



## Did you know Francis Clark...

On 2 February 1881, Congregational pastor Francis Edward Clark founded the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, which, beginning as a small society in a single New England church (Williston Congregational Church, Portland, Maine), developed into a great interdenominational organization, which in 1908 had 70,761 societies and more than 3,500,000 members scattered throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, India, Japan and China.

The professed object of the Christian Endeavor Society was "to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintanceship, and to make them more useful in the service of God." CE created publications for youth, devised youth programs, and sponsored events.

The movement peaked during the last decade of the nineteenth century, then declined as denominational youth societies imitated and adapted the forms of Christian Endeavor. The Society continues in various locations into the twenty-first century. People involved in CE gather every four years for a convention. The 29th CE World Convention was held July 2019 in Flensunger Hof, Germany.

After 1887, Francis devoted his time entirely to the extension of this work and was president of the United Societies of Christian Endeavor and of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, and editor of the Christian Endeavor World (originally The Golden Rule).

## ...was a Congregationalist?

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400 YEARS OF *Faith*  
AMERICAN  
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SINCE 1620

### Call To Worship

L: Redeem the time, O God, before its gone and lost

**C: When hearty pilgrim souls measured the cost**

L: And made the long voyage with hopes of something new

**C: We come to worship expecting something new!**

### Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, who was before all that is, who remains beside us, one who fills our lives with blessings, we celebrate this day the lives of the men and women known as Pilgrims. In Your singularity, they found commonness; in multiplicity of their world, they found diversity; in their chords and discords, they experienced a harmony in life. In their worship, they found strength and courage and hope. So may we worship You, knowing You expect the same from us. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard