

A NEW ORGAN FOR OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS



Our Lady of the Fields Church

REV. JOHN B. WARD, *PASTOR*
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A Sacred Instrument

The Second Vatican Council's *Musicam Sacram, Instruction on the Music in the Liturgy*, states: **In the Latin Church the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument which adds a wonderful splendor to the Church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man's mind to God and to higher things.**

It also mentions that the use of the pipe organ should meet the needs of the liturgical celebration and is in the interests both of the beauty of worship and the edification of the faithful.

Noack Opus 107, the current pipe organ at Our Lady of the Fields fails to meet the decrees of *Musicam Sacram*. The musical needs of the liturgical celebration are not being met due to its dilapidated state.

Our Lady of the Fields wishes to replace its defective pipe organ with Möller Opus 5881, which will satisfy the decrees of *Musicam Sacram*, providing parishioners generations of musical ministry in ways never before possible!

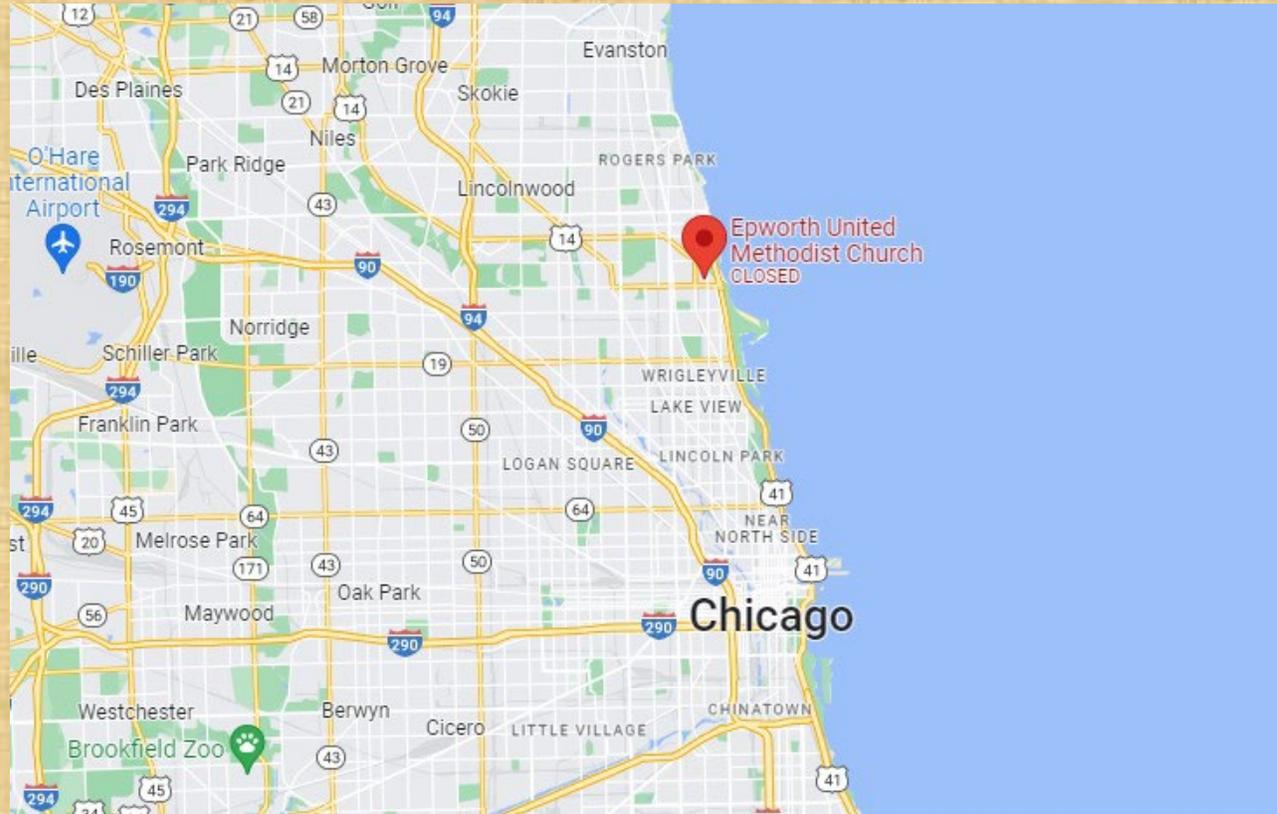


EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Opened in 1890, the church is in the northern part of the city, formerly known as Edgewater, Illinois. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

The church closed in early 2022 after the congregation disbanded. The property was sold to a real estate developer. Demolition is scheduled for later 2022 if the courts rule against its NRHP status.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Main Sanctuary. The Organ Chambers are enclosed in grill work above the chancel.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday School Chapel. The rear of the Choir Chamber speaks into the room via grill work in the upper left part of the chancel.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



