

## TIME LINE FOR THE MORRISON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- 1843: The area we know as Leesburg was first settled by Thomas Robertson and his son, John Robertson, who homesteaded 350 acres south of Lake Griffin.
- 1854: James Fussell's sons sold part some land to Evander Lee who was joined in the new territory by his brothers, John Calvin Lee and Josiah A. Lee. That year the Sumter Mission was created. It was part of a Methodist circuit served by Methodist circuit rider, W. P. O'Clain.
- 1857: The settlers built a shelter of pine post supporting a palmetto thatch roof on Lake Griffin where multiple denominations met together for religious services. Evander Lee brought his five sons and three daughters to an area between two beautiful lakes.
- 1859: A six-sided log cabin was built on land that later became Lone Oak Cemetery. It was called the Lake Griffin Church.
- 1865: The cabin was replaced by a frame building, using the existing frame work from the original log cabin. This building also housed multiple denominations and became the first schoolhouse for the settlement.
- 1882: Mr. and Mrs. John C. Love gave one acre lots to the Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians.
- 1883: The Methodists erected a white frame church on their acre on Main Street. This church stood where our children's playground is now located.
- 1884: A Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized.
- 1887: Nannie B. Gaines was sent as a missionary from Morrison to be the first Principal of the Hiroshima Girls School in Japan.
- 1888: A parsonage was built next to the church, and it stood where the Chapel is now located. It burned in 1927 and was replaced by a new parsonage that same year. Part of the parsonage formed the rear wall of the Chapel.
- 1894: The Big Freeze came and triggered a decline in church membership.
- 1906: The church was damaged by a fire caused by a faulty heater.
- 1907: The church was repaired and the congregation moved back into the church on its 50th anniversary.
- 1916: The Women's Foreign Missionary Society was reorganized into the Women's Missionary Society.
- 1921: The white frame church was moved to the back of the lot to make room for a new church. The old church was used for Sunday School classes. The Ladies' Aid and the Women's Missionary Societies united.
- 1924: The new church opened and was named Morrison Memorial Methodist Church in honor of Bishop Morison.
- 1949: A new parsonage was built on Cascade Avenue and a new education building was erected, incorporating the old parsonage.

- 1956: Extensive work/remodeling was done on the organ and the choir loft, and a new heating system and air conditioner was installed for the first time.
- 1957: Morrison celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 1961: The worship service was broadcast on WLBE for the first time.
- 1963: The Youth Center was consecrated. The Men's Chorus was organized and provided several programs.
- 1968: The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church united and our name was changed to Morrison United Methodist Church.
- 1971: Two morning services become a permanent practice.
- 1974: An active and successful Concert Series began on November 25, fully supported by free-will offerings. Tom DeWitt joined as organist/choirmaster.
- 1976: Morrison Preschool began operation. Barbara Taylor became our Director of Christian Education.
- 1977: A new parsonage was built at 1207 South Ninth Street at a cost of \$93,000.
- 1979: A Blue Bird bus was purchased. (We used this bus until it was sold in 2010).
- 1982: The first class of acolytes was trained.
- 1985: The congregation moved into a new sanctuary. The Men's Chorus was replaced by a mixed choir.
- 1988: The covered walkway between the Family Life Center and the sanctuary was donated in memory of James F. Leware by his wife. The Morris property was purchased in order to build the Multi-Ministry Building. (The Mote Morris house was moved two years later). The needlepoint altar kneeling cushions made by women of the church were dedicated. Lovely stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary.
- 1991: A ministry for the deaf and hard-of hearing emerged with Jean Powell and Angie Liston as interpreters. (This has continued to the present time).
- 1994: The administrative offices were moved to 9th and Main Street.
- 1997: The Multi Ministry Building was built. It includes a gymnasium, Sunday School classrooms, youth rooms, and classrooms for the Preschool and Parents Day Out programs.
- 1998: A team of choir members consisting of 33 singers traveled to Zimbabwe, Africa to visit churches and give concerts.
- 1999: The Opportunity Shop Thrift Store opened. Ted Emack moved his Outreach Ministry of a medical Loan Closet into the basement of the Op Shop.
- 2003: The Juanita Gregg Family Life Center was built. Browne Gregg donated \$1 million dollars toward the cost of construction.
- 2005: On October 9, Soul-utions (our non-traditional service) had its first service.
- 2009: The mortgage was paid in full.