

The history of Christ Episcopal Church

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Christ Episcopal Church at 120 Ohio St., Huron, is celebrating its 180th anniversary this year.

HURON

Christ Episcopal Church is one of the oldest churches in the area.

The Episcopal Society of Huron was organized in 1837 and a cornerstone for a church building was laid on May 23, 1838, the church's website states. At that time, the church was located on the village's original southern limit with the Rev. F.M. Levenworth as its first pastor, according to the Huron Historical Society's website. In 1839, the Rev. Samuel Marks took over leadership duties and remained in his position for more than 40 years.

Soon, a steeple was added in 1876 and a bell in 1881.

Almost 100 years later, the church received major upgrades in 1963, adding class rooms, kitchen, a fellow ship hall, offices, choir room, and meeting space. The sanctuary was upgraded too.

More renovations followed suit. "In 1975, a newer steeple was erected and a modern impressionistic stained glass window of the Living Christ was installed behind the altar," the church's website states. "In recent years the church was painted, the entrance was made handicap accessible, a library was added, pew cushions and kneelers were installed and the organ was renovated."

In its history, 19 people have lead Christ Episcopal Church. "The Rev. Eugene Smercina, who retired in October 2001, served for 36 years. In the early 80's, during his pastorate, the church life changed dramatically with the Cursillo Movement. The parish moved from a more traditional to a more evangelical worship, while maintaining an inclusiveness that promotes diverse worship styles. In 2003, the Rev. Wanda Ray became the first female rector, who retired July 30, 2014."

The church's current pastor, Father Michael Floyd, has served the church since November 2015.

Because it's one of the oldest churches in Ohio, the church is on the National Register of Historic Places, according to the church's website. The church is celebrating its 180-year history this year.

Get to know Christ Episcopal Church

Address: 120 Ohio Street

Phone: 419-433-4702

Website: christchurchhuron.org

Facebook page: Christ Episcopal Church, Huron, Ohio ([@christchurchhuron](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchhuron))