





- Briefly show Christian church originations and highlight key dates to Methodist church (5 minutes):
  - 1054 – “Great Schism” ... the culmination of theological and political differences which had developed during the preceding centuries between Eastern and Western Christianity.
  - 1517 – Martin Luther published his “95 Theses” – start of the Protestant Reformation – a movement against perceived errors in the Catholic Church
  - 1534 - Start of the “modern” Church of England; other Protestant reforms from Germany and Switzerland led to Lutheran, Presbyterian and other churches.
  - 1726 – John Wesley is ordained in the Church of England; later so is his brother Charles
  - 1735 - John and Charles Wesley sail to Georgia as missionaries of the Anglican Church. In 1738, Wesley began concentrating on his own ministries ... But he remained with the Church of England until his death in 1791. Shortly after that, the Methodist Church separated from the Church of England.
- Briefly highlight the right side of the chart as additional history leading to formation of the United Methodist Church in 1968.

**Session 5 – The Church**  
*The Wesleys and the History of the Methodist Church*  
 September 8, 2021

- Charles Wesley
  - Born 12/18/1707; Younger brother of John Wesley
  - Married Sarah Gwynne and had 7 children together
    - (only three survived past infancy)
  - Formed Oxford “Holy Club”
    - later members included John Wesley & Charles Whitefield
  - Strongly opposed idea of leaving the Church of England
  - Wrote more than 6,500 hymns
    - “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”
    - “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
    - “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”
    - Listed in Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1995

From 2018 LUMC Session “The Sights and Sounds of World Methodism”  
 Collected and presented by: Reverend Doctor John Beyers  
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- Before we talk about John Wesley, let’s review some highlights from his younger brother, Charles.
- Review the bullet points, highlighting Charles’ formation of the Holy Club at Oxford University, his opposition to leaving the Church of England, and his prolific history of writing (6500+ hymns, later listed in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.
- Charles died in 1788 – three years before the death of his brother John.

**Session 5 – The Church**  
**The Wesleys and the History of the Methodist Church**  
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- John Wesley
  - Personal life
    - Strong faith role model and work ethic from his parents (Susanna and Samuel)
    - 15<sup>th</sup> of 19 children
    - Brilliant scholar who attended Oxford
  - The Aldersgate Experience
    - Traveled to America (Georgia) in 1735 as a priest in Church of England, failed and returned bitter and spiritually low
    - By invitation of Moravians, attended a session where he "...felt my heart strangely warmed, with trust in Christ alone for salvation."
  - [Wesley's Radical Ideas](#)
  - The Organizer
    - Methodical work organizing societies, classes, connections and circuits, then added lay preachers.
    - Remained Anglican, but laid foundation for Methodism to break away from the Church of England.
    - [The Wesley Quadrilateral](#)

- Text from "The Sights and Sounds of World Methodism" (Beyers)  
 - Videos created in 2013 by Ms. Frances Palmateer and staff at Stephens City (VA) United Methodist Church; used by permission



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- Introduce group to the quiz about John Wesley and either ask them to try it individually, or walk through the quiz and ask people to give their to answer each question.
- Review bullets on Wesley's personal life and the Aldersgate Experience
- Play the first video – "Wesley's Radical Ideas" (3 minutes, 37 seconds) and invite discussion on observations and highlights
  - Preaching out in the open
  - Social holiness – church should take care of the poor
  - Unique organizational ideas (small groups, circuit riders, etc)
  - Laity as leaders of small groups
- Review bullets under "the Organizer" section. Comment on Wesley's phenomenal organizational skills
- Play the video "The Wesley Quadrilateral" (3:51) and invite discussion about this theological framework
  - Framework for theological study
  - Every Christian is a theologian
  - Four sides of the Wesley quadrilateral
    1. Scripture - most important of the four resources
    2. Tradition – for questions that can't be answered by Scripture

3. Reason – can help think things through, but can't explain everything
  4. Experience – of you, other Christians and people you consider trusted sources
- Logic and Reason - The **most fundamental distinction of Methodist teaching** is that people must use logic and reason in all matters of faith.
  - Interesting historical perspective: Wesley rode over 250,000 miles on horseback, a distance equal to ten circuits of the globe along the equator. He preached over 40,000 sermons!
  - Briefly review correct answers to the quiz

**Session 5 – The Church**  
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**HFUMC Historical Timeline**

- 1854 Hartwell Methodist Episcopal Church was established
- 1859 Present location purchased; First church building built
- 1880 Church was remodeled
- 1891 New 1050-pound bell was installed
- 1897 Old building sold at public auction
- 1897 Present sanctuary was built
- 1952 Three story educational building constructed
- 1953 First parsonage built (O'Neal house)
- 1963 Sanctuary remodeled
- 1980 Gym and Family Life Center added
- 1987 HFUMC listed on National Historic Registry
  
- 2007 Fourteen acres purchased adjacent to the church property (Formerly Springs Industries)
  - Named the area Page-Thornton Park
  - New Gym/Youth/Young Adult built
  
- 2009 New worship center/fellowship hall and children's education building constructed
  
- 2018 Adjacent properties between the current worship center and Bank Avenue purchased for expansion opportunities



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- Close with the brief review of our church's local history (refer people to the HFUMC website for more information and copies of all the session materials).
- Invite any prayer concerns to pass on to staff, and encourage group to attend Session 6 (Resurrection and Life Everlasting) next week.