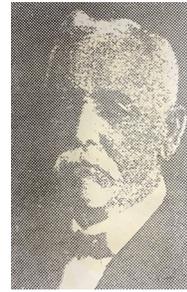
Rev. W.F. Wenk



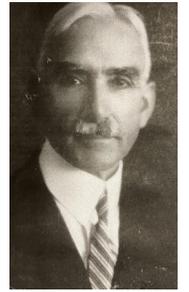
Rev. A.A. Holden



Rev. E. J. Inwood



Rev. E. Hoskyn



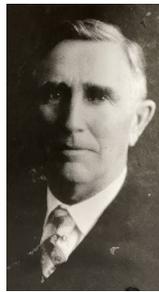
Rev. A. Inwood



Rev. F. M. Warrington



Rev. F. Miller



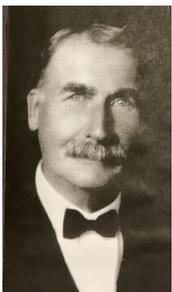
Rev. L. D. Lloyd



Rev. W. Pittinger



Rev. J. C. Livingston



Rev. E. Vaughn



Rev. F. Lucas



Rev. O.N. Oleson



Rev. H. C. Mellen



Rev. W.H. Harkness



Rev. E.R. Morgan



Rev. Dr. E. A. Palmer



Rev. R. W. Plannette



Rev. Dr. L. Oechsli



Rev. B. F. Davis



Rev. T. F. Allen



Rev. J. C. Trotter



Rev. Dr. L. E. Warren



Rev. P. A. Lomax



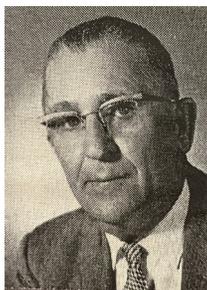
Rev. D. L. Mounts



Rev. F. D. Lawyer



Rev. H. L. Branton



Rev. B. Long



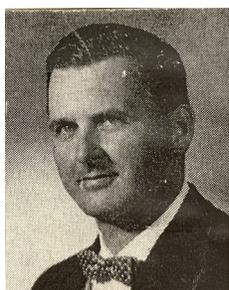
Rev. P. E. Biesemeyer



Rev. E. C. Wood



Rev. C. Neigh



Rev. F. E. Knouse



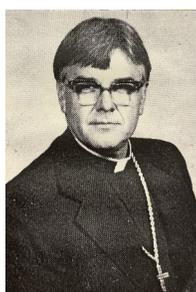
Rev. C. B. Word



Rev. S. Fujishiro



Rev. S. N. Fix



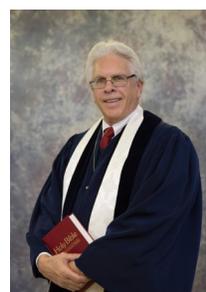
Rev. G. O'Kane



Rev. H. Kingsley



Rev. G. F. Rosemier



Rev. D. R. Horning



Pastor B. Torrie



Rev. T. Tran



Pastor D. Purcell

