

JOHN WESLEY UMC's WINDOWS

Take a Walk Through the Life of Jesus

Viewing the windows from inside the sanctuary, they may look like two separate pieces. But each is actually one long window telling two different stories. The main floor picture tells the story of Jesus beginning with Window 1. The pictures on the balcony level depict the Methodist journey.

Window #1 - *"Unto you this day is born a savior which is Christ our Lord"*

The birth of Christ is depicted in the lower portion of Window 1. Out in the fields, an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds who were tending their flocks of sheep by night, announcing that the Savior had been born in the town of Bethlehem. As the angels departed, the shepherds decided to travel to Bethlehem and see the Christ-child. There they found Mary, Joseph and the baby in a stable. This sleeping baby, the tender child Mary had just borne, was the Savior of the world.

On the balcony level John and Charles Wesley are depicted. John Wesley is the father of our Methodist faith. His younger brother Charles Wesley was a prolific writer of over 5,000 hymns.

Window #2 - *"Out of Egypt have I called my Son"*

In the lower panel Joseph leads Mary and Jesus as they ride on the back of a donkey on their flight to Egypt. An Angel of the Lord had appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

The balcony portion of the panel depicts the Epworth Rectory (birthplace of the Wesleys) and Susanna Wesley teaching her sons. It was Susanna's teaching that started her sons on their faith journey.

Window #3 - *"I must be about by Father's business"*

The lower section presents the young Jesus in the Temple. It was after the feast of the Passover. Mary and Joseph had traveled to Jerusalem with their family for the celebration. On the way home they discovered their Son was missing and returned to Jerusalem to search for him. He was found in the temple sitting among the teachers. Even at a young age Jesus was speaking with understanding and knowledge. When Mary told him they had been searching for him for three days, Jesus replied, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

The balcony level depicts John Wesley preaching out of doors as he went to those that would listen. Many times he was not welcome in the local churches.

Window #4 - *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"*

The lower panel features the baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist, shown on the right side, was baptizing in the Jordan River when Jesus came forward. After John baptized Jesus, as Jesus was coming out of the water, the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended in the shape of a dove upon Him and a voice declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The balcony level depicts Thomas Coke, who arrived in the United States in 1784 with instructions from John Wesley to ordain ministers in the new country; and Francis Asbury, who arrived in the Colonies in 1771. Their tireless leadership spread Methodism in America. Before Asbury's death in 1816, he had ridden approximately 270,000 miles on horseback from Maine to Georgia and from the Atlantic to the western frontier preaching.

Window #5 - *"Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it"*

The lower panels show us the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Jesus had accompanied his mother Mary to a wedding in the village of Cana. Before the celebration was over they had run out of wine. In the ancient world, this would have been a great embarrassment to the host. Mary hurried to Jesus and told Him, then she told the servants who waited at the tables to do whatever Jesus might command them. Jesus called the servants and told them to fill several water pots with water. Then Jesus told them to draw out from the water pots and fill the wine pitchers. When the servants obeyed they saw that wine flowed from the vessels they had just filled with water. Turning water into wine was Jesus' first miracle.

The balcony level features Robert Strawbridge, the first Methodist preacher in our area, and Francis Asbury, "The Prophet of the Long Road."

Window #6 – “*Sir, give me this water that I may not thirst*”

Jesus teaches love and acceptance. The woman in the lower right panel was a Samaritan, a group long held in contempt by the Jews because of their mixed lineage. Against Jewish custom, Jesus asked her to draw him a drink of water from the well. Then He told her he could give her "living water" so that she would never thirst again. By reaching out to the Samaritans, Jesus showed that his mission was to everyone, not just the Jews.

The balcony level shows two of the oldest Methodist churches in America: the John Street Church in New York and Barretts Chapel in Delaware.

Window #7 – “*Suffer the little children to come unto me*”

In the lower panel we see Jesus blessing the little children. In Mark, Jesus tells us we are to become like little children. “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

The upper level depicts the old log meeting house at Sam’s Creek in Frederick County; and Lovely Lane Church in Baltimore, “the Mother Church of American Methodism.”

Window #8 – “*This is my blood, which is shed for many*”

The Last Supper is depicted in the lower window. In the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples, the night before His crucifixion, He took bread, broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Then, when the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave the cup to his disciples and said, “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The balcony level shows the first two Methodist churches in Hagerstown. The original church, built around 1805, was “on the east side of Jonathan Street, north of Washington.” After outgrowing that building, in 1825 a larger church was built in the first block of North Jonathan Street.

Window #9 – “*Not as I will, but as Thou wilt*”

After The Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. In agony, He reconciled himself to God’s plan. As Peter, James and John slept, Jesus prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God (2 Corinthians 5:21). This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The balcony level pictures Bishops Edwin H. Hughes and William F. McDowell. These men were leaders in the 1939 merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church to form a unified Methodist Church.

Window #10 – “*Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father*”

The lower panel depicts the Resurrection, the first Easter Morning. On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene returned to Jesus’ tomb only to find His body missing. As she stood there crying, thinking it had been stolen, she heard Jesus say her name. She cried out, “Rabboni” (Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

The balcony level depicts Bishops James H. Straughan and James M. Moore, two additional leaders in the 1939 Methodist unification.

The Rose Window - The large Rose Window in the back of the sanctuary was given by Miss Emma K. Heironimus on May 4th, 1947 upon the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the church charter.

At the apex of the Rose Window is the seated figure of Christ, his arms extended in invitation. On either side are the Greek letters, alpha and omega symbolizing Christ as the beginning and the end. The four stars in the background represent divine wisdom. In the two circles beside Christ are The Hand of God representing the Father, and The Dove representing the Holy Spirit. These, along with Christ at very peak, represent the Trinity. In the circle at the center of the window is the cross and crown, symbolizing faith. The circles along the lower edge of the window contain the anchor and rope, symbolizing hope, and the open Bible, symbolizing charity. Along the bottom in the lancets are St. Paul in center, for whom the church was originally named, and the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John looking from left to right.