

HISTORY OF UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Our Church has been serving the community since 1873. It was originally organized as Zion Evangelical by Rev. Andres Schwartz, and German immigrants.

The original church was completed April 12, 1874 and was dedicated to the service of God. It was called the German Evangelical Church and remained until 1937 when the word German was dropped.

Christian Education was a major feature of our history. In 1876 we pioneered one of the first Protestant Sunday Schools in the United States.

Early services were conducted in German and in 1894 the English language was first used in a service.

In 1885, fire destroyed the building and the new hall was built in 1886.

In 1898 the first parsonage was dedicated.

1915 the stained glass art windows were installed in the church.

1917 the church began publishing bulletins called "*The Endeavor*" which is still produced once each quarter.

1920 the lighted clock tower was created. It continues to shine over the Canton and Highlandtown communities.

1927 the church was affiliated with Evangelical Synod of North America.

1935 the church started Vacation Bible School.

1937 The cornerstone of the current parsonage was laid.

In those days, Sunday school had an enrollment of 500 or more and confirmation classes had 100 or more.

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Needing more space the new church was built in 1957 and was dedicated to the Glory of God and we became part of the United Church of Christ.

This church has had a rich heritage of social and spiritual activities that not only served our members but the community as a whole. Our members are inheritors of great historical achievement and see themselves as “children of God” and followers of the way” of Christ.

OUR MISSION: We seek to continue Jesus’ mission of reaching out and embracing every

Enriching all, becoming living examples, bonding all with the love of God.

KNOWN FOR:

Tableau—always on the Wednesday before Easter (re-enactment of the Last Supper.)

Pastor Batz (1896-1926) walked the neighborhood with an outstretched hand to the people and embraced fellow pastors and showed us the way of love.

Sour Beef dinners

Painting of Christ walking the Galilaeen Sea—presented by the ladies aid.

Oak carving of Last supper—replacement of the above painting.