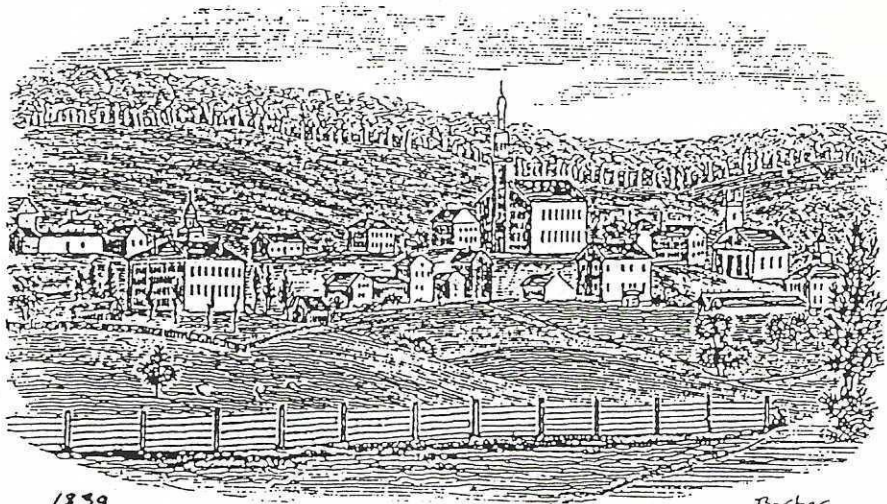


*First Church of Monson*



1839

Barber

225<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

1762~1987

## HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

- 1760 April 25 The westerly part of the Town of Brimfield was set aside as the Town of Monson.
- 1760 August The first religious service held in Monson.
- 1762 May 13 Ebenezer Merrick, Thomas Stebbins and James Merrick, appointed a Committee to raise funds for erection of a "Meeting House".
- 1762 June 23 The Church was organized with twenty-four members.
- 1800 Sept. 1 William Norcross, Nathan Smith, Abel Goodell, Israel Bennett, and Abner Brown appointed to make plans for the second church edifice.
- 1803 Nov. 16 Second Meeting House dedicated. The building cost \$3000.00.
- 1803 Bell given by Abel Goodell.
- 1810 The first Foreign Missionary collection taken. It amounted to \$9.00.
- 1819 April 21 A Sunday School was organized. It was first conducted as an experiment for the summer months only.
- 1823 April 29 The Monson Sabbath School Society formed with a constitution and full board of officers. This society continued in active operation until 1875, (fifty-two years), when it was voted "to give over its prerogatives to the Church and as a distinct society to cease to exist."
- 1827 April The Ladies' Praying Circle organized.
- 1830 April 7 The Parish organized.
- 1845 Dec. Ladies Benevolent Society organized.

- 1870 The Parsonage completed and occupied.
- 1871 The Second Meeting House was sold and removed.
- 1873 June 18 The present Church Building dedicated. Its cost was about \$40,000.00.
- 1873 A silver Communion Set consisting of two tankards and seven goblets (one for each deacon and one for the pastor's use) was presented by Carrie R. and Delia W. Lyon.
- 1874 Nov. 11 The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society organized.
- 1875 Sunday School taken over by Church.
- 1877 March 9 The Church Steeple fell. It was replaced by Arba Squier.
- 1883 Oct. 17 Young Ladies' Working Club organized.
- 1884 Dorcas organized.  
Young Peoples' Christian Association organized.
- 1888 Christian Endeavor Society organized.
- 1889 Home Department of Sunday School instituted.
- 1892 Nov. Johnson & Son pipe organ given by Mrs. C. W. Holmes and Miss Esther Holmes to the First Parish provided the Parish would install leaded glass windows in "The Meeting House and Chapel."
- 1901 Men's Club organized.
- 1907 Oct. 10 The benevolent Society, the Young Ladies' Working Club and Dorcas combined under name of Dorcas, which now carries all the Womens' work in the church, and is a great factor in its life and accomplishments.

1908 Baptismal font given by Mrs. Edward F. Morris as a memorial to her husband, Deacon Edward F. Morris.

1912 Tablet erected to memory of Dr. Ely.

1916 The Parsonage renovated by Miss Esther R. Holmes.

1919 Young Peoples' Association organized and functioned for six years.

Communion table and flower stand given by Mrs. Langley Sears in memory of Reverend Langley Sears, a former pastor of the church.

