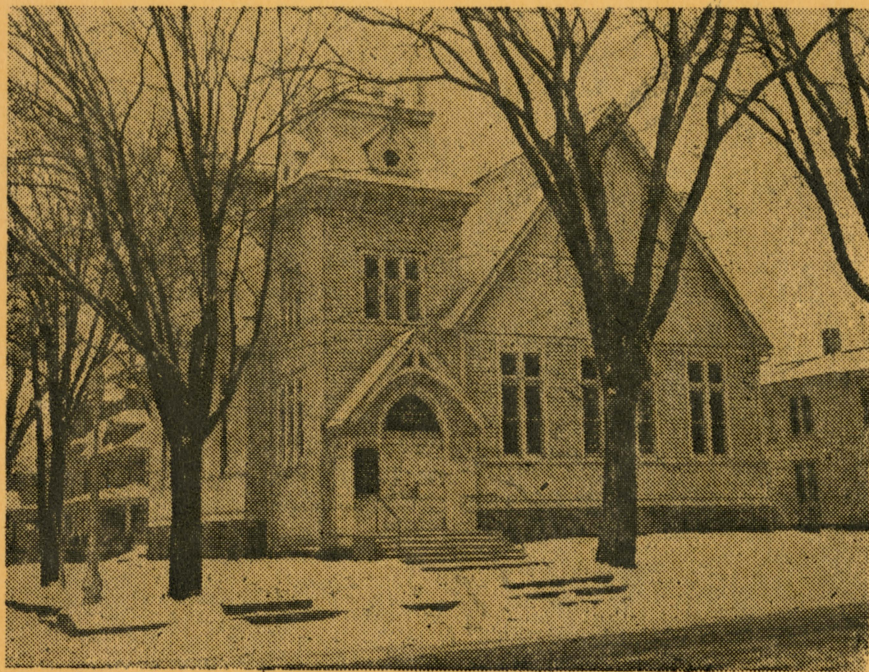


CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY

1858 -- 1958



First Congregational Church

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

**DEDICATION**

In memory of those who have sacrificially labored and whose names have been transferred to the Church Triumphant . . . In appreciation of those who are now assuming responsibilities in the life and work of our church . . .

And to the generations who will make up the church of the future, this anniversary booklet is respectfully dedicated.

First Congregational Church  
New Hampton, Iowa  
February 14, 1958

"I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." John 4:38

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Our church is one hundred years old this year.

The handful of people who organized this fellowship lived in turbulent and changing times. In the year 1858 the Trans-Atlantic Cable was completed. The era of modern communication had just begun.

The celebrated Lincoln - Douglas debates took place during that year. In his acceptance of the nomination for the United States Senate Lincoln gave his famous speech which included a familiar Biblical passage: " 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.' I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free."

Again, it was the year John Brown made a raid into Missouri, rescued 11 slaves and escaped with them to Canada. The attention of the nation was being focused on the serious domestic problem of slavery.

We talk about abnormal times today — of recession and inflation. Our forefathers in 1858 were feeling the effects of a serious depression which had begun the year before, the worst since 1837. Thousands of business concerns had gone into bankruptcy, prices had fallen, wages were down and unemployment general.

The Iowa frontier of a century ago is described in this picturesque paragraph in a "Challenge to Iowa" pamphlet published by the Cooperative Extension Service at Ames (1958):

Home was a log cabin; or perhaps a sod house. "No one was poor because no one was rich." Life depended upon the spinning wheel, the shears, the cards for wool, the few brass or iron kettles . . . and a hardy spirit.

In the year 1858 Iowa State College was established by the first legislature meeting in the new state capitol at Des Moines.

At such a time in the history of our state and nation, the Congregational Church of New Hampton came into being, the first church to be organized in the newly incorporated town.

Truman O. Douglass in his book "The Pilgrims of Iowa" had this to say about the beginning of our church:

New Hampton had among its pioneers the Gurley's and the Gardner's and J. H. Powers, not yet plural. It goes without

saying these people would organize a Congregational Church, preacher or no preacher. It was for the most part "no preacher" for a good many years. Rev. J. C. Strong came over from Bradford to assist in the organization and he gave them an occasional service, but the church was a "seed having life in itself."

