

First Congregational UCC Hartland Celebrates 175th Anniversary

The First Congregational Church of Hartland was founded in October of 1842 and the congregation has been celebrating actively throughout 2017.

A new brochure, bookmark and sign were printed, celebrating the 175th. Every Sunday bulletin and monthly newsletter has carried historical tidbits researched by a 175th committee. A founding family, whose fifth generation continues to be engaged with the church has been profiled and celebrated. The church was featured on the Hartland History Walk as the community celebrated its 125th anniversary the first weekend in July. An article was written about the combined community and church history and appeared in the fall issue of Landmark Magazine, a publication of the Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum. Another article was submitted to the local paper, Lake Country Now, and will be appearing in early October. The church borrowed a Pioneer kit from the Waukesha County Museum to share with the children of the church on Sunday, September 17, as they learned about the life of the early founders of the community and the church.

On October 15, the church has issued an invite to current and former members and friends to join in for a special service led by UCC Hartland Reverend Peter St. Martin and Franz Rigert, Conference Minister. Former choir members will join in with the choir to offer musical praise. Following the service, a special pioneer meal, cooked by a member who is a chef, is being served, followed by a review of highlights of the church history. Special panels with historical photos will be on display, as will be the original 1842 register and an 1800's bible. The church is in possession of its original 1863 melodeon, an 1880's organ and the 1927 pipe organ and all will be played during the service and celebration. Period costumes are optional for the event.

Church members are founders and leaders of the Hartland Food Pantry, support the Lake Country Cares Cab service, host a Learning in Retirement Series and a local children's theater school, support the Hope Center in Waukesha and participated in home building in Honduras twice annually for 10 years. The church looks forward to continuing to grow with the community and to provide service locally and globally. Their sister church, UCC Genesee, with whom they share Rev. Peter St. Martin, looks forward to celebrating its 175th in 2018.