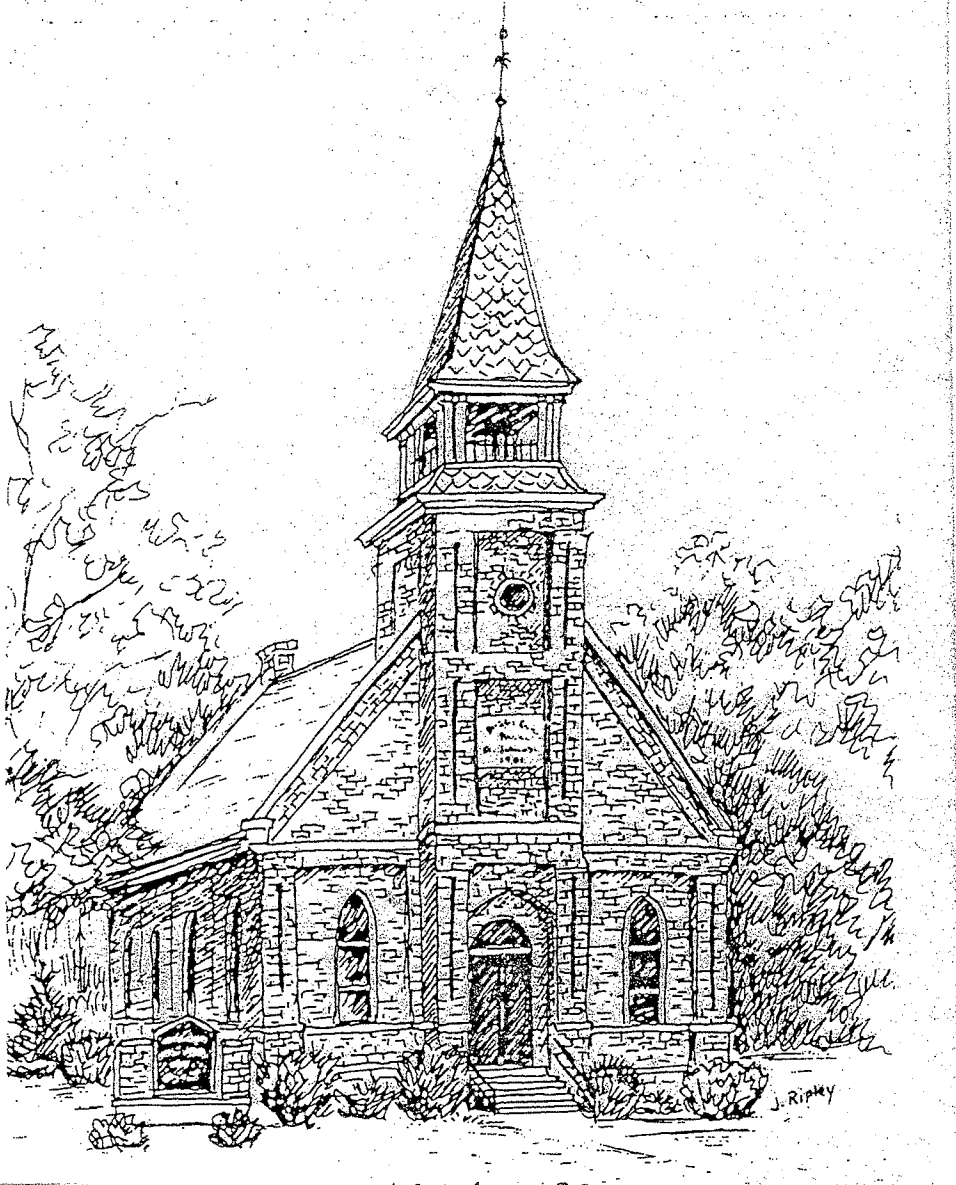


Bits and Pieces of History

St. John's UCC, Penntown

Originally -St. John's German Evangelical Protestant Church



History of St. John's Church in Penntown, Indiana

- 1840 St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church organized
- 1841 Log church constructed
- 1845 First constitution signed and recorded
- 1883 Parsonage erected +++++ Instruction for young people began
- 1901 New brick church built +++++ Ladies Aid Society began – October 6
- 1902 Brick church dedicated – July 22
- 1907 Church minutes first written in English
- 1910 Church minutes revert to German
- 1913 Church minutes restored to English
- 1914 New constitution allowing 2/3 vote to determine language – January 1
- 1921-22 Parish Hall built
- 1921 Penntown Community League established
- 193_ Merger of German Evangelical and Reformed Churches
- 1954 Renovation of church basement for Sunday School use
- 1956 New constitution written
- 1962 Merger of St. John's Evangelical & Reform Church into St. John's United Church of Christ
- 1965 Pilgrim Youth Fellowship Organized
- 1974 Church office built onto parish hall
- 1980 Property purchased for parking
- 1982 Addition to parsonage
- 1983 Young Women's Circle organized
- 1984-85-86 Renovation of parish hall
- 1984 Home of Sunman Food Pantry
- 1989 Cemetery improvement begun ++++ Young Adult Sunday School class organized
- 1991 150th Anniversary celebration
- 2001 Groundbreaking for new addition and remodeling of present brick church – April 8
- 2002 Dedication of new addition and remodeling of church – October 13
- 2015 Purchased new parsonage in Sunman, Indiana – July 1
- 2016 175th Anniversary celebration – September 25

Pastors Serving St. John's UCC, Penntown

1842-45	August Mueller
1846-50	Frederick Franke
1851-84	Walter Reitz
1884-85	E. F. W. Bersch
1886-89	Adolph Baltzer
1890-92	Carl Gebauer
1892-1901	August Buettner
1901-02	John Merkel
1903-04	Paul Schmidt
1905-07	Bruno Koch
1907-08	Edward Lindenau
1908-12	William Krueger
1912-14	Philip Wiggermann
1915-21	H. Arndt
1921-23	D.E. Werner
1923-24	Theodore Schory
1924-28	Carl Bohnenkamper
1928-31	Walter L. Weber
1932	William J. Halfter
1932-40	William Hillman
1942-45	Marcus P. Schoepfle
1946-50	J.J. Kalkbrenner
1950	Henry C. Huebschmann
1951-66	Walter L Weber
1966-68	Kenneth G. Hendrix
1968-69	Dan Stroebel
1969-71	Kenneth G. Hendrix
1971-75	Edward W. Inderlied
1975-78	Michael Clinton Frantz
1978-80	L. Raymond Jones
1980-82	Dick Hall (interim, approx. dates)
1982-95	Juanita T. Connerley
1996-2005	Judith Patrice Doll
2005-09	Craig Amlin
2009-13	Peter Frye
2013	Ted Richmond (supply)
2013-present	Lynne Busch-Rae

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH – PENNTOWN, INDIANA

SOME NOTES FROM THE PAST

December 24, 1886

If anyone wants to send a Child to Church School, he will be required to pay \$.50 per month to the Pastor for Lessons he will give the Child. He will also have to pay \$2.00 for the Confirmation of the Child. Also one wagon full of firewood to the Church-School so that the school can be heated during the cold weather.

October 8, 1900

The congregation elected a Building Committee: Christian Bos, Jacob Abplanalp, Louis Drake, John Peter Baas, Christian Nieman

October 11, 1900

Today the Building Committee met with the architect from D. H. Wright Co. to make a plan for the new church. The church will be 56 feet long and 36 feet wide. A basement will be dug measuring 36 feet by 25 feet. It will take 84,000 bricks to build the church.

August 18, 1901

The Corner-Stone for the new Church was laid. Collected \$76.10 at this event.

August 19, 1901

The brick laying for our new church was begun.

October 18, 1902

Today the architect from D. H. Wright met with Louis Sieg, the builder, to inspect his work on the church. The church was declared in good condition and accepted.

Late 1940's

Until the late 1940's, the Men's and the Women's Sunday School classes were taught separately. Both classes were in the Sanctuary... Men on one side and Women on the other.

October 1st. — 1911

Our Ladies Society was organized the 6th October 1901 by Rev. John Merkel, At the first meeting 24 members were taken in, and at the end of the same year 40 members enrolled, and at the end of 10 years we had 62 members, out of these 62 members 8 members died 4 moved away and 5 resigned so at the end of the first 10 years we had 45 members.

The first officers of our Society were.

Louise Merkel — President

Lizzie Bass — V. President

Mary Bass — Sec.

Louise Pohler — Treasurer.

The officers in 1911 were as follows.

Elizabeth Heitzman — President

Magdalena Krummel V. — "

Sophia Sieg Mrs. — Sec.

Emma Vieman — Treas.

In Jan. 1902 the Ladies of our Society made a quilt and this quilt including a carpet witch was donated by Mrs. Sophia Bass when raffled selling chances at 10c.

This brought us 88.70 to go in our Treasury. Next in Nov. the same year we gave an oyster supper at this we cleared 70.47. In Aug. 1903 an Ice cream supper was held at this we cleared 86.56 in Nov. the same year an oyster supper was held at this we cleared 92.61 In Sept. 1904 a Sunday school picnic was held at this we cleared 170.02 In 1905 no social was held. In July 1906 another Sunday school picnic was held at this we cleared 140.20 In May 1907 a Strawberry supper was held at this we cleared 59.58 In June 1908 an Ice cream supper was held at this we cleared 68.48. In 1908 an Oyster supper was held at this 42.98 was cleared. In Oct. 1909 another Oyster supper was held at this 70.56 were cleared. In Oct the same year another Oyster supper was held at this we cleared 91.01 The total amount cleared in those 10 years amounted to 981.12 This was used for all church purposes with the exception of 120.33 in Treas. at the end of 10 years.