



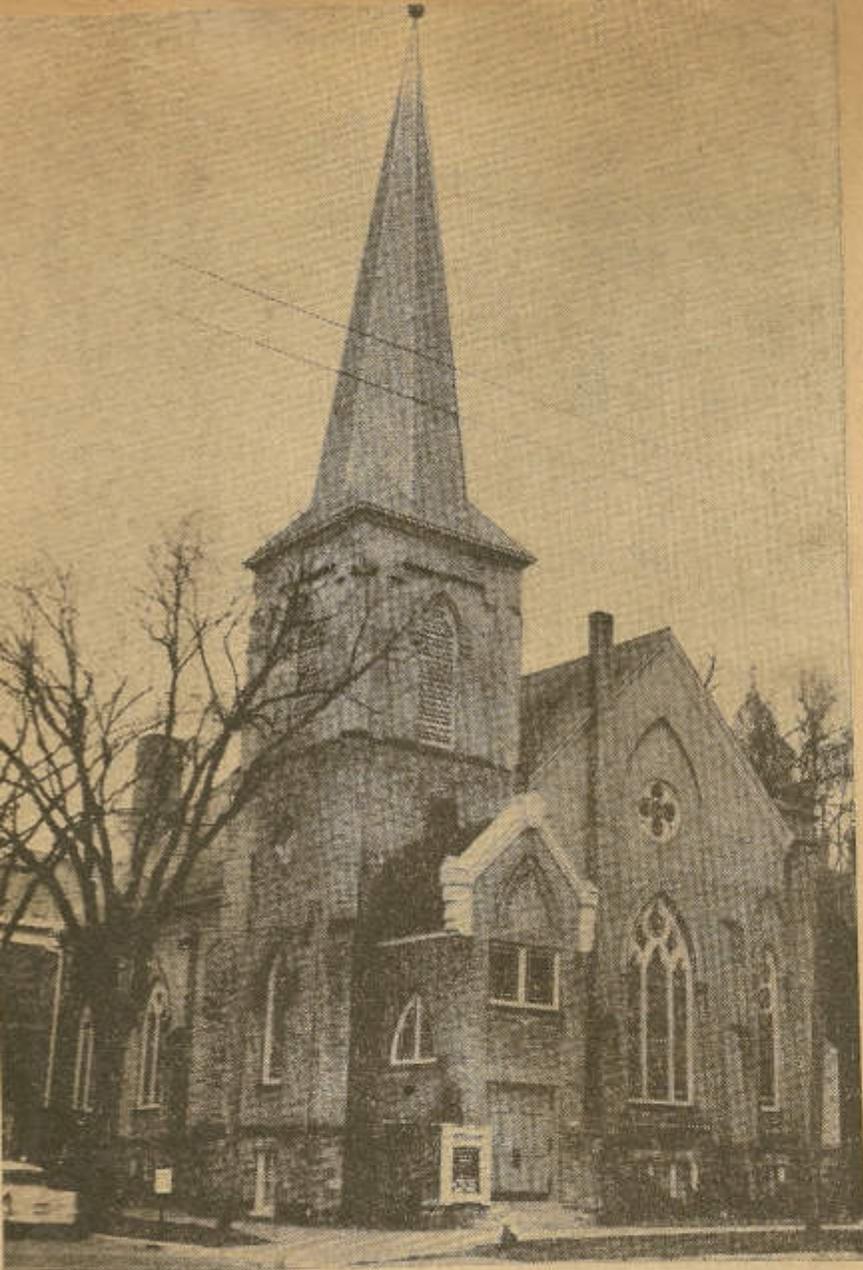
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
IONIA, MICHIGAN

\*\*\*This afternoon at 3:00 p.m. we will conduct our Dedication Service. This is the moment that each one of us has been waiting for. Some have dreamed of this precious occasion for many years, while others who are new to the church family have expressed themselves that this is what they would like to have done.

