

Columbus Bible Church was established in 1851, and has been renamed and joined with other churches several times in the past 150+ years. The church history shown below was taken from various church records.

Congregational came to the United States in 1620 with the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock Massachusetts.

The settlement of the Township of Columbus was like all new counties; its settlers were from all parts of the world and very little was given to the teachings of the Bible. A small group of folks met in the home of Henry Quick (first man elected deacon of the church) in 1836 to worship. They met there until September 29, 1851 when they formed the First Congregational Church of Columbus. At first they worshiped without a pastor in the schoolhouse across the street from the church on Arlington Road. There were 12 members.

On November 2, 1859 a motion was made that each male member give quarter of a dollar to the Treasurer for necessary expenses of the church.



Columbus Bible Church History



Old church without steeple

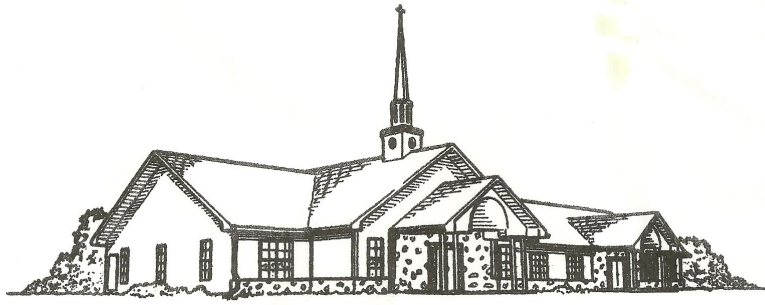


- August 27, 1860 - They purchased an undivided half interest in the Baptist Church across the road for \$384.38. Of course they worshiped at different times.
- In 1862 The Congregational Church of Casco merged with Columbus Church.
- November 11, 1867 - They voted that each member would furnish a cord of wood.
- In 1869 Reverend Fuller of the Baptist Church erected the first parsonage next to the church.
- In 1871 the First Congregational Church bought out the Baptist Church and celebrated by buying an organ.
- In 1874 a motion was made to open the church to all denominations. Every Trustee voted it down.
- In 1876 the church attendance was 85.
- In 1882 the church burned down.
- February 22, 1883 - They bought the Methodist Church (they had moved to Richmond) for \$100 and moved it to where it stands today on Arlington Road, It cost them \$100 and took 7 days move it from Kronner Road.
- The name Columbus Congregational Church became solicited when it was decided in 1903 to have one pastor serve both it and the First Congregational Church of Richmond. He was paid \$5.00 a sermon (of course butter was 10 cents a pound and eggs 8 cents a dozen).
- In 1928 the church was wired for electricity.
- In 1930 money was raised to install a furnace.
- In 1931 our little church was so modern that The German Evangelical Church used it for their service in the afternoon.
- In 1951 the second raising of the church was done to complete the basement, and in doing so the church lost its steeple.
- In 1953 two new entries were built.
- In 1960 the outdoor privies were replaced with indoor restrooms.



Inside the old church





On May 21, 1961 there was a vote to accept the constitution of the Church of Christ. Also in 1961 the parsonage was moved in order to make way for a parking lot, aluminum siding was put on the church and the interior was carpeted.

On December 1, 1972 a motion was made to disassociate ourselves from the Church of Christ. At that time we became The Independent Congregational Church.

On October 14, 1984 the congregation voted to change our church name from Columbus Independent Congregational Church to COLUMBUS BIBLE CHURCH. It was felt that this name change would be a better witness to our community as we continued to be an independent Bible believing group of Christians, desiring to spread the Gospel to those around us.

In 1989 Pastor Woodrow Nelson was called to be our minister. There were only 11 members at that time. They were concerned that the church would have to close its doors (we thank those few people and the Lord that they didn't).

In 1995 a new fiberglass steeple was lifted into place on top of the church. It was 31 feet high. If you have ever driven down Gratiot you can't miss it. It is like a lighthouse in the night, to light your way.

In 1998 a Decision was made to purchase five acres of land on Palms Road, this property was paid for in one year. They also purchased an additional five acres.

In December 2000 construction of the new church building began. By 2001 there were over 100 members and 162 in attendance at the little old church. It was so full that some had to sit in the basement and view the service over closed circuit television. The new church on Palms Road was completed and the first service was held on Aug. 19, 2001. On September 30, 2001 the building was dedicated.



Top: Removing the steeple
Left: Pastor with steeple

Pastors:

1851- 1860 No regular pastor
1860 - 1862 Rev. Wm. Russell
1862 - 1864 Rev. Fayette Hurd
1864 - 1874 Rev. O. Bryant
1874 - 1878 Rev. Ward Hunt
1878 - 1879 Rev. E. Cressman
1879 -1903 Rev. Ward Hunt
1903 - 1911 Rev. W.W. Gadd
1912 - 1917 Rev. G.H. Bachior
1918 - 1920 Rev. Henzy Mosley
1920 - 1921 Rev. Wm. Hunter
1921 - 1926 Rev. George Cornea
1926 - 1940 Rev. Percy Jesson
1940 - 1943 Rev. Donald Brady
1943 - 1944 Rev. C. Burkholder
1944 - 1953 Rev. Brooks Warren
1953 - 1958 Rev. Wm. Edwards
1958 - 1959 Rev. Brooks Warren
1959 - 1967 Rev. Robert Folkert
1967 Mar.-July Rev. Ivan Smith
1967 - 1971 Rev. Thophil Goebel
1971 - 1980 Rev. Wm. Randall
1980 - 1989 Rev. Gary Foster
1989 through present Pastor Woodrow Nelson
2003 - 2009 Pastor John Jelinek joined Pastor Woodrow Nelson.
May 2010 through present Pastor Jim Smith joined Pastor Nelson



Church that bought the steeple