



Homecoming, Sunday, October 27, 2019

125 years Walking with God

October 1894 - 2019



Mission Statement

In the **LOVE** of Jesus Christ, We Reach
UP in Worship and Prayer,
OVER in Discipleship and Care,
OUT in Witness and Service.

Kenova United Methodist Church
503 15th Street, Kenova, WV 25530
Pastor Jim Richards
www.kenovaumc.com
304-453-1112

KENOVA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- information compiled by Stanley Wood

CONTENTS: The Kenova United Methodist Church is the result of combining and changes of the churches listed below.

Part 1. Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church; 1894 - 1940
(our original church)

Part 2. Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church, South; 1922 - 1940
(The two churches above merged to form the Kenova Methodist Church in 1940)

Part 3. Kenova Methodist Church; 1940 - 1968

Part 4. Kenova United Methodist Church; 1968 - present

In 1890, The Grace Episcopal Church was organized by L.T. Peck and Charles C. Coe. The church building was located on the north-west corner of 18th & Chestnut Streets. The church building was moved here from Volcano, W. V. The building came down the Ohio River on barges. The church was later disbanded because of the lack of interested members. This is mentioned because the Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church used this building in its beginning.

PART 1: KENOVA METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1894-1940)

October 28, 1894, The Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church was organized mainly by Rev. E.A. Davis the first pastor. Rev. Davis was already pastor of the Ceredo Church. The histories of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Kenova and the Methodist Episcopal Church of Ceredo of Ceredo were closely intertwined.

On Nov. 21, 1895, a lot was purchased at 16th & Sycamore Streets for a church building. This deed for the lot was made by John H. Dingee and his wife Helen to the Church Trustees - Hamilton Willis, Harrison Piles, Moses J. Smith, Joseph Davis, and Ulysses Brown.

The original church was a small white frame church built on the lot and valued at \$1,450. The debt on this building was paid in 1903 and a dedication service was held Sept. 27, 1903.

Ministers in Chronological Order

1. E.A. Davis 1894
2. M.D. Booth
3. F.M. Cain
4. R.E. Rickey
5. E.J. Westfall
6. G.L. Carder
7. M.A. Banker
8. Rev. John W. Johnson
9. Rev. McClintock
10. James T. Johnson
11. Rev. L. E. Leslie
12. Rev. Edward H. Heller
13. William F. Sheppard 1908

In **1910**, a lot near 15th & Poplar was purchased.

14. E. Francisco Connolly (1910 - 1911)

In **1911**, Sycamore St. Church Building was moved to 15th & Poplar. A pastor wrote in 1911, there were 15-20 in Sunday School.

15. H.N. Newell (1911-1912): 15 members added by profession of Faith.
16. W.M Fallen (1912-1915)
17. W.N Frasure (1915-1919)

In **1919**, an adjoining lot was purchased so that a new building could be constructed.

In **1921**, plans for the new church building were made while T. S. Bostic was pastor.

18. T.S. Bostic (1919-1922)
19. J. S. Thornburg (1922-1929)

In **1922**, under the leadership of J.S. Thornburg, the new church building was built.

In **1923**, a new parsonage was built beside the church on the southwest corner of 15th & Poplar St. The parsonage was dedicated June **1923**.

20. Rev. Grover J. Johnson (1929-1930)
21. Rev. T. Hayes (1930-1933)
22. Rev. C.C. Yates (1933-1940)

The Kenova Methodist Episcopal and the Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church South were united in **1940** after the "Methodist Unification" in 1939. Methodist Unification in 1939 was the union of the three Methodist Churches, - the Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Methodist Protestant Church. This Unification was a giant step in the history of Methodism.

PART 2: THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH (1922-1940)

In **1922**, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South was organized through the efforts of Rev. Anderson L. Moore, assisted by Reuben Osborne, Sr. (Lucian Osborne's father), Bernie Hudgens, and others. An earlier attempt to organize was the Grace Episcopal Church listed above.

In **1923**, a lot was purchased on the south side of Poplar St. between 16th & 17th Streets.

In **1925**, the building was finished and dedicated by Bishop Darlington.

Pastors of the Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church in Chronological order.

1. Rev. Ivy York (1922 - ?)
2. Rev. E.C. Caton
3. Rev. J.N. Herald
4. Rev. J.C. Campbell
5. Rev. H.A. Perkins
6. Rev. Summers
7. Rev. B.M. Keith
8. Rev. Ivy Yoak

In **1939**, the Methodist Unification was the union of the Methodist Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church nationally.

