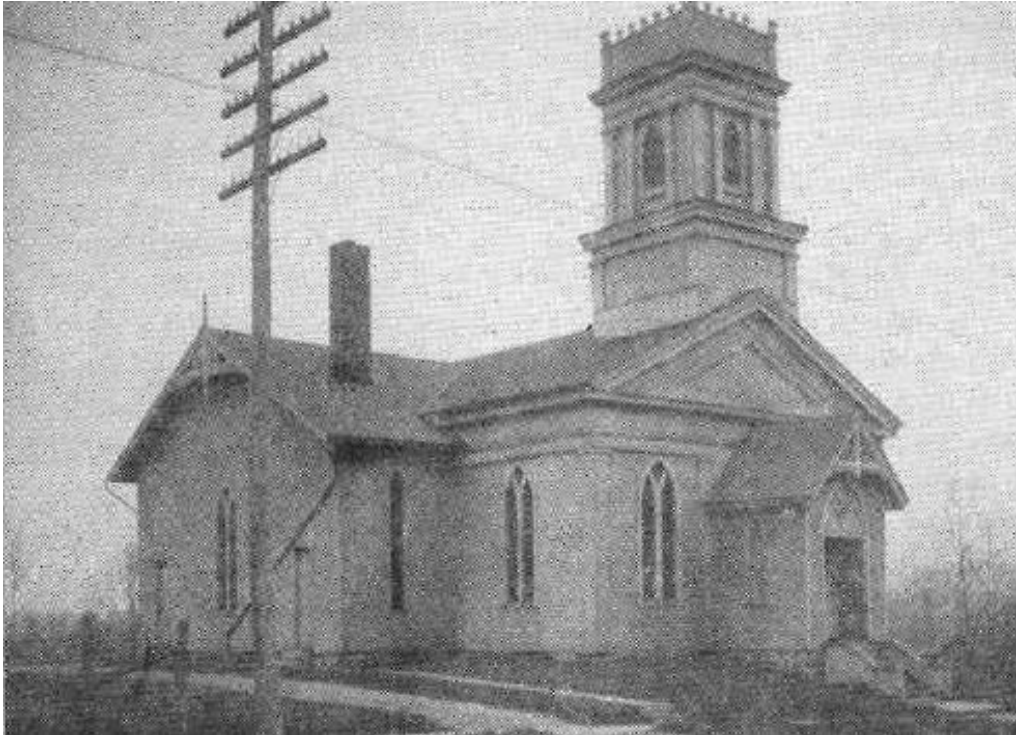


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church of Hudson was organized in 1843, and they have the distinction of having erected the first church edifice.

The Rev. Jacob Ambler, in 1844, became their first pastor and, in 1847, the erection of a meeting house, thirty-two feet by forty-four feet with a steeple of three sections, was unanimously voted for. And in the summer and early fall, the church succeeded in putting up and covering the frame of the church building. In the winter of 1847-48 they finished it. In 1849, the church was now vacant, so it was voted to invite the Methodists to preach in the Baptist house until they could get a pastor. Upon this invitation, the Methodist occupied the house until they occupied their own house in the spring of 1850. The following year the church building was consumed by fire, but the people were not easily discouraged; they at once set about rebuilding. They began the construction of the North and South portion of the present building which was thirty-six feet by fifty-two feet. During construction, services were held in the Westside schoolhouse. During the pastorate of Rev. Comfort Chaffee in 1859, the church was found to be too small. It was enlarged and improved, under the successors Cressy, Osborn and Shanofelt. In the year 1885, Lucretia Purchase made a gift of \$1,000 to the church. This gave the pastor and people a new inspiration and under the indefatigable energies of their leader, the church was remodeled and beautified, making it one of the largest, most pleasant and best ventilated auditoriums in this section of the state, with a seating capacity of five to six hundred. At this time Rev. Farmer was pastor; also, the church organ was installed, and the East and West wings added.

In 1946, during Mr. Clissold's ministry to the church, the official board was trying hard to find a man who could be on the field and give his full time to the work, but it seemed the right man was not to be found. Rev T. R. Dolson of Weston was suggested by Rev. Green and all efforts were bent towards securing Mr. Dolson. In May, Rev. Dolson's pastorate began and there is every evidence that God's hand was leading and Rev. Dolson's ministry to us blessed. The Rev. Dolson Served from 1946 to 1968.



Old Baptist Church



Present Baptist Church

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