1922 Gold Tiffany vase by the Dorcas Society in memory of Eudocia Flynt (Mrs. William N. Flynt) for 55 years its president.

1926 Christian Endeavor reorganized.

1936 "Mr. and Mrs." Club organized.

1938 Miscellaneous contributions were given for repair of the steeple blown down by the hurricane, and also for payment of the mortgage.

1941 Dedication of new steeple.

1946 First Church of Monson was incorporated.

A pair of wrought iron candelabras was presented on Easter Sunday, April 21st, by Mrs. Frank Lombard in memory of her husband.

1947 Gift of the Ely Road Parsonage and trust fund from Frank G. Nelson.

1950 Gold cross was given by the Dorcas Society in memory of Mrs. Rufus P. Cushman.

1951 Gold candlesticks were given by Mrs. Kate Cushman Tanner in memory of her mother Mrs. Rufus P. Cushman.

The pew cushions were upholstered by Mr. and Mrs. Club and the Dorcas Society.

1953 The Johnson organ was electrified and renovated.

1956 Dr. Frank G. Maguire gave 74 communion cups and two trays in memory of his mother, Mrs. Nellie Maguire.

1961 The Church voted to join the merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church and to accept the constitution of the United Church of Christ.

White communion table cover and Bible marker were given by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smith and Mrs. Kenneth Main in memory of Mrs. Grace D. Loglisci.

Red, purple and green Bible markers were given by Mrs. James D. Whelpley and Mrs. Sabrina D'Agostino in memory of their sister, Mrs. Marietta Ruscitti Dittami.

Scarves by the Heart's Willing Club for the Communion table in keeping with the various seasons of the church and to harmonize with the bookmarks.

Six brass offering plates by Mrs. George Morrow as a memorial gift in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hadley.

1962 The 1873 Communion set was refinished and a corner cabinet built to display it. This was presented in memory of all the deacons who have so faithfully served this church by Marion P. Keep and Mira Keep Moulton. Eight of their ancestors served this church as deacons.

Record player given by the Heart's Willing Club.

Miscellaneous kitchen equipment given by the Mr. and Mrs. Club and the Heart's Willing Club.

1963 At the Parish Meeting on October 18, 1962, with 90 members present, under Article 6 of the warrant, all real estate in fee simple was voted to be transferred by the First Parish in Monson to the First Church of Monson, Inc. The warranty deed was recorded in H.C.R.D. March 14, 1963, Book 2939, pages 89-96, Plans 86-85. The First Parish finally received title from the Land Court November 14, 1963.

Relationship of the Church to the Parish:

1. The spiritual interests and arrangements connected with public and social worship are under the exclusive control of the Church.

All the financial and other secular interests and arrangements are under the control of the Parish. The Parish, therefore, holds all property which is for the use of both conjointly, receives and disburses the income, and makes all pecuniary appointments and engagements.

2. In the election of a Minister, the Church and the Parish act concurrently; but the Church is first to proceed in the election.

Brass flower vase was given in memory of Mrs. Kelly B. Munsell.

1964 Old roof removed and replaced with aluminum.

New carpet in Green Room.

Nursery Room furnished by the Hearts Willing Club.

Active membership 349; average attendance at worship 174 (50%).

1965 Organ overhaul at a cost of \$68229.

Dr. Maguire made a gift of chimes and carrillon.

Brass candelabra (floor) in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Lombard by Mr. and Mrs. William Lombard.

Conference Room furnished in memory of Thomas B. Wallace by family and friends.

Active members 356; average attendance at worship 176 (49%).

1966 The Julie Sprague Chapel was a gift from E. Russell Sprague.

New floor & carpet laid in sanctuary.

Virgil Fox gave an organ recital November 28, 1966.

Senior Choir robes given by Mrs. Leonard S. Farr. Junior Choir robes given by Hearts Willing Club.

Boy Scout display case, Flags and Lectern given by Mrs. Mary Cutler for the Blomfield Room-Worship Center.

Pilgrim Hymnals given in memory of F. Raymond McPherson.

Library Furnishings given by the The Dorcas Society and the Hearts Willing Club.

Mr. and Mrs. George Rickards - hand-weaving the Chancel Draperies and Mrs. Domenic Magrone - fashioning same.

Silver candelabra (table) given by the Mr. and Mrs. Club.

Tower Clock presented by the Town of Monson and electrified through the generosity of Dr. Frank Maguire in memory of his sister, Rose S. Maguire.

Redecoration of the Church School Classrooms by the Men's Club.

Membership 355; average attendance at worship 171 (48%).

1967 The First Parish gave the Nelson Fund to the First Church on May 20, 1967.

Miss Sylvia DeSantis and Rev. Carlos A. Straight set up and organized the church library with more than 100 volumes plus periodicals to be a center of learning about issues of discipleship.

- 1981 The By-laws were revised at a special Church meeting, November 1, 1981, to create a 12 member Board of Deacons consisting of 6 men and 6 women.
- Rev. Douglas Nielsen installed as minister in September 1981.
- 1982 Mr. and Mrs. E. Russell Sprague had the Julie Sprague Chapel completely redecorated.
- New roof was placed on the church.
- 1984 Bell mounting and steeple repairs.
- 1985 New pew cushions were made and installed.  
Covenant members of First Church 377.
- 1986 A committee was organized in June, 1986, to plan the celebration for the 225th ANNIVERSARY.
- 1987 Scheduled anniversary events:
- March 29 Celebration service for Members - 50 years and longer.
- June 20 Congregational Hour, Blomfield Room 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Buffet Dinner - Fellowship & Green Rooms 6:30  
Fellowship Dance - Downstairs to 11:00 p.m.
- June 21 Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Special Worship Service followed by  
Coffee Hour 4:00 p.m.
- Historical Exhibit in the Church Library Saturday evening and following both services on Sunday.
- July 4 Parade Float
- July - September: Church History Exhibits at the public library.



## CHURCH MEMBERS FOR 50 YEARS OR LONGER

DATE RECEIVED INTO  
MEMBERSHIP

Antonio Alonzo	June 6, 1904
Hazel Munsell	June 4, 1906
Cecelia Alonzo Davenport	June 14, 1908
Myra Keep Lovell Moulton	June 12, 1910
Ruth E. Wills	June 12, 1910
Clara Wright Lupien	June 13, 1915
Marion McConchie Birmingham	April 20, 1919
Harriet Cushman	April 20, 1919
John E. Anderson	June 29, 1924
Hazel Morris Keith	June 29, 1924
Frieda Johnson Leveille	June 29, 1924
Alma Johnson Lynch	June 29, 1924
Maria Perkins Osborn	June 29, 1924
Evelyn Anderson Pease	June 29, 1924
Chester Hulse	June 28, 1925
Mabel North	June 28, 1925
Dominic Magrone	March 31, 1929
Bernice Vaill	March 31, 1929
Phila Vaill	March 31, 1929
Elizabeth James Holley	April 20, 1930
Lawrence Meacham	April 20, 1930
Mae Meacham Meurisse	April 20, 1930
Selma DeHulla King	April 5, 1931
Francis Blakeborough	March 27, 1932
Barbara Blakeborough Hasenjager	March 27, 1932
Burton King	March 27, 1932
Frank Magrone	April 16, 1933
Sylvia De Santis	April 21, 1935
Judith Sanderson Gerrish	April 21, 1935
Vida Jackson	April 21, 1935
Helen Jameson	April 21, 1935
Laurence Jameson	April 21, 1935
Dorothy C. Mason	April 21, 1935
Theda Pease Moulton	April 21, 1935
Doris Davey Loomis	March 28, 1937

## MINISTERS

Abisha Sabin	1762-1771
Jesse Ives	1773-1805
Alfred Ely	1806-1866
Samuel C. Bartlett	1843-1846
Charles B. Kittredge	1846-1853
Theron A. Colton	1855-1868
Charles B. Sumner	1868-1879
Ezra H. Byington	1880-1887
Franklin S. Hatch	1887-1901
N. Miller Pratt	1901-1916
George A. Andrews	1907-1916
Langley Sears	1916-1918
Charles N. Lovell	1919-1925
Daniel Bliss	1926-1929
Stanley F. Blomfield	1930-1942
J. Albert Clark	1942-1947
Howard Gould	1947-1951
Louis Thompson	1951-1959
Carlos H. Straight	1960-1969
William A. Chace	1970-1980
Douglas E. Nielsen	1981-