In **1940**, The Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church, South united and were now call the Kenova Methodist Church.

After the unification of 1939, The Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church, South building was rented to the Kenova Church of God and later sold to that church. (This church building is still located at that location, 1616 Poplar St.)

PART 3: THE KENOVA METHODIST CHURCH (1940-1968)

1940 The Kenova Methodist Episcopal and the Kenova Methodist Episcopal Church, South were united in **1940** after the "Methodist Unification" in 1939. Methodist Unification in 1939 was the union of the three Methodist Churches, - the Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the Methodist Protestant Church. This Unification was a giant step in the history of Methodism.

23. Dr. E. J. Westfall returned to the Kenova Methodist Church as an elderly man. 1940-?

24. Rev. J.R. Bright (?-1945)

25. Rev. J. Everett McClung (1945-1948)

26. Rev. Virgil Conant (1948-1953)

In **1950**, the church building was enlarged, redecorated, and the educational building was added. The new building was 30ft. by 110ft., This addition contained 17 new classrooms. The sanctuary was lengthened and remodeled, and a garage, washroom, and Boy Scout room was added.

27. Rev. W.A. Debar (1953-1956),

In **1955**, new pews were purchased for the sanctuary.

28. Rev. John Quinn Geiger (1956-1960)

In **1958**, the church bought Dr. B.D. Garrett's doctor's office building which was adjoining the church property to the south. Dr. Garrett had died in 1952.

29. Dr. Joseph D. Dryfield. (1960-1962)

30. Rev. Rola John Matheny (1962 - 1963)

31. Rev. Rhenus Lyman O'Dell (1963-1965)

In **1965**, Rev. O'Dell worked with the congregation in designing and starting work on the narthex, spire, and cross on the front of the church. This work was completed after Rev. Alva T. Stewart became pastor in 1965.

PART 4: THE KENOVA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, (1968 - present)

In **1968**, The merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church brought into existence a church of more than 10 million members. This was named "The United Methodist Church" - as it is currently known.

32. Rev. Alva T. Stewart (1965-1970)

In **1966**, narthex addition was dedicated on May 7th.

In **1969**, the Kenova United Methodist Church purchased a house located on the north east corner of 17th & Chestnut Streets for the church parsonage.

33. Rev Clifford Galen Schell (1970 -1987)

In **1972**, a new baptistry was built in the basement of the Church Building. This baptistry was dedicated on Nov. 19, 1972.

In **1977**, the Administrative Board Chairman selected a committee to survey membership to get ideas on expansion possibilities.

In **1978**, the process of planning a new building was started and by June 1978 \$139,594.50 was pledged to the Building Fund. The church building plans continued.

On **April 1, 1979**. a groundbreaking service was held on the church lawn (in pouring rain) and construction started.

In **1980**, the first service was held in the new sanctuary and fellowship hall addition.

34. Rev. William "Bill" Miller (1987-1995)

In **1992**, Lemaster property on Poplar St adjoining the church was purchased.

In **1994**, The Church centennial celebration.

35. Dr. Ford W. Price (1995 - 2004)

In **1996**, the final part of the Poplar St. parking lot was purchased.

In **1997**, the Office building (Youth, now Scout Building) on the corner of 15th & Chestnut was purchased.

In **2000**, the Parsley property on Poplar St. adjoining the Lemaster property was purchased.

In **2003**, a new addition was completed at the cost of 1.6 million.

36. Rev. William "Bill" DeMoss (2004) Interim Pastor

37. Rev. Lindsay Thorp (2004 - 2011)

38. Rev. Jim Richards (2011 - present)

In **2014**, The Adkins-Rollins Senior Center on Chestnut St. was purchased and \$150,000 was added to the building loan. This building was renamed "The Gathering Place" and serves as a community and family life center. Some examples of the various church activities include: the Youth Group, the Backpack Ministry for the area schools, The Christmas Shoebox Ministry, Needy Children's Christmas workshop, AA, etc.

In **2019**, the 1.75 million building loan was paid off.

