

Genesee Baptist Church
149 Brooks Ave.
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www.geneseebaptistchurch.org

Genesee Baptist Church, the oldest religious organization in Southwest Rochester, traces its history back to 1845, when Col. Otis Turner, a Baptist, started a Sunday School class in his home. Over the years the church went through many locations and name changes. A frame church was eventually built on Genesee Street at Terrace Park, and in 1871 (the date we use to celebrate our anniversary), a group of members petitioned to form their own church, which was renamed Genesee Baptist Church in 1915. In 1922 the building was moved to its present location on Brooks Avenue, where it became the west wing of the new structure.

With the opening of the Rochester Theological Seminary in 1850, divinity students were persuaded to come and preach, including Augustus Hopkins Strong, who was later to become President of what is now the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. The tradition of divinity student ministers serving at Genesee Baptist Church remains alive today. The church was later reorganized under the chairmanship of Professor Joseph H. Gilmore of the University of Rochester, who was also the author of the hymn "He Leadeth Me."

In 1996 the church welcomed our current pastor, Rev. Dr. Vera Evans Miller. We are doubly honored by the fact that she is our first female pastor, as well as our first African-American pastor. Under her leadership our membership has more than tripled, and we are continually blessed by her many accomplishments and talents.

At Genesee Baptist Church we take pride in our historic church, in our neighborhood, and in the warm fellowship we share. We are a close-knit and loving community of Christians from diverse cultural backgrounds, and we welcome all to worship and fellowship with us. Our various ministries include Women's Society, Bible Study, Youth Fellowship, Health Ministry, and Liturgical Dance Ministry; and we offer a vibrant music program consisting of five choirs, a variety of musical genres, and special concerts.

