

Hallelujah Trail

Est. 2007

CHURCH LISTING



1. Mentone Methodist Church
415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, AL 35984
256-516-3022

Roscoe and Ethel Brown are still honored today by the descendants of their church family for supporting the construction of Mentone United Methodist Church. The church was built just before the turn of the twentieth century. Known for its high steeple cross and nestled in a wooded lot, the church has survived time and a fire to hold services each Sunday.

2. Helton Memorial Chapel
94 County Road 454, Stevenson, AL 35772
256-437-9474



May 13th of 1900, the Helton Memorial Chapel was dedicated at Pleasant Springs, Alabama with about 500 people in attendance. The church was named after Mrs. Emma Helton, who spent \$1,040 to erect the chapel in memory of her late husband, Dr. Pleasant H. Helton.

3. Woodville Methodist Chapel
106 Pear Street, Woodville, AL 35776
256-776-2860

Constructed in 1912, Woodville Methodist Chapel remains the oldest church in the area. The original structure built in 1871 was also used by other denominations since it was the only church in the area at that time.

4. Temple B'nai Shalom
103 Lincoln Street SE,
Huntsville, AL 35801; 256-536-4771

The 32 founding families erected the temple which was designed by architect R.H. Hunt in Romanesque Revival style, with influences of the Renaissance Revival in the west front gable. Guided tours M-F, 9AM-1PM by appointment only.

5. Episcopal Church of the Nativity
208 Eustis Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801
256-533-2455

The current church building was erected from 1856-1859. Known as one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival Architecture in the South, the church structure has a nave and aisles lighted by windows of tracery. The Church received National Historic Landmark (NHL) status in 1990.

6. Cambridge United Methodist Church
13980 Cambridge Lane, Athens, AL 35613
256-233-2862, 256-434-0502

Established in 1818 by the Tennessee Annual Conference, Cambridge United Methodist Church's origin dates back to the early 1800s as a camp meeting site. Late in the summer of 1862 the Confederate troops used the church to set up Malone Battalion, named after Captain Jim Malone. Late in the Civil War, Federal troops seized and damaged much of the church. The church was restored in 1873 and is still in use today, retaining much of its original configuration.

7. First Presbyterian Church
112 South Jefferson Street, Athens, AL 35611
256-232-0122

Founded in 1829, the First Presbyterian Church initially shared a building, known as Union Church, with the First Baptist Church. In 1852 they were able to move into their own church, but this building was seized in the Civil War, used by Union troops as a stable, the pews burned for firewood and the building severely abused. The congregation moved back in with their Baptist friends until 1895 when the "new" sanctuary was dedicated. Visit us at this "new" location on the courthouse square and/or see our fascinating history at www.fpcathens.org.

8. St. Joseph Catholic Church
1111 East College Street, Florence, AL 35630
256-764-3303

The beginnings were simple with Mass being held at the home of Mr. Joe Beckman in 1879. Florence Roman Catholics established their first church here in 1898 with Gammelbert Brunner, OSB, as pastor. They earlier met in private homes attended by visiting priests. Churches in Tusculumbia and St. Florian served the Shoals at large. The ordinal wooden church and its school were the center of the surrounding Catholic Hill neighborhood for seventy-five years. St. Joseph's school mainly served the working class areas of east Florence. In time, it became the chief religious center for area Catholics.

9. Trinity Episcopal Church
410 North Pine Street, Florence, AL 35630
256-764-6149

The church building was erected in 1894 after the original sanctuary located a few blocks away was destroyed by fire in 1883. The bell tower houses a bell that was salvaged from the fire. The sanctuary and nave boast numerous memorial stained glass windows and rich beautiful woodwork throughout. The majestic voice of the organ is complemented by the baby grand piano in services on Sunday.

10. First Presbyterian Church
108 N. Broad Street, Tusculumbia, AL 35674
256-383-2412

This Georgian Gothic style church is Alabama's oldest house of continuous worship. One of the more famous Alabamians to worship here was Helen Keller. This is the church where she was baptized. The grounds still contain the original slave gallery.