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**Members of the 1980 Building Committee**

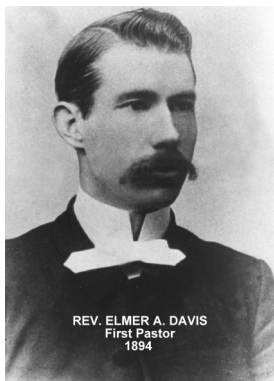
**Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall completed in 1980**

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Grey Maynard, Chairman*     | Stanley Hanson   |
| Jack Capehart (deceased)*   | Earl Hunter*     |
| Helen Capehart (successor)* | Dan McSpadden    |
| Walter Clewis*              | Gene Mitchell*   |
| J. Omer Devol*              | Ronald Ted Rakes |

**Members of the 1995 - 2003 Building Committee**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Sam Colvin, Chairman | Kelly Adkins    |
| Dan Boyd*            | Frank Olmstead* |
| Joe Preece           | Ted Rakes       |
| Jack Riggs           | Jeff Sawyers    |
| Sandy Solomon        | John Turner     |
| Stanley Wood         | Donna Workman   |

\* deceased



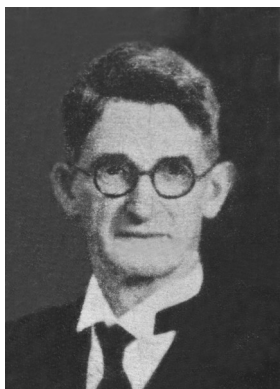
Rev. Elmer A. Davis  
First Pastor 1894



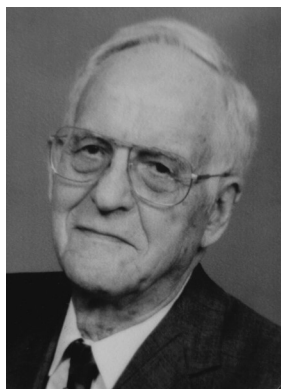
Edward J. Heller  
1907



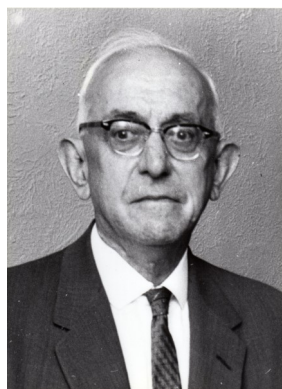
John T. Johnson  
1907



Joseph S. Thornburg  
1922 - 1929



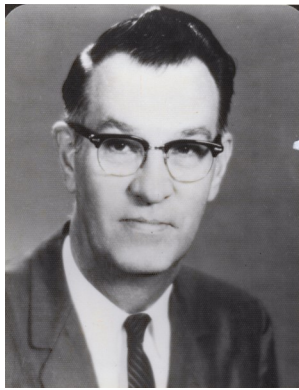
Virgil Conant  
1948 - 1953



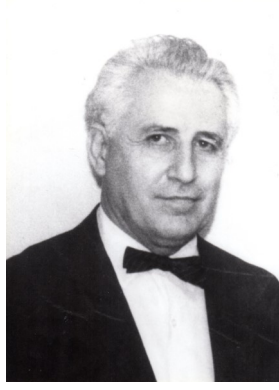
William A. Debar  
1953 - 1956



John Quinn Geiger  
1956 - 1960



Dr. Joseph Bernard Dryfield  
1960 - 1962



Rola John Metheny  
1962 - 1963

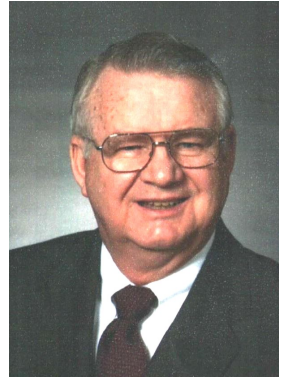




Raenus Lyman O'Dell  
1963– 1965



Alvin T. Stewart  
1965 - 1970



Clifford Galen Schell  
1970 - 1987



William Donald Miller  
1987 - 1995



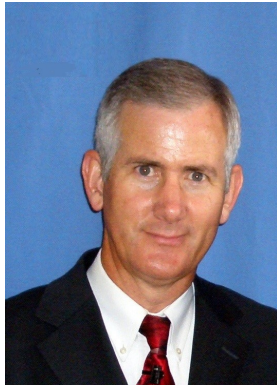
Louis Coffee  
Associate Pastor



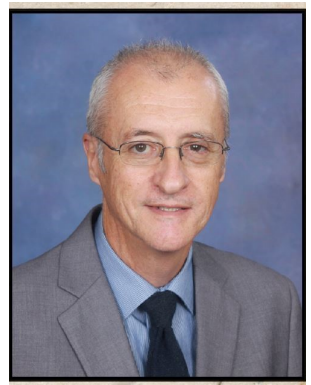
Dr. W. Ford Price  
1995 - 2004



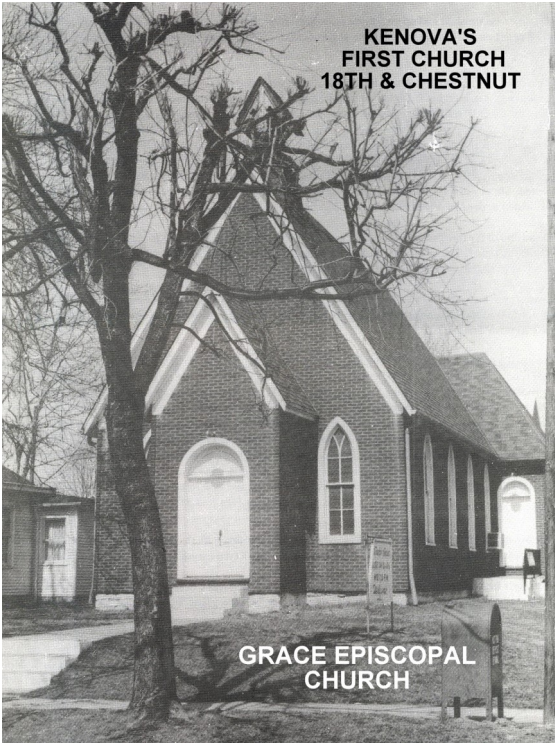
