

The image shows a close-up of a highly decorative wrought-iron gate set within a stone archway. The gate features intricate scrollwork and circular patterns. The stone arch is flanked by large, carved stone capitals. The background is dark, suggesting an interior space.

Restoration of the Sanctuary

**First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church
2016**

Who We Are

We are an international church with people representing over twenty nations from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and the West Indies.

Essential to our conviction is that all human beings are created in the image of God and each person is irreplaceably precious. We embrace the new reality that in Christ God has broken down every dividing wall between ethnic groups and social classes, and we strive to reach out to all peoples with the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Located in Downtown Newark, we are at a strategic intersection of bustling pedestrian traffic, with thousands of people from all walks of life passing by each day. We are within a walking distance to YMCA, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Prudential Center, Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), and several colleges.

We believe that God has placed us here so that we might reach out to the lost and the least in our neighborhood, welcome them with the heart of Christ, be a sanctuary of peace and hope for all, and joyfully proclaim the reality of God's kingdom.



Our History

First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church was first organized on June 6, 1801, by a small group of believers seeking to open a place of worship in the town of Newark. By His sovereign grace, God guided the church to grow steadily during the industrial development of Newark in the 1800's and be a blessing to many souls.

The present building was dedicated to God in 1890 by the generous gift of Thomas B. Peddie, a businessman who also served two terms as Mayor of Newark. His vision was that the church building should be used *every day of the week* and be *“open to every great meeting of a proper kind that people desire to hold, and should be dedicated to religion, to education and to the social purposes for the good of all the people.”*

Peddie's vision of the church “for the good of all the people” continued to be realized when eight Chinese Christians were baptized in 1923. More recently, the demographics of Newark changed drastically, and the church has responded to this change by warmly welcoming people of all ethnicities and nationalities.

Remembering our past and the reason for our existence is crucial as we prepare for the future and nurture the next generation to lead our congregation so that the light of Christ may continue to shine in Downtown Newark.





Mission for the Next Generation

Our future is already here with the presence of the children, youth and young adults. We are committed to nurturing the next generation by providing them safe space to explore the big questions of life, encouraging them to exercise their gifts, and equipping them to live as disciples of Christ.



Preparing the Sanctuary for the Next Generation

One of our responsibilities is to prepare the sanctuary for the next generation. During the past century, it has been preserved and cared for by the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. It is now our turn to make the necessary repairs and improvements. In 2016, by faith we have undertaken the restoration of the sanctuary, not only because of the urgent need for repair, but also because of God's calling to invest in the next generation that they might grow even stronger in faith and flourish as disciples of Christ.

