

Campbellton United Methodist Church

Campbellton United Methodist Church, founded in 1830, closing June 2.

By: Laurie Searle

Campbellton United Methodist Church, affectionately known as “The Little White Church with the Red Doors,” made the following announcement last month:

It is with great sadness that we announce the closing of Campbellton United Methodist Church.

The final worship service will be held Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 11:00 am.

All are invited to join us for a time of fellowship and remembrances, with light refreshments, which will be held in the fellowship hall following the service.

The church address is: 8650 Campbellton Fairburn Rd, (Hwy 92), Chattahoochee Hills, GA 30213.



Campbellton United Methodist Church, established in 1830, served the historic town of Campbellton and the City of Chattahoochee Hills.

Centuries of History

Campbellton United Methodist Church was established in 1830, before the Civil War began. “Campbellton” was also once the name of both the county and the county seat which were ultimately absorbed into present-day Douglas and Fulton Counties.

The story of Campbellton Church is as rich as its dark soil, which holds the earthly remains of Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as slaves and former slaves. All were either members or – in the case of Union soldiers – touched in some way by the faith and caring of this enduring body of believers.

The Church’s history is reprinted on the following page. At the beginning of the Civil War in 1860, the Church had 401 white and 50 black communing members. After the county seat was moved to Fairburn, membership had dropped to below 100 by the 1900s.

The nature of the congregation is a small, loving body of Christians involved in service to its community and to its church, with an even higher importance placed on worship and the power and importance of prayer.

Preserving its Heritage

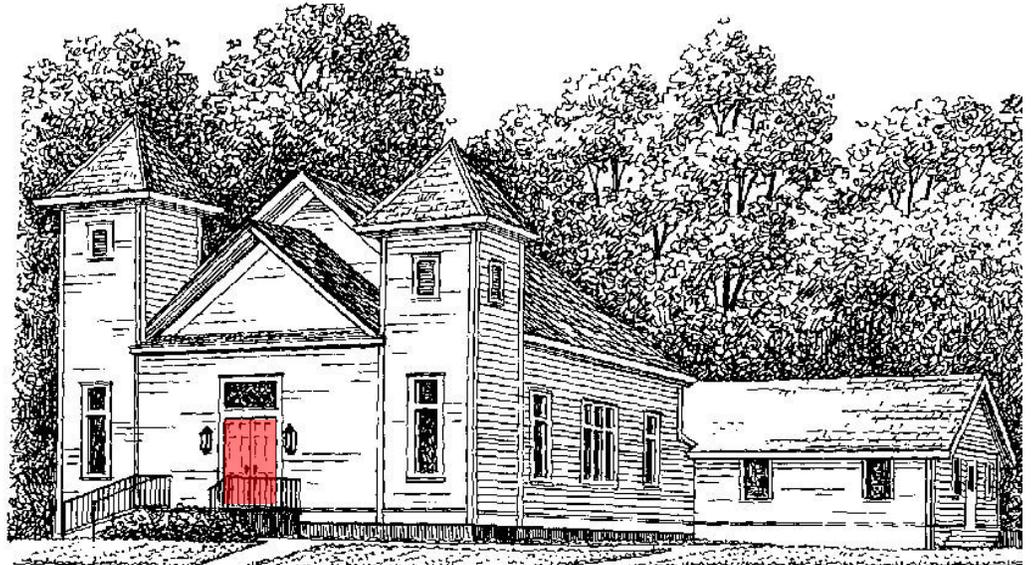
Church members, families, and friends are invited to share their stories and photos to help preserve the Campbellton United Methodist Church’s history. These items, along with the Church’s history, will be added to the Chatt Hills History website (www.chatthillshistory.com), and also donated to the Old Campbell County Historical Society. The items may also be donated directly to the Old Campbell County Historical Society at 45 NE Broad St, Fairburn, GA 30213; or by contacting them at (770) 969-5618.

Campbellton United Methodist Church History

(As written by Campbellton United Methodist Church)

Once there was a town called Campbellton...

The town of Campbellton began to build up in the early 1800s along the banks of the Chattahoochee River in Campbell County, Georgia. In 1829 Campbellton became the county seat. It was a busy town for its era with a courthouse, doctor's office and pharmacy, academy, hotel, blacksmith, stores, lodge hall, post office and many homes.



Then there was a church called Campbellton

In 1830 the Campbellton Methodist Church was established. Early Methodist families held services in their homes. The first church building, built in 1850, was located approximately where the Lee cemetery lot is located today. It was large enough to seat 500 or more. We know this because, at the beginning of the Civil War in 1860, the church had 401 white and 50 black communing members. It had a balcony where the black members sat. Wood stoves provided heat.

Our cemetery has always told the story of our past

In the cemetery, slaves and former slaves, as well as both Union and Confederate soldiers, are buried.

The turn of the 19th century sees many members leave Campbellton

In 1870, when Fairburn became the county seat, many families and businesses left Campbellton. Houses were disassembled and moved by ox carts to Fairburn. With so many gone, by 1900 the membership of Campbellton had dropped below one hundred. The smaller present church was built in 1911.

Changing, updating throughout the years

Over the years, many improvements have been made in our beautiful old church. Since the mid-1950s, we have added a Sunday School building, a fellowship hall, inside plumbing, kitchen, gas heaters first and then central heat and air, steeple bell, nursery, bride's room, prayer room, church office, parsonage, paved parking lot, enclosed the front of the church and made many improvements to the sanctuary and its furnishings.

Closing of the Church

In 2019, Campbellton United Methodist Church had diminished to less than 20 members attending its Sunday services. As a result, the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church recommended the closing of the church. The last worship service was scheduled for June 2 at 11 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship and remembrances.