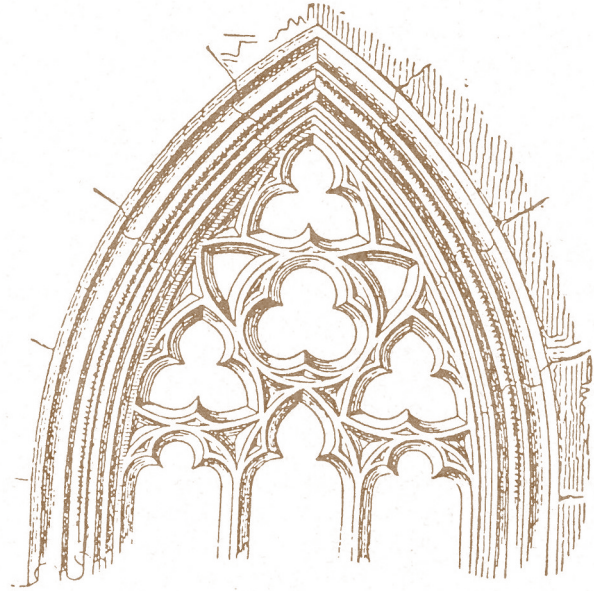
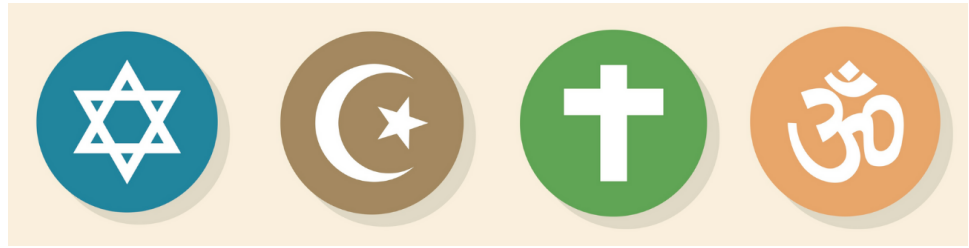


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Scranton Area Ministerium
University of Scranton Office of Community Relations
and the National Endowment for the Humanities



PLACES OF WORSHIP BUS TOUR

Saturday, May 13, 2023

presented by
The Lackawanna Historical Society,
a project partner of the
University of Scranton's
"Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story"



For more information on all programs, please visit www.scranton.edu/scrantonstory
Questions? Email community@scranton.edu or call 570-941-4419.

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May 13th Tour

In 1984, the Welsh Baptists merged with the First Baptist Church, forming the United Baptist Church. The Church runs a popular annual Welsh cookie sale, with 9,000 sold in 2023 and in recent years has also added an Empanada sale reflecting an increasingly diverse church population.



Islamic Center of Scranton

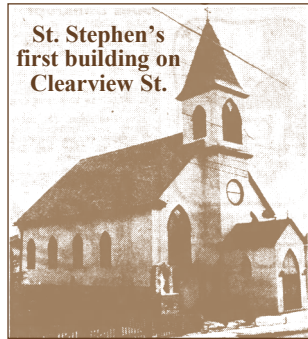
In 1996, as a gift to the Muslim community of Scranton, The University of Scranton established an active mosque on their campus on North Webster Avenue. The mosque was the first in the City of Scranton.

The original mosque was demolished eleven years later to make

room for the construction of Condron Hall, a residence for students, and the University renovated property at 306 Taylor Avenue for use as the new mosque. This mosque continues to be open to the public for prayer and reflection.

In 2015, the Islamic Center of Scranton was opened located at 1509 West Pass Avenue in the former St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church building to serve the spiritual life of Scranton Muslims, reflecting the diversity of cultures and traditions of Muslims from around the world. This mosque provides more worship space for study of the Quran, community prayer, and events for the Muslim residents of Scranton and the public, including participation in interfaith programs. Most recently, the Center has collected donations for the people of Turkey and Syria devastated due to the earthquake.

St. Stephen's, a mission church of St. Mary's Magyar (Hungarian) Roman Catholic Church in Throop, dedicated its first church building on Clearview Street in 1907 but had to close the building in 1963 due to deteriorating conditions caused by mine subsidence. Its new home designed by Dunmore architects Riggi & Riggi, was erected on West Pass Street the following year and included several salvaged pieces from



St. Stephen's first building on Clearview St.



May 13th Tour

Today, the church serves not only as a place of worship but is active in other ways. The basement level serves as offices for Safety Net and Breadbasket of NEPA and certain rooms on the sanctuary level are utilized for the Infant Care Program at Covenant Presbyterian Church.



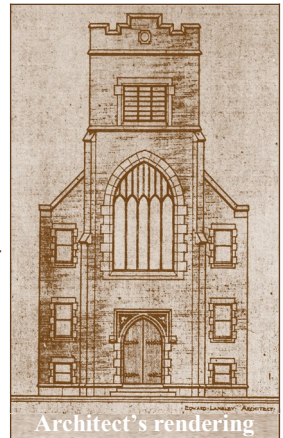
Bethel AME

The early origins of the African Methodist Episcopalian (AME) church in Scranton can be traced back to 1840, when a community of free Black people, mainly those who had escaped slavery in the South before, during, or after the Civil War, settled in Waverly, Pennsylvania and founded an AME church. The church, built in 1854 on Carbondale Road in Waverly became an integral part of the local Black community, but few had found similar institutions in Scranton until the arrival of Mary Jane Merritt, who opened her home to other Black AME members as the congregation began to grow in the city. Members of the congregation moved between

various buildings and established themselves, notably Merritt herself, as merchants within the city.

