

## FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

In November 1835, the Rev. William E Warner, a local preacher from Lewistown, New Jersey, settled on a farm Southeast of Hudson. On the following Sunday he preached at Noah Cressey's log house and organized a class of sixteen members with Lorenzo Brown as class leader. This was the first sermon ever preached in Hudson. Preaching alternated among the houses of Elish Brown, Noah Chessey and Michael Dillon – the latter being a communicant of the Roman Catholic Church. His wife was a Methodist and he opened his home for Methodist preaching.

The first quarterly conference was held on New Year's Day, 1837 in the Brown settlement. A log house on north Market Street was used for holding Methodist services. It was the pioneer house of this town, the foundation of which was laid in 1834. The split floor was about ten feet long and met in a continuous joint on the middle sleeper. On Sunday in the mid-summer of 1840, the people had gathered here for divine service and were calmly listening to the words from the lips of the Sev. Sabin, when all of a sudden, the floor gave way in the middle, letting the central portion of the audience into the cellar. The preacher, leaning on the back of the chair which served him as a pulpit, waited patiently until the people had scrambled out, and then proceeded as if nothing had happened.

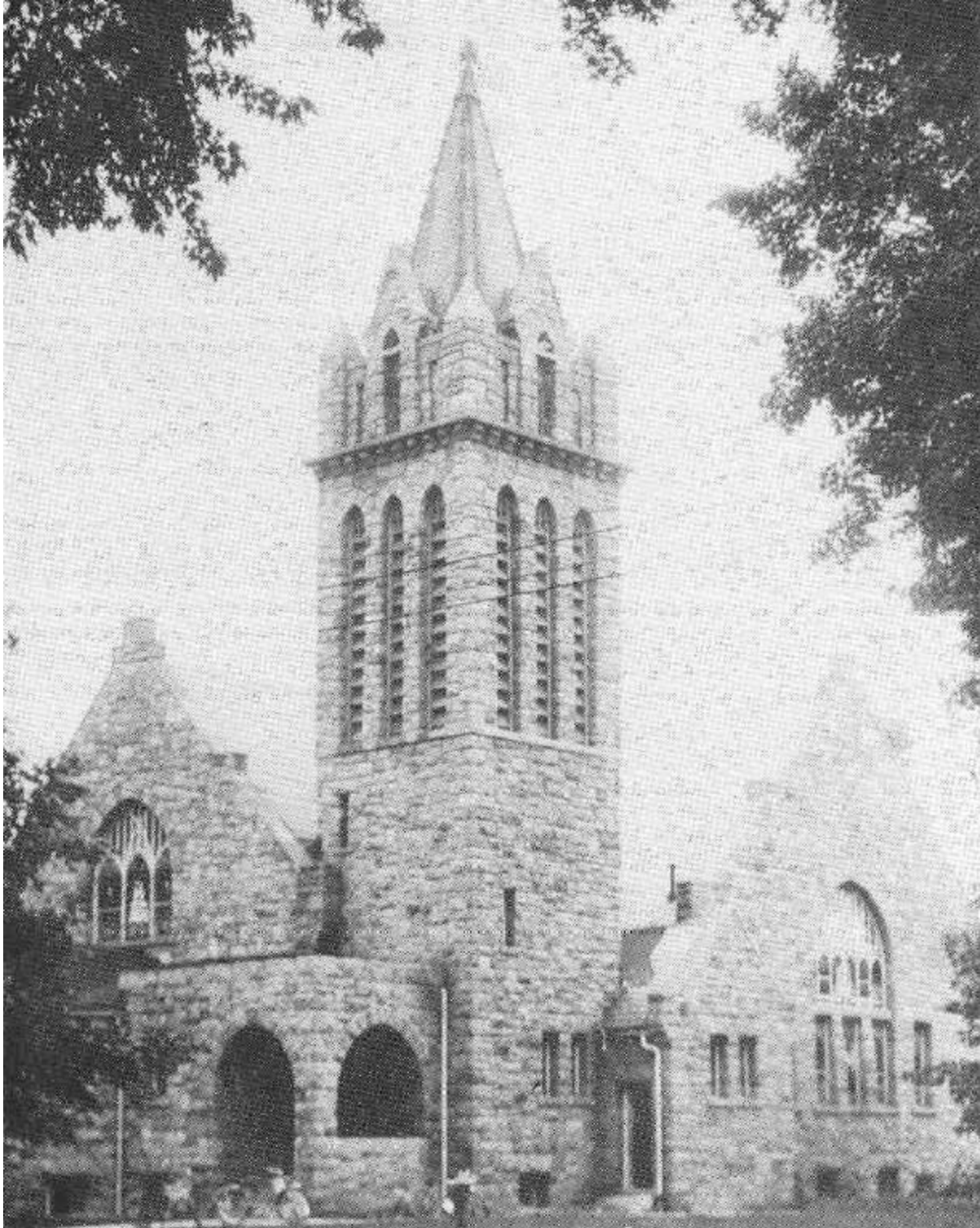
In 1840, Lanesville become known as Hudson. About 1849, the question of building a Methodist Church was considered. It was situated on the East side of High Street (now Maple Grove Avenue) midway between Hill Street and Wilcox Street. Thus, in about 1851, the Methodists completed and dedicated their first house of worship in Hudson.

Between 1890-95, the Ladies Aid Society decided to purchase another lot to build a new Methodist Church. The present lot on West main Street was selected. The Ladies Aid Society assumed the payment and finished paying for the lot in 1900. During the time of the tearing down of the old church and building of the new, divine services were held in the Masonic Temple. Some of the bricks from the first church were used in the foundation of the present stone church. One organist, Mrs. Ella Wedder Perkins Cruse, served both Methodist churches for approximately fifty years.

In October 1919 a house and lot on West Main Street, adjoining the church on the West side, was purchased from Mr. Oren Howes. This was used for two years as a parsonage, then it was torn down and replaced by the present brick and stone parsonage built on the same lot. The new parsonage was completed November 15, 1923. The records show that in the Annual Conference of 1900, 281 members were reported for the Hudson Church. At the present time, 365 members are on the roll.







This was printed in 1983 "Reflections on the Bean" by Verdie A Yager