

History of these three Methodist Churches
Strawn Methodist Church
Mt. Palatine Congregational Church
McNabb United Methodist Church

McNabb United Methodist Church

The McNabb Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in November 1911 by members of the Strawn Methodist Church and the Mt. Palatine Congregational Church. The precipitating event was the bequest of \$10,000 by Harley Cooper, of Washington, D.C., for a Methodist Church in McNabb.

Harley Cooper was born in 1834 and came to the Clear Creek community with his parents in 1842. Harley farmed 205 acres immediately northwest of McNabb (what was the Donald Nelson farm in modern times) until he and his sister moved to Washington D.C. just before McNabb was created. He died February 26, 1911.

Until the new church was finished the congregation met in the Emmaus Lutheran Church (1911-1912) and the hall above the Zeigler store (1913-1918).

Prior to 1911 Methodists had been going to the Strawn Methodist Church about three miles west of McNabb. It was a 25' x 35' frame church built by Jeremiah Strawn on his farm about 1845. He donated it to the Methodists in 1856. No doubt this church at first was served by the circuit riding preachers of the early days. Later, pastors from the Magnolia and Granville circuits served the church. The Strawn Church was finally disbanded about 1917 and the remaining congregation joined the McNabb Church bringing some of its furnishings with them: the pulpit, Bible, the organ and the pews.

The Congregationalists of the area built a large church with seating for 300 in Mt. Palatine in 1869. It was a landmark for fifty years and was the center for many large community gatherings as well as a meeting place for worship. It was served at first by resident pastors and later by those of the Congregational Church of Tonica. Due to deaths and removals, the church membership in 1918 had become so small that no services were held. The following year the church withdrew from the Fox River Association. The remaining congregation joined the McNabb Methodist Episcopal Church and brought the main furnishings with them: the communion service and linens, the hymnals and church dishes.

The women's group was also a merger of the Strawn Methodist women and the Pt. Palatine Congregational women. Until 1940 the women's group was known as the M.E. Ladies Aid. Then until 1968 it was known as the Woman's Society of Christian Service, then Women's Society of Christian Service. Since 1972 it has been the McNabb United Methodist Women.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized in 1939 and McNabb United Methodist Men was organized in 1953 to give the same structure to the men's volunteer activities as the women's activities had.

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church South joined to form The Methodist Church. As a result of this union, the official title of the church was changed from McNabb Methodist Episcopal Church to the McNabb Methodist Church.

It remained the McNabb Methodist Church until 1968, when the Evangelical United Brethren Churches and The Methodist Churches united to become The United Methodist Church. On January 1, 1969, the church became the McNabb United Methodist Church.