The history of Morrow United Methodist Church parallels that of the county and city of which it is a vital part. From humble beginnings and hard times the church and the area have progressed to their present state of advanced development.

In 1865, only a few months after the close of the Civil War, a group of area residents constructed a brush arbor on land owned by Radford E. Morrow, one of the largest landowners of the county, and began conducting regular services under the leadership of circuit riding Methodist preachers and local lay preachers.

One of the most active and influential members of the new congregation was William Harrison Morrow, eldest son of Radford E. and Mary Ann (Strickland) Morrow. He was born on October 22, 1841, and enlisted in Company F, 2nd Regiment of Georgia Cavalry, in 1862 in Jonesboro. After serving for a year in Virginia, he returned to Georgia in 1863 to become a superintendent in the Atlanta Arsenal and the workers in the arsenal elected him captain of their company of the Georgia State Guard.

The brush arbor church established by William Morrow and others grew in size and by 1868 was being referred to as "The Arbor Place." On August 23, 1868, W. H. Morrow died and the congregation adopted the name "William's Chapel" as a memorial to the young man's devotion and dedication to the church. The church was finally given permanent status on August 1, 1870, when Radford E. Morrow deeded an acre of land to the congregation and donated the lumber for construction of a regular church building to replace the brush arbor that had served for five years.
This first church building was constructed upon the site of the former brush arbor and was officially named William's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church. James Sneed, Hampton Lambert, A. J. Vinyard, A. F. Sears, and James Coker, composed the first Board of Trustees. This first building (located about one mile northeast of the present location, next to the cemetery) was constructed of unfinished pine boards with pews made of pine slabs. It was small, unsealed, and only had pine boards over the windows for keeping out the weather.

In 1882 the original building was torn down and a new, larger building was erected on the site of the first. This structure, although certainly unpretentious by modern standards, was a major improvement over the first. It was a plain, rectangular, white frame building with a porch across the front and sat off the ground on rock slabs. For almost sixty years this served as the home of the expanding congregation.

About 1890 the church set aside about half of its original one acre tract to be used as a cemetery. On October 16, 1895, the Trustees acquired an additional tract of about two acres adjacent to the original church site from M. F. Watterson for the sum of fifty-six dollars.

In the early 1930's the congregation decided that a new church building was needed and that this new church home should be closer to the Morrow community. With a gift of $500 from Mrs. Emmalyn Kent and an acre of land donated by Mr. William J. Noland, a new brick building was erected in 1935 in the center of Morrow on Old Rex-Morrow Road. With this move the name of the church was changed to "Morrow Methodist Church." A parsonage was soon built next to this church and an educational wing was added in 1957.
The fifties and sixties were years of growth for the church. In 1962 a new brick parsonage was constructed on Peacock Blvd. in Morrow and the former one was converted into a church school annex. With the growth of the congregation, even these facilities were soon too small and in September, 1966, ground was broken for a new church on the present 4½ acre site on North Main Street in Morrow. A large, 7-room house (Fort property) was renovated for use as the Children's Division. The official opening of these new facilities was on September 10, 1967. In addition to the new sanctuary, in 1969 a Fellowship Hall with complete kitchen was donated by the Peacock children in memory of Parks A. Peacock and in honor of Alma Peacock.

In 1970 the church marked its first hundred years by an elaborate Centennial Celebration, complete with period costumes and a reconstructed brush arbor. In 1973 a new two storey Education Wing was completed and the Fort House demolished to make way for an expanded parking lot.

Our present minister, C. Dean Milford, is the 46th pastor of Morrow United Methodist and the church membership is 922. An exhibit containing items of church history and memorabilia is on display in the Church library. This display includes the original three communion goblets from William's Chapel, pictures of previous church buildings, and pictures of many former Morrow ministers. Scrapbooks documenting church activities from 1955 through 1979 are also on display.

As it enters its second century, Morrow United Methodist can be proud of its record of Christian service to the community and hopeful that the spirit of love and dedication which has brought it this far will continue.

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Dr. Welborn is a member of Morrow United Methodist Church and serves on its Library and History Committee. This Committee wishes to thank Dr. Welborn for his time spent in research and in the writing of "A HISTORY OF MORROW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH."