

Important Events in American Church History

- 1607 First Anglican worship in Virginia
- 1619 First Africans disembark at Jamestown
- 1620 Congregationalists establish Plymouth colony
- 1626 First Dutch Reformed worship in New Netherlands
- 1630 Great migration of non-separatist Congregationalists to Massachusetts Bay
- 1633 William Laud becomes archbishop of Canterbury
- 1634 Maryland founded by Lord Baltimore as a Catholic refuge
- 1635 Anne Hutchinson leads Bible studies in Boston: banished, 1637
- 1636 Roger Williams banished from Massachusetts Bay and settles at Providence
Thomas Hooker founds Connecticut. Harvard College founded
- 1639 First Baptist church organized by Roger Williams at Providence
First Lutheran worship in New Sweden
- 1642–49 English civil wars
- 1643-49 Westminster Assembly
- 1648 Cambridge Synod and Platform
- 1648 George Fox begins his public ministry in England
- 1656 Quaker itinerants imprisoned at Boston
- 1657 Half-way Covenant adopted by Congregationalists
- 1660 Restoration of the Stuarts in England
- 1666 Margaret Fell publishes Women's Speaking Justified
- 1675 West Jersey becomes the first Quaker colony
- 1679 Solomon Stoddard at Northampton sparks revival
- 1681 Pennsylvania founded by William Penn
- 1684 Massachusetts charter revoked
- 1686 King's Chapel, first Anglican church in Boston

- 1688-89 Glorious Revolution in England and Act of Toleration
- 1690 Mennonites establish separate worship
- 1691 George Keith attacks Society of Friends for laxity, leads schism
- 1693 College of William and Mary founded to train Anglican clergy
- 1701 Anglican Society for the Propagation of the Gospel founded
Yale College founded by Connecticut Congregationalists
- 1706 Presbytery of Philadelphia formed, led by Francis Makemie
- 1706-07 Francis Le Jau ministers to African American Slaves in SC under SPG
- 1707 Philadelphia Baptist Association formed
- 1708 Connecticut Congregationalists adopt Saybrook Platform
- 1725 First German Reformed church organized
- 1726 Beginning of Great Awakening in New Jersey under Frelinghuysen
- 1729 Wesleys organize "holy club" at Oxford University
Presbyterian "Adopting Act" accepts Westminster Confession of Faith
- 1734 Jonathan Edwards and Great Awakening at Northampton
- 1735 Moravians settle in Georgia, led by Count von Zinzendorf
William Tennent establishes "log college"
- 1737 Quakers adopt "birthright" membership
- 1739 George Whitefield begins his American tours
- 1740 Gilbert Tennent preaches "Danger of an Unconverted Ministry"
- 1741-58 Old Side-New Side division among the Presbyterians
- 1742 Henry M. Muhlenberg arrives to assume leadership of German Lutherans
- 1746 Princeton established to train Presbyterian ministers
- 1765 Brown University founded by Baptists
- 1773 First all Black Congregation gathers at Silver Bluff, SC
- 1784 Methodist Church established at Christmas Conference in Baltimore

- 1785 Lemuel Haynes ordained in Vermont
- 1786 Virginia Statute of Religious Liberty
- 1787 Regular and Separate Baptists united in Virginia. First Unitarian Church in America
- 1788 First African Church in Savannah established by Andrew Bryan
- 1789 General Convention of Protestant Episcopal Church organized
First meeting of Presbyterian General Assembly
- 1791 Adoption of First Amendment to United States Constitution
- 1793 Synod of the German Reformed Church organized
- 1794 Bethel Chapel, Philadelphia, dedicated
- 1800 First of the "camp meeting" revivals in the West
- 1801 Revival at Cane Ridge, Bourbon County, Kentucky
- 1801 Plan of Union adopted by Presbyterians and Congregationalists
- 1804 Barton W. Stone forms group in Kentucky resolved to be known only as "Christians"
- 1809 "Christian Association" formed by Thomas Campbell in Pennsylvania
Jarena Lee called to preach the Gospel
- 1810 American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions
- 1814 General Convention of the Baptist Denomination organized
- 1815 Unitarian defection from Congregationalists in Massachusetts
- 1816 Richard Allen becomes first black bishop in American church: founds AME
American Bible Society
- 1817 Congregationalism disestablished in New Hampshire
- 1818 Congregationalism disestablished in Connecticut
- 1819 William Ellery Channing preaches Baltimore Sermon
- 1820 General Synod of Evangelical (Lutheran) Church formed
- 1820s-80s Trusteeism defended by Catholic laity
- 1824 American Sunday School Union

