

**Timeline of the History of the Church of the Messiah and the Unitarian
Church of Montpelier, Vermont
(with local, state, national, and world events)**

This document includes entries offered by members and friends on a 24-foot sheet of paper placed on tables in the vestry for several weeks in October 2008. Updated, 2013.

Society formed in Montpelier to sustain Universalism	1831	
		Universalism identified as largest sect among Montpelier's population
Two taverns occupied the site of our future church; both burned down.		
	1861	Start of Civil War
December 13 th : Church of the Messiah established	1864	
Church built on present site; cost \$16,800. Designed by Thomas Silloway. Church decorated in Italian Renaissance Revival fresco panels of tan, pale pink, grey and white	1865	Rev. Charles Allen ordained at the Brick Church (now East Montpelier) End of Civil War
	1866	Church dedicated January 25
Rev. J. Edward Wright installed	1869	Wright built his own house at 19 Baldwin Street
		House at 148 Main Street acquired for \$5,000 as the first parsonage
Church pays \$12 to have the fence around the church painted	1874	
	1875	Fire destroys many downtown buildings
Ladies Society organized	1876	
Church decorated with Victorian stencil on wall and ceiling in gray-green and red-brown colors with gold leaf highlights		
	1891	Church agrees to move the choir and organ from the back of the sanctuary to a space behind the pulpit
Late Victorian stencils and darker wall color may have been added to the church interior		
	1894	National Conference meets and asserts the importance of the religion of Jesus and love for God and humanity, but without an exclusively Christian focus

	1898	Addition to the church to hold the organ loft
A joint commission first discusses merger of Unitarians and Universalists	1899	Hubbard Family gives land to Montpelier for a park, now known as Hubbard Park
	1900	Women's Alliance organized
Rev. Wright receives honorary degree from President Charles Eliot at Harvard	1902	Beacon Press launched, broadening the American Unitarian Association's publishing program
	1904	Rev. Charles Wellman begins service
	1907	Rev. Wellman ends service
Rev. Wright made Minister Emeritus, after 40 years of service	1909	Unitarian Cook Book published
		Rev. Wade Clark begins ministry
Rev. Clarke ends service	1913	
		Rev. Albert H. Spence, Jr. begins service
Rev. Wright dies	1914	Start of World War I
	1915	Rev. Spence ends service
Rev. Lewis Carson begins ministry		
	1918	Women vote in Vermont town elections
	1918	End of World War I
Rev. Carson ends service	1920	
		Rev. William S. Nichols begins ministry
Colonial Revival remodeling. Bold classical cornice moldings added and the arch in front of organ lowered. Wall, ceiling and molding painted in pale pink and linen, obscuring all Victorian elements	1921	National Women's Suffrage
Electric lights added to church, costing \$4,410	1922	Pew rentals ended
	1923	Norbert Capek's Flower Communion first celebrated in Prague; still celebrated in our church
1927 Flood brings 12 feet of water to State and Main Streets. Eighty Unitarian families affected. Wall of the church caved in. First floor of church flooded. Repairs estimated at \$2,500. Rev. Nichols (away at the time) wrote, "I left a beautiful city with clean streets, houses well kept, and a proud, generous people. I returned to a devastated city, with streets deep in mud, buildings torn and wrecked, and the people toiling, dirty and sad."	1927	Parsonage at 148 Main Street determined to be too costly to repair. Property at 164 Main, called the "Stone House," purchased for \$18,500
	1929	Stock Market crash; Depression begins

	1930	Cattle in state out-number people: 359,611
	1931	Second Commission on UU merger
Humanist Manifesto I published	1933	Rev. Nichols ends service
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt launches “New Deal”		Rev. Dayton T. Yoder installed Hitler becomes Fuehrer of Germany
	1938	Rev. Yoder ends service; Rev. Gerald Fitzpatrick begins ministry
Church school (Wright School of Religion) at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday; church service at 10:45 a.m.		
	1939	World War II begins; Unitarian Service Committee organized; adopted the Flaming Chalice as logo
In September, Norma Raymond joined the church choir under the direction of Hope Harkness and organist Ernest Jorres; Norma is still an active member today	1941	In December, Pearl Harbor – US joined World War II
	1945	WWII ends; United Nations formed
Robert Jackman became new organist, and served until 1994	1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights unanimously approved by the UN General Assembly
Anti-Communist Campaign began (Senator Joe McCarthy)		
	1954	Brown vs. Board of Education Scott & Helen Nearing, “The Good Life,” meaning “back to the land”
	1955	Montgomery Bus Boycott (some church members went)
Merger of Unitarian and Universalist denominations – as the Unitarian Universalist Association	1961	
	1963	President John F. Kennedy assassinated
	1964	Gulf of Tonkin, a defining moment of the Vietnam War
		Vatican II
Coffeehouse for teens at the church; later asked to leave; the coffeehouse continued at the Episcopal Church	1965	UU Minister James Reeb, from Boston, killed in Selma, Alabama; several church members went to Selma; Hippie movement
	1968	Rev. Fitzpatrick retires
Billboards banned in Vermont; Summerhill captured the imagination of educators		Rev. Joseph Nerad begins ministry
	April	Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated

