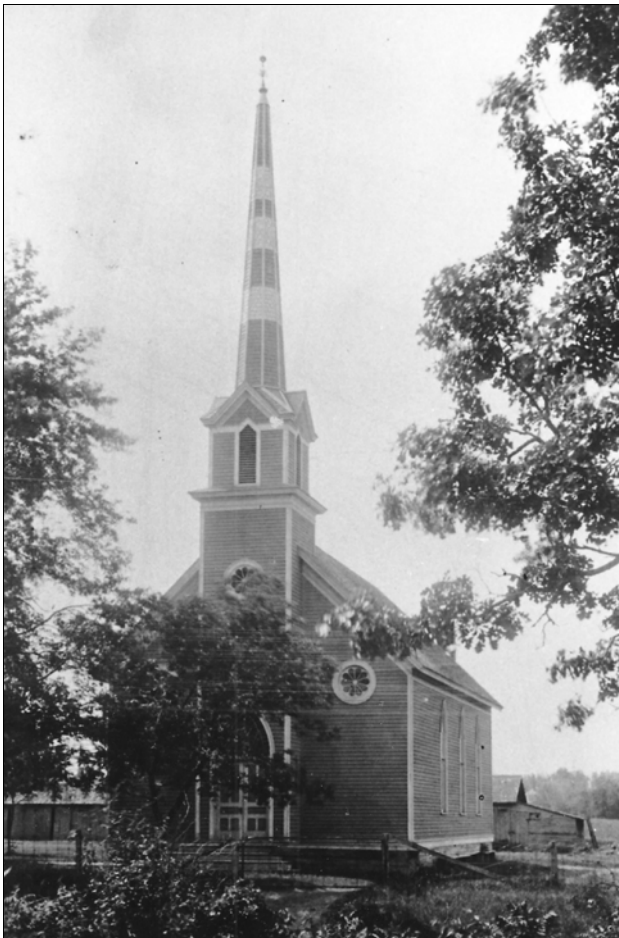
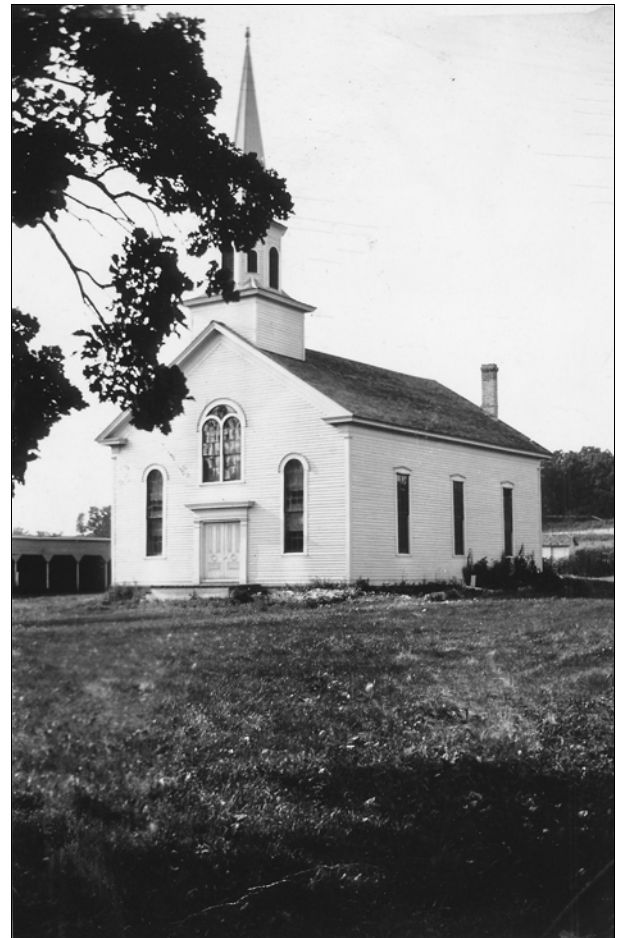


COTTAGE GROVE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*St. Matthew's Evangelical and Reformed Church
organized in 1873*