This is not an ordinary service. It will be one of the mountain-top experiences in the history of our church. This service will provide an opportunity for each one of us to return thanks unto God, for all His goodness and mercy to us. It will provide the opportunity for each one of us to rededicate our entire lives as well as the facilities of this building to the sacred use of furthering the Kingdom of God.

To lead us in this great experience, will be the Dr. R. W. Weigum, Field Counselor: Council on Missionary Cooperation.

*Re-dedicating  
Dedication*



**DEDICATION SERVICE** — Friends and members of the congregation of the First Baptist church of Ionia plan on observance Sunday at 3:00 p. m. It will commemorate the redecoration and improvements made to the above church located at the corner of Main and Kidd streets. (Daily Sentinel-Standard Photo.)

material used and the harmony of colors.

Work on the outside of the church included the painting and repairing of window frames. On the inside of the church the walls and ceiling of the auditorium and foyer, hall and entrance have been washed and given two coats of paint of a soft pink hue. Floors have also been cleaned and varnished. The foyer floor, aisles and pulpit platform have been completely covered with new carpeting.

Other work includes new heavy commercial linoleum on the entrance stairway and hall in colors harmonizing with those of the auditorium decorations.

New doors have also been placed at the front entrance which are of heavy oak and of a design corresponding to the church windows.

Work has also been extended to the balcony where new carpeting has been laid in the aisles and pew cushions have been recovered.

Officials said many have given money as a memorial for relatives which has been used to purchase new folding chairs that have been placed in the choir loft and foyer.

*and for doors and carpeting, etc.*

### Special Music Has Been Arranged for The Baptist Church

Officials for the dedication service Sunday at the First Baptist church of Ionia have arranged for special music under the direction of Miss Ethel Crispin.

Another special feature of the program will be Robert Whitesides. A former member of the Ionia church, he is now of Grand Haven and will be guest soloist.

The special service Sunday to commemorate the redecoration and improvements of the church during the past year will begin at 3 p.m.

Present pastor of the church is the Rev. Alfred P. Miller.

*Chair chairs given by Crispin family in honor of Ethel Crispin - organist for over 50 years.*

*Chairs and desks in foyer given by Craft and Fate boys - in memory of their mothers - to ccw*

*Nov. 2, 1958*

## Dedicate Improvements At 1st Baptist Church

*Nov. 2, '58*

A dedication service commemorating the redecoration and improvements during the past several months is set for the First Baptist church in Ionia Sunday at 3 p.m.

The Ionia church is said to have been the first church organized in Ionia county and Westert. Michigan.

The first settlers met to form the organization June 24, 1834 and the charter members were Mr and Mrs Samuel Dexter, Mr and Mrs Erastus Yeomans and Mr and Mrs Alfred Cornell.

The land upon which the building now stands was given to the church by Samuel T. Dexter, a direct descendant of Roger Williams who founded the first Baptist church in America.

Work on the present building was started in 1868 and it was dedicated January 7, 1872 with the Rev. Levi Parmaly as pastor.

For the remodeling dedication service Sunday the church officials have obtained Dr. Raymond D. Weigun, field counselor on missionary cooperation of the Michigan Baptist convention.

The general public as well as members of the congregation are invited to attend the commemoration services Sunday.

Church officials said members of the congregation are indebted to Mrs H. H. Darling, chairman

of the board of trustees, for seeing the long project through to its end. She personally supervised all of the work, through a period of many weeks. She used excellent judgment, they said, in the quality of

# Plan Dedication Service At First Baptist Church Here

Co. News.  
Oct. 30  
1958

A dedication service commemorating the redecorating and improvements during the past several months will be held at the First Baptist Church, Sunday, November 2, at 5:30 p.m.

The outside trim has been painted and windows repaired. Inside of the church a great improvement has been made. The walls and ceiling of the auditorium and foyer, hall and entrance have been washed and given two coats of paint of a soft pink hue. Floors have been cleaned and varnished.

The foyer floor has been completely covered with new carpeting, as have aisles and pulpit platform.

On the entrance stairway and hall has been laid a heavy commercial linoleum in colors harmonizing with those of the auditorium decorating.