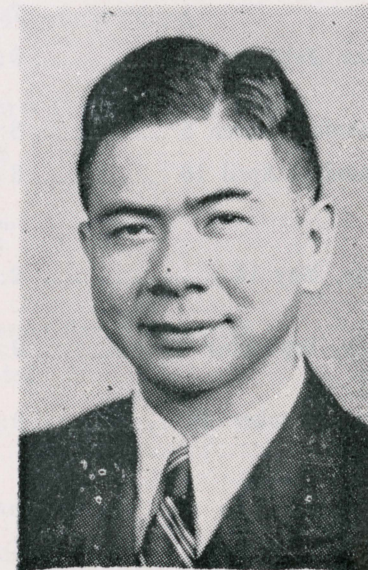
Someone has said, "The first one hundred years are the hardest." Yes, life in the frontier community was hard. In contrast, we find ourselves living in an economy where luxurious cars, refrigerators, television sets and other gadgets of modern civilization are available to the common man. With all of our advancements, including man's first successful experiment with satellites in outer space this past year, we still have certain age-old problems with us.

Yet unsolved are the problems of a divided world community, now locked in a nuclear arms race; the fact of hunger among 2/3 of the world's population while warehouses bulge with surplus foods in America; the problem of color and the continuing struggle of our nation to make the democratic dream a reality for all. These are some of the major problems facing us.

Our church, as a visible expression of the universal Church of Christ, has a four-fold task as we enter the second hundred years: Evangelism, or helping persons develop the capacity to love as Christ loved; Stewardship, or the consecration of time, talent and treasure in the service of the Kingdom of God; Missions, or the extension of ourselves in loving concern for all of God's children; and Social Action, or the leavening of the power structures of our society so that persons are served rather than exploited.

An age such as the one in which we live calls for sensitivity, vision, courage, faith and unconquerable good will on the part of those who follow in the Christian tradition. May we with God's help be responsive to the opportunities before us.

Rev. Tom Fukuyama



Rev. Tom Fukuyama

### Events of the Centennial Year

Sunday, February 16	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Supper
	7:30 p.m.	Rev. Alvin Boettcher
Sunday, February 23	9:30 a.m.	Rev. Cyril Hicks "Stand By the Church"
Wednesday, March 5	8:00 p.m.	Rev. David Arnold
Wednesday, April 16	6:30 p.m.	Centennial Dinner Dr. Judson E. Fiebiger "The Church, Its Heritage and Mission"
Sunday, May 18	2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Open House The Parsonage
Sunday, September 12	9:30 a.m.	Homecoming Rev. Francis Snyder
Sunday, October 26	9:30 a.m.	Reformation Day Rev. Donald Chapman

\* \* \* \* \*

Hold high the torch!  
 You did not light its glow—  
 'Twas given you by other hands, you know.  
 'Tis yours to keep it burning bright . . .  
 Yours to pass on when you no more need light;  
 For there are other feet that we must guide,  
 And other forms go marching by our side;  
 Their eyes are watching every smile and tear  
 And efforts which we think are not worthwhile,  
 Are sometimes just the very helps they need,  
 Actions to which their souls would give most heed  
 So that in turn they'll hold it high  
 And say, "I watched someone else carry it this way."

— Anonymous

### Chronology

- 1857 First Sabbath School Held in Log School House
- 1858 Church Organized and Named Pilgrim's Church
- 1862 First Pastor Called
- 1863 Name of Church Changed to First Congregational Church
- 1865 First Church Building Completed
- 1877 Church Achieved Self-Support
- 1883 25th Anniversary of the Church
- 1884 Membership Reached 100
- 1885 Christian Endeavor Society (Mission Band) Organized
- 1886 Second Church Building Dedicated
- 1892 Parsonage Built
- 1903 Interior of Church Remodeled
- 1919 Rev. W. D. Spiker Began 22-Year Pastorate
- 1920 German and English Congregational Churches United
- 1933 75th Anniversary of the Church
- 1943 85th Anniversary of the Church
- 1947 Merri-mix Fellowship Organized
- 1947 Church Basement Renovated and Redecorated
- 1948 Congregation Voted Approval of Merger of Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Churches
- 1948 90th Anniversary of the Church
- 1950-52 Sanctuary Remodeled
- 1955 Board of Christian Education Established
- 1958 Church Basement Renovated and Redecorated
- 1958 100th Anniversary of the Church

