

SEPT
2026



100 YEARS AGO... Flossmoor's first church is established

MEET THE FCC CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Betsy Hanzelin, Chair

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Alanna Cotch

Trina Hayes

Ann Gardner

Megan Maginity

Pam Marks

Jackie Riffice

Dodi Wians

Brooke King-LaBreck,
Staff Liaison

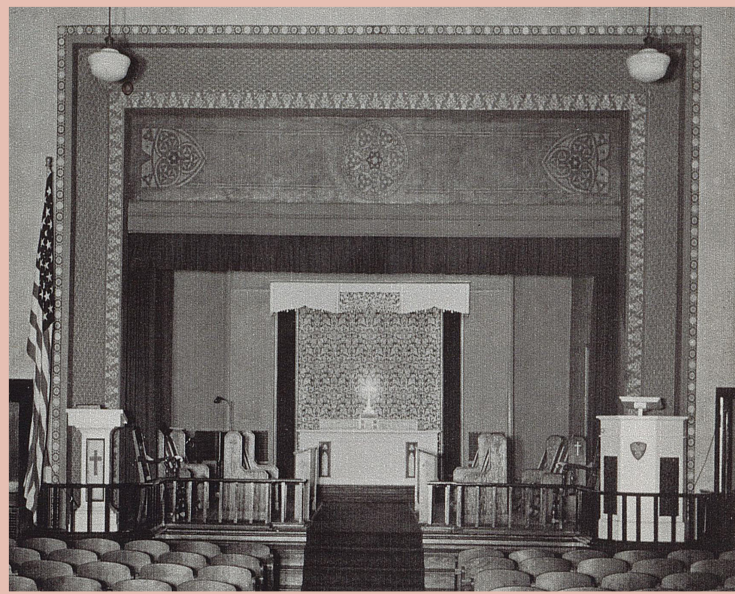
On February 22, 2027, Flossmoor Community Church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding as the first church established in Flossmoor, Illinois. The church will commemorate this milestone with a series of events and activities culminating in a centennial worship service in February and an all-ages celebration centered around the Community House, site of the church's early worship services, on April 24. Coordinating these efforts is a Centennial Committee (named at left) elected in July.

The committee is working with existing boards and committees to offer specific opportunities for acts of service and celebration throughout the year to continue to pass on the relay of love begun by the five women who started a Sunday School for the children of Flossmoor in 1923.

Members of the Centennial Committee are also diligently digging through the church archives to locate photographs and historical documents detailing the past 100 years. Every month, the our special Centennial Newsletter will explore a period in Flossmoor Community Church history to honor and celebrate the continued sharing of God's love in our sacred space.

Flossmoor Community Church Approaches 100th Birthday

Our History: 1920s - 1940s



The present "stage" of the Community House was once served as our worship Chancel. As one congregant from the times said, churchgoers "squirmed on funeral parlor chairs" during services.

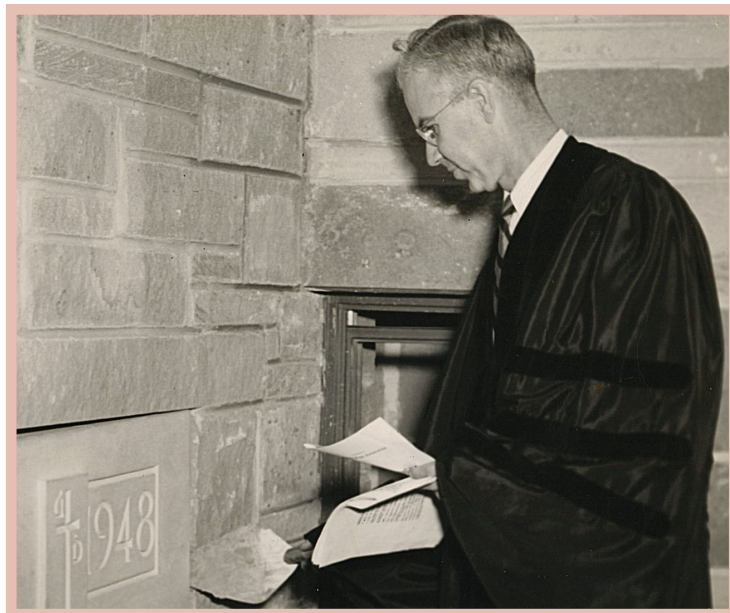
FCC's relay of love began in the early 1920s, when Flossmoor was a tiny community of farm homes and summer cottages that had sprung up close to the area golf courses. The Illinois Central Railroad had purchased 160 acres west of the tracks and north of what is now Flossmoor Road, and by 1910, the I.C. began trying to interest people in building summer homes on the land, running special trains out from Chicago and offering free lunches to prospective buyers. The electrification of the trains in the early twenties made Flossmoor the accessible suburban community it is today.