A closer look at the Pipe Chambers in the Main Sanctuary. The Swell is on the left and the Great is on the right. Not seen in this photo is the Choir. The pedal division is divided across all three divisions.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The pipework was in perfect condition upon inspection. Note the 16' Diaphone from the pedal!
(middle photo)

All divisions are under expression. There are 23 Ranks with 1,566 pipes.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The main console and its stops. Its ivory keytops are original and in fantastic shape. Dr. Barnes' influence can be seen here with the unique shade indicators, "all swells" pistons, and the orchestral stop list.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Sunday School Chapel Console. Power to this console was switched on via a rocker switch on the main console. The crescendo and expression pedals only controlled the choir division.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Enjoy a recording of me improvising on Opus 5881.
This was the first time I played the instrument and got to explore
its rich tonal pallet

OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH

One of just four Möller organs in United States to receive a distinguished citation from the Organ Historical Society, this monumental instrument will become the centerpiece of the growing music ministry at Our Lady of the Fields.



OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH

On July 18, 2022, Organ Clearing House began dismantling the organ to be transported to Columbia Organ Works for restoration.



OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Scaffolding was used to remove the pipes from the main chambers.

OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



John Bishop and his crew from Organ Clearing House did an excellent job in packing the pipes in custom built trays to ensure their safety during transport.



OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH

This photo shows the organ arriving in all its glory at Columbia Organ Works in Columbia Pennsylvania, where Larry Pruett and his team will restore Opus 5881.

Work will begin early 2023 with a completion date around November 2023.

Work to be done

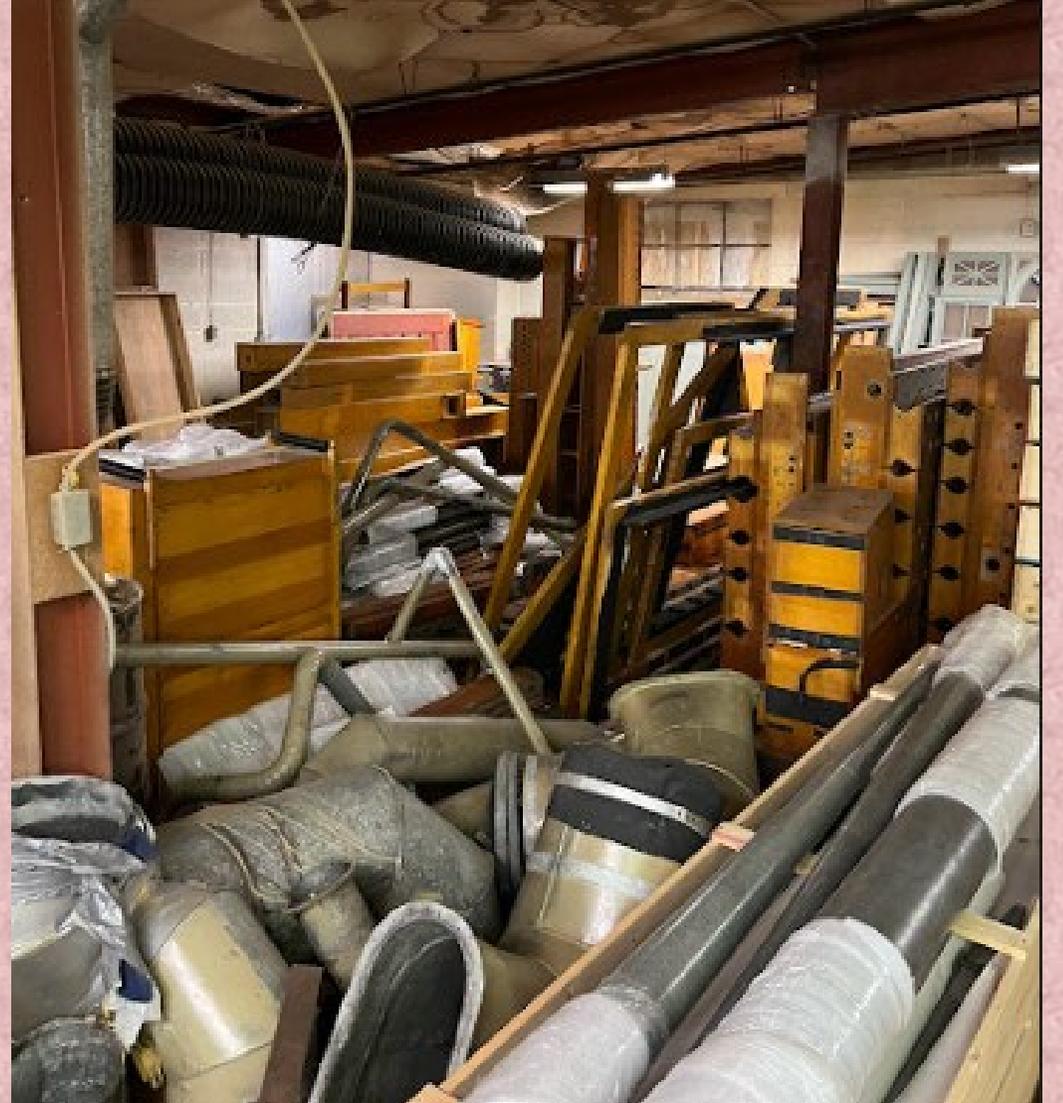
- complete re-leathering and mechanical restoration of the organ's mechanism
- providing and installing a new blower
- cleaning and any repairs needed to pipework,
- replacement of the organ's electrical system and update of the console with state-of-the-art technology,
- installation of the organ and all its pipework and mechanisms
- procurement and installation of a suitable façade for the balcony
- covering of the proposed area for the Choir division with a wooden grillwork to match the interior of the church
- entire instrument tonally regulated to suit the acoustics of the nave and tuned.



OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Left and Right:
Various components
of our new organ
waiting to be
restored and
reassembled.



OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Left and Above:

Various components
of our new organ
waiting to be
restored and
reassembled.

OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Left:

Various components
of our new organ
waiting to be
restored and
reassembled.

Right:

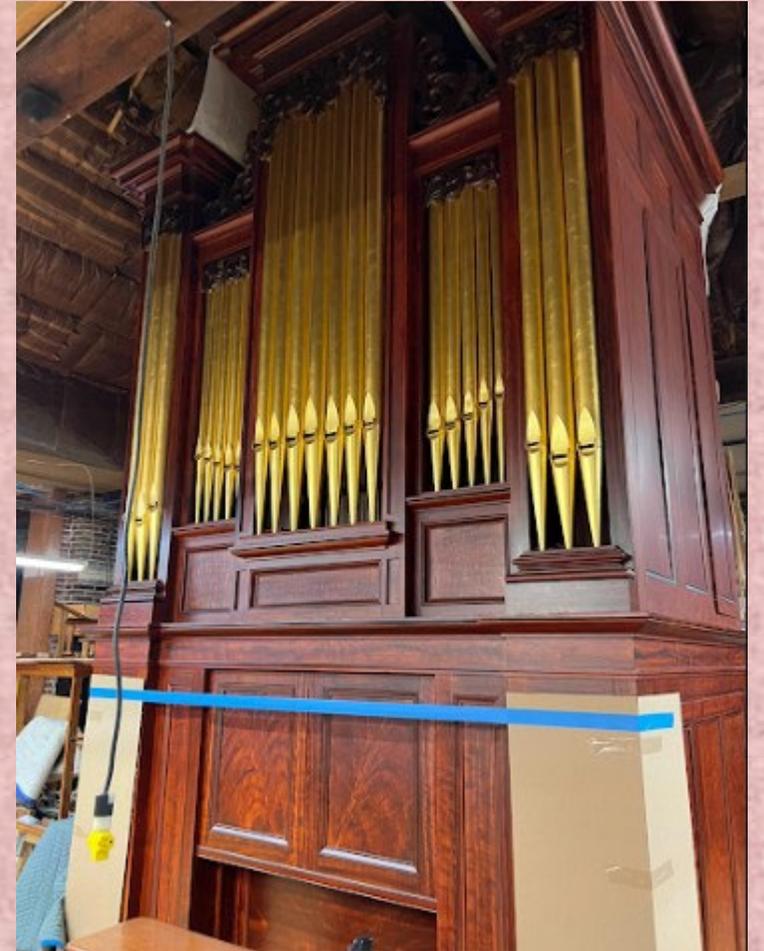
Me sitting at the
main console in the
restoration shop.



OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Left:
Painting pipes for an
organ façade to be
installed in a
Catholic Church in
Deleware.



Right:
A completely restored
and assembled organ
in the restoration shop
for testing and
regulation.

OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Left:

Pressure regulators for a pipe organ. One is required for every pipe. There are 7-9 components to each regulator, including leather that must be air-tight and moisture resistant. Our new organ has 1,577 pipes, so a lot of time will be spent in restoring the 12,000 or so components into the air pressure system!

