

Trinity United Methodist is 200 years strong

By Caitlin Nearhood, Sandusky Register, April 27, 2019

Pastor Donald Kuntz stands outside Trinity United Methodist Church in Sandusky.



Get to know Trinity United Methodist Church

Sandusky's first church congregation has

remained strong for 200 years. Trinity United Methodist Church on Jefferson Street celebrated its bicentennial last year with the city of Sandusky.



A historical marker outside the church states the Methodist Episcopal Church helped develop organized religion in Perkins Township, eventually spreading to Sandusky's city limits when the Rev. Alfred Brunson "preached the city's first sermon in January 1818."

The Methodist congregation has existed in Sandusky since 1856 and met at various locations within the city, including where the current Erie County Common Pleas courthouse and the former post office building at Washington and Jackson streets stands.

Before construction on the church's current building began in 1922, the congregation acquired and remodeled the home of Charles Cooke for their purposes, according to the Erie County Historical Society. The church's current sanctuary finished in 1958.

Pastor Donald Kuntz, an Akron native with 35 years of ministry experience, began his tenure at Trinity United Methodist shortly after the 200th anniversary. "I love living in Sandusky and being near the water," he said.

Trinity Methodist is a congregation of about 100 people, Kuntz said. They meet at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sundays and 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays for Bible study. Many of them are engaged in community work. "They're people who take their Christianity to make a difference in the world," Kuntz said.

How so? Multiple people attending the church volunteer at Care and Share, which began at Trinity United Methodist, Crossroads homeless shelter and Firelands Regional Medical Center, to name a few. They'll bake cookies for those incarcerated at the juvenile detention center and gift area firefighters and law enforcement with baskets filled with snacks, personal care items and teddy bears to give to scared children.

Trinity United Methodist has also donated money and diapers to HOLA Ohio, a Latino community advocacy group, for migrants after recent raids by federal agents. Going a step further, members of the congregation have traveled to disaster areas across the country to assist with recovery efforts, most recently helping out in Iowa after recent flooding.

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