William DeMoss  
Interim Pastor 2004



Lindsay Thorp  
2004 - 2011



James O. Richards  
2011 - present



**Grace Episcopal  
Church**

**Kenova's First  
Church located at  
18th & Chestnut**



Methodist Church  
1913 Flood  
Kenova, W. Va  
(looking north on 15th st. from Chestnut)



1913 Flood: Methodist Church looking north on 15th from Chestnut

**Photos showing the church during the 1913 flood.**



1913 Flood - Kenova, W. Va.  
Kenova Methodist Church on Left  
Kenova Grade School in background on right





**Top: Kenova Church 1921- 1965**

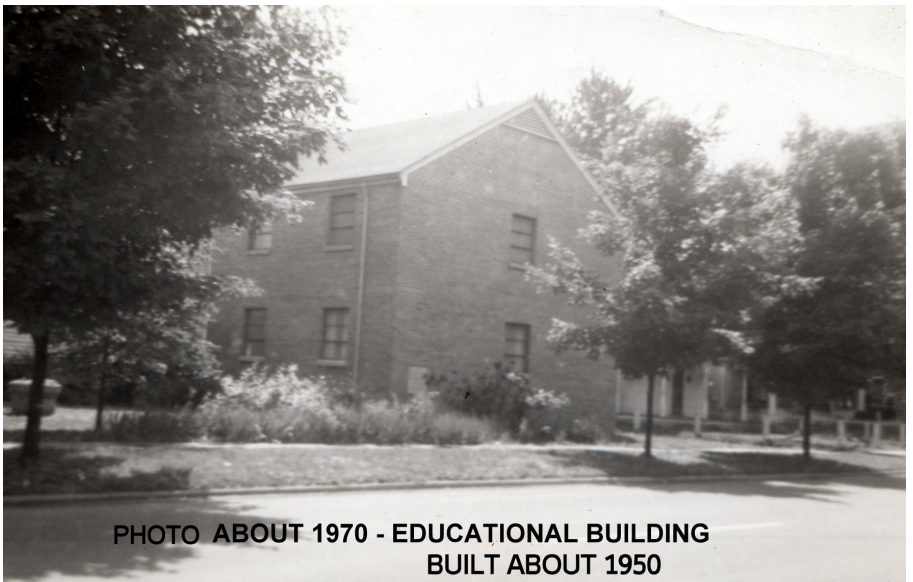
**Bottom: Kenova Episcopal Church South 1922 - 1940 (This is now the Poplar Street Church of God)**





**Top: The church in 1950**

**Bottom: Educational building built in 1950, photo taken in 1970**







## **Ground breaking and Construction Photos**





**Top: Kenova United Methodist Church - 1980**  
**Bottom: Kenova United Methodist Church today (2019)**



# The Parsonage

Top: The original parsonage (1922 - 1979)



Middle & Bottom:  
Current (2019) parsonage







DEDICATION OF YOUTH BUILDING APRIL 2000

**Middle and Bottom: Adkins-Rollins Memorial Senior Citizen's Center purchased in 2014. Today it's "The Gathering Place" which is used for a variety of activities.**



THE GATHERING PLACE

**Our guest speaker for our Homecoming Celebration  
and burning of the mortgage, is  
Bishop Sandra L. Steiner Ball**



Sandra L. Steiner Ball, the daughter of Edward J. and the late Marjorie W. Steiner, was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and raised in Milford, Delaware. She is a graduate of Dickinson College, (B.A. in Religion, 1984), Duke Divinity School (M.Div., 1987), and Wesley Theological Seminary (D.Min., 2003).

