

THE HISTORY OF ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

Zion Evangelical Congregation was established in 1885 with six members of the Clark County Mission of the Evangelical Association Wisconsin Conference. They met in the home of Fred and Mary Sommers. The home was located on County Highway E, across the road from the church's current location on North Peach Street. At that time, all services were conducted in German.

In 1892, the First Evangelical Church was built in Marshfield at the intersection of what is now 9th and Cherry Streets. It was sometimes called the German Evangelical Church. By 1910, an English Sunday School was started, although classes were still held in German for older members.

In 1925, the wooden church was razed and a new brick church was built in the same location. The cost of the new church was approximately \$25,000.

Six years later, the Bethel Church/Stadt Congregation Church, located in rural Stratford, disbanded. Members were assigned to the Marshfield Evangelical Church. Other mergers in the years that followed included: the United Brethren Church in 1946 and the Richwood Salem Congregation in 1967. The following year, the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches merged. The name was officially changed to Zion United Methodist Church in 1968.

“100 Years of Continuing Faith” was celebrated on October 13, 1985.

Ground was broken for a new church building on April 21, 1991. Six months later, the cornerstone was laid and the delicate process of moving the stunning stained-glass windows from the old church to the new location, began. On November 18, 1991, the first window was installed.

On Sunday, December 8, 1991 the congregation worshipped for the final time at the 9th Street and Cherry Avenue location. Members ceremonially removed items from the altar and drove them north to the new church. Items were hand-carried into the new sanctuary in parade fashion and reinstalled. December 15, 1991 was the first full service in the new church at 2106 North Peach Avenue.

Within the next five years, the Sunday school and youth programs experienced so much growth that space was running short! The congregation decided to build an addition to the existing structure. It would house more classrooms, a small craft kitchen and a gymnasium.

Sadly, on April 17, 2010, the recognizable lighted cross on the church was destroyed by fire. Five months later a new steeple and cross were erected.

Most recently, on June 11, 2023, Zion United Methodist Church officially disaffiliated from the United Methodist Conference. On July 1, 2023, the renamed “Zion Community Church” joined the Global Methodist Church Denomination.