11. St. John's Episcopal Church
300 N. Dickson Street, Tusculumbia, AL 35674
256-710-9081

Located in Tusculumbia, Alabama, this is the State's oldest Carpenter Gothic Church. Built in 1855, it was used by Union Soldiers to stable their horses during the War Between the States. The church contains original furnishings and stained glass windows.



12. Mount Pleasant Methodist Church
at the Corner of Highway 724 & CR 87
Russellville, AL 35654; 256-332-1760

Outside vista only. Since the early 1800s, the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church has survived many tragedies, including a flu outbreak and a deadly tornado. The framing of the present structure maintains pegs and square nails that date prior to 1900.

13. First United Methodist Church of Red Bay
509 4th Street SW, Red Bay, AL 35582
256-356-4654

A missionary from Boonesville, Mississippi set out to preach under a brush arbor, which was called "Oak Grove." On split log seats, the community worshiped there until they were later able to build a cabin. After the Methodist Church became part of the Alabama circuit, Oak Grove became First United Methodist Church of Red Bay. The church has grown from logs to an encased brick structure with today's modern conveniences.



14. Hamilton Methodist Church
130 Military St N.,
Hamilton, AL 35570
205-921-3243

The Hamilton Methodist Church was established in 1868 formerly called Toll Gate. The current structure was erected in 1924 with several improvements being added over the years.



15. Brilliant Methodist Church
825 Main Street, Brilliant, AL 35548
205-465-2281

Brilliant Methodist Church was built by local coal miners. Located on Main Street, it still remains a cornerstone of the town. The high pitched roof, stained glass windows, and the church bell extend a friendly welcome to all who enter.



16. Corinth Church
2540 County Road 57, Double Springs, AL 35553
205-489-2328

Corinth Church was organized and joined the association at Union Grove in 1884. During the early 1900s the church disbanded due to a population shift in Double Springs, but was revived in 1952. Corinth Church has been completely restored to its original appearance. It has no power or water and only an outhouse for a rest room. Services are still held there early on Sunday mornings.

17. Church of the Forest
51 County Road 94, Houston, AL 35572
205-269-2897

Church of the Forest was organized under its first name of Grayson. It's located in the extreme north central part of Winston County just a half mile from the historical site of Mt. Olive. Much of the church's existence is owed to the Clancy Lumber Company which made donations to the church throughout its history. In 1952 the church was given its current name, "Church of the Forest" due to its beautiful surroundings.



18. Courtland Presbyterian Church
645 Hamilton, Courtland, AL 35618
256-247-5994

Built in 1821 the Church of Nazareth in Courtland, as it was first called, has served Courtland as the second oldest Presbyterian Church in North Alabama. In 1957, the church was narrowly saved from a fire by the combined efforts of Decatur, Town Creek, and Courtland firemen. The following two years, they continued to hold services downstairs while the structure was being rebuilt.

19. Pine Torch Church
1955 County Road 70, Moulton, AL 35650
256-974-1658

Nestled in the Bankhead National Forest, Pine Torch was built in 1850. Made from poplar logs with oak shingles and a tin roof, Pine Torch is the perfect example of a log building from that era. It served as both church and school for the area. Nondenominational services are held every Sunday at 10 a.m.



20. St. John's Episcopal Church
202 Gordon Drive SE, Decatur, AL 35601
256-353-9615

St. John's parish was established in 1890 by the settlers of New Decatur, and the current structure was constructed in 1893. Originally facing North-South, the church was turned in 1940 to face West-East. St. John's was modeled after Gothic English parish churches and is the only true Gothic church in Decatur.

21. The Tabernacle
35 Tabernacle Road, Hartselle, AL 35674
205-310-8067

Nothing more than cedar tree logs holding up a roof to cover pews, The Tabernacle has been the home of the Hartselle Camp Meeting since the late 1800s. It and other camp meetings can trace their heritage in part to the holiness movement of the 19th century.



22. St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church
512 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-0344; www.sjepc.com

In 1874, one year before the town was officially incorporated, the Cullman family and other descendants from Germany began the first religious organization. Shortly thereafter, St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church was constructed. Worked in 1922, stained glass windows and elegant wood work still define this architectural landscape.