*First Congregational Church
organized in 1858*

A Brief Building History of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

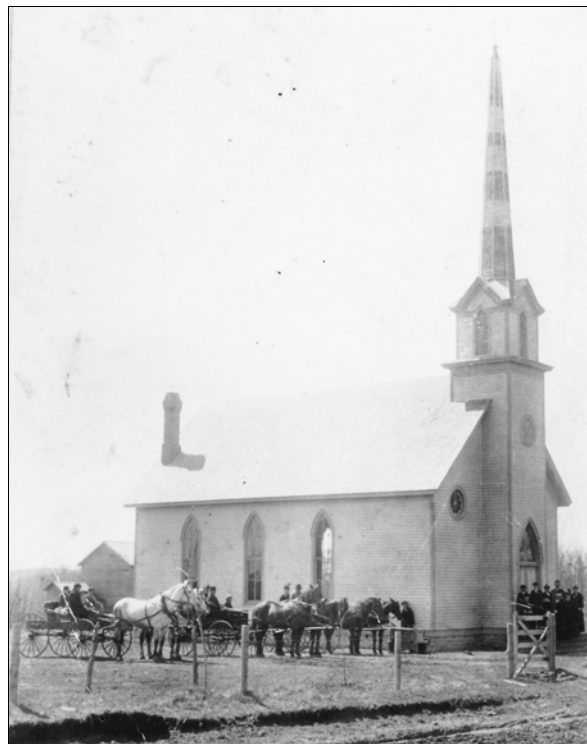
St. Matthew's Evangelical and Reformed Church

July 4, 1874

The Dedication Service of Worship was celebrated in St. Matthew's first church building, three miles East of our present location. Two years later the church building was moved on rollers and drawn by many teams of horses to the present location on Lamar and 70th Streets, and rededicated.

Early Summer, 1887

Sparks flew from a brush fire onto the roof of the Church. It caught on fire, and was completely destroyed. By the end of the summer it was rebuilt for the cost of \$2,400. This building eventually became the Cottage Grove Community Hall, and is now a residence on Lamar Avenue.

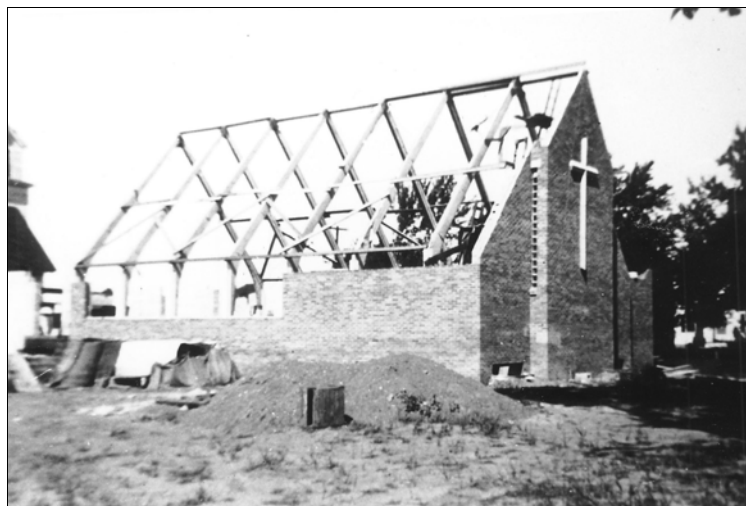


November 4, 1951

Dedication was held for a new parsonage, begun in May. This is the building that now serves as the offices for the clergy and clerical staff.

March 29, 1953

A building program to replace the Sanctuary was initiated on Palm Sunday in 1953. Through a generous donation from Ben Bahls, the new building was completed, and dedicated on August 8, 1954 at a cost of \$67,000. This is the building still used as our House of Worship.



First Congregational Church

December 29, 1868

The First Congregational Church building was dedicated on the North side of 70th Street on a lot donated by James S. Norris. This building, erected for a cost of \$4,070, still sits on the same site, but is now the Accacia Lodge owned by the Masons.