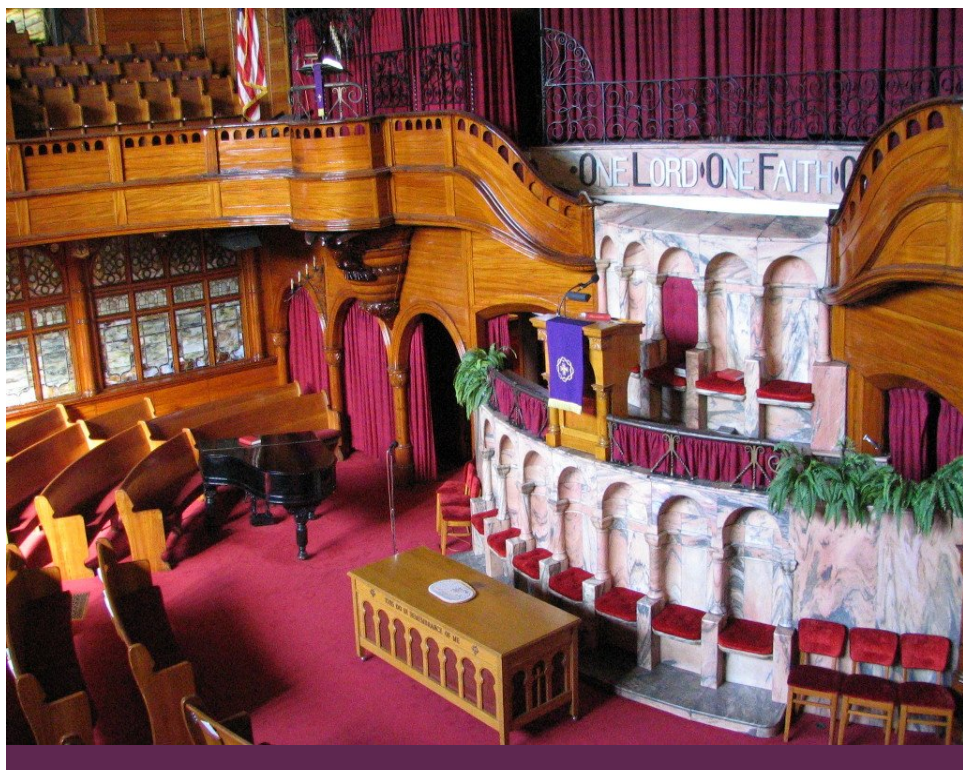


The Historic Sanctuary of Peddie Church

Peddie Church is one of the widely recognized historical landmarks in the city of Newark. Tour groups hosted by The New Jersey Historical Society regularly visit us to enjoy the beauty of the sanctuary.

Designed by William Halsey Wood, a prominent architect responsible for designing more than 20 churches, the Peddie sanctuary is an eclectic fusion of Italian Romanesque and Gothic architecture. The round Romanesque arches throughout the sanctuary, in stone, wood, and in the windows, are a symbol of fellowship; the pointed Gothic arches represent hands steeped in prayer or reaching toward God. All around the sanctuary are Tiffany's stained-glass windows, distinguished by their deep and rich colors.

In a way, the eclectic nature of the architecture foreshadowed the ethnic and cultural diversity of the present congregation and reminds us to continue to uphold the vision of all nations, tribes, and languages gathered together to worship God (Revelation 7:9).



Restoration of the Sanctuary

The restoration of the sanctuary that we have undertaken in 2016 is the largest scale project in the living memory of the congregation. The immediate need is to repair the water leaks from the roof and from the eroded bricks and mortars. While we have the scaffolding set up, we are making additional repairs to ensure the integrity of the building.

The restoration project involves reroofing the entire dome, replacing the skylights and ventilation fans, and making all the necessary repairs and reinforcements for leak-proofing the building. All sides of the building, including the towers, are power washed, old paint removed, all bricks and stones repointed and sealed, and all window frames repaired and repainted.

Along with the main sanctuary, Twomey House, which is attached to the back of the main building, is repaired to make it leak-proof as well.

These repairs will restore the sanctuary to a pristine condition and will serve the congregation and the community for many decades to come.



Participating in the Spiritual Renewal in Newark

The total cost of the restoration is \$800,000, most of which is a loan to be paid off over ten years. Though the scale of the project is beyond the means of our congregation, we have taken a step of faith this year, trusting that God will provide all that is needed to complete it.

This restoration project is far more than repairing the building. It's investing in the next generation and participating in the spiritual renewal of the city. In the city of Newark, we are experiencing urban renewal, with exciting opportunities to reach out to people from all walks of life – the homeless, students from nearby colleges, working adults, and families with children. We dream of seeing our sanctuary used for all kinds of meetings throughout the week with the ultimate purpose of making disciples of all nations.

We invite you to participate in our mission of making disciples in the city of Newark by praying that we might be faithful to God and His kingdom purpose and by giving generously as you are prompted by the Holy Spirit. We are grateful to God for your friendship and partnership in ministry. May the Lord bless you with the abundant and overflowing riches of His kingdom!



Leadership Team

Pastor: Rev. James Kang

Assistant to the Pastor: Min. Tina Koffi

Ministry Coordinator: Rev. Felix Colingo Jr.

Worship Music Director: Carol J. Gallentine

Sexton: James K. Asamoah

Christian Education: Gail Gillespie, Chairwoman

Deacons: Franklin Wilson, Chairman

Trustees: Moses Ogungbenro, Chairman

Ricky Cancio

Abraham Celiz

Doug Hirsch

William O'Reilly

Solomon Owusu

Diana Wang

Aflowa Zaza

Contact Information

First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church

572 Broad Street

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: (973) 642-2552

Email: fbpmc1801@verizon.net

Website: peddiechurch.org