23. Shady Grove Methodist Church
895 County Road 846, Logan, AL 35098
256-747-6569

The church began as a brush arbor and featured log benches underneath for seating. The second church was made of hand-sawn logs, dirt floor and doubled as a school house for the area. In the late 1800s, Reverend D.C. Beltz, Architect, designed and built this beautiful gothic-style church with the help of volunteers in the community. Located behind the pulpit, visitors can enjoy the workmanship of a hand-carved design of a church. Today it stands tall atop a hill overlooking farm country and graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers.

Two services per year: first Sunday in May is Decoration Day and first Sunday in October is Old Timey Day service. Both start at 10 a.m.

24. Blountsville United Methodist Church
415 College Street, Blountsville, AL 35031
205-429-3347

Moving from Tennessee, Ebenezer Hearn was called upon to organize the first Methodist Church of Alabama. What began as a Methodist camp on a Creek Indian site progressively transformed into a building in 1886, now known as Blountsville United Methodist Church. In a local news article in 1886, CF Hamil, the Sunday School Superintendent and Otto Pulls, architect, were commended for bringing "the finest edifice in this whole section of the country." Today 200 members attend church every Sunday underneath the hand-hewn beams that are still visible today.



25. Shiloh Methodist Church
134 Boat Landing, Allgood, AL 35013
205-237-4441

Shiloh Methodist Church was dedicated December 3, 1878 but its roots go back to 1817. The church is still the same building of 1878. The exterior boards are original to the 1878 church.

26. First Methodist Church of Guntersville
539 Gunter Avenue, Guntersville, AL 35976
256-582-2001

The church was organized in 1822 with 33 Cherokee Native Americans ministered by circuit rider, Richard Neely. The first building was built in 1869 on the present site and was the home of the first organized religious group in the area.



27. First Presbyterian Church
901 Gunter Avenue, Guntersville, AL 35976
256-582-3875

After the first building was abandoned, burned, and covered with Guntersville Lake, the cornerstone of the current Presbyterian Church is a descendant of Cherokee Mission School. The architecture, Classical Revival, is based closely to a 16th century design of architect Andrea Palladio.



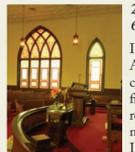
28. Keener United Methodist Church
6030 US Highway 11 N, Attalla, AL 35954
256-538-3315

Together on horse and buggy, Jim and Mary Overstreet rode through the town to raise money for the construction of the church in the early 1900s. With the church only being one room the children would attend the neighbors house for Sunday School. The Church was closed in 2014 but is still open to the public. The family bought the church from the conference.



29. First United Methodist Church of Attalla
601 NW 4th Street, Attalla, AL 35954; 256-538-8491

In 1851 twelve Methodists met in Newton (later Attalla) to plan a Methodist Episcopal Church. A crude log building on North Fifth Street served as the first church. In 1861 and again in 1882 the church relocated on fifth to accommodate the growing membership. A full time pastor was added in 1888. In 1896 Attalla was first reported at the NAMAC. Ground was broken for the present church home in 1903. On May 1, 1904 the congregation assembled for the first Sunday worship in the new sanctuary.



30. Providence Baptist Church
9750 AL Hwy 9 South, Centre, AL 35960
256-484-3131

In September 1923, a committee was appointed to build a new church. The generous people of the small Cherokee County community gave timber, labor and cash. This small church built with love now has a full time pastor and is the lifeline of the community.



31. First United Methodist Church of Centre
341 W Main Street, Centre, AL 35960
256-927-3452; centrefunc.com

Centre First United Methodist Church sanctuary was built in 1887 and was replaced in 1920 with the present sanctuary. 2020 was 100 years. Over the years, we have had 79 pastors.



32. First Presbyterian Church of Fort Payne
300 Grand Avenue North, Fort Payne, AL 35676
256-845-2915

Built in 1875, the First Presbyterian Church is the oldest church still in use in Fort Payne. Located in the historic district of downtown, services are still held each week.



