

## History for web site

Early church members met in a cabin from 1838 to 1870. Deciding to build a church in 1870, an amount of \$1,500 was immediately subscribed. Trustees were W.S. Clark, D.R. Holly, C. Weeks, J.M. Clements and N. Bixby. They appointed a committee for the project. Trustees Weeks and Clark, along with M. Burt and L. Train served on the committee. In July, Rev. Clough, who oversaw the Laingsburg and Middlebury United Methodist Churches at the time, was asked by the committee to buy the building materials from W.H. Martin. Assisted by Clark and W. Knapp, Martin supervised the construction.

Weeks donated the lot and the church was built for the price of \$2,800. Rev. J.S. Smart, then district superintendent for the area Methodist churches, dedicated the church on Oct. 16, 1871 "amid great joy," according to church records.

Laingsburg UMC added its fellowship hall in 1982 and started its monthly chicken dinners to finance the new structure. Many years before this, a large shed and driveway stood in the back of the church, allowing for parking a horse while attending Sunday services.

The old steeple, which at one time added height to the church, was struck by lightning in the 1890s. The steeple fell down through the church and set pew cushions on fire. The steeple was never rebuilt, although the current structure does have a bell which will be preserved as part of the new building. Stained glass windows from the current sanctuary will also be saved.

In 1934, a fire destroyed the church's parsonage, nearly killing Rev. A.C. Thompson, who was the minister at the time. The parsonage as it is seen now – immediately adjacent to the church to the north – was rebuilt in the mid-30s. As Pastor Dulworth points out, "much has changed over the years!"