## History of the Church

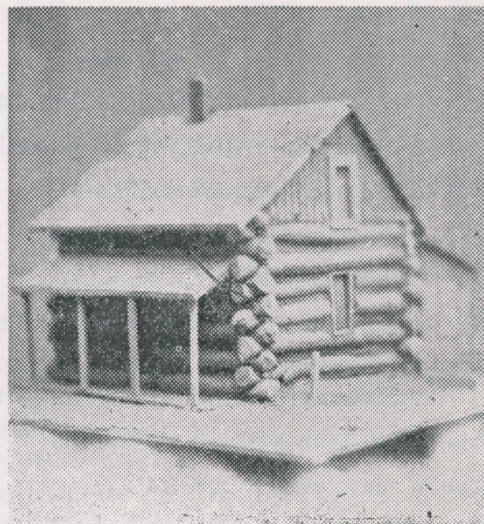
In the twenty-fifth anniversary book of the New Hampton Congregational Church, prepared in 1883, is found this description of the pioneer settlement:

The New Hampton of 1856-57 was not the New Hampton of today. Where now are business blocks, churches, schoolhouses, the homes of fond parents and happy, joyous children, then the wild prairie grass waved in its luxuriant beauty, trailed by the wild deer and prowling wolf, and the hiding place of the prairie hen.

The early settlers of New Hampton were devout pioneers, most of whom felt the need of religious services, and they soon began to hold a Sabbath School in a log building which did duty as store, post office, dwelling, school room and church. Harrison Gurley kept the store and lived in this building which stood where the J. C. Penney Company store is now located. Mrs. Isabella Gurley taught the first Sunday School and the first day school, beginning in 1857, the year that the town was incorporated.

Need for an organized church was felt, so at a meeting on the 8th of February, 1858, a committee was appointed "to take the preliminary steps to organize a Christian church that shall embrace all evangelical Christians." Of the five active members of the committee of seven " . . . G. Gardner was a Congregationalist, D. Edwards a United Brethren, D. Calkins a Free Will Baptist, and J. H. Powers had never been a member of any church, though raised a Presbyterian."

On Sunday morning, February 14, the church was organized at the log school house with the Rev. J. C. Strong, pastor of the Bradford Congregational Church, to assist in the services. The following were admitted as charter members: Gideon Gardner, Naomi Gardner, Harrison Gurley, Isabella Gurley, James D. Colt, Amelia Colt, Jason Morton and J. H. Powers.



Replica of the Log School House

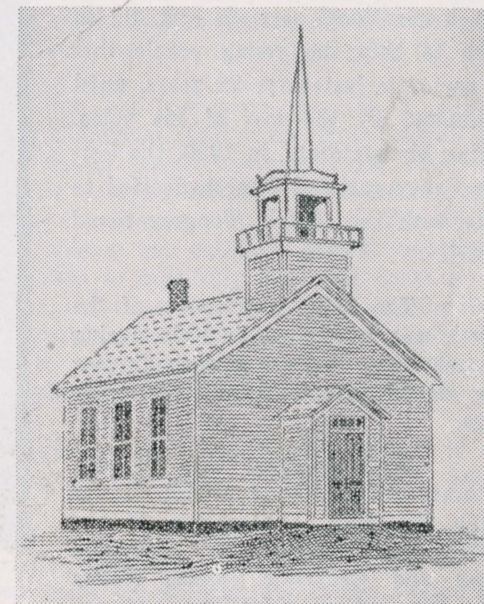
Only occasionally did the newly organized congregation have the benefit of a minister in their services until the Rev. Thomas Skinner became their first pastor in 1862, holding services in the school house on the corner where the Baptist Church now stands. During his pastorate the building of a church was started, although it was not completed until 1865, and seated in 1866.

Pioneer zeal and devotion are shown in the fact that Mr. Skinner preached at Fayette also, riding back and forth between these two charges, and laboring from one to three days every week on the church building, as well as contributing \$50 from his meager salary to the building costs. The total cost of \$1,570 made many sacrifices necessary. Two hundred dollars was received from the Congregational Union in Boston, Massachusetts, toward this amount.

Rev. Harvey Adams, one of the "Iowa Band" from Andover Seminary in Massachusetts, was the second pastor. The marriage of his daughter, Emma, to Dr. Amos Babcock was the first to be performed in this church.

The third minister, Rev. Thomas Bayne, had unusual ability and was a powerful preacher. Rev. J. M. Ridlington of the Methodist church, who served in 1876, was the first minister sustained by the church without the aid of the Home Missionary Society. During the time Rev. C. A. Marshall served a three-year pastorate at New Hampton, he also served a year as pastor of the Congregational Church in Lawler, preaching there in the afternoon.

Rev. Marshall was followed by Rev. John Merriam, Rev. E. C. Boulton, and Rev. W. E. DeReimer, a returned missionary from Ceylon. Mrs. DeReimer started a Christian Endeavor Society among the children. This group paid for the first forty loads of sand for the new church which was now materializing. The present building was erected in 1885 at a cost of \$7,000, and dedicated for service in 1886.



The First Church Building

Rev. Charles Bruce, Rev. Israel Brown and Rev. J. W. Horner served between 1886 and 1893. A comfortable parsonage was erected in 1892, during the pastorate of Rev. Horner.

Rev. George Hanscom, Rev. W. A. Pottle and Rev. J. L. Blanchard served the people during the next ten years. Through the energy of Rev. Blanchard, the original plan for the church was completed in 1903, at an additional cost of \$1,200. The entrance was changed from the center to the corner beneath the tower. The interior of the church was also remodeled, and the seating was arranged in three sections.

Rev. C. R. Shatto and Rev. J. A. Eaken were followed by Rev. Arthur Fraser, Rev. Joseph Toms, Rev. W. A. Cave and Rev. B. E. Marsh, who gave six years of faithful and efficient service.

Rev. W. D. Spiker preached such inspirational sermons and did so much to help the young people that his pastorate lasted for 22 years, until terminated by the loss of his voice. During his pastorate, in 1920, the German Congregational Church decided to unite with the First Congregational Church.

The 85th Anniversary of the church was celebrated in 1943 during the pastorate of Rev. Francis Snyder who served conscientiously for three years.

Next followed the five-year pastorate of Rev. David Arnold, during which the 90th Anniversary of the church was observed. A Hammond Organ and electronic chimes system were installed at this time and extensive improvements made in the basement, including mar-flex flooring and fluorescent lighting. Not only did Rev. Arnold serve the New Hampton church well, but he also served Ionia, Bassett and Waucoma at various intervals on a part-time basis.

At a Congregational Meeting held during his pastorate, on September 5, 1948, the congregation approved the merger of the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed denominations by a vote of 46 For and 7 Against.



Rev. W. D. Spiker

The pastorate of Rev. Benjamin Schwab found improvements being made to the sanctuary in the form of new lights and interior siding, as well as improvements on the parsonage. Mrs. Schwab started the first Junior Choir.

Much interest in the life of the church was expressed during the four-year pastorate of Rev. Donald Chapman, who was a son-in-law of Rev. and Mrs. Arnold. New oak flooring was installed in the upstairs Sunday School room and sanctuary, as well as new pews.

For several months Bruce Herman served as interim pastor, while attending Luther College at Decorah, and we are pleased to note he is now studying for the ministry.

Our present minister, Rev. Tom Fukuyama, is beginning his third year with us. His sincerity of purpose, endless energy and enthusiasm have accomplished much, and are an inspiration to all. Without slighting his pastoral duties, he has given much time to community affairs and to the work of the denomination both on the association and the state level.

As to the ministers of the last few years, Rev. B. T. Schwab passed away January 4, 1957, at Claremont, California. Mrs. Schwab still lives at Claremont. Mrs. W. D. Spiker passed away in June, 1947, and Rev. Spiker in October, 1954, at St. Joseph's Hospital in New Hampton.

