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3 FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Faith United Methodist Church was established by German Evangelicals in 1855. This building, their third, was designed by Gilbert M. Turnbull and David E. Postle and erected in 1892-93. The facade of red pressed brick, relieved by brownstone trim, rests upon rough boulders. The round arches, foliated capitals on short columns, square tower with a pyramid roof, and gabled entrance are characteristic of the ROMANESQUE REVIVAL. About a third of the construction cost was donated by Mayor Grote.

The German presence in Elgin became less noticeable in the second and third generation. This church began holding Sunday evening services in English in 1906 to keep younger members from drifting to other denominations.

The educational unit was added in 1923, and included a gymnasium of regulation size for basketball games. In 1953, the entire first floor and basement were remodeled, eliminating the gymnasium, and creating a large meeting room and Sunday School classrooms. In 1975, the classrooms on the second and third floors were remodeled.

The sanctuary was remodeled in 1923, and again in 1963, changing the contour of the balcony which had been Romanesque in design.