

History of the Platteville Free Methodist Church

Platteville's Free Methodist Church began in 1870 after an evangelistic tent meeting lead by Rev. Lewis Bailey. In June of 1871, the congregation first met in homes, then in a local school house. A year later, in 1872, a church building was erected on donated land on Cedar St. with services conducted by lay pastor, Oren Fairbanks. In 1875, Bishop Hart officially organized the church as part of the Conference and J.A. Murray was appointed as the first pastor.

In 1915, the congregation sold their Cedar St. building and purchased a German Methodist Church on the corner of Court and Furnace St. The pastor was F.F. Wolfe. By 1948, the Sunday School had grown and required better accommodations, so the basement was excavated and converted into useable space. The congregation continued to grow, so plans were formed to either, build on a wing, build a new building on a different site, or buy another church building. In 1960, the Peace Lutheran Church was going to build on a new site and offered their property for sale on the corner of Furnace and Lutheran St. This option was the most cost effective and The Free Methodist took possession on June 7, 1961. The previous building on Court St. was sold to the Christian Science Society.

When 1st taking possession of the building, several improvements was made: alter reconstruction, instillation of a new chancel furniture, wall to wall carpet in the sanctuary and wing, and restoration of the exterior surface of the church. Over the years, other improvements were made to accommodate the growing congregation and improve involvement in the community.

1981 – The area under the sanctuary was dug out to provide more classrooms.

1988 - Pipe organ purchased with donations in memory of Morton Stephens Sr.

1998 – A wall between the sanctuary and the west wing was removed to enlarge the sanctuary.

1999 - New pews constructed in the sanctuary.

2001 – Construction of a 5000 sq. ft., 2 story building consisting of classrooms and recreation room in the lower level and kitchen and fellowship hall on the 2nd story.

2002 - Church basement remodeled and 2 new furnaces added.

2003 – A shed was constructed behind the church.

2007 - The church sanctuary was remodeled which included and enlarged platform, new curtain behind the pulpit, new carpet, and new sound system.

2008 – Kawai keyboard donated as a memorial by the Spink Family.

2009 – Baby Grand piano donated in memory of Vivian Stephens.

The congregation has continued to grow and be active in the city of Platteville.

The average Sunday School attendance is 80. The average Sunday worship attendance is 150. The church's ministry to the city of Platteville includes:

- Sunday School for all ages.

- Services Sunday morning and evening.

- Young adult meetings Sunday evening.

- Wednesday evening Christian Life Club (CLC) for children of the community. Also with bible study for adults.

Individual bible studies for men and women during the week.

Revolution 360, a combined effort with other churches in Platteville to minister to children of our community. These meet once a month during the summer.

Back yard bible school for one week during the summer for children of the comm.

We support The Free Methodist camp ground, Sky Lodge Christian Camp. As a church, we help children attend camp by contributing 2/3 of the cost of camp. We also encourage attendance at all the variety of camps Sky Lodge offers.

We support world missions, with prayer, financially and with mission trips by church members to several countries.

Pastors of The Platteville Free Methodist Church

1875-1876	J.A. Murray	1963-1975	Ralph A. Park
1876-1878	E.Z. Thwing	1975-1976	Robert E. Grant
1878-1879	L. Whitney	1976-1979	Paul Duneman
1879-1881	D.M. Sinclair	1979-1986	Ernest Kratzer
1881-1882	G.T. Sutton	1986-1993	Joseph R. Waller
1882-1883	A.H. Young	1993-1997	Richard Whippler
1883-1884	N.E. Parks	1998-2010	Steven D. Borwick
1884-1886	J.S. Bolton	2007-2010	Daryl Arms (assist. pastor)
1886-1888	F.E. Doubleday		
1888-1889	W.S. Waters & A. Longfield	2010-	Jeff Suits
1889-1891	J.S. Bolton	2011-2014	Joe Leverton (assist. youth pastor)
1891-1893	G.W. Endicott		
1883-1895	C.H. Chase	2014-	Scott Elliot (assist. youth pastor)
1895-1896	W.A. Knopp & W.S. Waters		
1896-1897	J.S. Thompson		
1899-1901	W.L. Meikle		
1901-0194	F.L. Burns		
1904-1908	E.N. Hawley		
1908-1909	C.W. Carnes		
1909-1912	J. Turgeson		
1912-1914	C.M. Stirdivant		
1914-1917	F.F. Wolfe		
1917-1918	E.J. Roberts		
1918-1921	G.L. Pound		
1921-1924	David Jones		
1924-1928	Bertha Townsend		
1928-1931	J.W. Jones		
1931-1932	B.T. Flanery		
1932-1935	G.L. Pound		
1935-1939	A.C. Wolcott		
1939-1943	O.E. Porter		
1943-1945	Charles Kirkpatrick		
1945-1947	Frank Kamm (3 or 4 months supply) A.C. Wolcott		
1947-1951	Eustace Kirkpatrick		
1951-1953	H.T. Sebree		
1953-1957	A.R. Rumppe		
1957-1958	W.K. Madden		
1958-1961	Wayne V. Lang		
1961-1963	Russell L Rossdeutscher		