

Friedens United Church of Christ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration Moment #1

1841: A group of protestant German immigrants from Lutheran and Reformed backgrounds, wanting to form an inclusive congregation, started “The German United Evangelical Protestant Lutheran and Reformed Zion Church of Indianapolis, Indiana.

1859: The church became part of the newly formed Church Society of the West, later known as the Evangelical Synod. It was located at Ohio and Illinois Streets in downtown Indianapolis.

1911: The church moved to North and New Jersey Sts, and continues today as Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ.

1911: A group of members from the south side in the congregation, many of them truck farmers, left Zion Church to form the Deutches Evangelische Friedens Kirche.

1913 A church was constructed at the corner of Parkway and Alabama Streets, near where Eli Lilly Company is now located. Many members mortgaged their homes to help finance the building of the church. At the time, this was on the southern edge of Indianapolis.

1964: Now part of the United Church of Christ, Friedens congregation moved to its current home at 8300 S. Meridian Street-- again, near the southern edge of Indianapolis. The new church complex was constructed with provisions for future expansion as finances permitted.

2000: After new architectural planning, the narthex was enlarged, and a chapel and parlor were added.

2009: The Community Life and Worship Center was constructed, together with some additional classrooms, and some improvements were made to the existing facility.

There are plans for additional expansion of the current church campus in the near future.

To quote the song: “The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple, the Church is not a resting place, the Church is the people!” In coming weeks we will hear stories of the people of Friedens Church.