Scranton's Bethel AME Church was founded in 1884. The current Gothic-style church building on North Washington Avenue was designed by Edward Langley and constructed by Peter Stipp with community funding. The dedication, on April 7, 1913, included prominent members and clergy of local Christian congregations as well as AME local, national, and international leaders.

For decades, Bethel was located in a downtown neighborhood that was predominantly African-American until that area was redeveloped in the 1960s-70s. Bethel is one of the only structures that was preserved from that neighborhood. Worship services and activism for the local Black community continues to take place at Bethel. On the top of an electric piano owned by the church is the signature of Grammy-award winner John Legend, who served as Choir Director from 1995-2004.



Architect's rendering



May 13th Tour



St. Luke's

St. Luke's Episcopal

St. Luke's traces their history back to 1853, when its original church building sat on Penn Avenue between Lackawanna Avenue and Spruce Street (now Biden Street). The parish had developed proportionally with the growth of Scranton, built alongside the expanding mining community emigrating from across Europe.

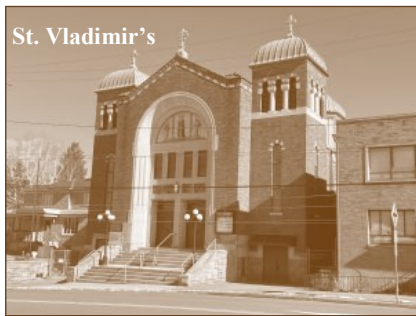
The current church, built in 1871, was designed by Richard Upjohn of New York, founder of the American Institute of Architects and architect of Trinity Church on Wall Street. It was designed as Victorian

Gothic, with pointed windows and arches, and exterior buttresses to support the walls, which are made of locally-quarried stone. Construction began in October 1867, but was delayed because of a miners' strike and not completed until July 1871.

St. Luke's has an extensive history of charitable work and interest in the welfare of the community as well as activity in ecumenical and inter-religious affairs. Its first rectory served as a free dispensary in 1871 and in the early 20th century various ministries aided women, children and youth. Because of this involvement, St. Luke's became known as "the church in the heart of things." That outreach continues today, providing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals through the Cypress House initiative along with other programs.



1979 drawing of St. Luke's from The Daily Graphic



St. Vladimir's

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic

In 1908, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church, officially "The Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church Congregation of Saint Wolodymir of Scranton, Pennsylvania," was incorporated and purchased Robinson Hall on North Seventh Avenue to serve an influx of Ukrainian immigrants who began settling in Scranton at the turn of the century, creating a sizable population in the Bellevue and

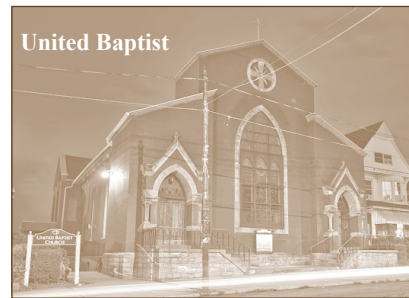


May 13th Tour

Pinebrook sections of the city of Scranton. Until that time, Ukrainian immigrants attended St. John the Baptist Church, constructed by Greek Catholics originally from the Western edges of what now is the country of Ukraine.

St. Vladimir's Church was built 1932-1933 and was blessed in 1936 by Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky. The Church Dedication book carries an essay by Rev. Leo I. Sembratovich which reflects on Ukrainians' attachments. He wrote, "With all their love for the high principles of Americanism, they still cherish the memories of their beloved mother-country – Ukraine, of its language and customs, and of their rite. And it is, indeed, this very devotion that makes them worthy of their adopted country – America."

Traditionally, St. Vladimir's has served as a central place of Ukrainian cultural celebration in Scranton. Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, many church events and activism have focused on providing both physical and spiritual aid to the country of Ukraine and suffering Ukrainians. These efforts were recently profiled in a national story in the New York Times.



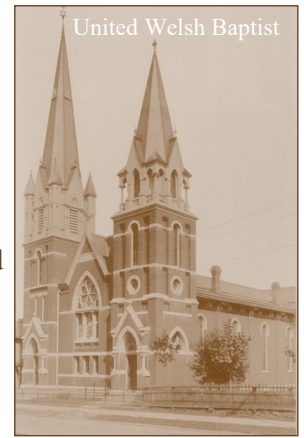
United Baptist

United Baptist

Originally a Welsh congregation, the United Baptist Church of Scranton is the oldest Protestant Christian community in the city, formed before the existence of the City of Scranton. Congregating in what is now Carbondale during 1830, the predecessor of the Welsh Baptists initially formed as a union of local Baptists, Calvinistic Methodists, and Congregationalists.

By 1849, the Welsh Baptists departed the "Union Church" and would grow with rising Welsh immigrant populations, eventually choosing to construct their own church by 1869.

Twenty years later (1888), the church was remodeled and expanded. The building was renovated on multiple occasions (1915, 1950) and suffered from a major fire in 1956. In 1958, the church was repaired and rededicated, and the old steeple structures were torn down by 1966.



United Welsh Baptist