

HISTORY OF THE CHILlicothe FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Free Methodist Church
1441 Jackson St
Chillicothe, MO 64601

Vision: Becoming a New Testament Church by genuinely worshiping, affirming, nurturing and expanding God's Kingdom.

Church history: In early 1899, a revival meeting was held in Chillicothe. Coming out of that was a small group of 20 people who felt the need to organize a Free Methodist Church. F.B. France, a layman, was appointed as the first pastor in March of that year. The church was originally located at the Northeast corner of Graves and Curtis Streets. The building served as the church until the church was relocated to the present location on Jackson Street. Thirty-seven different men and woman have served as pastors. In addition, six have served as assistants.

The goal of the church is to be a loving, caring congregation. We have strived to be not only concerned for the spiritual needs of our people, but concerned for the person as a whole. As we enter the second century of our history, we have a great opportunity to serve the Chillicothe Community. We strive to minister to the entire family, from infants to the senior citizens; to lead them to Christ, nurture them and involve them in ministry and leadership. Our goal is to give forth the love of Christ to all and that we will see many more join this body of Christ for His glory.

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FREE METHODIST CHURCH, CHILlicothe

This church was organized in 1898 by Revs. J. C. Hanner, general missionary evangelist, and B. Winget, missionary secretary, both of Chicago, Illinois. They held a two-weeks' revival meeting in the Protestant Methodist church, in the southern part of Chillicothe and at the close of the meeting they bought the church property and afterward the class built the parsonage. The first pastor was Rev. Chandos Smutz, a young local preacher who was appointed by the district elder. The first board of trustees were T. B. France, L. D. Turner and H. Hull. The church was dedicated by Rev. B. Winget. The following preachers have served as pastors of this church: Chandos Smutz, Frank A. Reeves, J. W. White, Wm. Vimont, F. N. Ahern, John R. Bales, Robert B. Ralls, S. B. Leatherman, Frank C. Smutz, C. W. Lent, Chas. Wickam, and A. W. Nicholds. The pastor now in charge is Rev. X. Atchinson; trustees, Dave Mallet, John Cornelius, and George Samuels. The church is located on the corner of Graves and Curtis streets.

<http://www.livingstoncountylibrary.org/History/County/Rootv1/1913rel.htm>