

First United Presbyterian Church

Growing in faith. Increasing in love.

1818

A small frame building was erected by the Collins' brothers, founders of Collinsville, which was used for the worship of God. It became known as the "Meeting house in the Grove." It served as a place of worship until 1843.

1822

Glenwood Cemetery was established by William B. Collins which would soon come under the care of FUPC.

1823

FUPC was organized on May 3, 1823 and has the distinction of being the oldest Presbyterian Church in continuous existence in Madison County, and the sixth oldest church in the State of Illinois. The organizing minister was Rev. Salmon Giddings. He was instrumental in establishing Presbyterian churches in St. Louis, Missouri. He was married to Miss Almira Collins of Collinsville, sister of brothers who found the city.

1840s

Glenwood Cemetery was deeded to the Trustees by William B. Collins' widow.

1843

A frame building was erected on the present site at Church and Morrison Street. There was also a small frame building on the northwest corner of the lot which was known as "Session House," where official board meetings were held.

1879

During a severe storm, the steeple was destroyed by lightning and a large part of the building was shattered. It was necessary to make repairs.

1884

In 1884 a brick building was built on the present site.

1914

As church membership grew, a church annex was built in 1914. The new structure then included a gymnasium, church parlor, and Sunday School rooms.

1920's

A complete renovation of the church and the annex were completed. A new lighting system with fixtures were added and a pipe organ was installed.

1930s

A manse at 120 East Church Street was purchased.

1942

The church was completely remodeled and redecorated. This included rearrangement of the seating, new choir loft, chancel, alter, and pulpit. The basement under the church was excavate and finished to accommodate the Sunday School departments.

1946

The manse was completely remodeled and redecorated to welcome Rev. William H. Sill and family.

1947

A Marines Group was organized to connect people and serve the church.

1958

The congregation voted to construct a two-story brick educational building and auditorium which was dedicated on January 18, 1959.

1973

The church celebrated 150 years of continued worship.

1975

In March, the old sanctuary and hall were razed, and the construction began on the new sanctuary which was dedicated May 16, 1976. The church also housed a thrift shop and food pantry to aid those in need.

1988

FUPC celebrated 175 years of continued existence.

2023

FUPC observed 200 years of continuous existence.