- 1825 American Tract Society
- 1825-35 Finney revivals and the "New Measures"
- 1826 Lyman Beecher begins moral crusade for temperance in Six Sermons
- 1827 Joseph Smith discovers Urim and Thumim and golden plates
- 1830s-50s Phoebe Palmer leads holiness prayer meetings and starts settlement houses
- 1832 Followers of Barton W. Stone and Alexander Campbell coalesce as "Disciples"
- 1833 Congregationalism disestablished in Massachusetts
- 1837 New School Synods ejected and Plan of Union abrogated
- 1838 Frederick Douglass escapes slavery
- 1841 Daniel Payne joins AME church
Dorothea Dix initiates humanitarian reform in Massachusetts
- 1843-44 "Millerite" excitement occasioned by "end of age" expectation
- 1843 Methodists and Baptists divide over issue of slavery
- 1844 Isaac Hecker converted to Catholicism
- 1846 John W. Nevin publishes The Mystical Presence
- 1847 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod constituted
Horace Bushnell publishes Christian Nurture
- 1848 Lucretia Mott, abolitionist and feminist speaks at Seneca Falls
Landmarkism
- 1851 Harriet Tubman begins work in "Underground Rail Road"
Y.M.C.A. organized at Boston
- 1853 Antoinette Brown ordained Congregational pastor
- 1852 Susan B. Anthony, abolitionist, joins suffrage movement
- 1857 Christian Reformed secession from Dutch Reformed Church
- 1857-58 "Prayer meeting" revivals
- 1861-65 Civil War

- 1860 Augustana (Swedish) Lutheran Synod organized
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation
Ellen G. White's writings contribute to founding of Seventh-Day Adventists
- 1866-76 Fanny Crosby composes hymns
- 1867 American branch of Evangelical Alliance formed
- 1868 Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution
- 1869 American Sunday School Convention (International Sunday School Association,
International Council of Religious Education)
- 1870 Amanda Smith attends AME General Conference
- 1870-92 Dwight L. Moody revival campaigns
- 1870 Ira Sankey joins Moody
- 1872 Uniform Lessons adopted
- 1873 Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reform Judaism) founded by Isaac Wise
- 1874 W.C.T.U. led by Frances Willard
- 1885 Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor
Sobato Morais leads Conservative Judaism
- 1880-90's The "New Immigration" begins
- 1886 Student Volunteer Movement
- 1888 Women's Missionary Union founded
- 1889 Christian Socialist Society
- 1890s Ida B. Wells leads anti-lynching crusade and helps found NAACP in 1909
- 1891 B. T. Roberts, Free Methodist, publishes Ordaining Women
- 1893 Foreign Missions Conference of North America
- 1895 National Baptist Convention, Inc. formed
- 1897 C. H. Mason and C. P. Jones form the Church of God in Christ
- 1899 Pope Leo XIII's encyclical Testum Benevolentiae
- 1903 W. E. B. DuBois publishes The Souls of Black Folk

- 1906 William J. Seymour leads Pentecostal revival at Azusa Street in L. A.
- 1907 Walter Rauschenbusch publishes Christianity and the Social Crisis
- 1908 Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America
- 1909-12 Publication of The Fundamentals in response to “modernist” tendencies
- 1915 National Baptist Convention, Unincorporated
- 1917 Rauschenbusch publishes A Theology for the Social Gospel
- 1919 World's Christian Fundamentals Association
- 1921 Amy Semple McPherson founds International Church of Foursquare Gospel
- 1932 Laymen's Missionary Inquiry. Reinhold Niebuhr publishes Moral Man and Immoral Society
- 1933 Henrietta Mears founds Gospel Light Publications
Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin found Catholic Worker Movement
- 1939 Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Episcopal Church South, and Methodist Protestant Church unite to form the Methodist Church
- 1947 Rise of the “new Evangelicals”
- 1950 National Council of Churches formed by merging several interdenominational councils and agencies
- 1954 Supreme Court declares segregation unconstitutional
- 1957 General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches and the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church merge to form the United Church of Christ
- 1958 John XXIII becomes Pope
- 1960 Smaller Lutheran bodies form the Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church
- 1961 Gabriel Vahanian writes The Death of God
- 1962-65 Second Vatican Council
- 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King assassinated
- 1969 James H. Cone publishes Black Theology and Black Power