

property to the Church in 1942. Building began on the site on February 18, 1951 and a ground breaking ceremony was held on July 1, 1951 in which the cornerstone was set. The final dedication was a two-week long event and was held from September 13 to October 1, 1952. Services have been held at this location since that time and the Church has continued to make an impact on the community.

The Church has undergone two subsequent name changes—First Baptist Church of Lockport in 1954 and, as it is now called, Christ Community Church.

Christ Community Church believes that its location in Lockport's Impact Zone is both a blessing and a responsibility and, as such, the Church houses a variety of programs and organizations dedicated to ministering to the variety of needs in the area. There are church-based programs such as growth groups, youth ministries, and missions events. There are church-sponsored programs such as the food pantry. And, there are in-house organization-based programs such as BOCES, Independent Living of WNY, and Recovery Here Now. And, finally, event-based, organizational programs such as

occupational trainings, health screenings and Department of Social Services orientations.

At Christ Community Church, it is our aim to become multicultural, as well as multigenerational. We seek to be as diverse as the community we inhabit and serve. We live by a four-fold vision pathway:

1. Welcoming all as we become one in Christ.
2. Sharing Christ in our spheres of influence
3. Mentoring disciples who embody Christ
4. Strengthening community partnerships that offer hope

We do all that we can to fulfill our mission of *Transforming Lives with the Hope of Christ*.

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Over 200  
Years of  
History

200

1816-2017

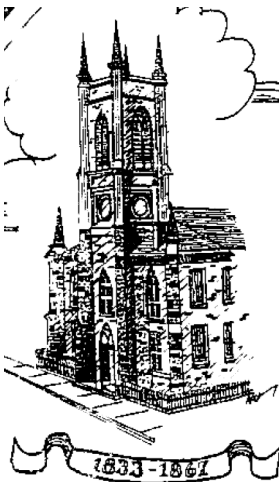
1952

## THE BEGINNING

In April 1816, John Uphold, a member of the Hamilton Baptist Missionary Society, along with five Baptist laymen, joined together to form a conference which, in March 1817, officially organized Cambria Baptist Church. At that time, the entire area, including all of Niagara County was called Cambria. From 1817 to 1825, they met in cabins, barns, in a schoolhouse on Ridge road, "on the Mountain," or out in the open. Baptisms were performed in the Canal or in nearby creeks.

In 1824, the Erie Canal was completed and the Town of Lockport was established. By the time they began meeting in the village of Lockport on December 6, 1824, there were three Sunday services and about 50 members. On July 30, 1825, the name was changed from Cambria Baptist Church to Lockport Baptist Church. At the time, the Church was led by Reverend Samuel Alvord.

In 1833, the first official meeting place, Continental Hall was built on Pine Street near Main.



## THE REFORMATION

In 1843, the Church suffered a setback when Reverend Elon Galusha adopted Millerism, split the church and separated from the Niagara Baptist Association. Millerism was the teachings of William Miller, who believed that Christ's Second Advent would take place in or around the year 1843.

Under the leadership of Reverend S. R. Mason, the Church was disbanded in 1851 and the Second Baptist Church was established with 17 members. In 1853, the Church was accepted back into the Niagara Baptist Association. By 1854, the Church underwent an astounding recovery and grew to 107 members under his guidance.

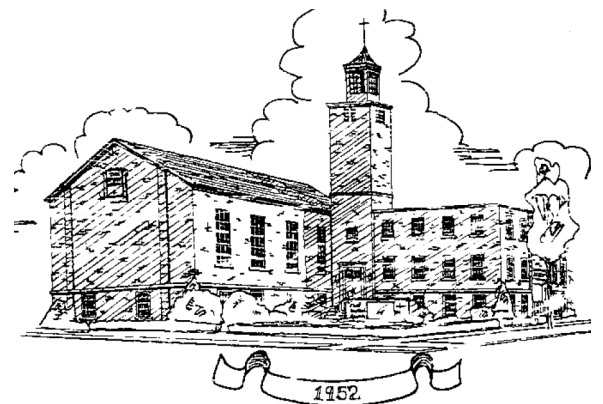
In August 1865, under the guidance of Pastor S. G. Smith, Continental Hall, the original stone church was sold and construction of the new brick building located at the corner of Pine and South Streets was commenced. The new building was finally completed in 1867 and was dedicated on November 7, 1867.



In April 1867, the Church had officially become The Baptist Church of Lockport, after finally being approved by the State legislature application submitted in January 1861.

Over the next quarter of a century, the Church would continue to see growth and prosperity and would more than quintuple in size. In 1884, under the leading of W. P. Hellings, the Church saw membership of 547 during a time of city betterment struggles. Even then, the Church did not stop growing. By the time the Church saw its Sesquicentennial in 1966, it had grown to nearly 1,000 members.

## WHERE WE ARE TODAY



The Church came to rest where it is today through the generosity of Mrs. Carveth, who donated the Chadwick