



400 YEARS OF *Faith*
AMERICAN
CONGREGATIONALISM
SINCE 1620

Did you know Samuel Fuller...

Samuel Fuller came to America on the *Mayflower* in 1620. He was a physician, in fact the only one in New England for a long time. Leaving his wife and daughter behind for the time being, Dr. Fuller was among the signers of the Mayflower Compact. He soon became a deacon of the church at Plymouth.

Colonists had mixed opinions about Fuller's medical abilities, although most of his patients seemed to appreciate his talents. One grateful patient was John Endicott, the leader of the Salem Colony, who when he fell ill, Dr. Fuller was called for. Endicott reported that Fuller was a great help, not only to him personally, but to the whole colony.

Endicott had heard some negative rumors about Plymouth Colony, but Dr. Fuller was able to convince him that those reports were erroneous. Gaius Glenn Atkins wrote that Fuller, "according to a tradition that Congregational historians cherish, converted doubting Endicott to Congregationalism."

This was important, because John Endicott went on to become the longest-serving governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he had also served as town councilor, magistrate, militia leader, and deputy governor. Massachusetts Bay Colony was the beginning of true Congregationalism, maturing out of Separatism.

...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism
Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org

Call To Worship

L: We are keepers of the Way

C: We come, aware of our place as 21st Century pilgrims.

L: May we bring to this worship hour and to our very lives, a commitment to refashion this world for Christ.

C: May we renew and cherish our life together, as God's free people.

Invocation (in unison)

We thank You, good Lord, as we pray, for Your blessings on this day and this hour of worship. We thank You for the pilgrim spirit which You have instilled in us from the beginning of the Christian Church, through the time of the Pilgrims of our shores 400 years ago, and into this congregation. May our worship honor their faith and their spirit.

Historical story by: Rev. Robert Hellam Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard