
VALLEY CITY CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



"LET IT SHINE"

Our church building, nestled down in the heart of our city in the valley, has much history of note, built in 1915. It goes back to 1881 as the railroad came through the country.

When our last full-time minister retired in 2005, a member of our church became our interim licensed minister, having already been through the courses of study for certification. In the process of the change in the pulpit came our decision to bring in professional assistance to determine the future possibilities of this congregation, its vision, and practicality of remaining a viable UCC church. The vote was taken to go forward, to search for a full time minister, and commit to working together to bring it to fruition.

A minister has been chosen, having just finished his seminary education, and now we will try hard to make our goal. Our membership has been reduced, mainly by death over the years, so that we had to take a more realistic view of maintaining a congregation that could be active and vital to the community at large.

We feel that there are many places in our church life seen where God has helped us shine through the years. They are as follows:

- Working with the whole membership to put on our Annual Chuck Wagon Dinner fund-

raiser prior to the Lenten Season, under the management of the Women's Fellowship.

- Maintaining a pipe organ and a core Church Choir all through these years.
- Keeping the various circles of women together to form our Women's Fellowship
- Modifying our Christian Education Department/Sunday School by holding classes on Wednesday evenings, along with a meal, fun and fellowship.
- Holding an all-church picnic out at our Lake Ashtabula where our church built a small building many years ago, naming it Plymouth Lodge. It was very well-attended this past year and was a sunny, warm day and fellowship was abundant.

Celebrating the year 2006 as the time for our 125th Anniversary. There were two wonderful days for family reunions and fellowship, reaping the goodness of the church family itself in the process. Historical papers and photos were gathered and presented for all to peruse. Our building was cleaned, polished and graced with decor befitting the occasion and our cultural background. People came back and marveled at the pure beauty of it all, bringing the spiritual aspect into play, as well. Our membership learned many of the historical tidbits shared during the gathering of information.

- Accommodating our community by offering space on our premises for Family Bridges, a County social service for those persons needing a neutral place to congregate with their children.
- Holding an annual Ice Cream Social in the park during an Arts & Craft show which benefits the local Faith In Action Organization.