

Belmont United Methodist Church
120th Anniversary
Celebration
February 18, 2024

In 1902, Belmont was a new and rapidly developing Dayton suburb with a small shopping area and 500 residents. Two women in the area, Mrs. Rebecca Bogenrife, a member of Oak Street United Brethren Church and Mrs. Miller, a Methodist, were concerned that there was no church in this area. They went door-to-door to announce the formation of a Sunday School, which would meet in the 3-room school building on what is now Smithville Road.

Only a few folks showed up that first Sunday, but gradually the group began to grow, and a Sunday service was added. The Rev J. Harmon Dutton, a quarterly conference minister from the Oak Street Church, taught a class and also preached. Early in 1904 Rev Dutton held a series of revival meetings and on February 17, 1904 at the revival's conclusion, Belmont United Brethren Church was formally organized with 32 members. Rev. W.M. Van Sickle was appointed the first pastor.

The following story and photos
were found in the History Room,
partial pictorial history of BUMC

By

Arthur E Moore

author and photographer

“As a result of the remarkably rapid development and expansion of Belmont and adjacent areas during recent years, and due to efficient leadership within the church and the evangelical seal of its members, the building in use had become entirely inadequate in size and appointment.

Consequently, after several years of study, prayer, effort and sacrifice, work was started on construction of the new church early in 1953 at the intersection of the Bellaire Avenue and Smithville Road.

Rev. Murn B. Klepinger, who had served this church faithfully for nearly a score of years, together with various groups—notably the trustees, planning, building, and finance committees had worked long and diligently toward the consummation of this project.

After clearing and leveling the site, ground was officially broken March 22, 1953, foundation trenches were excavated, concrete footing poured and the actual erection started.

“The following photographic story of the erection of the current church is presented in this album with the hope that the pictures might be of some interest to the folks who will worship here during future generations, always to the glory of God. It is to these folks, primarily, that this album is humbly dedicated.”

