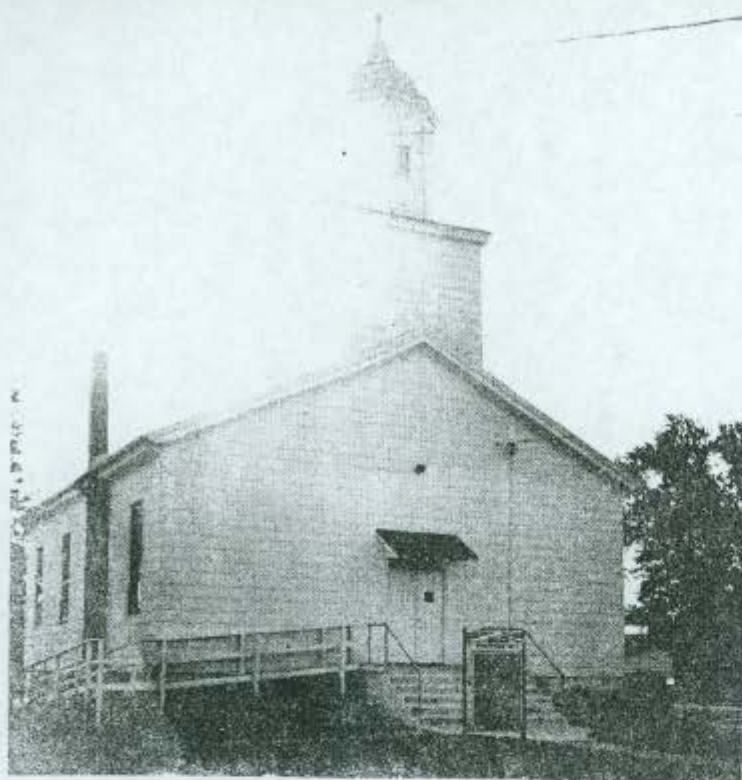




Bucyrus

Rt. 30

Crestline

Rt. 598

x Leesville U.M.C.

Leesville Rd. 229

Leesville

2597 St. Rt. 598
Crestline, Ohio 44827

LEESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The church was organized in 1835 in Leesburg, now called Leesville, as the United Brethren Church in Christ. No record exists of charter members. The building was purchased from the Presbyterian Church. For the next 32 years there is no authentic information available concerning the church.

In 1867 the Leesville Church belonged to the Crestline Mission, which included Middletown, Ontario, Crestline, and Salem (North Robinson) with name change in 1869 to the Crestline Circuit; in 1878 Leesville and New Winchester; in 1883 Leesville and Bethel (now Biddle) referred to as the North Robinson Circuit; in 1921 Leesville-Biddle Charge until 1947. Leesville began a station in 1950. During the years 1973-77 Leesville was with Liberty Chapel. In 1977 Leesville and North Robinson came together as a charge which remains at present. Leesville has been in various Districts - Marion District, Shelby District, and now Mansfield district. The church has been in the Sandusky Conference, the Ohio-Sandusky Conference, and the East Ohio Conference with the 1968 merger.

From 1888 to 1912 repairs and improvements were made on the church, but in 1947, the church, now 112 years old, underwent extensive remodeling and decorating. The exterior of the church was refinished in white asbestos shingles, and tower chimes were installed. A rose window of "Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane" was installed directly above the altar. The burning of the church mortgage was held in March of 1951 with a special service.

On October 23, 1960, a 125th anniversary was held. Prior to the anniversary repairs were made to both the church and the parsonage. In 1983 the church seats were covered. The basement was painted and new curtains added. A security light was installed and the bell put back into use. Once again the bell could call the people to worship. Recently a ramp was added to make the church more accessible. With the 1968 merger the church is known as Leesville United Methodist Church.