Hallelujah Trail

CONTACTS

- Athens-Limestone County Tourism Association**
100 N. Beaty Street
Athens, AL 35611
256-232-5411
- Blount-Oneonta Chamber of Commerce**
110 1st Avenue East
Oneonta, AL 35121
205-274-2153
- Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce**
801 Cedar Bluff Rd. Bldg. A
Centre, AL 35960
256-927-8455
- Colbert County Tourism & Convention Bureau**
719 U.S. Hwy. 72 West
Tusculumbia, AL 35674
800-344-0783
- Cullman County Tourism Bureau**
301 2nd Avenue, SW
Cullman, AL 35056
256-734-0454
- Decatur-Morgan County Tourism**
350 Market St NE
Decatur, AL 35601
800-524-6181
- DeKalb Tourism**
2114 North Gault Ave.
Ft. Payne, AL 35968
888-805-4740
- Florence-Lauderdale Tourism**
200 Jim Spain Drive
Florence, AL 35630
888-FLO-TOUR
- Franklin County Chamber of Commerce**
103 North Jackson Avenue
Russellville, AL 35653
256-332-1760
- Greater Gadsden Area Tourism**
623 Broad Street
Gadsden, AL 35901
888-565-0411
- Huntsville-Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau**
500 Church Street, Ste. 1
Huntsville, AL 35801
800-SPACE-4U
- Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce**
12521 AL. Hwy. 157 Suite L
Moulton, AL 35650
256-974-1658
- Marion County Commission**
5612 County Hwy. 12
Hackleburg, AL 35564
205-921-3172
- Marshall County Tourism & Sports**
1601 Gunter Ave.
Guntersville, AL 35976
256-582-7015
- Mountain Lakes Chamber of Commerce**
407 East Willow St.
Scottsboro, AL 35768
256-259-5500, 800-259-5508
- Winston County Commission**
11 Blake Drive
Double Springs, AL 35553
205-489-5026

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The Hallelujah Trail was made possible by grants from the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Alabama Tourism Department, and the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association.



Whether you choose to visit one, ten or thirty-two churches on the Trail, we wish you a good and safe trip. It is our hope you will come back often.

"Let there always be quiet churches in which people can take refuge...Houses filled with His silent presence. There, even when they do not know how to pray, at least they can be still and breathe easily."
-Thomas Merton
New Seeds of Contemplation 1961

What has been most intriguing about this adventure has been the devotion people feel for their churches, whether a grand gothic edifice or a simple clapboard building.

The stained glass windows are breathtaking. They become warmer and vibrant with the sun's light...filling sanctuaries with colorful prism. Beautiful gothic, cathedral-like structures are truly great wonders of art. Tall elegant steeples rise into the sky bringing one closer to the heavens. Many interiors of these gothic wonders are beyond human description.

