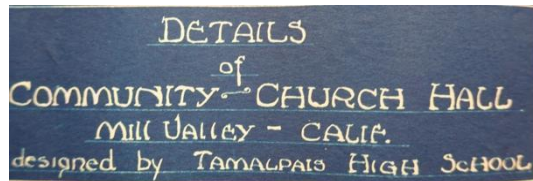


1925-1930

PLANNING FOR THE HALL/CHURCH

After the founding of the church in 1925, the members met at the Outdoor Art Club for 6 years. They then decided to build themselves a social hall/church by adapting the Maybeck designed space they had come to love to their own specific needs. The lots at Olive and Throckmorton were secured through the merger with the Congregational Church. The next step was to initiate a fundraising campaign in order to finance the construction, with most donations coming from the church members. Principal Woods at Tamalpais High School was very supportive of the project, and blueprints were drawn by two mechanical drawing students at Tam High supervised by their teacher Andrew Hall. Later the woodworking department helped by refurbishing chairs, pews and building the small but needed items like kitchen cabinets, tables etc.



Detail of one of the blueprints for the Church

1930 THE CONSTRUCTION

The main structure was built over the summer of 1930 by union carpenter James Chesnut's crew and by other contractors known by superintendent Wendering from Tam High projects.

Opening: August 17, 1930

The rustic Maybeck Arts and Crafts inspired hall among redwoods was finished and open to the public.



Entry on Throckmorton

1930-1954

DUAL CHURCH/COMMUNITY SPACE

The building was intended to be adaptable: during a church service it was a church space, while at other times it was a secular community hall. The founders intended to eventually build a "proper church" but until then, clever modifications made dual functions possible.

The pews were not attached to the floor, allowing them to be pushed together or double-stacked on the stage when an open floor was needed for dances, potluck dinner events or social or church related business meetings.

The altar cross was set back in an alcove, and could be rendered invisible during secular events by closing the area off with curtains.



Folk dancing in 1951

EARLY 1950's

By the early 1950's the old hall could no longer accommodate the influx of new people to Mill Valley, particularly children during the baby boom times.



A first grade class is packed into the choir room

The adult church social groups were also in need of space. Something had to give.

1954 SOCIAL HALL ADDITION



Thus a separate social hall was built in 1954 adjacent to the original building from 1930. Both buildings share the same entry on Olive Street.

1954-present

CHURCH SPACE

With the social activities moved to the new hall, the 1930 hall became a church space only. However, the fireplace room continued to be popular with the Muir League's youth groups and for small social gatherings. Originally intended to be a warm Sunday school room for small children, it could be easily separated from the main room with a curtain which was retained for years.

The main improvements after 1954 have been for comfort: improved heating and ventilation, carpeting, better lighting and pew cushions.



Sanctuary in

the 1960's

2024

THE COMMUNITY CHURCH TODAY

In addition to church services and functions, the building today is a popular venue for secular public concerts, taking advantage of the excellent acoustics.

Responding to present community needs, the hall is thus returning to the dual use envisioned in 1930, modified by the convenience of the adjacent spacious social hall.

Community Church of Mill Valley

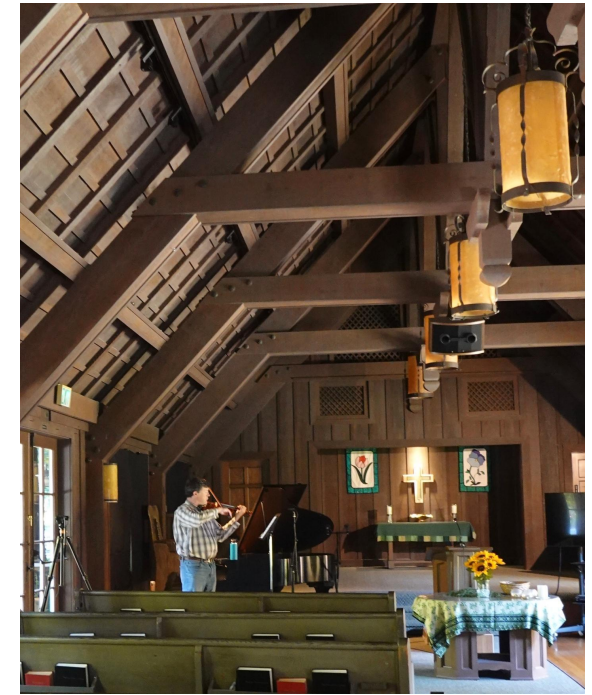
8 Olive Street

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For more information about Church history and the fully accessible buildings, including rental options, check the developing history page on the Church web site in 2025.

www.ccmvucc.org



A Brief History of “The Little Church in the Redwoods”

“A very adaptable building”

Gordon Foster,

minister at CCMV 1947-1970

Community Church of Mill Valley

8 Olive Street

Mill Valley, CA 94941