

TWO CHURCHES BECOME ONE

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF [PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH](#)

- 1872 - October 13. The Methodist Episcopal Church in Brainerd was formally organized, meeting in a dance hall with planks supported by beer kegs serving as pews.
- 1872 - December 15. Sunday School organized with 30 members. First chapel built that year.
- 1873 - First parsonage built. Cost \$716.82
- 1886 - New church was built and chapel moved and made into a home.
- 1915 - Church was moved to 6th and Juniper and extensively remodeled.
- 1924 - Parsonage was purchased at 7th and Bluff.
- 1935 - Church mortgage was burned, money subscribed to repaint the building.
- 1939 - Church was renamed First Methodist, following the Kansas City Uniting Conference.
- 1940 - Parsonage was sold and a new one built on the lot south of the church at a cost of \$6,000. Pastor Dripps and his family lived in the church during construction.
- 1942 - November 15. 70th anniversary of church's founding was observed.
- 1953 - October 12. Church observed its 80th anniversary.
- 1955 - Church remodeling program was started. Membership was 540.
- 1962 - The fair booth became a church project
- 1963 - The parsonage was moved to Bluff Avenue. Two lots were purchased and the Education Center was built.
- 1967 - Due to serious structural decay, the 1886 portion of the church was deemed unusable. Services were held in the Patterson Chapel of First Presbyterian for 2 1/2 years.
- 1968 - With formation of the United Methodist Church, First Methodist became Park United Methodist Church.
- 1970 - Services were moved to the Education Center while the new sanctuary was being built.
- 1973 - April 3. First service held in the new sanctuary. Over 300 in attendance. Pipe organ was purchased from the Visitation Convent for \$2,000. New building cost \$210,000 plus an estimated \$20,000 in labor by men of the church.
- 1987 - Final payment on the mortgage for present building was made in December.
- 1989 - Parsonage on Bluff Avenue was sold and new parsonage was purchased on Graydon Avenue.

- 1991 - Extensive redecorating of church basement was done as the result of flood damage caused by backup of city sewers. Parking lot behind church was paved.
- 1994 - Elevator was added to make the church totally handicap accessible.
- 1994 - June 12. Congregation vote to merge with Evangelical United Methodist was passed.
- 1994 - October 23. Merger Sunday.
- 1996 - Purchased lot to west of church, removed house, expanded parking lot.
- 1996 - June 16-18. First ever youth mission trip. Went to Star Lake Camp and stained buildings.
- 1996 - Purchased used 15 passenger van.
- 2000 - Reroofed church facility for \$39,000.
- 2001 - Traded van for bus.
- 2002 - Razed old garage and built new. About \$20,000 was donated.
- 2002 - New Carpeting, sound system and lighting added to sanctuary. Organ refurbished.
- 2003 - Air conditioning added to sanctuary and Wesley Room. Wesley Room redecorated and entertainment center installed.
- 2003 - Parsonage exterior repainted; new gas fireplace insert, furnace, hot water heater, microwave, dishwasher, carpeting and ceramic tile installed. During the history of this church two young men have entered the Christian Ministry: Leland Bissinger and Jon Hartman. Membership at time of merger was 430.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

- 1880 - First services in German for a mission for the Evangelical Church held in a hotel barroom.
- 1888 - A church building was bought in Northeast Brainerd from the Methodists.
- 1889 - A parsonage was built at a cash cost of \$900. Much of the work was donated.
- 1913 - Services changed from the German language to English.
- 1940 - A new parsonage was built on C Street Northeast. Total cost was \$7,000 with about \$1,800 of this provided in the form of labor.
- 1940 - October 10-13. New parsonage dedicated along with 60th anniversary celebration.
- 1943 - Fair booth was started.

- 1943 - Status of the church changed from a mission to a self-supporting field.
- 1944 - Debt on the parsonage was cleared.
- 1946 - Name was changed from Zion Evangelical Church to Zion Evangelical United Brethren due to merge of Evangelical and United Brethren of Christ.
- 1950 - April 30. Ground breaking for new sanctuary. Old part being converted to classrooms. Total cost \$62,000.
- 1950 - December 10. Dedication of enlarged sanctuary to a full church. Membership was 244.
- 1957 - December 8. Mortgage for the church was burned.
- 1968 - Name changed to Evangelical United Methodist Church with the union of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church.
- 1968 - First Harvest Smorgasbord served over 700 people.
- 1979 - Harvest Smorgasbord changed to meatball supper.
- 1980 - June 17-19. Centennial of the church celebrated.
- 1991 - New parsonage purchased in Baxter at the cost of \$80,000.
- 1992 - Property and buildings sold to Bob Larson Photography.
- 1992 - December 20. Last service in church building. Began co-using with Park United Methodist. Sunday School, Youth Fellowship and Vacation Bible School were combined.
- 1993 - April 18. Mortgage on parsonage was burned.
- 1994 - June 12. Congregation vote to merge with Park United Methodist Church was passed. During the history of this church six young men and one young woman have entered the Christian Ministry: F.W. Schwenk (transferred to New York Conference), Kenneth Clawson, Herbert Cook, Harold Utzinger, Howard Kruger, Lee Nicholson and Lori Allen Nielsen. Membership at time of merger was 139.