

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICKEN PIE SUPPER

It was a wintry day in 1879 when Jacob and Elizabeth (Mattie) Miley set out for the church with their bobsled and team. They arrived at the church and were joined by Jacob's brother Thomas and his wife Caroline (Cally) Miley, who were there to help serve the supper. . .and serve they did! The food was placed at the front of the church near the pulpit, and the diners sat in the front pews, where they were served by Jake and Tom Miley. Coffee was made and kept hot next door at Mrs. Wood's house. The menu consisted of fried chicken, hominy, pickles, bread and butter, cake and coffee. The price was ten cents, and the ladies made \$4.00 on their venture.

This was the beginning of what has come to be called the Chicken Pie Supper at Wauseon First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Those who prepared the food and those who were served enjoyed the Chicken Pie Supper so much that it has become an annual custom and has been served each year except 1943 (during the World War II because of sugar rationing). But, in 1944, even though rationing was still on, members of the church saved their stamps and donated them to be used for the church Chicken Pie Supper. A bazaar was added in connection with the meal so that those attending might purchase the needlework, crafts, and other "goodies" prepared by members of the church. The custom continues with a bake sale replacing the bazaar, and members still enjoy the fun, fellowship, and, yes, the frustrations of preparing for the annual event.

The annual dinner continues to be served for the public with an annual attendance of around 900. The menu continues to include chicken pie, mashed potatoes with gravy, coleslaw, cranberry salad, bread and butter, homemade dessert pie and beverage served family style. The amount of food needed for the meal includes 525 pounds of chicken, 400 pounds of potatoes, 60 pounds of cranberries, 4 bushels of cabbage, 40 gallons of gravy, and 160 dessert pies.

2019 marked the 140th Chicken Pie Supper.