



Buyers Guide to Stained Glass for Methodist Churches

This brief guide is intended to help in meeting your Methodist church's requirements for selection, commission and purchase of stained glass art, specifically designed to fulfill the particular needs of the more than 14 million Methodist worshippers who belong to Methodist churches in America.

A Brief Guide to Stained Glass for Methodist Churches

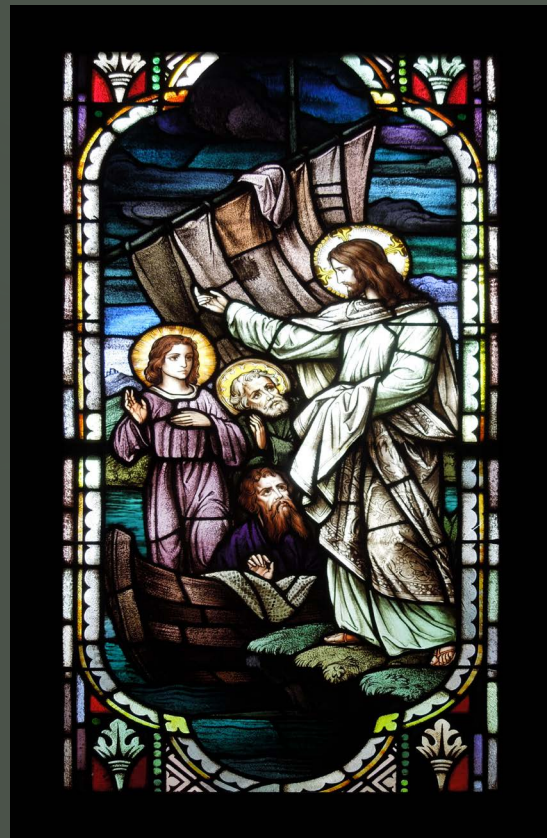
Although stained glass is widely applied as an integral part of the décor in most Christian churches and Jewish synagogues, this guide will feature the stained glass art particularly favored by Methodist congregations.

"As United Methodists, we have an obligation to bear a faithful Christian witness to Jesus Christ, the living reality at the center of the Church's life and witness. To fulfill this obligation, we reflect critically on our biblical and theological inheritance, striving to express faithfully the witness we make in our own time."

www.umc.org

Why Stained Glass in a Methodist Church?

Stained glass is an ancient medium that has allowed artists throughout the ages to express the magnificent tenets of faith in a breathtaking, classical way. Stories are told and sacred ideas are honored in every work of religious stained glass art, through the use of imagery to which worshippers relate, the holy figures of the Bible, Jesus' life, nature, heaven, gardens full of flowers, birds in flight and, of course, flawless symmetry, imagery and design. Methodist stained glass art reflects the strong, steadfast belief in God and an obligation to live a life that bears witness to Jesus Christ upon which the Methodist church is built. Lovely, colorful depictions of the events in the life of Jesus, His parables and His teachings provide, for Methodists, a panoramic, breathtaking view of the very core of their faith.



Symbols and Design in Classic Methodist Stained Glass

Methodists hold dear the sacred symbols of their faith, including the powerful symbols of the Cross, the dove, events of the life of Christ, lilies that represent the purity of the Savior, the Bible and others. Centering stained glass designs specifically for display as Methodist Church windows, sidelights, door insets and displayed art, these symbols become the focus of unique and intricate designs that serve to add color and light to areas of worship. Inspiring and uplifting members of Methodist congregations, stained glass reflects and refracts shifting shades of light throughout the day, just as the faithful reflect the light of Jesus in a dark world, bringing beauty and life to those who would embrace His sacrifice.

Finding the Best Stained Glass for Your Church Needs

For a more modern sanctuary, or an entrance for a busy Methodist Church, congregations often opt for geometric, contemporary design, highlighted by beloved symbols from the Bible, and creating a smart, colorful, yet simple work of stained glass art to welcome church members and visitors to services. Color and light play across stained glass panels that are created by Stained Glass, Inc. artisans using old world technique coupled with cutting edge technology to ensure depth and intensity in color as well as quality. For some congregations, especially those with older churches, who wish to maintain the historical integrity of their buildings, a series of lovely ornate tableaus depicting the events in the life of Christ is certain to add inspiration when used in a vintage Methodist sanctuary.

"Magnificent stained glass. It brings things to life. It's like a comic strip that's not meant to be funny... Decorative stained glass in churches was most commonly used for teaching purposes, part of the poor man's Bible, a term popularized in modern times to describe works of art found in churches that were used to illustrate lessons from the Bible."

-Josh Childs, Chuck of "Chuck Knows Church," produced by the United Methodist Church's General Board of Discipleship

Stained Glass as Memorials

Methodist Rose Window Designs

Rose windows offer Methodist church décor planners an opportunity to add pleasing, harmonious works of stained glass art that are fashioned in round designs, embodying all the beauty of tableau stained glass panels in a unique shape. Imagine your sanctuary with new stained glass windows that feature round depictions of beloved symbols, such as a cross framed by vibrant images of flowers and branches, or a chorus angel, installed behind the choir at the center of the altar for all to admire during services. Rose stained glass designs enhance and improve the array of stained glass choices offered for Methodist Church décor.

Often, within the Methodist Church, stained glass windows are commissioned in memory of loved ones who have passed away, or to honor donors, and feature names that are embedded within the colorful design of the window. Displayed within the church, these memorials and recognition patterns become an everlasting reminder that members of the church have built a foundation of faith. A perfect way to memorialize members who are important to the Church's history, and to honor individuals or donor groups who contributed to its stained glass collection, featured names as part of beautiful church art is quite special.