All organizations of the church are very active. The Sunday School continues to grow and to inspire our children. Special mention at this point is due several who worked so faithfully for many years in the Sunday School — G. M. Bigelow as Treasurer, Frank Noble as Secretary, H. W. Gardner and Arthur Boettcher as Superintendents. Under Mr. Gardner's leadership the giving to missionary projects was stressed, with donations of \$80 to \$100 being given by the Sunday School for this purpose each year.

Our Sunday School cooperates with the Sunday School of the Methodist Church in sponsoring a successful Vacation Bible School each summer.

While at times not so active, for over 20 years the Pilgrim Fellowship (formerly the Christian Endeavor) has done much for the youth of the church. At present there are 25 students in the Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship groups.

Weekday Religious Education Classes for high school students meet for an hour on Wednesday afternoons during the school year under the direction of the pastor.

In 1947 a young adult group known as the Merri-mix Fellowship was organized for the purpose of Christian fellowship. This group has assisted financially in many church projects as well.

In 1955 a Board of Christian Education was formed to plan and guide the work of Christian education in the church.

The Ladies' Aid and Women's Missionary Society which gave invaluable aid from the time of their organization are now a combined group known as the Women's Fellowship.

Our Choir is a wonderful asset to the church, and we are indeed grateful for their music. Many shared in the Robe Fund 15 years ago to uniform the choir. Now we are again privileged to see them in new robes, these provided by memorial funds. The Junior Choir is active again.

Many of the church appointments have been made possible through gifts to memorial funds. These are listed in the Memorial Book in the rear of the sanctuary.

The affairs of the church are in good order. All who serve on the various boards and committees of the church are deserving of a word of thanks for their time and effort spent to uphold the standing and welfare of our church in its service to the community.

The older members of the church are nearly all gone. We do pause in reverence and sincere thanks for the accomplishments and inspiration of these faithful workers who did so much for our church. Their descendants with the help of many new families who have joined the congregation through the years are carrying on the work of the First Congregational Church of New Hampton with enthusiasm and with devotion to the Spirit of the Master.

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"Make no little plans, they have no magic to stir men's blood, and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans, aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing asserting itself with growing intensity." — Hudson Burnham.

MINISTERS

Thomas N. Skinner .....	1862-1864
Harvey Adams .....	1866-1870
Thomas Bayne .....	1871-1876
J. M. Ridlington .....	1876
C. A. Marshall .....	1877-1880
John Meriam .....	1881
E. C. Moulton .....	1882-1884
W. E. DeReimer .....	1884-1885
Charles R. Bruce .....	1886-1887
Israel Brown .....	1888-1890
J. W. Horner .....	1891-1893
George L. Hanscom .....	1893-1897
W. A. Pottle .....	1897-1902
J. L. Blanchard .....	1902-1904
Charles R. Shatto .....	1904-1906
J. A. Eaken .....	1906-1908
Arthur Fraser .....	1909
Joseph Toms .....	1909-1910
W. A. Cave .....	1910-1912
Burton E. Marsh .....	1912-1918
W. D. Spiker .....	1919-1941
Francis C. Snyder .....	1941-1944
David Arnold .....	1944-1949
Benjamin T. Schwab .....	1949-1951
Donald Chapman .....	1951-1955
Bruce Herman .....	1955
Tom Fukuyama .....	1956-

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MEMBERS WHO ENTERED FULL-TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Charles Marshall .....	Minister
Hugh Heath .....	Baptist Minister
Alvin Boettcher .....	Congregational Minister
Pastor, First Congregational Church, Emmetsburg, Iowa	
Miss Nellie Arnott .....	Missionary
American Board of Commissioners, Portuguese West Africa	
Seven-Year Term	

NOTES

"Whereas, in the language of John Wesley, 'Slavery is the sum of all villainies,' and, whereas, it is a notorious fact, that not only individual Christians, but Churches, do tolerate and practice it; therefore, Resolved, That we will not fellowship any person who advocates the system of American Slavery.

Resolved, That we will not fellowship any individual that traffics in, or makes use of, except for mechanical, medicinal or sacramental purposes, any spiritous or alcoholic liquors." — Resolution passed in 1858.

"Voted that a committee of three be chosen to consider that portion of the clerk's report which relates to disorderly members." — November 27, 1869.

