

## **History of the First United Methodist Church: 1983**

The year 1983 was marked by continued vitality in the life of the First United Methodist Church, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Al Mitchener, who served throughout the year.

The church scrapbook from this year is rich with photographs capturing moments from across the congregation — featuring new members, longtime members, and regular attendees, along with many joyful images of the youth.

One standout highlight was a youth mission project at Fremont United Methodist Church, which appears to have included both painting work and a float trip, suggesting a riverfront location. The youth were also pictured attending another trip to the World's Fair, continuing a tradition of travel and learning.

The year included a celebrated T-Shirt Sunday, and the always-anticipated annual church picnic. Special moments were captured during Promotion Sunday, and the women's Bible study groups were again active, as seen through photographs documenting their fellowship and faith formation.

A notable guest in 1983 was visiting soloist Daryl Wilcoxon, who contributed musically to the church's worship experience.

As in previous years, the Halloween party and Advent season were well-documented in the scrapbook, reflecting both the joyful and sacred rhythms of the church calendar.

It should be noted that while the quality of some photos may be affected by the aging plastic pages, and while the sequence of events is not always in perfect chronological order, the album remains a vibrant and meaningful visual record of the church's life in 1983.