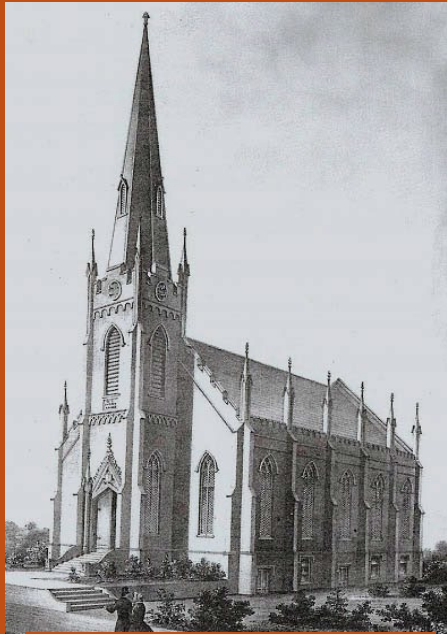


A Short History of Santa Clara United Methodist Church

Methodism in California had its beginnings in the Santa Clara Valley in 1846. The Wesley traditions were carried here by the early settlers from Missouri; pioneers like Cpt. Joseph Aram, William & Benjamin Campbell, Adna Hecox, James Reed, and Silas Bennett. The first Protestant sermon on record in Alta California was preached in William Campbell's adobe home Nov. 2, 1846; from this, our church traces its history.

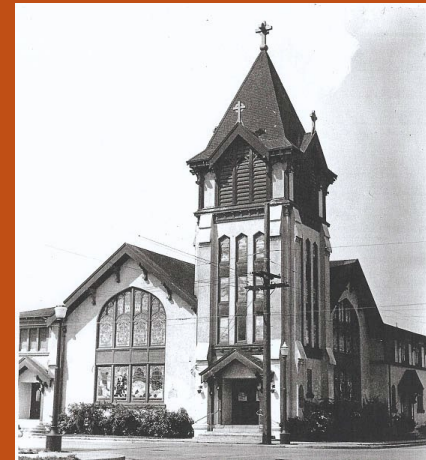


Brick Church 1861-1906

In March 1851, with guidance of Rev. Charles Maclay, residents of the new Town of Santa Clara built what we refer to as 'the Adobe church', in the 'Old Quad', partially with material from Mission Santa Clara. Rev. Isaac Owen, the first superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church in California, with other organizers, obtained a Charter for the California Wesleyan College (later the University of the Pacific) at the first session of the State Legislature. The deed to the Adobe church property was recorded, & the church incorporated by Rev. Daniel on March 17, 1856, thus the oldest church in Santa Clara County.

Construction of a new 'Brick church' began on the same site in 1861. Construction, delayed by the Civil War; was completed afterward. It served the congregation until it was destroyed by the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906. A new temporary hall was built from the debris, and the new church, 'the Stucco Church', known as The University Methodist Church, was dedicated on Oct. 11, 1908.

As the Great Depression dawned, Santa Clara's Methodist & Presbyterian congregations joined to form The Federated Church. In June 1946, under better conditions, the Federation was dissolved, with the church observing its 100th Anniversary on Nov. 3rd.



Stucco Church 1908-1965

As the church needed more room for its growing congregation, Jessie & Lois Inman made a gift for its present site. A building program was undertaken, & the new church was dedicated in 1965. The bell from the Brick Church's bell tower hangs there. The church still worships in that site and, since 1985, is blessed to share its facilities with Bethel Korean UMC.

The congregation, following the Social Creed of Methodism, agreed to develop a senior retirement facility on the site of the old Adobe Church. The Santa Clara Methodist Retirement Foundation constructed today's 11-story Liberty Tower, taking in its first residents in 1973; today it serves 280 people. The Foundation manages Wesley Manor in Campbell and is constructing a third facility in Campbell.

For 180 years, the Methodist people living in Santa Clara and the Valley have taken a leading role in religious, educational, civic, and other social affairs:

- Established the first Protestant congregation in Alta California (west of the Mississippi)
- **Founded the California Wesleyan College (aka. University of the Pacific) in 1851, making UoP the oldest institution of higher learning in California.**
- Platted the downtowns of Santa Clara (Old Quad) and San Jose (Washington Square).
- **Served as Mission Station for Methodist churches throughout Santa Clara Valley and beyond.**
- Built three neighborhoods: College Park, Timber Woods, and old Campbell.
- **Founded the Methodist Retirement Foundation providing low-income senior housing with three centers.**
- Outreach with Teen Challenge, JW House, and Operation Christmas Child.

All are invited!

180th Celebration

October 11, 2026

10AM to 1PM

1700 Lincoln St.

Santa Clara, CA 95050

For details, contact

david.yang@cnumc.org

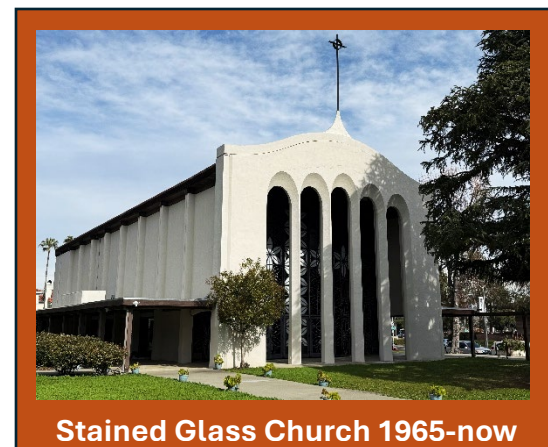
Phone: 415-686-3552

Our Anniversary

Event includes:

- **Historical Plaque Dedication**
- **City Representatives**
- **Church Officials**
- **Speeches & Sermon**
- **Music and Great Food**
- **Activities for kids**

Come to our Anniversary!



**Santa Clara
United Methodist
Church**

**Celebrating 180 Years
of Methodism in
Santa Clara & California
c. 1846-2026**

