

History of Cecelia Memorial Presbyterian Church



Cecelia Memorial Presbyterian Church, formerly known as Cumberland Presbyterian, began around 1868. It was organized in the home of Dave and Cecelia Lillard. In 1926 the church united with The Presbyterian Church. At that time, its name was changed to honor Mrs. Cecelia Lillard. Born into slavery in Virginia, Mrs. Lillard along with her husband Dave were brought to Bowling Green, KY by their owners – Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Briggs Wright. After freedom was granted, they purchased a small home which became the birthplace of Cecelia Memorial. Mother Cecelia, as she was known, lived a full life of 107 years. The congregation remains faithful and thankful saying “We may be small in number, but you won’t find a church with a bigger heart.” Keynote speaker is former Pastor, Rev. Clemette Haskins, PhD.



Rev. Billy Taylor, Current Pastor, and Mrs. Taylor