

Carondelet UCC

St. Louis, MO

Celebrating 150 Years



By the late 1860's, a growing population of German immigrants fled social disruption in their homeland and settled in what was then the incorporated city of Carondelet on the banks of the Mississippi River; just south of the city of St. Louis. A number of these immigrants were Christians from the German evangelical tradition, and on November 14, 1869, these German Evangelicals met for the first time in worship together. From that first gathering at Blow School in Carondelet, the congregation moved in 1871 to the sanctuary building that continues to house worship and prayer for the disciples of Jesus who gather each week there at the corner of Michigan and Koeln Avenues in the city of St. Louis.

The physical space at Michigan and Koeln has changed in different eras of the congregation's ministry. A German-English parish school was a ministry of the congregation to the surrounding neighborhood through nearly its first 50 years, and a Christian education building was added in 1966 to accommodate a fruitful season of growing families in the congregation. From the founding pastor, Rev. John Will, 15 settled pastors have served the congregation in its 150 years.

As it has been through its history, it is a blessing for the congregation and its faithful to listen to how our still-speaking God is shaping it for faithfulness and ministry. For the last seven years, church members have founded and continue to support the congregation's Free Store ministry, a charitable resource within the Carondelet neighborhood of south St. Louis that supplies clothing as well as household cleaning and personal hygiene items. From its beginning, Carondelet UCC has been privileged to be a spiritual presence and a resource of Christian community in the Carondelet neighborhood.

-Compiled from "A Short History of Carondelet UCC" by Shirley Brethauer