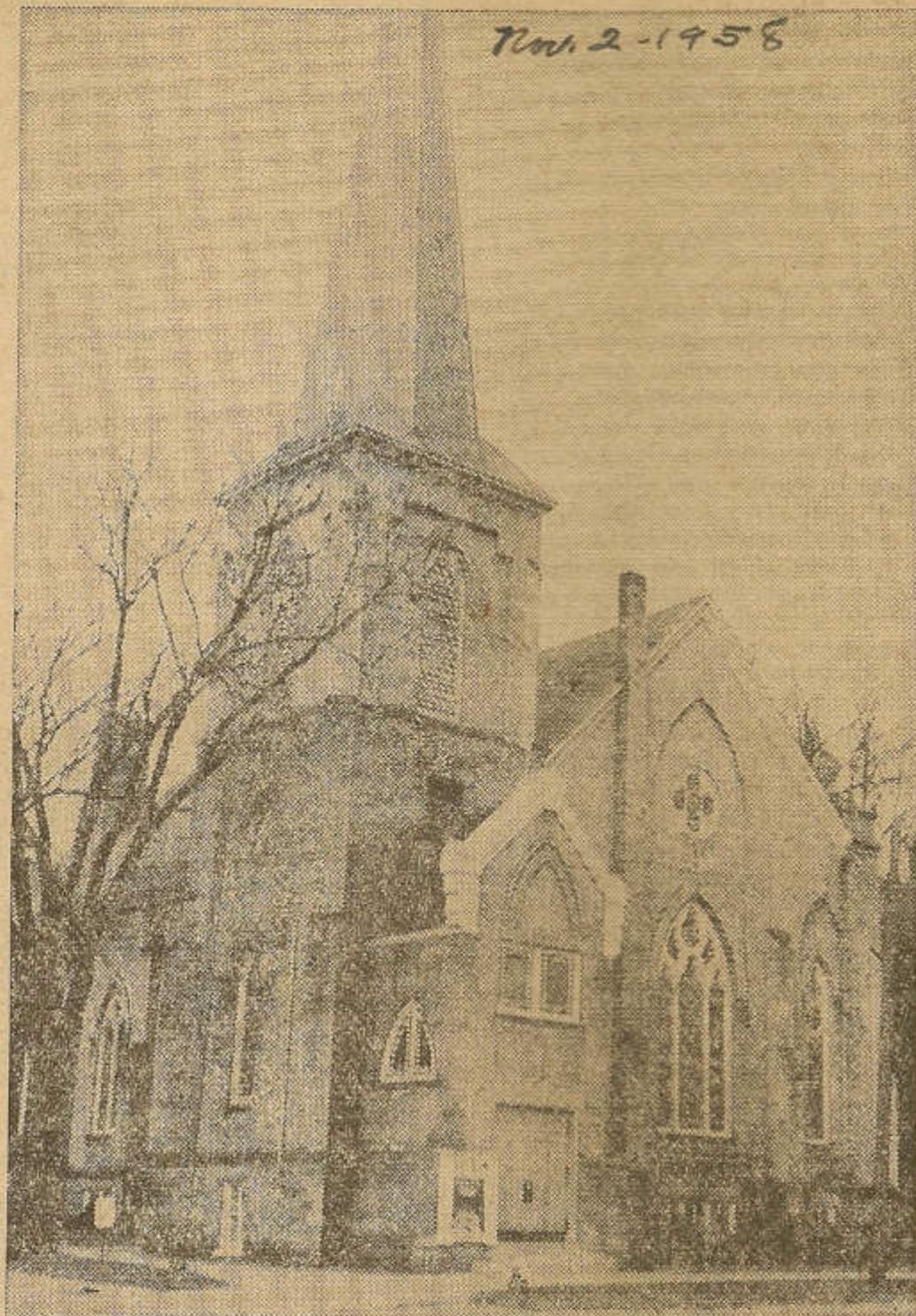
New doors at the front entrance, much needed and of heavy oak, are of a design corresponding to the church windows.

