

DEXTER CHURCH TO BE REOPENED
Many Improvements Made by Universalist Society
Half Century of Service

First Committee Organized in 1841 to Build a Church Which Has Been in Continuous
Service Since—Interior Re-decorated and New Windows of Stained Glass Secured

Dexter, Jan. 23.—After receiving a thorough overhauling and re-decoration of the interior, the Universalist church of this village, in which have been held services for over half a century, will again be opened to the public.

In the fall of 1841 there was organized in this village the following committee, who proposed to build a church to be known as the First Universalist church of Dexter: Thomas Broadbent, John Maynard, Solan Stone, David Baker, F. W. Winn, Eleazer Baker, as trustees; N. LaSalle, clerk; John B. Kimball, treasurer; John T. Wood, collector. The church was built on the corner of Kirby and Brown streets.

In the year 1898 it was remodeled and re-dedicated. Up to that time 21 ministers had occupied the pulpit for terms of from six months to three years, with the exception of Rev. J.[John] H. Stewart, who occupied the pulpit for 18 years. In 1877 Rev. E. B. Coper was secured and filled the pulpit only two Sundays when he was taken sick with diphtheria and died. Rev. H.[Henry] L. Hayward was the first minister of the church. Of the officers who first organized for the building of the church, not one is now alive.

On July 13, 1908, the church was closed to make necessary repairs and since that time the inside has been thoroughly rebuilt, new pews installed, a new carpet put on the floor and on the north side of the church a sanctuary has been built, which adds much to the appearance of the building. The old glass windows have been replaced by beautiful stained glass windows in memorial of dead members as follows: on the sides—Herman F. and Silverial Easterly Wood, John T. and Oreilla P. Wood, Henry and Betsey Perry and Joseph Perry, Thomas and Esther Broadbent, Henry and Laura Murphy, Alfred T. and Chloe Dorchester in the sanctuary—George H. Rounds and Tenie C. Rounds, F. W. and Harriet Winn and William H. Winn. The two front windows are given by the Y.P.C.U. and by E. S. Clark of this place.

The church will be opened tomorrow afternoon at 3, when services will be conducted by Rev. Moses H. Harris of Watertown, the present minister, who has occupied the pulpit since 1903.

The outside of the church is to be improved by painting, etc., after which it will be re-dedicated some time in the early summer.

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