Sandra was ordained Deacon and Elder by Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. She has served as an associate pastor, lead pastor, District Superintendent, and Director of Connectional Ministries (DCM). During her last year as a DCM, she also served as interim pastor of Bayside Chapel, a new church start. Sandra was in this position when elected to the episcopacy by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 2012 and was assigned to the West Virginia Area.

Bishop Steiner Ball and her husband, The Rev. Dr. Barry D. Steiner Ball, have two daughters: Sarah Elizabeth McCammon and Sandra Rebekah Ball.

## CURRENT MINISTRIES

**Sunday School Program:** Sunday School is available for all ages.

- Faith Wilks, Education Chairperson / Sunday School Superintendent

**Music Ministries:** Variety of music opportunities with Chancel Choir, Golden Chords Choir, Instrumentalists, Soloists and Ensembles, Hand bell Choir, etc.

- Randy Davis, Director of Music/Organist

**Children's Ministries:** Weekly programs on Wednesday for Preschool Children (ages 2 - Pre-K) and Elementary Children (K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade) as well as other programs throughout the year which includes Vacation Bible School, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast with Santa, etc.

- Lynn Salmons, Director of Children's Ministries

**Middle School and High School Youth Programs:** KUMC's Youth group is known as Focus 4:12 which refers to 1 Timothy 4:12 (Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity). Programs include Small group studies, Service Projects and the Sponsor of the Blessings Box

- Jaclyn Johnson, Director of Youth Ministries



**M & M's Women's Brunch:**

9:30 am – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month - Location - Church Fellowship Hall

**Women's Small Group Bible Study:**

6:00 pm Wednesday evenings - Location - Church Parlor

**Small Group Studies:**

Day, time and duration varies as well as the material to be reviewed

**Backpack Ministry:** Part of the C-K Ministerial Association

Several area churches, prepare and deliver backpacks weekly during the school year to children at C-K Elementary and Middle Schools - Day and time varies - Location - Gathering Place

**Table for One:**

Noon - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month - Widow women sharing lunch together at various restaurants and/or in homes

**Bereavement Dinners:**

Day and Time varies - Ministers to the grieving family by providing a meal.

**Caring and Sharing:**

Ministers to shut-ins by providing a meal generally two times a month.

**18-20 Something Ministry:**

Young adults who minister within the church and in the community.

**Out Reach Ministries:**

Boy Scouts – Monday @ 6:30 pm (location Scouts Building)

Girl Scouts – Tuesday @ 6:15 pm (location Scouts Building)

AA – Wednesday @ 8 pm (members only except last meeting of the month which is open to everyone) - Location - Gathering Place

## **CURRENT CHURCH SCHEDULE**

### **SUNDAY:**

- 8:30 am - Early Worship
- 9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am - Morning Worship with Nursery (Up to 2 years old), Noah's Ark (Age 2 – Pre-K) and Kid's Worship (Ages K – 5th Grade)
- 5:30 pm - Middle School & High School Youth Programs
- 6:00 pm - Small Groups Periodically throughout the year

### **WEDNESDAY:**

- Noon - Golden Chords Choir Practice (age 55+)
- 5:00 pm - Snack Supper (during the school year)  
Call church office for reservations  
Weekly menu on the website
- 5:45 pm - Middle School & High School Youth Programs
- 6:00 pm - Adult Prayer Meeting
- 6:00 pm - Adult Share Groups
- 6:00 pm - Children's Programs which includes WILD (Wednesdays Impact Little Disciples) Preschool Children (ages 2 – PK) and Elementary Children (K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- 7:10 pm -- Chancel Choir Practice

\* Additional opportunities are listed each week in the bulletin, on our Facebook page and our Website.



### **The Training Station – Preschool Program - during the school year**

The Training Station Preschool program for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds is designed to meet the needs of the individual child. Our goal is to motivate and prepare your child so that the first year in public school will be an easy and pleasant adjustment as well as a memorable experience for your little one.

- Judy McCormick, Director of Preschool
- Joy Agee, Substitute Director of Preschool