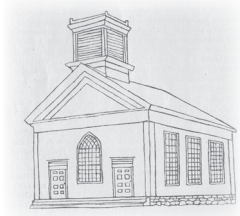


The History of Verona First Presbyterian Church



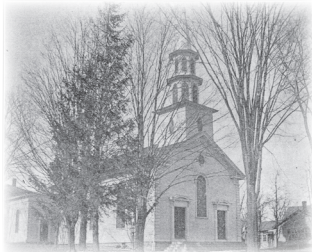
1803

On the 5th day of August, 1803, Rev. Peter Fish and Rev. Timothy M. Cooley, missionaries, one a Presbyterian and the other a Congregationalist, met with a number of professing Christians to take steps for the formation of a Christian Church. Two days later a Christian church was solemnly organized. The inhabitants of Verona held a meeting the 10th day of November 1806, forming a society known as the First Religious Congregationalist Society in the Town of Verona. Rev. Israel Brainerd was installed as pastor September 23rd, 1807. A building was erected a half mile west of Blackmans Corners around 1814.

In 1818 the society's connection with the Oneida Congregationalist Association was dissolved and then united with the Oneida Presbytery. In 1844, after the dissolution of the society, the church building was sold to the Methodist society of New London, torn down and removed to that place where it was re-erected. Then it was used for religious services until about 1887, when it was sold and moved to the south bank of the canal, where it now stands as a barn.



2003



1829

On the 6th day of January, 1829, the Second Congregational Society in the town of Verona was formed. On February 11th, 1830 the request of the members wishing to form this Second Congregational Church was granted and the church, having been built by Mr. Dodge of Verona, thus commenced and the first pastor, Rev. Luther Myrick was called on September 18, 1830. A parsonage was purchased in 1851. In 1866 the church was remodeled and a chapel was built. A pipe organ was purchased in 1873. In 1881, on December 5 it was unanimously decided that the society would adopt to be governed by the constitution, plan of government, discipline and confession of faith of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. And in 1891 the name was changed to the First Presbyterian Church of Verona.

Notable Dates:

1903, the Centennial celebration was held.

1938, 135th founding of parent church was held.

1953, Verona First celebrated its 150th anniversary

1954, the old manse was sold.

1956, the Conn electric organ was installed.

1958, chimes were donated by Mrs. Angell.

1964, Membership reached a modern day high of 200 members.

1971, Ann Oleynich - first woman ordained to Session.

1980's, Cochran Memorial and Verona First churches yoked.

1990's, Mt. Vernon and Verona First churches yoked.

1993, 190th Anniversary held.

1996 - 2002, Fundraising and building of the Fellowship Hall and Christian Education wing.

2003, Bicentennial Celebration was held on August 3rd.

2006, Began ministry with Vernon and Cochran Memorial Churches.



2015