

Allerton Methodist Church

by

Ortha Green

With information from Wayne and Appanoose county History, Rev. Howard Ball, the Records Office and the Times Republican.



(Photo by Garry J. Green)

“On Feb. 27, 1877, Milton Courtright of Erie Pennsylvania, deeded to W.C. Duncan, J. Beham, George Dean, Peter Martin and C.R. Wright, trustees, Lot 12, Block 33 in the town of Allerton, Ia, consideration the sum of \$1.00.” Located corner of Niagara and Oak Streets.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, pioneer church of Allerton, was built in the summer of 1874. It was a frame structure, and it was rebuilt in 1880. The early membership was very small. In 1886 there were 115 members.

The early pastors were; G.W. Patterson, - Hayes, - J.H. Miller, - J.R. Horswell, - G.C. Waynick, - and W.J. Beck. Rev. R.W. Matheny was the pastor in 1886, and James Bracewell was Sunday School Supt.

Pastors from 1908

H.G. Pittenger 1908-13	Louis E. Ripley 1912
C.K. Corkill 1916-1917	David D. Shexton 1913-16
H.D. Glassburn 1918-21	Carl Critchett 1917-18
W.A. Lawer 1926-27	Guy J. Winslow 1921-26
Miss Altia M. Nicholc 1928-34	Donald Avey 1927-28
J.W. Gruber 1936-38	H.D. Simmons 1934-36
Fred Martin 1944-45	S.P. Trostle 1938-44
D.C. Callison 1945-46	Robert Reynolds 1945
Harvey Butler 1950 short time	H.B. Fay 1946-49

John C. Davis
1949-51
Ol E. Olsen
1953 few months
Gene Gardner
1956
C.M. Orcutt
1960
Dean Ridenour
1965
Marvin Asfahl
1966 Interim
Barry Ballard
1969-70

Everett Lanning
1951-53
Charles E. Myers
1953-55
William Rickhoff
1957
Earl D. Kelley
1958-59
Howard Ball
1960-61-62-3-4
Russell Vanderhoff
1966-7-8
John Braden
1971-2

The Rev. Miss Alta Nichols, was pastor of the church for six years. She was one of the first licensed “women preachers” of the Methodist church when women were ordained to the ministry in 1919. The Methodist board, controlled by men, of course, decided that women could be accepted in the ministry, and she has been in the pulpit ever since and has won the respect and admiration of the clergymen for the fine performance of duty and service.

The lady preacher chuckled when Herb Owens of the Des Moines Register and Tribune asked her if she preached “hell fire and brimstone” sermons. Her reply was, You just have to show people the highest plane for proper living. She did much evangelistic work in Iowa, a number of years before she was ordained.

In 1969 the Allerton Methodist Church united with other churches and is now known as Allerton United Methodist Church.