Arthur E Moore, author and photographer



Started
May 25
1953

Dedication one year later, May 1954



June
7
1953



June
18
1953



June
18
1953



June
18
1953



July 20
1953



July
20
1953



July
20
1953



August 20
1953



August
20
1953



August
20
1953



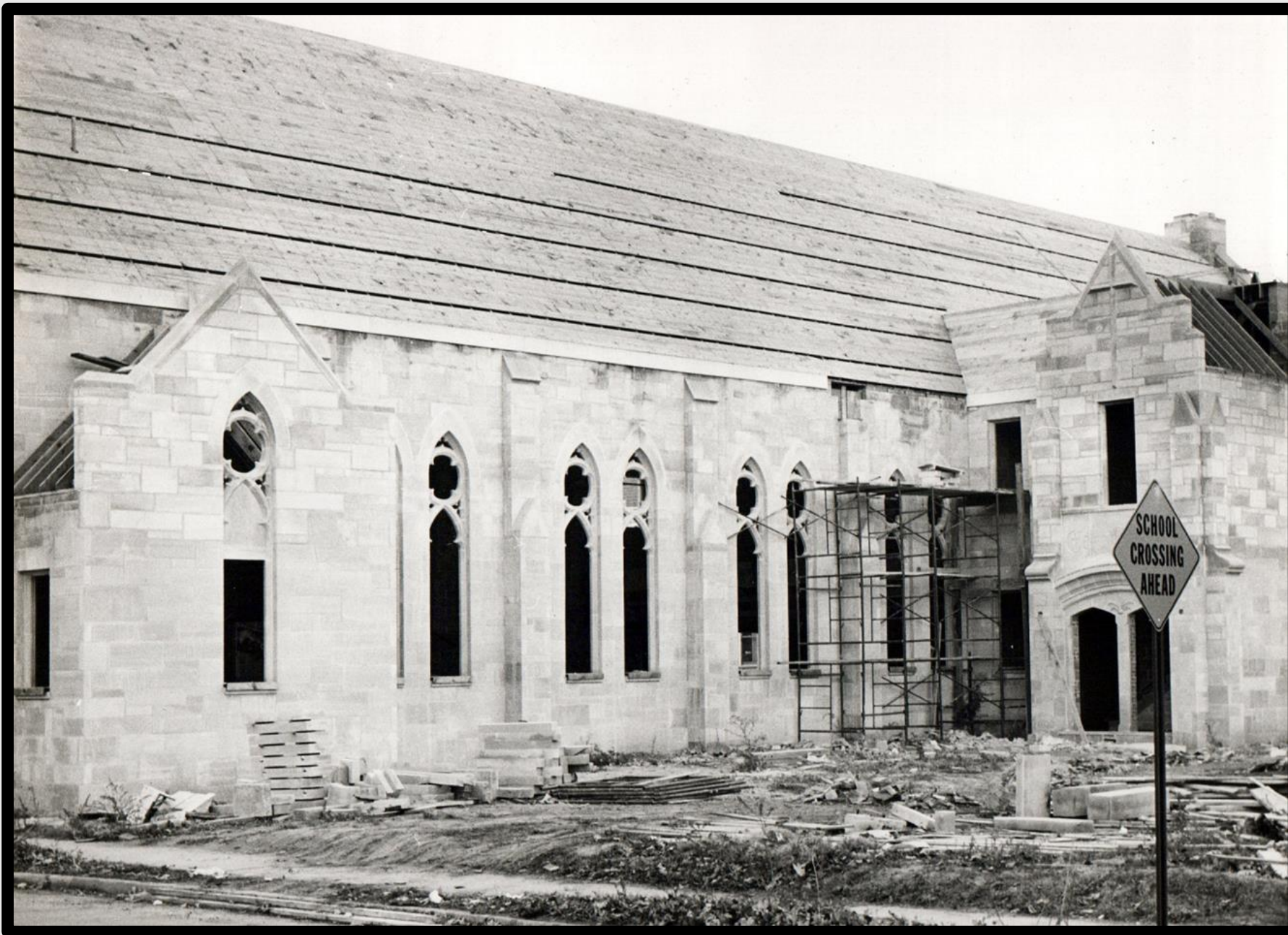
August
20
1953



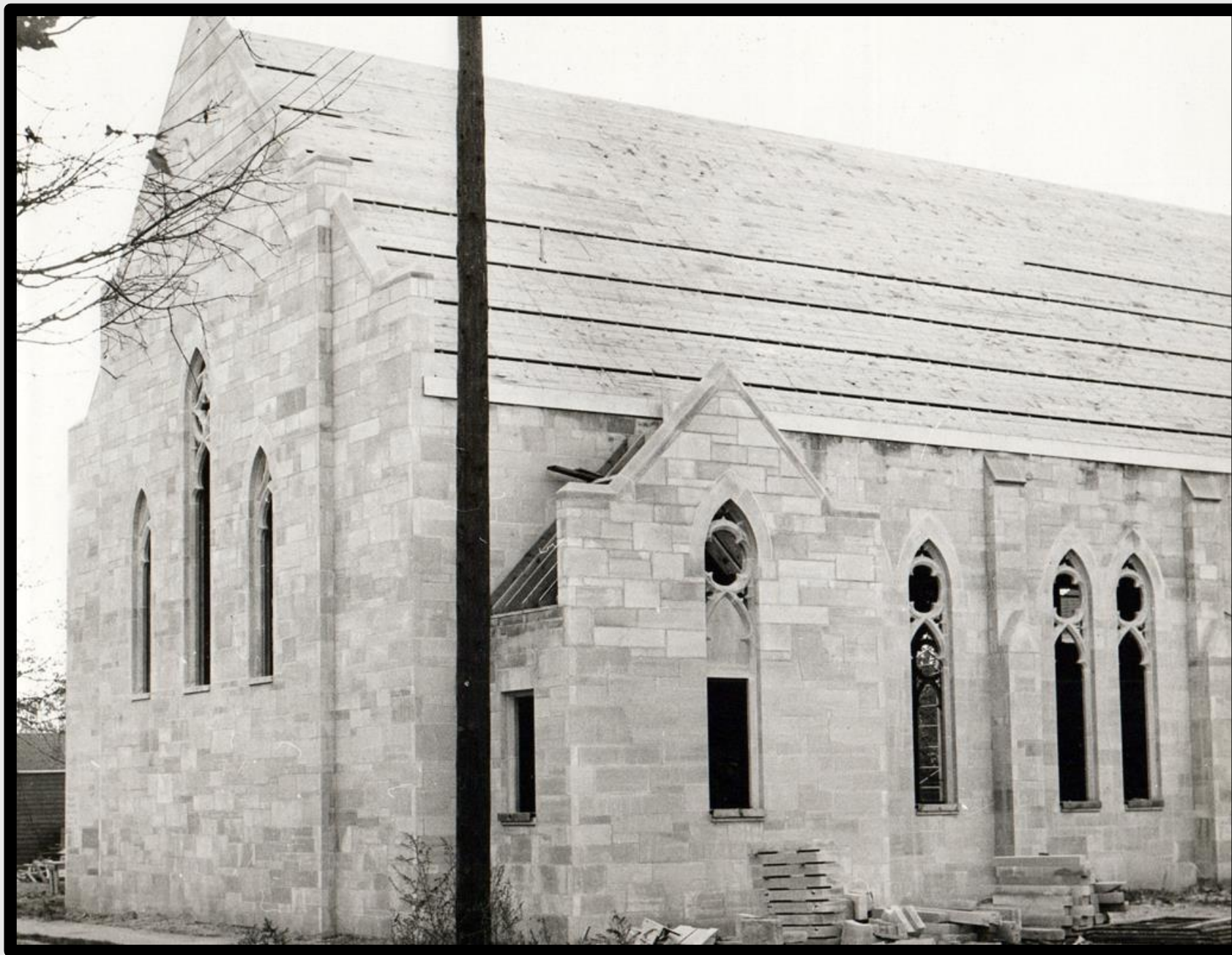
September
25
1953



September
25
1953



November
2
1953



November
2
1953



November
2
1953



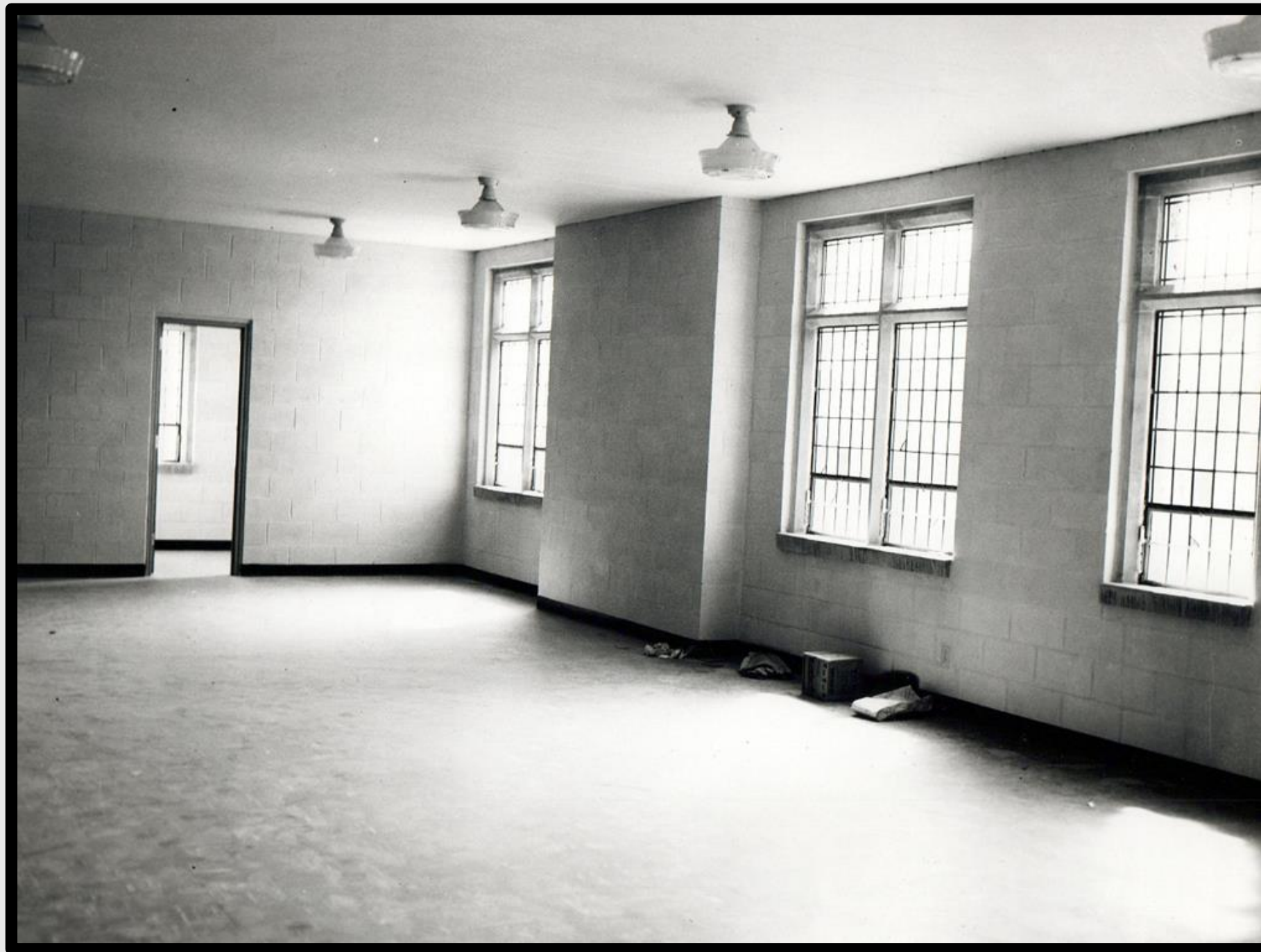
January
1954



March
29
1954



March
29
1954



Youth
Room
March
29
1954



Parlor
March
29
1954



March
29, 1954
Two
months
later,
dedication
service was
held



One
month
before
dedication
Sunday
April 26,
1954



Dedication
Sunday
1,000 in
attendance
May 23,
1954



May 1954
Pastor Murn
Klepinger

Building
dedicated to
God and His
service



Education Building and Social Hall



1960
Construction
begins on the
Education
Building and
Social Hall



Construction of Education and Social Hall



Left to Right
Rev. Murn
Klepinger

Thomas
Bartley

Dr Harold
Glover

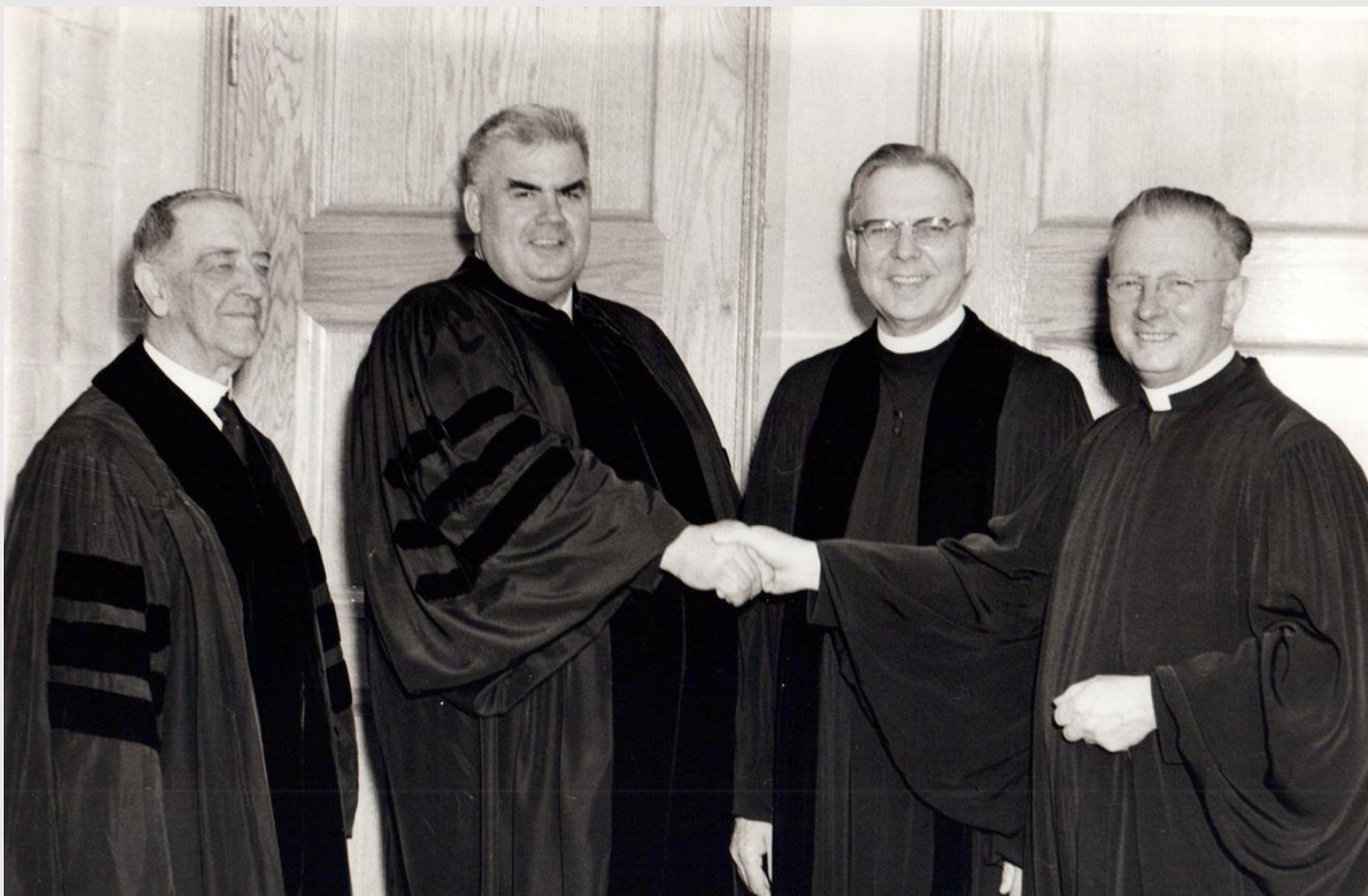


1960 Cornerstone Laying East Wing

Dr. H. C. Glover
President of
Board of
Trustees



Foundation
of the West
Wing
1960



Left to Right
Bishop A. R. Clippinger
Conf. Sup. Messner
Bishop Fred L Dennis
Rev M B. Klepinger
Dedication Day
May 23, 1954

Prayer shared at Dedication

O God, thou Master Builder, 'tis by that grace at we have raised this earthly temple we now dedicate to Thee.

We come, O Lord, with contrite hearts, a simple faith confessing to pray that on this house, this flock, might rest thy richest blessing.

We thank Thee for these spacious wall,
for all contain within, and may thy spirit
ever fill all those who enter in.

On earth, our days are numbered; in time,
our labors cease—yet, through the years
may this house stand and lead the way to
peace!

Yea, through the years, if 'tis thy will, may
this church meet the need of hungry
souls for Christian lives, in thought and
words and deed.

And thine be the honor and the glory,
forever. AMEN



Sunday School marching to the
classrooms in the new education building,
March 5, 1961



Rev Murn Klepinger
Pastor at time of
moving into new
sanctuary.

Lead pastor for
members currently
60-80 years old
approximately.



Belmont United Brethren Church. Organized in 1904. Education building began in 1939, was dedicated in 1943 free of debt.