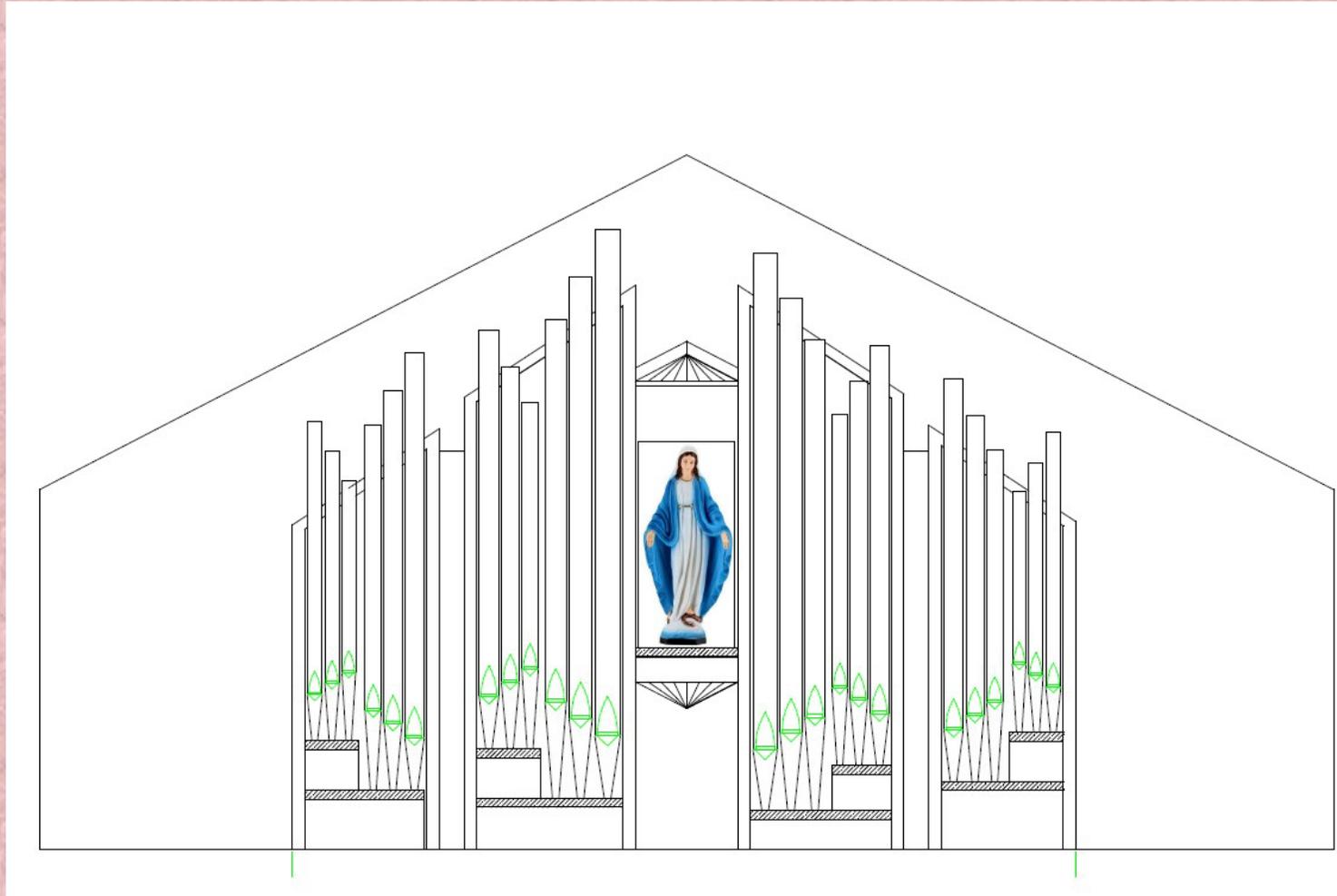
OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Most pipe organs are built *diatonically*, meaning the pipes get taller from the center of the instrument. With Our Lady of the Fields' A-Frame construction, a typical moderately sized pipe organ would not be able to fit in the balcony. However, Möller Opus 5881 is built *chromatically*, meaning the pipes get shorter from the center of the instrument. The photo below shows the current location of Möller Opus 5881. Observe how the pipe chamber resembles the A-Frame construction of the balcony of Our Lady of the Fields:



*Left: The Chromatically Arranged A-Frame pipe chambers of Möller Opus 5881;
Right: The A-Frame Balcony at Our Lady of the Fields*

OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



The initial façade design of Möller Opus 5881 in the balcony of Our Lady of the Fields.
The pipes will be non-speaking in order to maintain all divisions under expression.
“Go Make Disciples” will be inscribed in the wood around Mary.

OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Left-The color scheme of the pipes. Right-The potential statue of Our Lady of the Fields

PROJECTED COSTS

RESTORATION AND INSTALLATION-\$330,000

STATUE OF OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS-\$5,000

BALCONY PREPARATION-\$60,000

PERMITTING & ARCHITECTURE-\$5,000

\$400,000

FUNDING

PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTIONS-\$187,000

BEQUEST FROM AN ESTATE-\$160,000

SALE OF OUR OLD ORGAN-\$25,000

\$368,000