

## DID YOU KNOW...

- The Pilgrims and Puritans, our Congregational forebears, believed that the Bible, not the Pope or the Church, was the primary source of truth. They did not use the King James version of the bible (it was King James I who had harried them out of England) Rather, they used the Geneva bible (1560) making it the major book of the new land.
- Among the earliest buildings erected by the Pilgrims at Plymouth was the “meetinghouse,” which served the people both as their place of worship and meeting place for the community for the business of the plantation.
- Perhaps more than any other Protestant group in America’s beginnings, Congregationalists have stressed the value of education. They have been the founders of more than fifty colleges, universities, and seminaries, including Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Oberlin, Olivet, Piedmont, Pomona, Elon, Grinnell, Andover, Gordon, Bangor, Pacific School of Religion, and dozens of others.
- Congregationalists formed the first seminary in New England – Andover Seminary, in 1807.
- The first women’s college in America Mount Holyoake, was founded by Mary Lyons, a Congregationalist. Congregationalists also founded Wellesley (1870) and Smith (1871).
- Antoinette Brown, a Congregationalist, was the first woman to be ordained in the Christian ministry (1853). Although FCC, Nantucket claims that Louise Baker, a school teacher-turned minister of that Church was the “first orthodox ordained clergy woman” that is still being researched. However, Louise, too, was a Congregationalist.
- Of the forty-nine patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence (1776) thirteen were Congregationalists.
- Most of the abolitionists who rallied to the defense of the West Africans, who in 1839, mutinied on the slave ship *Amistad*, were devout Congregationalists, who later were among those who founded the American Missionary Association.
- John Milton (1608-1674) author of *Paradise Lost*, first wrote pamphlets for Congregationalism.
- Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) was one of the great New England poets of the 1800’s and a Congregationalist.
- Lloyd Douglas author of *The Robe*, was senior minister of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles.
- The tune “Antioch” for the hymn “Joy to the World” was arranged by Lowell Mason, a Congregationalist.
- The hymn “Our God Our Help in Ages Past,” was written by a Congregationalist, Isaac Watts, as were many other hymns in the Pilgrim Hymnal.
- Leonard Bacon, a Congregational minister in New Haven, CT wrote “*O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand.*”
- Washington Gladden, one of the pioneers of the Social gospel, wrote the hymn, “*O Master Let Me Walk With Thee.*”