Life of Christ Collections

Living the gospel and mission work are long held traditions of devoted Methodists, based on the example of the Lord Himself, who made the holy sacrifice of His own life for all people. Stained Glass, Inc.'s extensive collection of events in the life of Jesus is crafted to fit behind existing glass windows, easily installed and simple to change for special services, holidays or to honor specific events within the church. Some designs that offer inspiring messages include:

- The Nativity – The depiction of the Holy Family in Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth, alive with color and light and featuring the angels, shepherds and the magi in perfect detail.



The blind see, the lame walk



- The Boy Jesus in the Temple – Honoring the story of Jesus as He stayed behind after His parents left the Temple, when He discussed His Father's work with elders, learning and teaching while still only a boy.

- Jesus Blessing the Children – Instructing adults to allow the children to come unto Him, telling them that "such is the kingdom of heaven," and blessing the little ones. This story is featured in colors that cross the full spectrum and artistry, breathtaking rendering that honors this event.

- The Wedding at Cana – Jesus' first miracle is depicted flawlessly, with special detail, highlighting the story of how He turned water to wine as requested by His mother, Mary.

- The Baptism of Christ – With His cousin, John the Baptist, Jesus is portrayed at the time of His baptism, a sacred event that launched His ministry and path to the cross.

- Jesus and His Disciples – A sacred Bible teaching for faithful Christians, Jesus and His Disciples are honored in elegant stained glass, adding inspiration, color and light to every area of worship.

- The Crucifixion – The central event upon which the Methodist Church, and all of Christianity, is built, the crucifixion of Jesus in stained glass touches the hearts of all who are blessed to behold it.

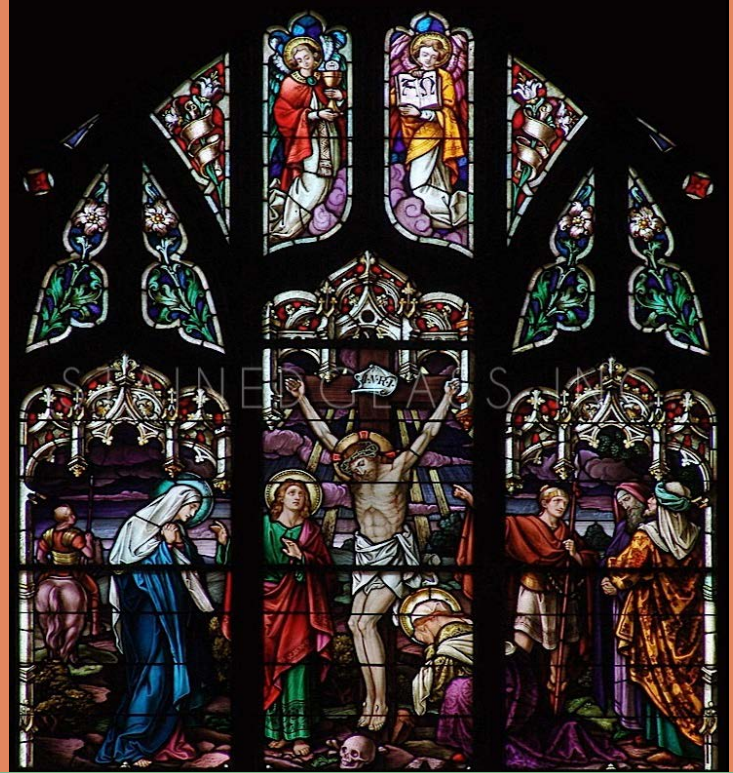


...and many more

The common thread among Methodist stained glass art is devotion to the mission of Jesus, to bear witness of His love and sacrifice, and the obligation of Christians to spread His message to the world. This theme is emphasized in Stained Glass, Inc.'s Methodist stained glass collection, and serves to inspire and uplift when placed in Methodist sanctuaries, areas of prayerful worship, entryways and throughout church facilities.

How to Choose the Right Stained Glass for Your Church

Choosing proper stained glass often comes down to commissioning the right group of designers after months of work by church members deciding on the subject of the stained glass art, the shape and size, the enlisting of donors and volunteers to help in the project. In short, purchasing the perfect stained glass for your Methodist Church is a labor of love, and reflects the dedication of your members as much as it will reflect the rays of light that dance across the surface. Consulting the expert craftsmen at Stained Glass, Inc. will provide a valuable resource for those committed to finding the highest quality and most beautiful stained glass art for their Methodist Church, and an affordable cost. Visit Stained Glass, Inc.'s extensive online gallery of breathtaking designs and read the reviews of past clients, including other church committee members who have had positive experiences choosing stained glass for their churches.



Why Stained Glass Inc. Is Superior

Stained Glass, Inc. of Greenville, Texas offers a superior selection of stained glass art designed for windows, doors, sidelights, transoms and church décor, among other applications. Specializing in Methodist stained glass art, the artisans at Stained Glass, Inc. custom create each piece according to client preferences, working meticulously to ensure high quality and unmatched beauty. Stained Glass, Inc. art is exemplary, offering:

- Stained glass that is 80 times stronger than ordinary glass
- Easy to install panels that fit behind existing glass windows
- Heat fused mineral deposits for intense, deep color that is reflected by shifting shades of light throughout the day
- Cost effective, energy efficient and environmentally friendly stained glass
- Custom designs for size, shape and color based on client preference