

Bible Fellowship Church Celebrates 100th Anniversary

On July 31, 1909, a group of 34 people of like faith met and formed the Olney Christian Church. On August 13, 1911, a new church building was dedicated on West Main Street. The reported cost of the building was \$15,000.



Congregational Christian Church – West Main Street

In 1935 the church voted to join the merger with the Congregational Church and the name of the church was changed to the Congregational Christian Church.

The first 25 years of the church were a struggle for survival at times, according to meeting notes, but the church always managed to keep going. It was noted that the church, at times, did not even have the funds to pay the pastor. Early church documents indicate that a variety of means were used to raise funds to pay for the church and other expenses including meals served to the Farm Bureau, ice cream socials, a food stand at the fair, pie suppers, per capita tax of members (1916), and on June 10, 1933, a dollar day was held for the purpose of repairing the roof.

In 1963, the church ended its affiliation with the Congregational Church, although the name of the church remained the same. In 1968 the church was introduced to the IFCA, an association of independent churches, pastors, Christian workers, and laymen committed to biblical ministry. In 1985 the church's name was officially changed to Bible Fellowship Church and today we continue our affiliation with IFCA.

In 1987 the old church building on Main Street was sold to Prairie Farms. A three-acre site for the new church was purchased at 1318 East Hall Street. Construction on the new church began in November 1987 and the first service in the new facility was held on April 6, 1988. Incorporated into the new church building were seven stained glass windows from the Main Street building, including a large window depicting the different soils from the "Parable of the Sower."



Bible Fellowship Church
1318 East Hall Street

As the years passed, new ministries were started at the church including an active missions program, a bus ministry, a children's ministry, a Christian school (1989 – 1997), and an AWANA program (2007) for ages 3 – 8th grade.

In 2006 we started a website: www.biblefellowshipolney.org.

Our current pastor, Brady Farr, came to us in 2006 from Branson Bible Church. Throughout the years Bible Fellowship Church has been and continues to be committed to biblical ministry through accurately proclaiming God's Word, exemplifying Christ's character, and declaring God's holiness.

On September 20th, 2009 Bible Fellowship celebrated its 100th anniversary.