

Forest Lawn Presbyterian Church will observe the 100th anniversary of its pipe organ June 9.

There will be a carry-in dinner after the morning service, and at 1:30 p.m. an organ recital will take place, with guest organist David Day performing. Patricia Curl, former organist of the church and current organist of Salem United Church of Christ, will also be featured, along with the present organist of the church, Mrs. Richard Straub.

The event is open to the public.

The organ, originally in the First Presbyterian Church on North Prospect Street, was custom-made by Granville-Wood in Detroit in 1885. When the present First Presbyterian Church was built in 1896, the organ was moved to the new sanctuary.

Through a donation of one of its members, First Presbyterian received a new organ, replacing the one built in 1885. The older organ was donated to Forest Lawn upon its completion of a new sanctuary in 1925.

When the organ was moved to Forest Lawn, an electric motor was added to operate the bellows, which had been hand-pumped. In 1954, the console was changed from a tracker organ to an electropneumatic operation.

The organ was rebuilt by the Lima Pipe Organ Company in 1963, before being placed in the present sanctuary of Forest Lawn.

The use of an organ was not always permitted by Presbyterians and the reformed churches as a whole. In the 19th century there was much debate about having organs in the churches. When first used in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1804, an organ caused quite a commotion in the city. The Established Church in Scotland finally authorized an organ's use in 1866, followed in 1872 by the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States decided in 1884 that the decision on such delicate matter should be made by individual churches.