

A Thumbnail Sketch of our History

Denmark Manor is part of the United Church of Christ in which congregations make the decisions about the operation and faith stance of the church. We believe in freedom of conscience, and do not tell others what doctrine they must accept. We affirm the work of the Trinity, the authority of the Bible and that God is still speaking in this world. The religious heritage of the UCC stems from the great traditions of the Protestant Reformation, Lutheran, Calvinist and Congregationalist. These traditions were brought to America by Protestants fleeing persecution in Europe.

Our history is old, but our ideas are not!

Denmark Manor was founded by the Rev. John William Weber, the first minister to cross the Alleghenies. The first church was built on land donated by Jacob Brinker and Conrad Knappenberger. It was formed as a joint Lutheran and Reformed congregation by the German settlers in the region.

In 1888 the Lutheran and the Reformed congregations went their separate ways, the Lutherans building a church in nearby Boquet on Frye Road, and the Reformed Congregation building a new elegant meeting house on the site of the old one. In 1934 the German Reformed Church of the US and the Evangelical Synod in North America, both denominations of German heritage united to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Denmark Manor's name changed from Denmark Manor Reformed Church to Denmark Manor Evangelical and Reformed Church.

With the growth of the Sunday school movement, in the 1930's the men of the church dug beneath this building to create Sunday school space. In 1957 the Evangelical and Reformed Churches joined with the Congregation Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ, and so we are now Denmark Manor United Church of Christ. In 1968 an Education Wing was dedicated, built through the faithful stewardship of the church members. Since then we have added the Earl Whiteman outdoor pavilion, where church functions are held, and the buildings have experienced many changes and upgrades.

Most important is that the ministry of the church has changed with the times. We have grown in mission and outreach. In 2003 the church called its first female pastor, who is still with the church today. Many updates to the worship service have occurred in recent years. We seek to remind people of our openness, that "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."