The year 1913 brought the founding of St. James Catholic Church to Catawissa. During that year a discussion between Mrs. Wm. E. Kramme and Mrs. Otto Kober at the Kramme Store brought up the lack of a Protestant church in the Catawissa area and the need for a house of worship for the Protestants living in the region. While there were quite a number of Protestants living in Catawissa, there were not enough of any one particular denomination to finance a church. It was decided that the best approach was for a cooperative effort to build a church in which all the various Protestant denominations could worship. On March 29, 1914 the first official meeting in Kramme Store was held for the purpose of organizing an association to build a Protestant Church. A committee was appointed to solicit members from the community and to search for an appropriate building site for the church.

The Krammes were actively involved in this effort and given that their store had the space available it became the regular meeting place of this association and all future meetings were held there. By April some $1700 had been donated to this cause and on May 3, 1914 a permanent organization called “The Peoples Union Protestant Church Association” of Catawissa, Missouri was established. Officers were elected and Articles of Agreement were filed on August 3, 1914 with the Secretary of State and on September 28 then Secretary of State, Cornelius Roach, signed the paperwork and approved its incorporation.

The new year brought good news as on January 24, 1915 a special meeting of the Association was called where the lot committee reported that lots 7, 8, and 9 in Block Two of Spencer’s First Addition had been purchased as a building site. Things began to happen fast. On February 7, 1915 by-laws were adopted.

Work progressed steadily and on July 11 the cornerstone was laid in the foundation and the association celebrated with a basket dinner. Work on the church continued throughout the summer and early fall until on October 24, 1915 when the new Church was dedicated. A number of major additions happened in the ensuing years. The bell was purchased in 1919 or 1920 for $373. Mr. and Mrs. Kramme had loaned the Church the use of their organ to provide music. This was used until 1919 when a new organ was purchased. In 1922 pews replaced the chairs that had been used to that point in the sanctuary. A major project was begun in 1937 when it was decided that a full basement under the church was desired. A mule owned by Fred Dryer was used to help dig out the hole for the basement.

A cistern was built in 1944 to provide a water supply for the Church. A new oil furnace was installed in 1947 to replace the coal furnace and in 1951 a new organ and chimes were purchased. That organ was replaced in 1988 by the Hammond organ which is still in use today. Also in the 1950 – 1951 time frame the front of the church was remodeled. The wood from the original rail at the back of the chancel was used to build the pedestal that we still use today for the guest book.

October 23, 1960 some 45 years almost to the day
saw the dedication of the new Educational Annex. This greatly expanded the space for Sunday School classes as well as the much enlarged basement area.

In 1973 Ms. Alma Strothmann donated a plot of land across from the Church for the construction of the parsonage. Title to the land was transferred to the Church in 1973. The parsonage was dedicated during a Sunday afternoon service on May 1, 1977. Many members of the congregation contributed funds, materials, equipment, and labor toward the construction of this home.

In 1990 the Church was organized as a not for profit corporation with the State of Missouri with the name Catawissa Union Protestant Church. In 2001 the name was officially changed.