

Sermon Notes

“A United Methodist Rejoices”

Pastor Kurt Tomlinson

August 17, 2025

Nehemiah 8:9-12 Matthew 5:3-10

- Is church fun?
- Our United Methodist Identity
 - o Week 1 – A United Methodist Loves God.
 - o Week 2 – A United Methodist Rejoices
- Shiloh United Methodist Church
 - o 1818 – started in the homes of Peter Williams and John Shaw.
 - o 1831 – Methodist Brick Meeting House in Delhi Township opens.
 - o 1843 – Church expands with growth and a gift from the Williams family.
 - o 1844 – Split of the Methodist Episcopal Church
 - o 1861 – Start of the Civil War
- Nehemiah 8:9-12
 - o Babylonian Exile – 587 BCE
 - o Return to Jerusalem - ~547 BCE
 - o Rebuilding of the temple, the city, and the walls
- St. Augustine
 - o God teaches us to praise through the Psalms
- John Wesley
 - o A [United] Methodist rejoices in God.
 - o His version of the Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-10.
 - Happy are those...
- Richard Foster
 - o “Reaching for everlasting joy through singing, dancing and praising is essential even and perhaps especially in times of sadness because it returns our focus to God.”