

# Parkman Congregational Church

## 1823 -2023 Bicentennial

[www.parkmanchurch.com](http://www.parkmanchurch.com)

Parkman Congregational Church celebrated a Bicentennial in June 2023 with a Community Carnival and Luncheon.

The Parkman Congregational Church was organized on April 28th, 1823 as a Presbyterian church with ten members and Mr Benjamin Fenn as the Pastor. Local Parkman history books state the meetings were irregular at different locations (usually peoples houses) and had times with no formal members on the roster. After Rev. Fenn, there was a Rev. Woodruff in 1828 as the first regular pastor for one year. Up until 1850, there were at least six other reverends that tried to commit to the obligation. In 1850, a Rev. Hopkins made the first attempt to build a church. He was



successful in collecting the needed materials but complications prevented the work to be completed.

In 1852, Rev. Frasier began and he was the longest pastor committing at 9 years. During his tenure (around 1857) the church joined the Plymouth Rock Association of Congregational Churches. The church was reorganized at the time with 14 members.

In 1873, after several other reverends tried to keep the group together, Rev. Taylor from the Home Ministry Society as the new leader and seven members, set forth to finally build the new church building. It was completed and dedicated on December 1, 1878. The only debt was \$500 that was loaned from the Church Building Society.

Rev. Taylor during his 5 years as pastor, added 23 members to the church and made the church self sustaining for the first time. As years went on and reverends come and go, the church successfully grew in members.

In 1923, W. W. Moore and his two sons, Walter and Robert, came to Parkman and operated a garage and service station in the building which has been used by the Fire Department. In 1939, they purchased the lot occupied by the Congregational Church. The church was moved to its current location (the photo on top) and Moore built a new garage.

In 1946, Mr Moore sold the garage to Standard Oil Company. Today this corner of Rt 422 and Rt 528 has several newer businesses including a newly renovated Gulf Station, RadioActive store, K&K Barns and the current Post Office.

**Many thanks  
to all who helped support the  
2023 bicentennial celebrations  
of the  
Parkman Congregational Church.**



Old St Edwards Church



New St Edwards Church

## St Edwards Catholic Church also near its Centennial

<http://www.SSEdwardLucy.com>

Guest Speaker - Father John Burkley - History of the Parkman Churches

Our speaker - Father John Burkley of St Edward's Catholic Church, gave a thorough historical background of some of the organized religions that offered their services in Parkman since its founding days, and the evolution of modern Parkman today. Father Burkley then went into the establishment of the Catholic Parish that currently resides in this community.

The early Catholics came out from Cleveland and began farming. Most parish members were Polish, Slovak, etc. To attend church they originally had to drive to Warren.

In 1928, Frank Soltis, Sr. and others purchased at auction the 87-year-old Episcopal Church and a small parcel of land for \$1,075.00. This church had been moved from across the street and was originally a Methodist church. After some remodeling and a lot of detailing, the first Catholic Church in Parkman celebrated its initial mass and dedicating ceremony on December 23, 1928.

In the 1960's a second larger tract of land adjoining the original was donated by Frank & Mary Soltis Sr. for a new and larger building. In 1964 the new church held its first mass. The old St. Edward Church building was 123 years old that same day. Each year the Parish hosts a chicken dinner and car show in August. The very first chicken dinner was in 1932. Obviously the car show was added later on in this community tradition.

Special Thanks for Father John Burkley for his very nice historical presentation of the Parkman Churches. Father Burkley also shared a very nice presentation of the Air Clinton Rail Road that was near completion in Parkman until the depression hit. Many can find areas around town that still have traces of this debunked rail road.