

HISTORY OF OTTUMWA, IOWA FREE METHODIST CHURCH

A Free Methodist Society was organized in Ottumwa, Iowa in 1882, under the leadership of Rev. J.C. Long, but no church edifice was built until 1894. During some of that time, the Society worshiped in a hall over a store owned by L.A. Nicklin, on the corner of Main and McLean Streets.

In 1894, a church was built at Third and McPherson Streets, under the pastorate of Rev. S.S. Stewart. The following were charter members of that church: M.J. Shoemaker, Mrs. Florence Baker, Mrs. M.J. White, Miss Minnie Doty, Ida Grooms, Mr. and Mrs. George Maring, Mrs. Emily Wyatt, Mrs. Malinda Eaton, Mrs. VanCleave, Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Nicklin, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Moffett, Mr. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hardsocg, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Duffy, Frank Deweis, Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Grover, Lon Deweis, Jennie Watchler, Mr. and Mrs. Hevern, Mrs. Emma Grooms, Rev. Charles Kirkland, and Mrs. May Logan.

Under the pastorate of Rev. W.E. DeHart , a second church was built at Hancock and Finley Streets in 1906. Charter members were: Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Baughman, Mr. and Mrs. D.B. Shadley, B.A. Lang, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Radwell, Mr. and Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. Sarah Houdyshell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Heckart, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Huff, Anna Gailey, Phoebe Pegg, Mrs. Margaret Miller, and Mrs. Mary McKeever.

The First Church at Third and McPherson was sold in 1910, and the members united with the Second Church.

The Second Church was remodeled in 1925, under the pastorate of Rev. H.R. Eveland. A second remodeling program was carried out in 1941, with a basement added, when Rev. F.E. Kellum was pastor. A 35th Anniversary celebration was held September 27-28, 1941, in connection with the dedication.

The Cooper box in the cornerstone contains a Bible, rolls of charter members, present members of that date, newspaper clippings, church papers, with pictures of the church, the Pastor and Mrs. Kellum and Martin Hardsocg, the oldest living charter member. Rev. R.T. Fine, conference elder, delivered the anniversary address. Rev. Cordelia Peterson, of Oskaloosa, one of the first evangelists to hold services at the old North Side Church 47 years before, preached the opening message Sunday night of the Anniversary revival campaign, which continued nightly until October 12. The Rev. B.N. Miner, Rochester, N.Y., was the evangelist.

The most intensive remodeling program began in 1962 during the pastorate of Rev. T.R. Crown, and was finished while Rev. George Koch was pastor. Additional land was purchased, a new educational wing added and the old church completely renovated with some structural changes.

The new wing and remodeled sanctuary were dedicated June 13, 1965. The dedicatory message was given by President Bruce Kline, of Central College, McPherson, Kansas.

Trustees at that time were: Royce Carroll, Glen Patrick, Ross Corbett, Howard Maring and William Tullis, Jr. Designer and builder: Glen Patrick. Furnace work: Ross Corbett. Electrical work: Donald R. Jones.

Additional land for parking space was purchased in 1960. Some interior remodeling was done in 1979, during Rev. John Harrell's pastorate. More interior remodeling was done in 1982, during Rev. Brian Wills pastorate.

**First Free Methodist Church of Ottumwa
Corner of 3rd and McPherson**

Charter Members:

Mrs. M.J. Shoemaker	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Duffy
Mrs. Florence Baker	Frank Deweis
Mrs. M.J. White	Mr and Mrs. A.G. Grover
Mrs. Minnie Doty	Lon Deweis
Ida Grooms	Jennie Watchler
George Maring	Mr. and Mrs. Hevern
Mrs. George Maring	Mrs. Emma Grooms
Mrs. Emily Wyett	Mrs. May Logan
Mrs. Malinda Eaton	
Mr. Van Cleave	
Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Nicolin	
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Moffett	
Rev. Charles Kirkland	
Mr. and Mrs. Pierce	
Martin Hardscog	
Mrs. Martin Hardscog	

Pastors:

1882----- Rev. J.C. Long
 1883----- Rev. L. Winegarden
 1885-1886—Rev. E. Y. Carl
 1887-1888—Rev. S.S. Stewart
 1889----- Rev. J.P. Dowd
 1890----- Rev. W.H. Holmes
 1891----- Rev. G.J. Cameron
 1892-1893—Rev. J.M. Lutes
 1894-1895—Rev. S.S. Stewart
 First pastor after church was built
 1896-1897—Rev. G.A. Anderson
 1898-1899—Rev. J.P. Dowd
 1900-1901—Rev. E.J. Fish
 1902-1903—Rev. W.E. De Harpart
 1907-1908—Rev. T.M. Fenwick
 1909-1910—Rev. W.J. Trimble

**Second Free Methodist Church of Ottumwa
Corner of Hancock and Finley**

Chapter Members:

Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Baughman
 Mr. and Mrs. D.B. Shadley
 B.A. Lang
 Anna Gailey
 Mrs. Sarah Houdyshell
 Mrs. Mary McKeever
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hunt
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Huff
 Mr. and Mrs. Pierce
 Phoebe Pegg
 Mrs. Margaret Miller
 Mr. and Mrs. Chris Heckhart
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rodwell

Pastors:

1906----- Rev. W.E. De Harpart
 1906----- Rev. T.J. Fuller
 (Supply) 1907-1908—Rev. T.M. Fenwick
 1909-1910—Rev. W.J. Trimble
 1911-1913—Rev. W.W. Vinson
 1914----- Rev. David Fenwick
 (Supply) 1915-1916—Rev. S.L. Gilkison
 1917-1918—Rev. D.C. Eddy
 1919----- Rev. Frank Smutz
 (Supply) 1920-1921—Rev. C.O. Monroe
 1922----- Rev. H.N. Dickson
 1923-1925—Rev. H.R. Eveland
 1926-1927—Rev. W.H. Mc Donald
 1928-1929—Rev. H.M. Williamson
 1930-1931—Rev. N.J. De Boef
 1932----- Rev. Cordelia Peterson
 1933-1935—Rev. H.N. Dickson
 1936-1939—Rev. C.B. Patrick
 1940-1944—Rev. Z. Everett Kellum
 1945-1948—Rev. W.B. Keller
 1949-1955—Rev. H.E. Goldsboro
 1956-1957—Rev. R.L. Baxter
 1958-1964—Rev. T.R. Crown
 1965-1971—Rev. George Koch
 1972-1975—Rev. V.W. Parson
 1976-1980—Rev. John Harrell
 1980-1983—Rev. Brian Wills
 1984-1986—Rev. Gary De Main
 1986-1996—Rev. Brian Bonney
 1996-1998—Rev. Joseph Shimko Jr.

**Pennsylvania Avenue Free Methodist Church
820 East Pennsylvania**

Pastor: 1998- — Rev. Joseph Shimko Jr.