

History of First Christian Church

First Christian Church has been providing a Christian witness to the city of Springfield for over 170 years. Emphasizing Jesus' call to unity and reconciliation, the ministries of First Christian Church strive to build community in the midst of diversity. Ours is a Biblical faith and communion-centered, as the Lord's Supper (open to all who profess Christ) and preaching are celebrated weekly in our traditional worship.

First Christian Church is one of the nearly 4,000 congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a Protestant denomination founded in the early 1800's. Disciples' congregations have been leaders in the ecumenical movement, which have sought a unity that embraces the diversity of all individuals who believe in Jesus Christ. Moreover, the ministries of the laity and a commitment to servant-hood have both been essential to us as Disciples. (More about this will follow!)

We at First Christian Church are committed to the spiritual growth of all individuals, even as we seek to make a difference in our neighborhoods and wider community. First Christian Church is affiliated with the General Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and the Illinois-Wisconsin Region of the Christian Church.

The building that we currently occupy is the fourth building used by our congregation. Construction began on it in 1911. The architecture was inspired by the Kirk of Melrose Abbey near Edinburgh, Scotland. Through a program of continuing maintenance and a supportive congregation, the building has aged extremely well. The building is fully climate-controlled, boasts well-equipped office facilities, and has a modern nursery. Our kitchen and Fellowship Hall facilities can accommodate large dinners and receptions. First Christian Church is handicapped-accessible and provides abundant parking.

Our congregation is mission-oriented and God seeking. Our members come to us from many different backgrounds; however, we have one thing in common—we all love the Lord!