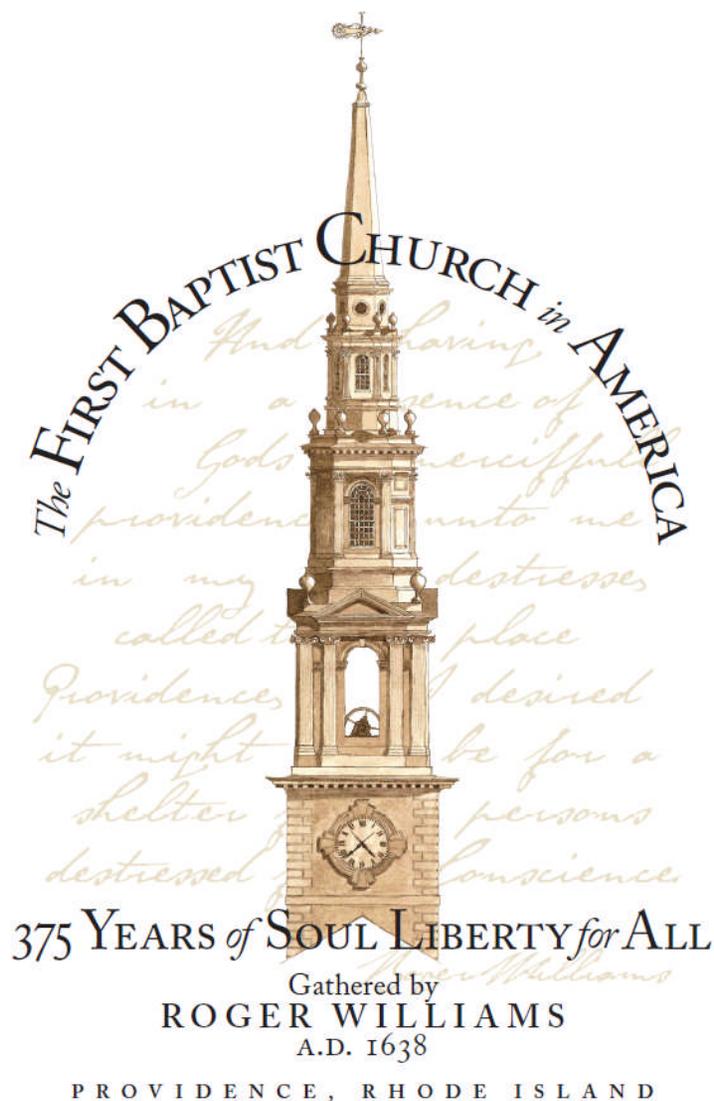


Historical Notes

- 1638 Roger Williams and his companions founded the First Baptist Church in America. "Soul liberty" was and continues to be its watchword.
- 1692 First Baptist Church helped to organize the General Six Principle Baptist Association, the first Baptist association in America.
- 1700 Pardon Tillinghast, then pastor, constructed at his own expense a meeting-house on a lot he owned on North Main Street.
- 1726 A new meetinghouse, forty by forty feet, was erected at the corner of North Main and Smith Streets next to the first church building.
- 1774-75 The Charitable Baptist Society secured a charter from the colonial legislature, allowing it to own property and to use the same for the support of pastors. It immediately began to build the present Meeting House, which was completed in May 1775 and dedicated: "For the publick Worship of Almighty GOD, and also for holding Commencement in." The auditorium is eighty by eighty feet, and seats about 1200 persons. The steeple is 185 feet in height.
- 1782 The First Baptist Church joined the Warren Association, the first Regular Baptist association in New England, and soon assumed its leadership. The fifteenth pastor, Stephen Gano, served as Moderator from 1805 to 1824.
- 1792 The large crystal chandelier was brought from Ireland and installed.
- 1805 First Baptist Church helped to establish the Second Baptist Church of Providence. From then until 1919, it helped to found twelve churches in the Providence area.
- 1806 Jonathan Going, whose work led to the founding of Newton Theological Institution and to the American Baptist Home Mission Society, was baptized here in 1806 and licensed to the ministry by First Baptist in 1809.
- 1807 Women of First Baptist Church founded the Female Mite Society, the first missionary society in Rhode Island. The idea spread to other Rhode Island churches, and their home mission work led in 1825 to the establishment of the Rhode Island Baptist State Convention.
- 1814 Stephen Gano was one of the four delegates from New England to the gathering in Philadelphia, which formed the first national convention of Baptists in America. The General Missionary Convention of the Baptist Denomination was established to support the foreign mission work of Adoniram and Ann Judson.
- 1819 Young women and men established a Sunday school in the vestry of the Meeting House, leading to the ground floor being excavated and finished for Sunday School use.
- 1825 The Rhode Island Baptist State Convention was begun in the Meeting House and Stephen Gano was its first President.
- 1830s Changes in the auditorium saw the high pulpit and square box pews replaced by a low pulpit and slip pews (1832), the organ installed (1834), and an interior baptistry placed beneath the floor of the pulpit (1838).
- 1884 An addition was made to the east end of the building in which were installed a new baptistry and stained glass window. The organ was rebuilt and enlarged, and the ceilings were painted several colors.
- 1938 In its 300th anniversary year, the church officially adopted the name "First Baptist Church in America."
- 1957-58 With a grant from John D. Rockefeller Jr. the entire building was renovated and strengthened, paint returned to its 18th century colors, the organ enlarged with a third manual added, and the high pulpit rebuilt.
- 1980s The steeple, exterior and sanctuary were restored again.
- 1988 America's first Baptist church celebrated its 350th anniversary.
- 2000 The organ is rebuilt by the Foley-Baker Company.
- 2002 The steeple was fully lighted for the first time.
- 2013 First Baptist Church in America celebrated its 375th anniversary.



MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 17, 2014



“He said to them,” I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer,” (Luke 22:15)

Prelude on “Were You There” Nigel Williams

*Welcome Associate Pastor Linda Bausserman

*Call to Worship

Pastor: What shall we return to you, O Lord, for all your bounty to us?

People: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on your holy name.

Pastor: We will offer you a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

People: And worship you, who offered yourself for us.

*Hymn 259 (Yale Hymnal) “O sacred head, sore wounded”
O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden

Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 15:15-20
Matthew 16:21-26

Prayer for Holy Week

Anthem “Drop, Drop, Slow Tears” (Phineas Fletcher)
Philip W. J. Stopford

Meditation The Sacrament of Service Rev. Tom Wiles

*Please Stand

Call to Communion

“Greater love hath no man, than to lay down your life for your friends.” As we break the bread and share the wine, let us do so in remembrance of the One who gave himself that we might have abundant life.

*The Last Supper (Please come forward)

*Hymn “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” Dennis

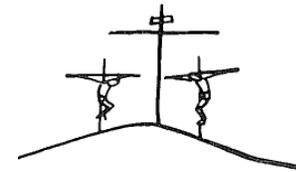
*“Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.”*

*Veiling the Cross

*Commission and Blessing

May the meal we have shared together this evening strengthen our bond to God and to each other as a community of believers. Go in peace now, remembering God’s deep and abiding love for us and all his children.

*Congregation Leaves in Silence



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