

METHODIST CHURCH

The first Methodist Church in Hartsburg, Illinois was organized in 1875. A minister by the name of Rev. Frank Gruenwald was sent from the Quincy District to Hartsburg. The first quarterly conference was held November 25, 1876 with Rev. Philip Nauman, District Superintendent, and Rev. Frank Gruenwald, presiding. Before the erection of the church building, church and Sunday School were held in Mangas Hall. When Mangas Hall was destroyed by fire, the services were held in the Christian Church until a church was built. In 1878, there were 95 S.S. members. The stewards were Harm Streetmyer, Claus Classen and Jacob Oltmann. The Trustees were Simon Niebuhr, Meinert Ubbenga, Henry Klockenga, Sweeter Wiggers and Harm Streetmyer.

In 1886, the first German Methodist Church was built, later called the Grace Methodist Church, until 1939. The building committee was Rev. Frank Piehler, Harm Streetmyer and Harm Alberts. The contractor was William F. Hayle of Delavan.

The clock was given by Rinehart Jewelry of Lincoln. The bell cost \$74.68. The clock and bell are still being used in the church today.

The German language was used from 1875 to 1913. In 1913, the English language was used in the church except the Sunday morning service. This was dropped a few years later. From 1875 to 1971, twenty-nine pastors have served the church.

In 1939, the First Methodist Church in Hartsburg was dissolved. The building was removed to Lewistown. The pews, dishes and other articles were disposed of. The members transferred to the church of their choice.

M. E. Church.
Hartsburg, Ill.



First M.E. Church, Hartsburg, Ill.

FIRST M.E. CHURCH

In 1879, a congregation, to be known in the Illinois Conference as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Hartsburg, was organized under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Weems. The first English sermon preached in Hartsburg was by Rev. Weems in the Union Church, which we know today as the Christian Church of Hartsburg. The Rev. J.A. Dawson served the group for two years. Services were held here until 1898, when the group rented the German Grace Methodist Church until 1904, when they erected their own church.

The original plan of building a church to cost \$1600 was abandoned, after work had begun and a \$2800 building substituted. The location for the church building was made possible by the special gift of a land grant by Isaac Sherwood, a prominent citizen of Hartsburg.

The church, with a membership of 60, was dedicated Oct. 2, 1904 by the presiding elder of the Bloomington District. Serving the new church was Rev. J.L. Settles. The first board of trustees included Isaac Sherwood, president; John Barley, M.M. Kendrick, Olander Holt and Charles Robinson.

The following ministers served the congregation during the years: Rev. J.A. Dawson; Rev. Thomas Bunting; Rev. W.H. McGee (1895-1896); Rev. G.F. Hoots (1897); Rev. W.M. Gooding (1898-1901); Rev. J.L. Settles (1902-1904); Rev. F.B. Bonnefon (1905); Rev. L.E. Baldwin (1906-1907); Rev. R.N. Miller (1908-1909); Rev. W.L. Selby (1909-1910); Rev. H.C. Munch (1911); Rev. G.W. Randale (1912-1914); Rev. R.L. Davis and Rev. C.R. Underwood (1914); Rev. O.E. Martin (1915); Rev. Paul Snyder (1916); Rev. C.C. Nordling (1917-1919); Rev. H.H. Dill (1920-1923); Rev. R.J. Wroughton (1924); Rev. O.L. Clapper (1925-1928); Rev. J.R. Ford and Rev. Herrier (1929); Rev. Ross Thornton (1930); Rev. Carl Anderson (1931-1933). Student ministers serving the church from 1934-1939 included Milton Heitzman, Wayne Arthur and William Cutlip.

Superintendants serving the Sunday School thru the years included: J.C. Skinner, George M. McElhiney, Charles Robinson, John Barley, Stewart Robinson, Thad Sherwood, Earl McMath, Mrs. Elsie Payne and Mrs. Lena Van Gerpen.

In 1939, this congregation was united with the Grace Methodist Church, forming the Hartsburg Methodist Church.

The ground breaking ceremony for the present church building was held June 17, 1967 following the church service by Rev. Frank J. Rider. The last service in the old building was January 21, 1968. The next Sunday, January 28, 1968, services were held in the new church.

Consecration Services were held May 5, 1968 by Rev. Harold Lloyd.

At this time the Methodist Churches and the Evangelical United Brethren Churches merged to be known as the United Methodist Church.

The new church building was dedicated Sunday, September 6, 1970 with Bishop Lance E. Webb officiating. He was assisted by Dr. Frank Nestler, the District Superintendent and our present pastor, Rev. Robert E. Sabo Sr.