



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PASTORS WHO SERVED PLYMOUTH CHURCH

Rev. W. W. Cochran and Rev. B. Foltz served the Presbyterian Church from which Plymouth Church was formed.

Rev. Philo C. Pettibone served from 1856 to November 4, 1863

Philo Pettibone was the first minister of Plymouth Congregational Church. In 1856, he and his family came to the middle west as home missionaries, first settling in Kenosha. In 1858, they moved to Burlington. Rev. Philo was very much interested in reforms and was an ardent abolitionist. This was reflected in the Code of Rules he helped to write for the new church, and the following are excerpts from the code: *“Members of this church shall totally abstain from the manufacture, sales or use of all intoxicating liquor, except for mechanical, chemical or medicinal purposes, and in all their relations, ecclesiastical or social, they shall exert themselves to put an end to the manufacture, sale or use of such liquor, except for the purposes named.”*

“The members of this church shall not engage in slaveholding or apologize for slavery.”

Rev. Sidney H. Barteau served from May 5, 1864 to March 19, 1867

Rev. Osmer W. Fay served from May 1867 to June 1, 1869

Rev. Isaac N. Cundall served from July 1, 1869 to October 9, 1870

Rev. Albert M. Case served from October 1870 to August 31, 1873

Rev. Asher W. Curtis served from October 1873 to February 1875

From 1875 to 1880, a series of interim pastors serve the church:

Rev. Milton Wells served for two years

Rev. C. C. Caldwell

Rev. Peter S. Vanness served from September 1875 to February 1877

Rev. Charles B. Curtis served from November 1, 1877 to November 1878

Rev. H. M. Corsbie served from November 17, 1878 to April 17, 1880

Rev. Luman A. Pettibone served from July 18, 1880 to September 22, 1895



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Luman A. Pettibone was born in 1853 to Rev. and Mrs. Philo Pettibone. He was brought up in Burlington while his father served Plymouth Congregational Church, and later in Beloit where he attended Beloit Academy and Beloit College. He also attended Yale Divinity Seminary and, upon his graduation, was called to fill the vacant pastorate of the Burlington church. In 1883 he organized the Christian Endeavor Society – the first in Burlington and the state.

Rev. Charles E. Blodgett served from December 1895 to February 26, 1899

Rev. Charles Blodgett held several revival services. There was a loss of old church records in a fire at the C.G. Foltz store during his tenure.

Rev. William Kilbourne served from August 1, 1899 to February 24, 1904

Rev. Kilbourn is remembered as the ‘Nehemiah’ who aroused the people to build a new sanctuary and was unceasing in his labors until it was accomplished.

Rev. Robert B. Blythe served from October 16, 1904 to April 15, 1910

A Canadian, Blythe had an intense desire to expand knowledge and focus on education.

Rev. George H. Marsh served from November 20, 1910 to December 15, 1912

Rev. Hubert C. Herring, Jr. served from May 18, 1913 to April 15, 1917

Of New York, Herring was the profound impetus for an educational thrust.

Rev. George E. Stickney served from June 10, 1917 to March 14, 1918

Rev. Stickney served until the outbreak of WWI when he took a leave of absence to be involved with YMCA work related to the war effort

Rev. Ernest L. Benson served from May 1, 1918 to November 27, 1921

Rev. Fred A. Stever served from January 22, 1922 to November 24, 1929

Rev. Carl Stackman served from March 23, 1930 to September 7, 1941

Rev. Leslie J. Barnette served from September 14, 1941 to September 1, 1943



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Rev. Arnold J. Pederson served from October 1, 1943 to February 15, 1946

Rev. Alfred E. Gregory served from July 6, 1952 to September 13, 1953

Rev. Henry C. Schadeberg served from February 22, 1946 to December 5, 1960
He began his ministry after returning from chaplain duty aboard naval vessels in the Pacific War.

Rev. Joseph Cheek served in 1961

Rev. Harold Becker served from September 3, 1961 to December 9, 1962

Charles Wesley Smith (lay minister) served in 1963

Rev. Trent Rockwell served from September 22, 1963 to June 29, 1978

Rev. James Burd served from January 15, 1979 to March 31, 1989

Rev. Gary Loethen served from July 1, 1981 to August 1, 1985

Bianca S. Rausch, Associate Minister, served from December 1985 to May 1987

Rev. Cathey Rennick, Interim Minister, served from April 1, 1989 to May 1, 1990

Rev. Robert Saunders served from May 1, 1990 to May 31, 1993

Rev. Dr. Kathleen F. Connor served from July 15, 1993 to December 31, 2000

Rev. Cathey Rennick, Interim Minister, served from January 1, 2001 to January 31, 2002

Rev. David Denoon served from February 1, 2002 to January 31, 2008

Rev. Thomas Porter, Interim Minister, served from Feb. 1, 2008 to April 19, 2009

Rev. Robert Wang has been serving from April 20, 2009 to present