

## FRANKLIN PARK'S PIONEER CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES



The earliest documented church within Franklin Park is **Fairmount Presbyterian**, founded in 1822. Originally known as the Duff Mill congregation, members met under a large maple tree on the bank of Big Sewickley Creek before moving to the current hilltop location in the 1830s. The current frame sanctuary was built circa 1902, replacing an earlier brick

structure. The adjoining church cemetery remains in active use and features burials dating from the 1820s, including those of Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans. The one-room Fairmount School once stood behind the church. In 1982, church members voted to transfer from the United Presbyterian to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian denomination. The church and cemetery are located at 2535 Fairmount Church Road Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15143, but the mailing address is 2383 Wharrey Drive Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15143.

**Little Hill Methodist** also dates from the early 1800s and was once known as Creese's Church and Mount Union United Brethren in Christ. The oldest marker in the adjacent cemetery dates from 1829 and includes the graves of Civil War veterans. Three sanctuaries have stood on the property, with the present building dating from 1894. The church, social hall and cemetery are located at 2350 Magee Road Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15143, but the mailing address is Box 56 Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15243.



Originally known as the Little Log Church at Pine Creek (1837) and re-named the Franklin Methodist Church, Franklin Park's third oldest congregation grew into what is now known as the **Ingomar United Methodist Church** located at 1500 West Ingomar Road Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237. As the

congregation continued to outgrow its space, an entirely new 600 seat sanctuary was built in 1991. The sanctuary, social hall, education building and cemetery continue to stand along the old Kuskusky Indian Path on the boundary of Franklin Park and McCandless. The church also operates the twenty-five acre Camp Davis retreat and recreation center located on Hopkins Church Road.



Organized in 1845, **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church** is the fourth oldest Lutheran congregation in Allegheny County. Once known as Brandt's Church, the current red brick sanctuary was built in 1868 as a replacement for the original log church that stood next to the old Kuskusky Indian Path. German language inscriptions on the cemetery markers reflect the German heritage of the congregation's founding members. The sanctuary, cemetery and social/education/office building are located at 2500 Brandt School Road Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090.



Once known as Ingram's, **Hopkins Chapel** stood on Hopkins Church Road on the Franklin Park / Bell Acres boundary. The deed was recorded in 1849, but the congregation actually began circa 1810 when neighbors gathered in the log home of Reverend Thomas McClelland, a well known Methodist minister, believed to have conducted the first Methodist service in the fledgling town of Pittsburgh. He also helped organize Methodism in the Sewickley Valley. Inspired by Sewickley's much loved Reverend Robert Hopkins, the Ingram family generously donated a half-acre of farmland for the construction of a Methodist chapel that would sit on a bluff above the Big Sewickley Creek. Dating from circa 1846, the chapel never had its own minister; instead, it shared one with the Sewickley, Blackburn, and Franklin churches. In later years, the larger and wealthier Sewickley Methodist extended financial aid to the struggling country church, but Hopkins was forced to close in the 1920s. Only the outline of the brick church's foundation remains on the now wooded site. Over the years, the cemetery was heavily vandalized with most of the stone markers are either missing or scattered. The few remaining stones record the names of John and Sarah Ingram as well as those from the McClelland family.



The Regular Baptist Church of Franklin Township was organized in 1852, but not until 1873 were the first baptism and wedding ceremonies performed in the sanctuary built on Nicholson Road. The church has been rebuilt and expanded over the years. As is in Franklin Park's other Pioneer Churches, many current members of the **Franklin Park Baptist Church** are descendents of the church's early families. The sanctuary with offices, classrooms and cemetery are located at 2470 Nicholson Road Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15243.



Franklin Park's newer churches were built in the mid and late twentieth century and have no cemeteries. They are: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Reis Run Road; Heritage Presbyterian, North Hills Missionary Alliance and Saint John Neumann Roman Catholic, Rochester Road; New Heights Church of God, Wharrey Drive; Orchard Hill Church, Brandt School Road; Saint Brendan's Episcopal, McAleer Road; Saints John and Paul Roman Catholic, Wexford-Bayne Road and the Unitarian-

Universalist Church on West Ingomar Road, which has a memorial garden for cremations. Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Congregation operates the Tree of Life Memorial Park on Reis Run Road (pictured).