"From Nov. 18 to Dec. 9, a series of revival services were held. Rev. L. L. Hanscom of Redwood Falls, Minn., father of our pastor, had charge of the preaching services . . . The Methodist, Baptist and German Congregational churches joined with us in the services. Large numbers attended, the church was revived, many indifferent souls were awakened, and a goodly number of hopeful conversions resulted." — 1894.

"A Church Supper . . . will be served Wednesday at 6:30 p. m. by the Ladies Aid Society. The price is 35c a plate. . . " — 1943.

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THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS

FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS

Miss Bessie Porter .....	1885	Mrs. Alma Struble .....	1899
Mrs. Gertrude Putney .....	1889	Miss Ada Wiedman .....	1899
Fred Christoph .....	1893	Mrs. Kazzie Simmons .....	1901
Mrs. Adolph Boettcher .....	1895*	Mrs. Emil Oveson .....	1903
Fred Robrock .....	1895	Mrs. Hattie Budweg .....	1904
Mrs. Maude Glazier .....	1897	Mrs. Iva Gray Vandenberg	1904
Emil Boos .....	1898*	Bartley Blatti .....	1907*
Mrs. Ella Smith .....	1898*	Willam Wahl .....	1907*

\* These are approximate dates, since records of the German Congregational Church were lost. If any name has been omitted from the list, it is due to incomplete records.

1958 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Tom Fukuyama, B. D., Minister

Clerk .....	A. C. Olson
Financial Secretary .....	Mrs. Kenneth Hibbs
Church Treasurer .....	Gerald Bailey
Benevolence Treasurer .....	Mrs. Otto Heiselman
Organist .....	Mrs. Everett Thorbrogger
Choir Director .....	Mrs. Delbert Bergman

DEACONS:

- Robert Rigler, Chairman
- Delbert Bergman
- Clyde Blunt
- Veryl Kenyon
- William Wahl
- Glenn Wilkins

DEACONESSES:

- Mrs. Dale Hutcheson, Chairman
- Mrs. Delbert Bergman
- Mrs. Ed Griffin
- Mrs. Boyd E. Kelsey
- Mrs. Glenn Moetsch
- Mrs. Glenn Wilkins

TRUSTEES:

- Kenneth Hibbs, Chairman
- Arthur Boettcher
- Felton Cleveland
- Mrs. Marcella Kammeyer
- Mrs. Harry Perry
- Donald Wallace

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- Richard Natvig, Chairman
- Mrs. Dan O. Donovan
- Mrs. Dale Hutcheson
- Mrs. Jack Jones
- Mrs. Robert Rigler
- Mrs. Peter Willadsen, Sr.

MUSIC COMMITTEE:

- Mrs. Gerald Bailey
- Mrs. Delbert Bergman
- Mrs. Everett Thorbrogger

USHERING COMMITTEE:

- Delbert Bergman
- William Wahl
- Everett Thorbrogger

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

- Oscar Gæger
- Donald Wallace

HISTORIAN:

- Mrs. Peter Willadsen, Sr.

CUSTODIANS

- Mrs. Ed Linkemeyer
- Don Loane

THE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent .....	Ray Calhoun
Secretary-Treasurer .....	Mrs. Donald Wallace
Cradle Roll Superintendent .....	Mrs. J. P. Rigler
Nursery Chairman .....	Mrs. Harry Cutsforth
Acolyte Chairman .....	Mrs. Marjorie Woodford

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Women's Fellowship .....	Mrs. Glenn Wilkins, President
Merri-Mix Fellowship .....	Glenn Wilkins, President
Junior Pilgrim Fellowship .....	Ray Secrist, President
Advisor .....	Miss Sue Kauzlarich
Senior Pilgrim Fellowship .....	Bob McCrillis, President
Advisor .....	Rev. Tom Fukuyama



CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Peter Willadsen, Sr., Chairman

Delbert Bergman  
Arthur Boettcher  
Veryl Kenyon

A. C. Olson  
Glenn Wilkins  
Mrs. Marjorie Woodford



THE SANCTUARY

— Autographs —

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

— Autographs —

TRIBUNE-ECONOMIST—NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

