

## Zion Church (Kelleys Island) to Celebrate 125 Years



On Saturday, August 18, Zion United Methodist Church on Kelleys Island will celebrate 125 years in its current building. There will be an anniversary worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a light luncheon in the church fellowship rooms. A special invitation is extended to all present and former Kelleys Islanders who have had any connection with the church. Invitations to former pastors and notable guests have been sent. If you are able to attend, please call the church office at 419-746-2514 and leave a message.

Zion was first formed as the German Evangelical Church in 1854. A small church building, currently the home of Allen and Diane Nickles at 208 Division Street, was built in 1873, and a parsonage was built in 1879 at a cost of \$600, paid for by 28 church members. The present Church, at 101 Chappel Street, was built in 1893. A corner stone commemorating the construction with the words, German Evangelical Church 1893, is still visible. Interestingly, the German language was used in worship until the year 1910.

When the Congregational Church disbanded in the early 1930's, the remaining members gave their land and building to Zion Church, which enabled the addition of the educational and social rooms. During this time the church was known as the Community Church. When the Evangelical Association and the United Brethren Church united in 1946, Zion Church became part of that larger communion. In 1950, the church became a member of the Ohio Sandusky Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) Church. In 1968 the EUB united with the Methodist Church and in 1973, the church on Kelleys Island became known officially as the Zion United Methodist Church,

Despite being a small congregation, Zion Church has fostered at least seven young men who have entered the ministry and continues to have a vital and supportive outreach on the island. Current programs include, among others, a welcoming program for summer student workers which incorporates a bicycle loan program to help them get around, Vacation Bible School, a prayer shawl ministry by the Christian Crafters, church meals and evening games during the winter months, and weekly Bible study.



This German congregation originally met in a small house nearby until their new building was built in 1893. It is now known as the Zion United Methodist Church. The parsonage next door was built in 1873.