

**THE HISTORY OF
WILLIAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Williamsville Methodist Episcopal Church 1857-1903
Mary Prather Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church 1903-1939
First Methodist Church of Williamsville 1939-1968
Williamsville United Methodist Church 1968-Present**

The Williamsville Methodist Episcopal Church was originally part of a circuit with Fancy Creek, Wolf Creek, and Sherman. The Williamsville Church was organized in 1856 and built in 1857. The church was a frame structure 35 feet long and 55 feet wide. Sometime after the original building was built, a bell and belfry were erected. The bell is still being used at the present. The Church property embraced half a block with the house of worship on one corner and the parsonage on the other.

At the end of the 19th century, Mr. J. F. Prather gave the church \$5,000 to be matched by the congregation for a new church building. The church was to be called the Mary J. Prather Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church in memory of his mother. The money was raised and the church was built for a cost of \$12,000. In 1902, the congregation moved into the new building. A beautiful pipe organ was installed as a gift from Will Council in memory of his parents, Mr. And Mrs. Wesley Council.

In 1950, a basement was dug under the entire church to expand the recreation facilities, install a kitchen, and a new furnace. The lighting system was replaced and an electronic organ replaced the pipe organ.

The Allen organ was installed in May 1951, with plans for an organ dedication recital set for Sunday, July 1. However, on Wednesday, June 27, a tornado swept through the community, wrecking about twenty homes. The Methodist Church was the hardest hit. About one fourth of the building was destroyed along with extensive damage to contents. The congregation moved into the community high school building where all services were conducted for about eight months.

On Sunday, October 26, 1952, the Williamsville Methodist Church observed a double celebration, the dedication of the restored and remodeled building, debt-free, and the fiftieth anniversary of the erection of the church.

The Rev. Jonathan Drake was pastor at the time of the Centennial celebration in 1953

The education wing was added to the present building to provide additional classroom and office space in 1964 while the Rev. Burt McIntosh was minister.

The dedication and mortgage-burning took place in 1971 with the Rev. Arno Hutchinson as pastor. In 1972, the sanctuary was remodeled. New pews and carpet were installed. The carillon unit and chimatron and a kitchenette in the "green room" were installed and dedicated in 1976 in memory of various church members. In 1978, the stained glass windows behind the choir loft were repaired and new storm windows placed over them for protection. Storm windows were also put on the south windows of the church building.

The first Methodist Episcopal Church parsonage was built in 1861 under the service of the Rev. A. Sloan. This structure is west of the present parsonage and now a private dwelling. Another parsonage was built later between 1886 and 1888 closer to the church. This structure provided residence for the pastors for over 100 years.

In 1988, it was decided to build a new parsonage for the Revs. Daniel and Kelligay Crede, to repair and clean the remaining stained glass windows in the church, add a pitch roof to the education building, and also to do some renovation to the sanctuary. New carpeting was installed in the front of the church, new altar rails, and refinishing of all the furniture and woodwork. In July 1988, the old parsonage was demolished and the new one was begun. On March 19, 1989, a consecration service was held for the new parsonage.

A new Allen Organ was installed June 9, 1991. Proceeds from the sale of Sara Jones' property were designated toward the organ.

With the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Lossau, the church installed a chair lift and ramps were built to the church and parsonage. The church and parsonage were now handicap-accessible.

In June 2006, Rev. Dick Piscatelli, a retired minister, was appointed to the church as a "half-time" pastor. He is serving at present.

**WILLIAMSVILLE (UNITED) METHODIST CHURCH
MINISTERS ON RECORD**

1858	Rev. W. F. Short	1942	Rev. T. R. Jones
1860	Rev. D. Bardick	1943	Rev. D. R. Lemkaw
1861	Rev. J. Slater	1945	Rev. M. L. Sullins
1861	Rev. W. F. Bennett	1947	Rev. Charles Withrow
1863	Rev. L. Smith	1955	Rev. D. Mann
1865-67	Rev. George Stevens	1956	Rev. Jonathan Drake
1867	Rev. W. H. Rayburn	1959	John Cavitt
1868	Rev. John Barger	1959	Rev. Burt McIntosh
1869	Rev. O. H. P. Ash	1966	Rev. James Canny
1870	Rev. M. M. Davidson	1967	Rev. H. Simpkins
1871	Rev. G. B. Goldsmith	1970	Rev. Arno Hutchinson
1873	Rev. H. E. Adams	1974	Rev. Harold Flessner
1875	Rev. C. A. Obershain	1978	Rev. Vic Ramsey
1878	Rev. W. E. Johnson	1983	Rev. Gay Crede
1878	Rev. George B. Wolfe	1984	Rev. Dan Crede
1881	Rev. James W. Sinnock	1991	Rev. Tom Wilber
1881	Rev. Fred Joynt	1995	Rev. Howard White
1884	Rev. A. Sloan		
1886	Rev. J. B. Colwell	2000	Dr. Kathleen Lossau
1888	Rev. M. B. McFadden	2006	Rev. Dick Piscatelli
1892	Rev. T. B. Wright		
1895	A. D. Moon		
1898	Rev. Walter Aiken		
1903	Rev. W. A. Boyd		
1905	Rev. W. W. Theobald		
1906	Rev. W. G. Lloyd		
1910	Rev. E. E. Williams		
1913	Rev. E. V. Young		
1915	Rev. E. T. Harman		
1919	Rev. E. S. Vorbeck		
1922	Rev. R. Ennis		
1925	Rev. J. S. Thorpe		
1930	Rev. J. R. Ford		
1931	Rev. L. S. Ellison		
1935	Rev. Paul C. Wilson		
1939	Rev. R. H. Duling		