



[Don't Miss all the other Photos on Flickr - Click here to View](#)

Bristol United Methodist Church - 175th

Sunday, August 27, 2017 was the final Sunday of the month-long celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the Bristol United Methodist Church in Bristol, Indiana. At the service, Michael Weaver portrayed a Preacher, and spoke about the early church. Reverend Gary Lewis, the current Pastor, continued the service.

After the two morning services, a Baptism service was held in the St. Joseph River at Hermance Park with a number of members observing the six candidates who were baptised.

Following this service, a number of members and families joined together for fellowship and a buffet picnic in the enclosed Pavilion also at Hermance Park.

Some of the activities of the previous three weeks included a service in which a number of the congregation dressed in retro costumes, many of which were the original clothes that had belonged to actual members of the early congregations who were relatives of the current members of the church. View the video of the service here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SW61IEtRseM>

Just the Facts:

According to a church publication, 1842 is hailed as the birth date of the church. In that year, W.C. Birch, started a Methodist Episcopal Sunday School in a log schoolhouse south west of Bristol.

Circuit rider preachers only came through once or twice a month, so W.C. Birch and

John Maffitt were instrumental in starting congregations in both Bristol and Trout Creek. Circuit Rider David Reeder was the first minister of the Bristol United Methodist Church in 1850.