

Our Beginnings

■ **Sept. 19, 1882:** 1st Congregational Church of Charlevoix was organized
First Pastor: Rev. C.F. Van Aucken.



The church women sold baked goods to raise money for a building.



■ **1883:** Lot purchased at State & Clinton, then sold for lot at Park & State for \$800;
Construction of church began.

■ **1884:** Two stained glass windows purchased.

■ **Jan. 18, 1885:** Church dedicated in a raging snow storm



■ **1886:** Bell purchased from France for \$200; Total construction cost of church \$5,541.71.

■ **1904:** Pipe organ installed.

■ **1906:** First parsonage purchased; community events held at 204 Park Ave.



■ **1914:** Communion table purchased; still in use today.

■ **1955:** Remodeling of chancel is completed: new pews, floors carpeted, balcony useable, pipe organ remodeled.

■ **1970:** Fellowship Hall dedicated.

■ **1978:** Carillon dedicated.

■ **1982:** 100th Anniversary, celebrated with sealing of time capsule in cornerstone.

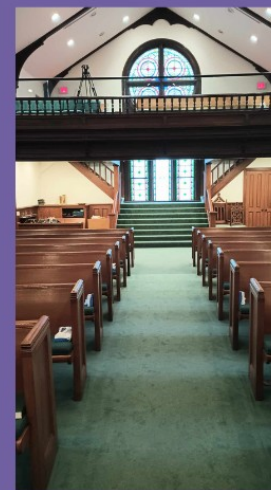
■ **1986:** Groundbreaking for elevator and dedication.

■ **Oct. 24, 1999:** Groundbreaking for our building project. This ultimately included the renovation and restoration of the sanctuary, the addition of the current Fellowship Hall (now known as Ransom Hall), the expansion and renovation of the kitchen, classrooms, and meeting rooms in the basement.

■ **Feb. 27, 2000:** Last Sunday service in our "old" church, presented by the women as they looked back in 1882. Our church operations were moved to the Christian Science building nearby with our first worship service there on March 5, 2000. From March to Dec. 2000, we were able to use the Methodist, Episcopal & St. Mary's churches for various events.

■ **Dec. 17, 2000:** We returned to our renovated, expanded church home.

■ **Sept. 2022:** 140th Anniversary Celebrated.



Our Church and Sanctuary today

**We host many events
for our community
such as...**



**Kalamazoo
College
Choir**

Switchback



Drenth Foot Race



Ralph Herndon



Willie Nile Band



CharleVOICES



...and so much more...

**Established in 1882 -
Still Committed to the Community**

About Us

The First Congregational Church was formed in 1882. Members purchased this lot in 1883, and the building was completed in 1885. Church women held social fundraisers to help finance its cost. The building features rare Stick style motifs. The church installed stained glass windows in 1884 and the half-ton bell made of Michigan copper and Banca tin in 1886. It added a wing in 1904 and a fellowship hall in 1970.

We are on the Michigan Historic Registry and are the oldest surviving church in Charlevoix.



**1st CONGREGATIONAL
UCC
CHARLEVOIX**

All are welcome here!

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www.CHXUCC.org