The seeds of Flossmoor Community Church were first planted in February of 1923, when five women, from a variety of faith backgrounds, decided to organize a Sunday school. After quickly raising \$300 to rent the basement of Leavitt Avenue School (since demolished, where Leavitt Park is today) and to purchase necessary supplies, they opened the doors to their first 33 pupils on March 7, 1923. Interest in a complete program grew, and the church was formally chartered on February 22, 1927. For the next twenty years, the congregation met in various buildings around the village, including a long stretch at the Community House (pictured above) from 1934 until our present Sanctuary was completed in 1949. Faculty of the University of Chicago Divinity School stepped into the pulpit in the early years, when the congregation could not afford a full-time minister.

World War II was still a very fresh memory. In May of 1945, the time had come to move from the Community House to a permanent home designed for the needs of a growing church family. Hugo C. Haeuser (pronounced "Heizer") of Milwaukee proposed and rendered plans for an L-shape building of Briar Hill stone, with only one leg of the L to be built at first. This would include the choir loft, sanctuary, and narthex on one floor, with the stage, fellowship hall, kitchen and utility room below –all for the anticipated cost of \$250,000. After an extensive fund-raising campaign, ground was broken on February 15, 1948.



February 15, 1948 congregants gather for a groundbreaking ceremony at the new site of Flossmoor Community Church. The Community House is visible in the background.



LEFT: September 19, 1948, The congregation gathers for outdoor worship and Laying of the Cornerstone

Above: FCC's Pastor, Robert K. Bell, places his message in the time capsule of the Cornerstone of our Sanctuary building

The following September, the foundations were complete and all was ready for the cornerstone. This called for a ceremony! According to the October 1948 Narthex Newsletter, on September 19 the congregation gathered at 4:30 p.m. for the laying of the cornerstone across the street. A copper box inside that cornerstone holds five letters, including one written by 10-year-old Jack Thompson, one by collegian Dorothy Hobbs, and one by Pastor Robert Bell. Young Jack Thompson placed the first trowel of mortar after reading his letter to a 10-year-old boy of the future: *"Flossmoor is a very good place for boys and girls to live, and I think our new church will help to make it just that much better."* Dorothy Hobbs prayed that whoever might be reading this would be living in a time *"of one fellowship where men live like brothers, regardless of color, race, or religion, in the way that God planned."* To his future "honored successor," Pastor Bell wrote, *"What we want you to know is that this church in the late 1940's was conscious of the needs of the world . . . and were further convinced that our first obligation is to minister to the spiritual welfare of those in our own community."*

In our hundredth year, we honor this history, and we look forward to continuing our relay of love through our mission to "welcome friend and stranger, celebrate all gifts, embrace the hurting, and labor with others to restore what is broken."



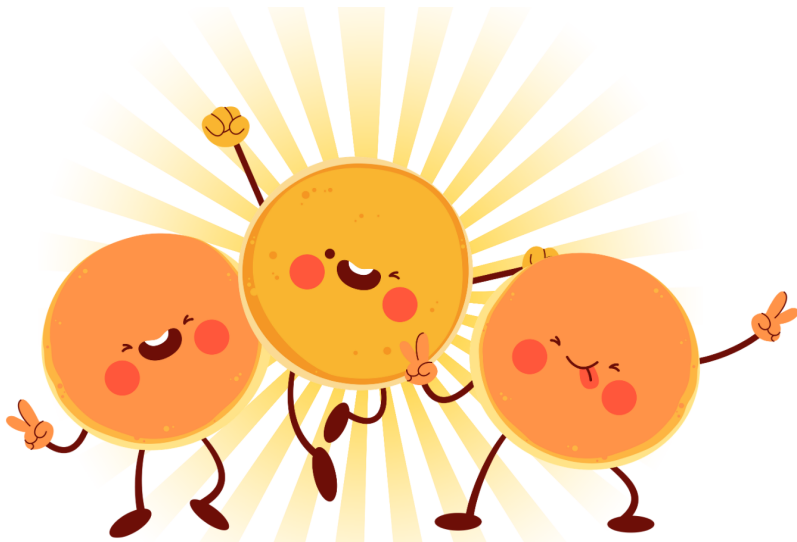
SAVE THESE DATES

...but stay tuned for for acts of service and celebration throughout the year!

**Sunday, October 25 @ 10 am Worship
Celebrating 100 Years of Music**

**Saturday, April 24
Centennial Celebration Dinner**

COMMUNITY & CONNECTION



Welcome Back BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 13
before & after worship

8:30 - 10 am & 11 - 12:30 pm
in Fellowship Hall



It's finally back! Grab your friends and come on out for a chance at \$2,300 in cash prizes! Must be 21+. Proceeds benefit Flossmoor Community Church Ministries and Projects.

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

The Centennial Committee wishes to thank Carolyn Parsons for her diligent work diving through the archives for FCC's 75th anniversary. Her written account of her extensive research was our source material for this month's history.

centennial spirit wear



Our Store Opens This September!

This fall our Spirit Wear store will feature special centennial designs in a variety of new looks. This online store is open only for a few weeks before the vault is closed back up again - so don't miss out on this chance of a hundred years! Watch your eblast and bulletin for news about the store going live. All proceeds support FCC, and orders are fulfilled by local small business, Nix Nax Activewear.