Carpeting has also been laid in balcony aisles and pew cushions there have been recovered.

New folding chairs have been placed in choir loft and foyer, many have given money toward this project as a memorial for relatives.

For all of these improvements the church is greatly indebted to Mrs. H. H. Darling, chairman of the Board of Trustees. She has personally supervised all of this work, through a period of many weeks of untiring effort to see that the work was well done. Excellent judgement has also been shown in the quality of material used and the harmony of colors. Others have greatly assisted in this project by painting, cleaning, work on the pew cushions, and various other ways.

The First Baptist Church of Ionia was the first church organization in Ionia County and western Michigan. The first settlers met to form this organization on June 24, 1834. The charter members were:



Mr and Mrs Samuel Dexter, Mr and Mrs Erastus Yeomans, and Mr and Mrs Alfred Cornell. The land upon which the building now stands was given to the Church by Samuel T. Dexter, a direct descendent of Roger Williams, who founded the first Baptist Church in America. Work on the present building was started in 1868 and was dedicated January 7, 1872, with Rev. Levi Parmaly as pastor.

The main speaker for the dedication service will be Dr. Raymond D. Weigum, Field Counselor of Missionary Cooperation for the Michigan Baptist Convention of Lansing. Guest soloist will be a former member, Mr Robert Whitesides of Grand Haven, Michigan. Present pastor is Rev. Alfred P. Miller.

A cordial invitation is extended to all friends to attend this dedication service.

## Baptist Church Has A Dedication of Its Recent Remodeling

Dedication of the newly remodel-  
ed First Baptist church of Ionia  
was held November 2. The Rev.  
Alfred E. Miller, pastor, gave the  
call to worship and the invocation,  
following the choral response. He  
introduced the guests' speakers,  
Stanely Powell of the board of dea-  
cons, who welcomed the guests and  
commented on the work done to  
the church. He related how much  
the congregation was indebted to  
members who carried the respon-  
sibility of the redecorating program  
to completion and to those in whose  
memory contributions were re-  
ceived.

The Rev. Wilfred G. Sawyer of  
the First Presbyterian church of  
Ionia, represented the ministerial  
association.

The Rev. Charles G. Morse of  
Ypsilanti, instrumental in the  
building of over 100 churches,  
spoke on the building of churches.

The Rev. Don Williams of Grand  
Rapids, gave the Scripture read-  
ing and Dr. R. W. Weigum, field  
counselor on missionary coopera-  
tion of the Michigan Baptist con-  
vention, delivered the dedication  
sermon.

A special solo "Bless This House"  
was sung by Robert Whitesides.  
The choir, under the direction of  
Miss Ethel Crispin, sang "I Will  
Extol Thee".

Many baskets of flowers were  
sent from business firms, other  
churches and friends of the con-  
gregation to commemorate the ded-  
ication.

The prayer of dedication was  
given by the Rev. Frank Gillet of  
Belding First Baptist church.

Guests attending the dedication  
service from away were Mr and  
Mrs Earl Harrison of Lansing, Mr  
and Mrs Varley Rabbers of Kala-  
mazoo, Mr and Mrs Robert White-  
sides and family of Grand Haven,  
Mr and Mrs Norman Gustafson and  
Mr and Mrs Roy Martin of Grand  
Rapids, the Rev. and Mrs C. G.  
Morse and Dr. R. W. Weigum of  
Ypsilanti, and Mr and Mrs Russel  
Curtis of Portland.

## Dedication Service at Ionia First Baptist Church

*Mich. Baptist Dec-1958*

The Ionia County News reports this  
Dedication held on November 2. Rev.  
Alfred P. Miller is pastor, assisted by  
a volunteer staff of five. The Chair-  
man of the Board of Trustees is Mrs.  
H. H. Darling. Here is a comment by  
one of the members. "It has not been  
an easy project—but our wonderful  
Mrs. Darling supervised it and saw it  
through. Our church is beautiful. Come  
and see it." Here are some notes from  
the C-N story.

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