

The History of Cochran Memorial Presbyterian Church



mid-1800's

During a meeting, held in the schoolhouse of Sconodoo on April 12, 1819, the First Presbyterian Church of the Village of Sconodoo and Oneida Castleton was formed. On April 25th the Celebration of the Lord's Supper was held and 12 children were baptized. Through many joys and challenges the new congregation continued to grow in numbers and in faith.

The original church building, the past Village Hall, was built in 1832. The congregation was known as the Presbyterian Society of Oneida Castle and Sconodoo.

Our present structure was built in 1887 and named after the Reverend Andrew Cochran, who died a short time before the building was to be dedicated. The structure was damaged by fire in 1922. The cause of the fire was a short circuit in the organ. The church was rebuilt and a new organ was given in memory of C. Will Chappell by his wife. The chapel, where we currently worship during the winter months, was given in memory of Andrew Cochran, who was killed during World War 1. He was the grandson of the Rev. Andrew Cochran. For most of the year it serves as a parlor, comfortably furnished by the women of the congregation.

Over the years there have been many dedicated men and women who have served God faithfully as members of the church. The Men's Brotherhood and the Women's Association were organizations that served the ministry of the church well through the ages. The Women's Association continues to actively serve the church through acts of kindness and missions both locally and abroad. The women have used their funds to support Church World Service, as well as church needs. The women also are responsible for many celebrations that the church and community have enjoyed. The women and men of the church also work in local missions, such as The Karing Kitchen, a local soup kitchen.

Katherine Cochran, daughter of the Reverend Andrew Cochran, endowed the church with funds to provide free concerts for the community and the congregation. To this day, it is a very popular and loved expression of joy that the community receives several times throughout the year.

With the help of God and the faithful dedication of God's people we plan on serving God in this little corner of the world for generations to come.



2015