

First Congregational Church

516 North Henderson

Toulon, Illinois

October 26, 2014

A SERVICE OF RE-DEDICATION
OF OUR 100 YEAR OLD BUILDING

October 15, 1914 - October 15, 2014

Prelude

The Congregational Keyboards
Mary Hawk—Clavinova
Carol Rice—Clavinova
Lynne Roark—Piano
G. Michael Stahl—Organ
and Janet Wilkinson on Flute

Welcome

Rev. Wayne McLeod

Call to Worship

Rev. Jim Graves

Through the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of his holy Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for this building of the First Congregational Church of Toulon, we are now gathered to rededicate and consecrate it in God's Name.

Hymn # 484)

"The Church's One Foundation"

Invocation

Rev. Sue Carrington

History of First Congregational Church 1914

Floyd Ham

Special Music

G. Michael Stahl

Psalm 84:1-4

Hymn # 546)

"Revive Us Again"

Scripture Reading

Special Music

Our Sunday School Children

Message

Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro

Pastoral Prayer

Choir

"Come to the Music"

Victoria Harmon & Payton Letko - Percussion

Rededication Responsive

Rev. Wayne McLeod

Leader: To the glory of God, our Father, by whose favor this building was built, to the honor of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, our Lord and Savior; to the praise of the Holy Spirit, the source of light and life.

People: **We rededicate this church:
For worship in prayer and song;
For the ministry of the Word;
For the celebration of the Holy Sacraments.**

Leader: We rededicate this church:
For fellowship that strengthens life;
For the service that may be rendered in meeting the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of Mankind.

People: **We rededicate this church:
For the comfort of those who mourn;
For help to those who are discouraged;
And strength for those who are tempted.**

Leader: We rededicate this church:
For the cleansing of those who are weary with sin;
For the hope of those who would find a Savior;
For those who would live a Christ centered life.
And seek a wider vision of the Kingdom of our God.

People: **We rededicate this church;
For missionary endeavor at home and abroad,
For the winning of the world to Christ.**

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Leader: We rededicate this church:
In loving memory of all those whose hearts and
hands have served this church;
With deep gratitude for the loyal work which has
made this spiritual venture;
And with high hope for those who shall walk this
way in the days to come;

People: We rededicate this church.

Hymn # 483

"We Are God's People"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Look graciously, O Lord, on this Your holy place, which
we now rededicate to the glory of Your holy Name. Blest
and rededicated be this building, its furnishings, the
windows which so gloriously let Your light shine through,
and the instruments which play to your glory. May this
building serve and its people served far into the future.
Amen**

Hymn #27

"How Great Thou Art"

Benediction

Postlude

On a Sunday morning, March 2, 1913, a fire consumed our meet-
inghouse which was constructed in 1883. Everything was de-
stroyed—the loss being about \$10,000.

The story is told that the night was windy and cold (below zero).
Mr. W. A. Newton, who lived a block northwest of the church, dis-
covered the fire when he arose early to fix his own furnace. When
he arrived the entire basement was in flames. He sounded the
fire alarm and several hundred people responded. Unfortunately,
in a few hours the wood frame structure was gone with many
cherished memories.

Plans were immediately taken for the erection of a new and mod-
ern structure. In a short time, the total amount called for in the con-
tract was pledged. The cornerstone was laid by December 7,
1913, - less than ten months from the date of the fire. In the cor-
nerstone, there is a copper box fifteen inches square. In this box,
there is a Bible, a historical sketch of the church, a list of officers
and members, reports of building and finance committees, the
architects, an issue of the Stark County News, and some Lincoln
head pennies.

During the time of construction, members met in McClenahan's
Hall until the Christian Church offer to share their church, They
were without a pastor and we were without a church. We wor-
shipped together for nearly a year, and were very helpful to one
another. Seventeen months from the date of the fire, the church
was dedicated on October 15, 1914. It was a stormy night, how-
ever 600 people attended the service—with many standing. The
Reverend Harry P. Dewey of Minneapolis was the speaker with
pastor of the local churches assisting. Miss Irene Nowlan was the
organist. Mr. Harry Wrigley, chairman of the building committee,
gave a report—the final cost of the building being \$30,000.