



A HISTORY OF HUS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PART II CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

ADAPTED FROM A HISTORICAL TREATISE WRITTEN BY CHARLOTTE STELCEK

THE CENTRAL WEST BOHEMIAN PRESBYTERY

Before explaining the actual beginnings of Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, it is necessary to consider the beginnings of the Central West Presbytery of which the local church became a member in November 1908. This was the beginning of an effort to consolidate all the Czech churches in the Central West states together.

The foundations of the churches of the Central West Presbytery were laid in the pioneer period of the central states and manifest the characteristics of the settlements about the middle nineteenth century. The Church today is reaping the results of their hard toil, abundant faith, honest work, simple wants, and high

ideals, all abundant contributions to the agricultural development of the Middle West.

The founders of the Czech churches were sons and daughters of the Reformed Church of Bohemia and Moravia. Their immigration to the United States commenced after the downfall of the democratic uprisings in Europe in 1848, and with the approaching reaction against political and ecclesiastical autocracy.

From their mother church, these settlers brought the heritage of faith in God, the Bible, the prayer book, and the hymnal. Unlike other happier immigrants they were not accompanied by ordained spiritual leaders. For forty years the Bohemian Protestant pioneers kept the Christian fellowship without a ministry and without any assistance from abroad. Yet they met regularly for worship, often in the homes of their neighbors, built churches, and hoped for a trained ministry. The reliance upon self-help in religious nurture has not disappeared. In 1920, at a time of threatening dearth in the number of candidates, the Committee of Education advised the return to the "well tested method of laymen leading in service in church and Sunday School where no other better way" was provided. It is touching to read of the appeals sent to the only man available, in the fifties, for a preaching service and for the administration of the sacraments. This man was the Rev. Francis Kun, an ordained minister from Bohemia, a man with extensive university and theological training. Descended from a family of preachers, he was an admirable leader and an unselfish friend. This pioneer evangelist arrived in Tama County in 1856 and tilled the soil while waiting for a call. Demands soon were coming from neighboring states. Mr. Kun accepted the call to Ely, Linn county, Iowa, October 1, 1860, and made Ely the base for his visitations of Bohemian congregations. Besides, he filled for two years the chair of professor of Latin and Greek at Western College, Western, Iowa, prior to its removal to Toledo.

Of his stern resolve and his devotion to what he considered his duty to co-religionists, we can form a faint conception when we remember that he often braved a trip of sixty miles through roadless country to visit people. That was before the Civil war. He preached in English, Czech, or German, as circumstances required. Rev. Kun came to the United States in 1856. Before coming, he was warned that "the prospects for a Czech pastor were not encouraging." The worthy man died at Ely in 1894 in his sixty-ninth year.

The year 1888 is a milestone in the history of the Churches of the Central West. So far the Bohemian churches existed as Independent Reformed Congregations without union among themselves or any denomination.

In September 1888, three candidates for the ministry, Joseph Bren, Vaclav Losa, and Francis Pokorny, arrived and entered Union Seminary under the care of the Presbytery of New York. After a survey of their work, Dr. Vincent Pisek of New York presented a favorable report, which was supported by the synodical superintendents; whereupon the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions became responsible for mission work among the Bohemians in the Central West. The independent congregations one by one were organized into Presbyterian churches by the presbyteries within whose bounds they were located. Within six years the churches so organized were all served by resident pastors. In addition every pastor in the respective churches regularly visited and preached at one or more stations in nearby towns.

Because of Him ~ Terry

14-18"Watch for this: The time is coming—God's Decree—'when I will keep the promise I made to the families of Israel and Judah. When that time comes, I will make a fresh and true shoot sprout from the David-Tree. He will run this country honestly and fairly. He will set things right. That's when Judah will be secure and Jerusalem live in safety. The motto for the city will be, "God Has Set Things Right for Us." God has made it clear that there will always be a descendant of David ruling the people of Israel and that there will always be Levitical priests on hand to offer burnt offerings, present grain offerings, and carry on the sacrificial worship in my honor."

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (MSG), A Fresh and True Shoot from the David-Tree

Upcoming Meetings - December

- Join us on November 5th for "Kindergarten Cop"; the movie is about 111 minutes so please plan accordingly. Get to the youth room early for a seat, as we will start at 5:00 PM with prayer, pizza, pop, and the movie. Please bring \$3 to help cover cost of the pizza and pop.
- On the 12th and 19th we will gather from 5:45 to 6:45 PM.
- We will not have our group on December 26th.

Events not scheduled yet will be announced as far in advance as possible so you can make plans to attend.

Upcoming Events

December

2 nd	Youth serving Sunday Evening Meal at 1st Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids - 4 - 6 PM
5 th	Movie Night starts at 5:00 PM - please note the change in time for this month.
16 th	Christmas Caroling - start at Hus Church at 1:30 PM.
24 th	Christmas Eve Worship Service at 11 PM.
25 th	Merry Christmas
26 th	NO Youth Group
30 th	BOOM Sunday

Fellowship Activity: Family Game Night in January - watch for details!

Every Monday: Youth Prayer Time, 7 PM from where ever you are.

Every Wednesday: Marion High School Bible study at 7 AM.

Every Friday:

- ✦ Breakfast Club at Kennedy High School, Room 162 beginning at 7 AM. For more information contact Bob Dye at 393-7996 or email him at bob@eiayfc.com.
- ✦ Marion High School Bible study at 3 PM.

Times subject to change.

A Moment With God

*Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

- A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

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