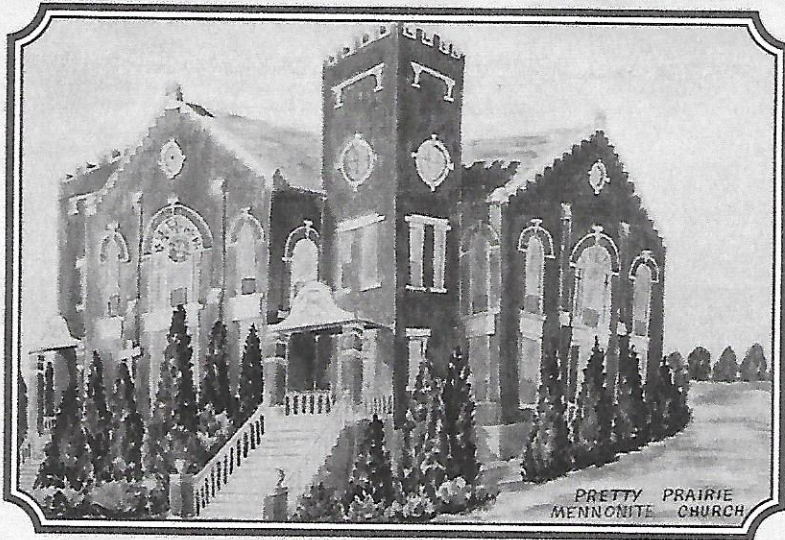


Building Our Church...

Joanna gave me this 2016



PRETTY PRAIRIE
MENNONITE CHURCH

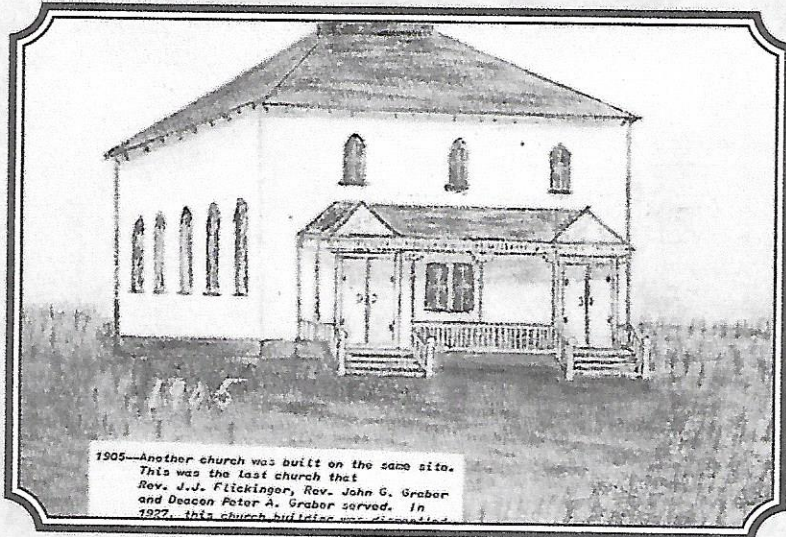
1924

The Congregation And Its Building

In 1874 our forbearers left Russia for religious freedom. The early settlers came to South Dakota and to McPherson County.

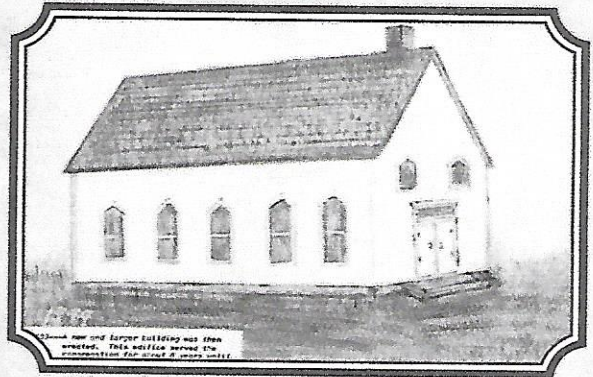
As early as 1883 they began coming to Reno County Kansas, where they found the community of Pretty Prairie. In 1884 they bought nine sections of land at \$6 and \$7 an acre. Eight families moved here soon after. The early congregation met in the homes of Andrew Schwartz and Jacob B. Graber. October 10, they had an organizational meeting and elected J.J. Flickinger by lot.

In the fall of 1885, a store was bought for \$80 in Cheney and moved to the present site as the first church building. Four years later, with a membership of 212, a new building was built. A tornado destroyed this building April 22, 1897, and a new building was built. On May 5, 1905 the building was destroyed by a mysterious fire. A new building was built, that served 96 families with 270 members. On February 6, 1927 the last service was held in this building, which was then dismantled and a new brick building was built. On February 5, 1928 the brick building was dedicated. The educational wings were added in 1967.



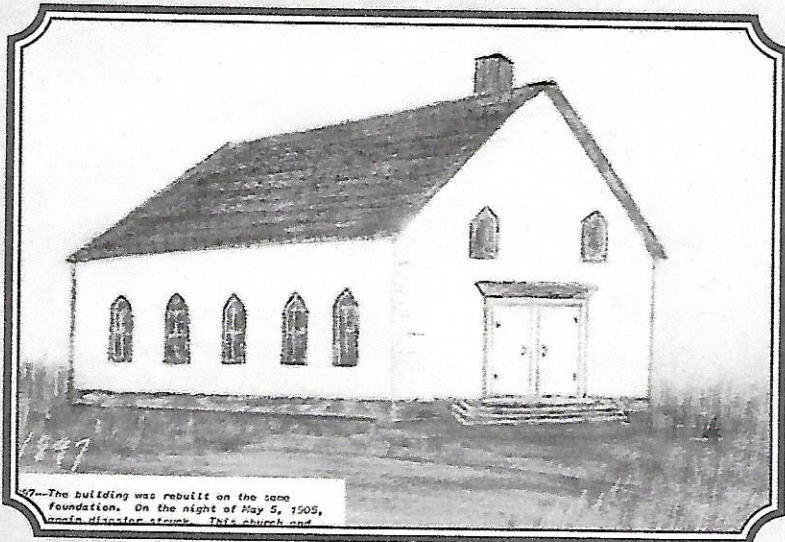
1905—Another church was built on the same site. This was the last church that Rev. J.J. Flickinger, Rev. John G. Graber and Deacon Peter A. Graber served. In 1927, this church building was dismantled.

1905



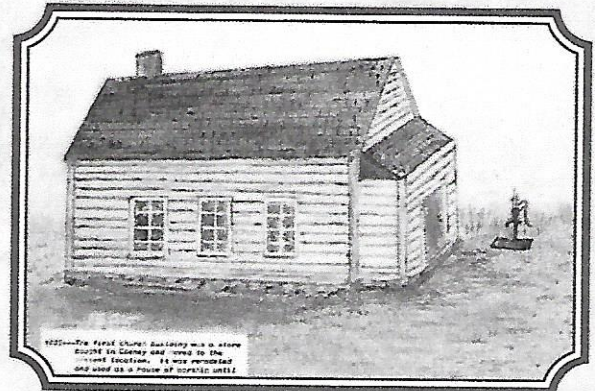
This was the first and largest building ever erected. This edifice served the congregation for about 20 years.

1889



The building was rebuilt on the same foundation. On the night of May 5, 1905, a mysterious fire destroyed this church and

1897



The first church building was a store bought in Cheney and used in the present location. It was dismantled and used as a house of worship until

1885