1883

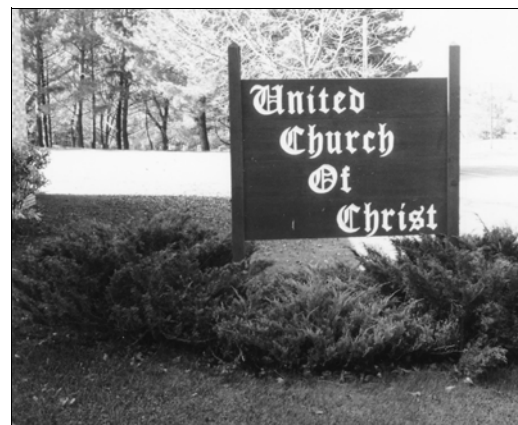
The parsonage was built further South on Lamar, and served the early ministers. It still stands on the same site and is now a private residence.



The Two Become One

July 14, 1963

The First Congregational Church and St. Matthew's Evangelical and Reformed Church became one, Cottage Grove United Church of Christ, with services held in the St. Matthew's Sanctuary.



June 9, 1968

Groundbreaking Ceremonies were held to mark the beginning of an addition to the Church. A Fellowship Hall and education rooms were added on. The total cost of this addition project was \$70,000. This was largely a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Ratzlaff. The new wing was dedicated October 13, 1968.

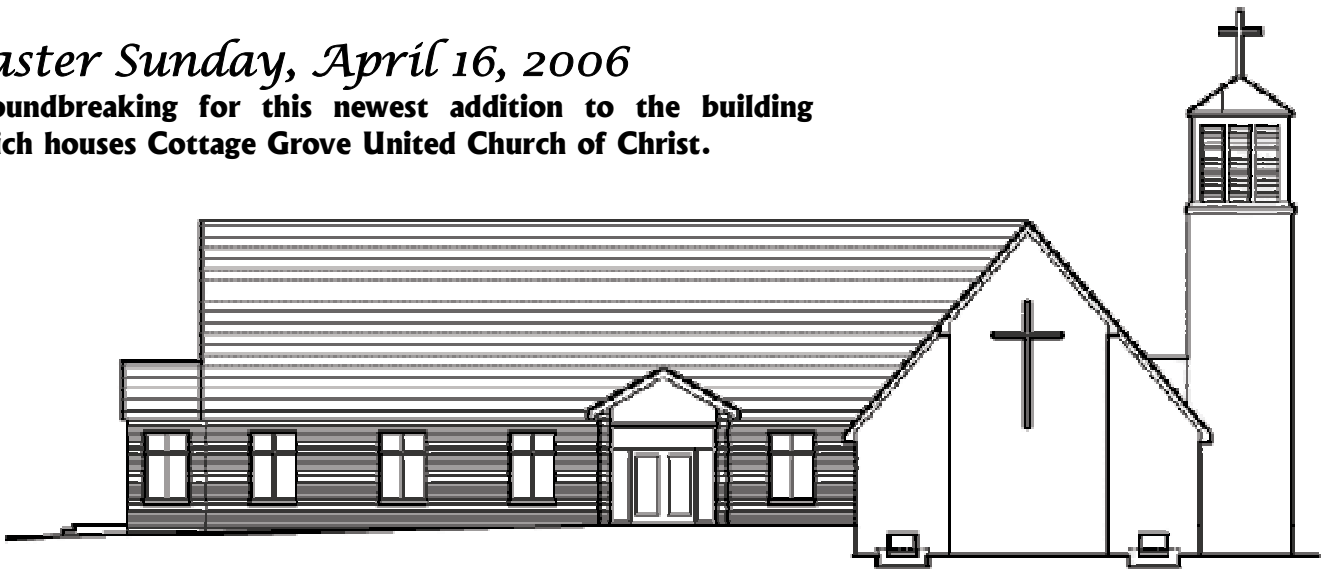


April 10, 2005

The Congregation voted to conduct a Capital Campaign to raise funds for a new addition to the church building which will include gathering space, bathrooms, nursery, offices, an elevator, and classrooms. The campaign raised the money and the excitement, and the Congregation voted again on February 27, 2006 to proceed with construction.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006

Groundbreaking for this newest addition to the building which houses Cottage Grove United Church of Christ.



Our challenge today is to provide a place and a faithful ministry to continue our rich history as the people of God in the name of Jesus Christ with those around us!

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

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