

Fountain of Hope



Chung-dong First Methodist Church, English Ministry—August 2023

Fascinating Facts about Chungdong First Methodist Church

When I first came to Chungdong FMC, I was told to follow the palace wall until I reached Bethel Chapel, an old Victorian-era Gothic-style building with its bell tower and arched windows. I was captivated by the beauty of this red-brick church building with its rich history of over a century.

Here are a few fascinating facts about Bethel Chapel and Chungdong FMC:

- The founder of Chungdong First Methodist Church, Henry G. Appenzeller, together with his wife, Ella, and Presbyterian missionary, Horace G. Underwood, set foot on dry ground at Chemulpo (present-day Incheon) on Easter Day, April 5, 1885. At this time, Seoul was in a political and religious struggle. The preaching of the Christian Gospel had to be done in private. In 1887, public worship was finally allowed.
- At first, the church began in 1885 in a traditional Korean hanok-style building. Over the years, the number of worshippers grew and grew. Construction of a new and larger church started in 1895, during the 32nd year of the reign of King Gojong. Chungdong First Methodist Church was dedicated on December 26th, 1897. It is the only 19th-century church in Korea that still exists today. Rev. Henry G. Appenzeller served as the pastor until his untimely death in 1902.
- By 1926, the original sanctuary was expanded to accommodate the growing number of believers. Described as Victorian-style Gothic architecture, the church has been designated as Historic Site No. 256.
- One striking feature of the church is that no cross was put on the building since missionary work had to be kept secret at the time. This tradition has continued to the present day, and Bethel Chapel remains a church without a cross.
- The belfry, or bell tower, is three stories tall. Designed by Appenzeller himself, the sanctuary was originally supposed to look like a cross when viewed from above in old basilica style. After being expanded, the shape is now of a rectangle with 578 square feet (6,221 square feet) of space. The Gyeongse (waking up the world) bell is modeled after the Liberty Bell, once housed in the American Independence Hall steeple. By chance, the establishment of the Korean Empire was announced on the same day as the bell-ringing ceremony at Bethel Chapel. The bell-ringing ceremony was intended to commemorate the completion of the construction of the church, but Koreans naturally assumed it was in celebration of the Korean empire and came to feel more positively about Christians.
- The pulpits in Bethel Chapel were made from oak shipped from the West. Both are still the original pulpits of the church.



Bethel Chapel Pulpit with the inscription Faith, Hope & Love:

These and many more facts make up our church's illustrious and rich history, the birthplace of Korean Protestantism.

*Our passion is God.
Our motivation the love of Jesus Christ.
Our power is through the Holy Spirit. Our mission is the world.*

Blue House Visit

Join EM for a day of fellowship and culture on Saturday, August 28th. We will visit the Blue House, have a special traditional Korean-style lunch, and get to know one another better. The lunch fee is only 10 000 Won. If you want to join us, write your name on the list in the church foyer. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Table Talks

Join us every Sunday at 12:30 in Wesley Hall to learn more about the parables of Jesus. You will be able to discover the parables' background and historical settings, allowing you to understand them better. We're looking forward to welcoming you there.

Chinese Characters Class

Join Teacher Young Du Yun and many exciting students every Sunday after the 3 pm service in Wesley Hall to learn more about Chinese characters. Classes will resume on August 6.

Coming up

Make sure to mark your calendars for the next important events:

September 10 – Koinonia Sunday

September 24 – Chuseok Sunday

October 15 – Youth Retreat

October 29 – Reformation Sunday

November 5 – All Saints Sunday

November 26 – Thanksgiving Sunday



Preaching Schedule – August 2023

August 6 – Rev. Min Seok Kim

August 13 – Rev. Johan Reiners

August 20 – Rev. Min Seok Kim

August 27 – Rev. Johan Reiners

2023 CDEM culture trip

THE BLUE HOUSE TOUR



- ✓ Date August 26th Sat.
- ✓ Tour Places Tongin Market/The Blue House
- ✓ Participation Fee 10,000 KRW(*Lunch included)
- ✓ How to apply Please fill out an application form
- ✓ More Details **Gathering time - 11:30 A.M.**
Gathering Place - Inside Exit #2 of Gyeongbokgung station(line 3)
- ✓ Tour Itinerary
 - 11:30 A.M. Gathering
 - 12:00 P.M. Lunch at Tongin Market
 - 1:00 P.M. Walk to The Blue House
 - 1:30 P.M. The Blue House Tour
 - 4:00 P.M. Dismiss