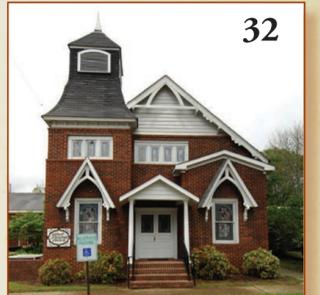
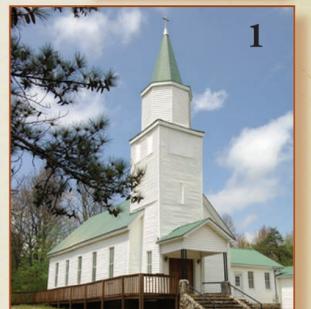
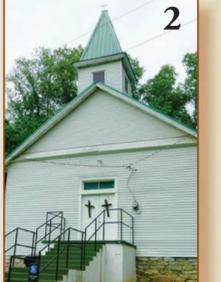
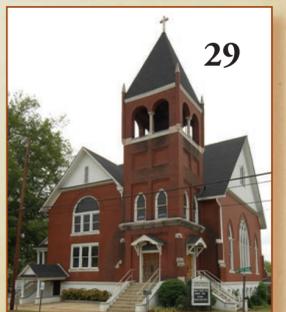
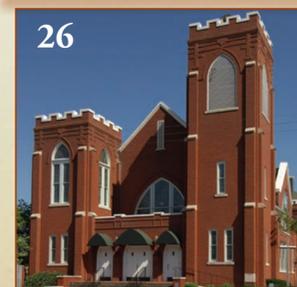
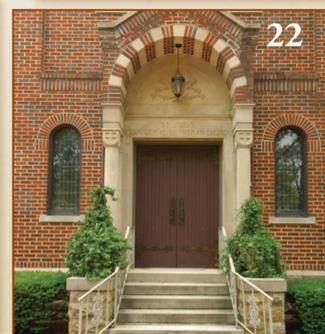
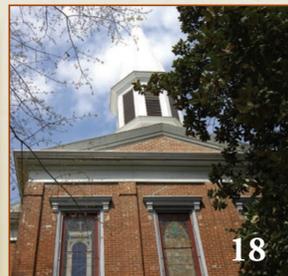
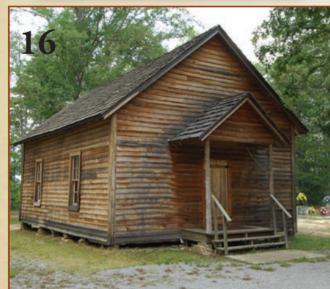
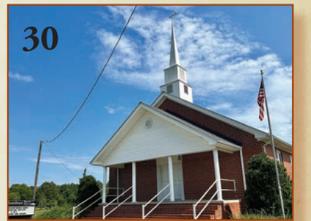
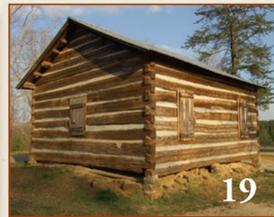
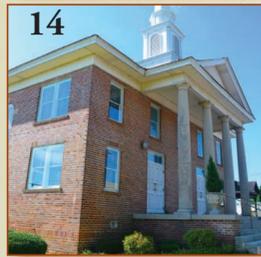
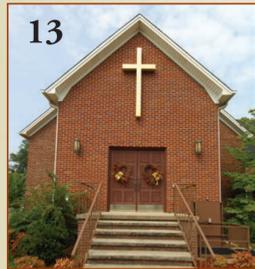
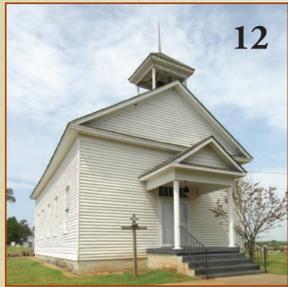
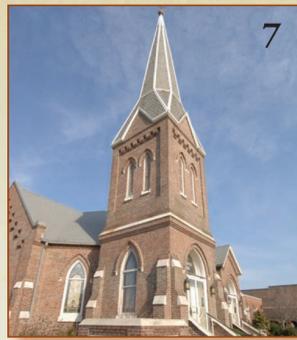
This trail's thirty-two churches stand as landmarks in North Alabama and provide welcome and shelter for all who enter regardless of belief. Each church is at least 100 years old, is on its original site, and is still holding services today. The trail winds its way through sixteen counties in North Alabama.

These churches define the heart of North Alabama's rich and diverse cultural and spiritual heritage. Each church being born of need and built from the materials at hand.

Houses of worship cause us to pause, to reflect, and to witness the most important events in our lives: birth, marriage and death. Each of these churches has a story to tell. One can never know a church too well, for each time one visits one discovers new things.

Some churches have been designed by experienced architects and some have been designed and constructed by church members who simply "felt the calling." Many church interiors appear of simple designs, but know that members feel everyday life must be recounted with gentle grace and perfect balance. Services continue to be marked by singing, storytelling and several white painted timber-framed churches are nestled in quiet surroundings, standing as testaments to those who wished to create a place of silence, of prayer, and of spiritual joy. Others can be found in serene locations, open on three sides, married to the woodlands with only a single room. Like the forest, each church has its atmosphere, its fragrance, its light and its shadow. With some, sturdy benches and a simple wooden pulpit are the sole furnishings.

"Make for me a sanctuary and I shall dwell among them."
- Exodus 25:8



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