	June	Robert F. Kennedy assassinated
	1970	Kent State students killed by National Guard
	1971	Beacon Press publishes Pentagon Papers
Lecture series about different religions, a forerunner to the Clarke Lecture Series, which continues today	1973	U. S. Supreme Court, Roe vs. Wade: abortion legal
		Plainfield Co-op (now the Hunger Mountain Co-op) used the church to break down and distribute orders to members
	1974	August: President Nixon resigns
Federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act becomes law	1975	
	1976	An average of 30 people attend Sunday services
	1977	Vermont Public Radio established
Ben & Jerry's opened first store in Burlington	1978	Jerry Falwell founds "Moral Majority"
Church's name changed to: Unitarian Church of Montpelier	1979	In December, congregation voted to end services of Rev. Nerad
Lay-led services from January to June	1980	September: Rev. John K. Hammon began interim ministry
Rev. Hammon ends interim ministry September, Maggie Hollovary begins ministry	1981	Jack and Kristina McGinnis heard Rev. Maggie Hollovary (later Rebmann) preach her candidating sermon in Barre
	1983	Eric Oberg buys, brings, and arranges for the installation of the church's bell (the first and only) from a Catholic Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts
Addition to back of church is built to house offices, chapel, and church school rooms. Ramp built from School Street to side door	1982-83	
	1985	Church welcomed adopted children with open arms and provided community for single parent(s); UUA Statement of Principles and Purposes adopted
Dave and Darlene Grundy are married – again, after 25 years! Reception included dancing, ending long prohibition against dancing in Vestry due to weak floors	1987	National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian rights
Internet	1989	Maggie and Rick Rebmann marry in church in August

This church celebrates its inclusion of all families; people of color, gay, lesbian, find their home here	1991	Persian Gulf War
Bill Clinton elected president	1992	Montpelier's downtown flooded; damage estimated at tens of millions of dollars. Church was flooded but OK.
For two years church sponsors two families from Bosnia. All seven children very successful: four graduated from college, one has twins. One family moved to Connecticut The other mother lives in Waterbury, Vt.	1994	Catherine Orr, Music Director, hired; Sam Rossier, administrator, hired
	1997	March 14, arrival of new Yamaha piano, the gift of Paula Gills (Catherine has pictures of the event; dedication concert the following fall)
Tadd Morton serves several years as RE Director, before leaving to study for ministry	1998	January ice storm; major interior church restoration project begins; Choir sings in Vienna, Austria
Church historian, Jean Cate, arranges to transfer extensive archive of documents to the Vermont Historical Society for safe keeping	1999	Choir sings in Quebec City
President George W. Bush elected	2000	Civil union law in Vermont passes; congregation unites in supporting it
"Our Church" history play presented and videotaped		Shelly & Meredith, members, were the first to be civilly united in any UU church
		Choir sings in England
Sept. 11 – terrorist attack – from then on, President Bush focuses on terrorism	2001	July 14, Darcy Oberg and Ludo are married in church by Dave Grundy
Iraq War begins	2003	Linda Leonard begins as RE Director
	2004	Christmas tree falls on musicians in candlelight Christmas Eve service
Beloved Cossette Allen died in an auto accident – a great loss to church	2005	Linda leaves RE for nursing school; Kathy Duprey serves as RE Director
		Ginny Humphries begins to lead RE
Annie Tiberio and Paul Cameron married in church by Maggie	2006	
August: Maggie announces she will retire at the end of the church year	2007	Choir sings in Montreal
Forest Davis, retired professor, UU minister, long-time church member, and fireman from age 70 on, dies at 90	2008	Ginny Humphries retires from RE; Maggie retires in June, after 27 years

		August: Interim Minister Rev. Marta Flanagan arrives
June: Marta departs after fruitful interim ministry	2009	May: Rev. Mara Dowdall unanimously called as UCM's 12 th settled minister
October: Mara's installation service		
May, Mara resigns	2013	
Rev. Steve Edington, called as Interim	2013	