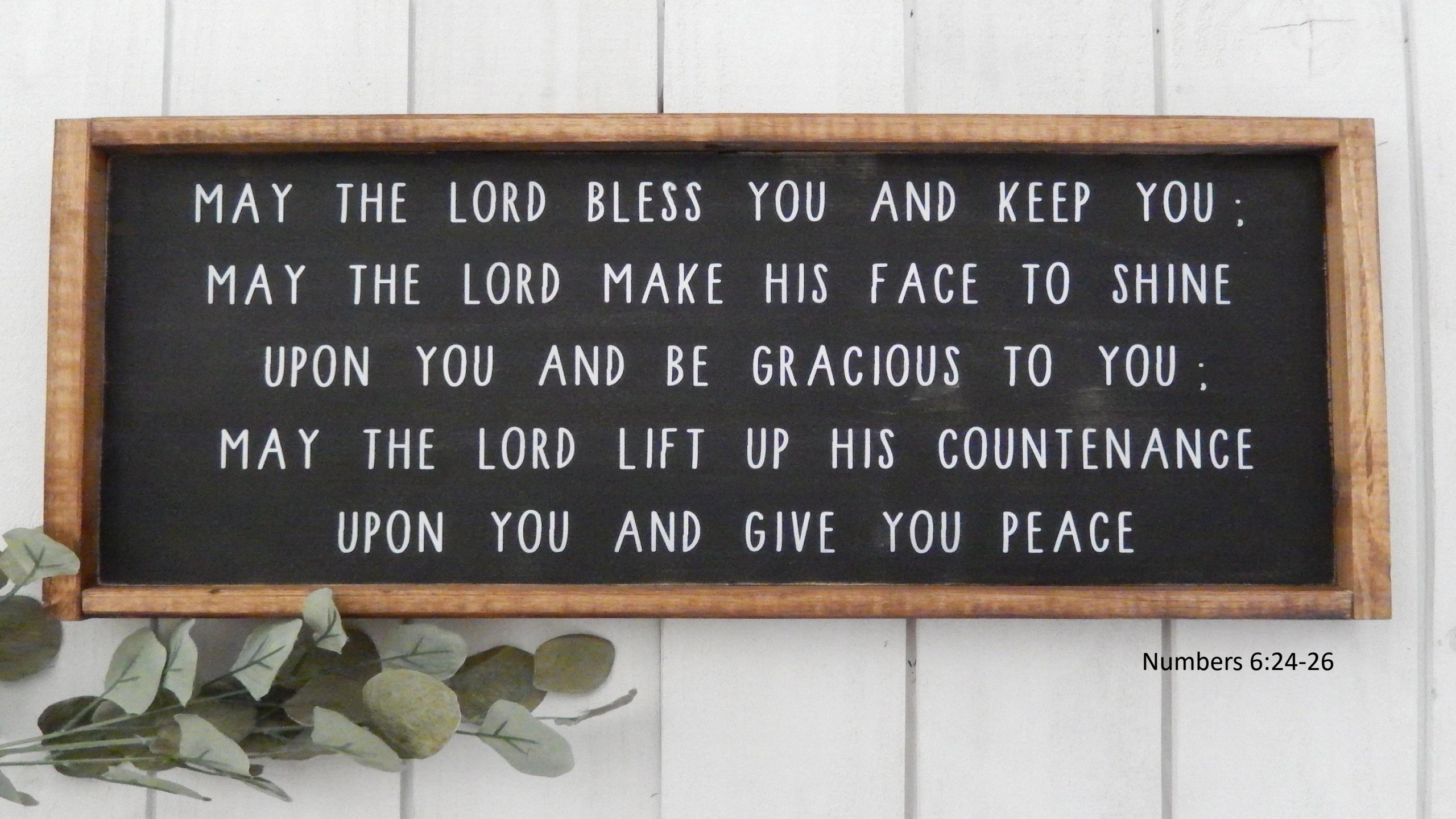




Groundbreaking of our original church
1906

BELMONT U. B.
CHURCH
1906

Outside
sanctuary
door
leading to
the
balcony



MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU ;
MAY THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE
UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU ;
MAY THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE
UPON YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE

Numbers 6:24-26