

Edinburg was founded by the families of Alanson and Justin Eddy, who came from Connecticut. The town was first called, "Eddyburg" or Eddysburg" and later became "Edinburg."

Rev. Caleb Pitkin and Rev. Charles Storrs from the Connecticut Missionary Society founded the first church here in January, 1823. Initial members included Edmond and Aurillia Bostwick; Rachel, wife of Alanson Eddy; Nancy, wife of Amasa Canfield; Betsy, wife of Greenbury Keen; Benjamin and Sally Carter; and Ethel or Ethiel Strong.

The Methodist first organized a church in the township in 1826, with Rev. P.D. Horton and Rev. Phillip Green taking turns officiating as pastors. Like the Congregationalists, they held their first meetings in the homes of members. In 1834 a small building was constructed, but because of the size of the congregation, the building was not finished until 1837. It was used as a meeting house until 1865.

In 1842, the Congregationalists built a building 37 feet wide and forty-six feet long with no basement. It constitutes the main part of the sanctuary which is being used today.

Although the Disciples of Christ Church is not usually considered a part of the United Church, it deserves mention. It was organized in 1865 under the supervision of Elder S.S. Chapman. The church never had a resident pastor but was supplied by Hiram College students. The organization built a church and continued to meet until 1913 when it disbanded. Most of the members joined either the Methodist or the Congregational Church.

Approximately ten years before any steps were taken to unite the Methodist and Congregational church in Edinburg, at least one minister from each church discussed the possibility of uniting the two churches.

In 1921 Harvey Bingham and R.B. Cochran, Congregationalists, visited the Methodist Church suggesting that they explore uniting. From this meeting grew the Federated Church which, while permitting the members to worship together, maintained their separate denominational connections, church organizations, membership rolls, their treasuries and possibly a questioning attitude toward the other brethren.

The organization of the Federated Church proved to be too cumbersome. Before the end of 1923 there was talk of trying to establish a closer union and in 1924, J.W. Grider, representing the Methodist Church and C.J. Walvoord, representing the Congregational Church, together with the minister H.W. Hunt, drew up a constitution for a United Church.

The Congregational Church building was selected as the one which would serve the needs best and the Methodist sold their property. Proceeds were used to enlarge and remodel the church building, adding a choir loft and pulpit platform, and a basement for the kitchen and dining room.

A "building fund" to finance an education wing was started in 1954. It was not until 1960 that the work on the wing was begun and completed the same year at a total cost of \$51,600.

In 1962 a parsonage fund was started and 1966 saw the completion of a new, beautiful split-level (all electric) home at a cost of \$33,500. The parsonage mortgage was retired in April, 1970.

A "steeple fund" was started in 1967 and later in 1970, the name was changed to "improvement fund" when it was discovered that a new roof was necessary before the steeple could be erected. The current steeple replaced four spires that were taken down around 1920 by Bill Reiss as they were leaking. He took the six-foot long spires to his home to use as a yard decoration. Within the steeple sits a large community bell with the date 1844 inscribed on it. The bell still rings today, calling the people of Edinburg and its surrounding communities into faithful discipleship within the church with the white steeple.

