

UUCSB Timeline

- 1740 – First Congregational Church, Pool Road, Biddeford.**
- 1754 – 1763 French and Indian War.
- 1762 – Pepperrellborough split off from Biddeford.
- 1763 – First Congregational Church, Saco, Rev. John Fairfield.**
- 1776 – Declaration of Independence signed.
- 1796 – George Washington’s Farewell Address.
- 1797 – Unitarian Society formed. This Society did not survive.**
- 1797 – Second Religious Society (Congregational), Biddeford.**
- 1804-1806 – Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- 1805 – Pepperrellborough renamed Saco.
- 1811 – Saco Iron Works began operation on Factory Island.
- 1811 – Saco Academy, later Thornton Academy founded.
- 1820 – Maine granted statehood.
- 1825 – Saco offers land to any denomination that can build a church within two years.**
- 1826 – Saco Iron Works established a cotton mill.
- 1826 – Split in Second Congregational, Biddeford. Many members and Rev. Tracy moved to Second Parish Unitarian in Saco.**
- 1827 – Universalists organize and meet at Calef Hall in Saco.**
- 1827 – Baltimore and Ohio, first American railroad, chartered.
- 1827 – Second Parish Unitarian Church Meeting House dedicated and Rev Thomas Tracy installed as minister.**
- 1828 – Universalists build a church on Storer St. in Saco.**
- 1828 – Rev. Tracy leaves because the congregation is unable to pay his salary. The church is served by interims and supply ministers until 1843.**
- 1830 – The cotton mill burned, rebuilt by the York Manufacturing Company.
- 1832 – Second Congregational Church tries Abraham Norwood for the heresy of denying the devil and believing in universal Salvation. He is convicted and banned from participation in church rituals.**
- 1840 – The Transcendentalists begin publishing the Dial.
- 1840 – 1964 – Second Parish sponsors May Fest at City Hall.**
- 1842 – Arrival of the Portland, Saco and Portland Railroad.
- 1843 – Rev. John T.G. Nichols is called to Second Parish Unitarian. There are eighteen families in the church. Within a year there are 67 members and the Golden Age of this church begins with involvement in the Provident Society, the York Institute, the Dyer Library and the first Sunday School in Saco.**
- 1845 – Henry David Thoreau moves into Walden.
- 1846 – Start of Mexican American War, Thoreau arrested for tax evasion.
- 1848 – California Gold Rush.

1851 – Second Parish Unitarian Sanctuary remodeled.

1852 – Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes Uncle Tom’s Cabin.

1854 – Oil lamps installed on Biddeford’s main street.

1857 – Dred Scott Decision.

1858 – First transatlantic cable completed.

1859 – Charles Darwin publishes On the Origin of Species.

1859 – Universalist Church on Storer St, sold to the Free Will Baptists. Universalists move to York Counting Room in Saco.

1861 – Bombardment of Fort Sumter, start of American Civil War.

1862 – Universalists buy land in City Square, Biddeford.

1865 – Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

1867 – City of Saco incorporated.

1867 – Universalists build Biddeford church.

1872 – Yellowstone National Park founded.

1878 – Green Back controversy splits the Universalist Church. Many leave the church and form the Independent Religious Society.

1879 – Thomas Edison’s first successful light bulb demonstrated.

1882 – Death of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

1883 – Rev. Nichols’ 40th Anniversary. 250 invited guests attend a party in his honor.

1884 – Winslow Homer settles in Prout’s Neck, Maine.

1885 – Universalists reunite.

1888 – Rev. Nichols retires.

1892 – Saco celebrates the 50th anniversary of minister emeritus Rev. Nichols with a gala at City Hall and a Sunday sermon delivered by him.

1893 – Antonin Dvorak composes the New World symphony.

1894 – James Graham leaves his estate and his home at 200 Alfred St., Biddeford to the Universalist Church.

1895 – Scarlet fever and typhoid epidemics in Biddeford.

1898 – Destruction of the USS Maine, the Spanish American War begins.

1896 – Rev. Herbert Moulton is called to the Universalist Church and offers many programs to the community. The church grows to 103 members.

1898 – Unitarian women allowed to vote at the Annual Meeting.

1901 – Theodore Roosevelt inaugurated president.

1901 – Tracker organ installation at 2nd Parish Unitarian complete.

1913 – Rev. Ward Clarke refocuses the church on living its beliefs.

1915 – Release of the movie “Birth of a Nation”.

1918 – Biddeford Shipyard builds last of its big schooners.

1918 – Universalist do a major renovation.

1920 – Culmination of the Suffragette Movement: Women’s Right to Vote.

1924 – The Universalist Church catches fire while the men are at Choir rehearsal on Sunday morning. The Second Congregational Church offers housing to the Universalists until repairs are made.

1925 – First television transmission.

1927 – The 100th Anniversary of Second Parish Unitarian. Judge George Emery and many community leaders are members who celebrate this event.

1929 – Wall Street Crash, start of Great Depression.

1933 – Franklin Delano Roosevelt inaugurated president.

1940 – Universalists redo chancel.

1941 – Pearl Harbor, America enters the Second World War.

1943 – Last Saco River Log drive.

1943 – There are eighteen families in Second Parish Unitarian.

1945 – Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

1947 – Unitarian Cupola falls in multi- storm hurricane season.

1949 – Rev. Kyper takes on Senator McCarthy and the right to free speech.

1949 – Start of the Korean Conflict.

1954 – Hurricane Carol topples Universalist Steeple.

1955 – Salk announces polio vaccine.

1957 – Sputnik launched by the Soviet Union.

1958 – York Manufacturing Company closes.

1958 – Rev. Beale called by First Universalist and Second Parish Unitarian.

1963 – Assassination of President John F Kennedy.

1964 – Civil Rights Act adopted.

1964 – Second Parish Unitarian and First Universalist Church consolidate.

1968 – Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

1969 – Apollo XI Landing on the Moon.

1970 – Both congregations are in Saco. Construction begins on the annex.

1972 – Universalist church sold.

1974 - Resignation of President Nixon.

1975 – Rev. Raymond Hopkins is hired to lead the UUCSB in growing.

1981 – Inauguration of President Ronald Reagan.

1983 – AIDS virus isolated.

1985 – As part of a growth campaign, Rev. Robert Throne is hired full time.

1986 – Parts of annex are redone to accommodate the special needs children of St. Louis Day Care.

1986 – 2012 – Coffee House operates at UUCSB under various leadership and performance calendars.

1988 – Annual World Aids Day service begins

1990 circa – Bon Appetit on Mondays

1990 – First Gulf War.

1992 – World Wide Web born.

1997 – Sanctuary roof collapses during a torrential down pour. This leads to extensive repair and restoration of the entire building complex.

2001 – World Trade Center Disaster.

2004 – Red Sox win the World Series.

2005 – 2007 – Time Bank

2005 – Green Sanctuary status achieved.

2006 - Rev. David Chandler is hired as minister.

2007 – Red Sox win the World Series.

2008 – Barack Obama elected President.

2008 – Welcoming Congregation status achieved.

2008 – Harbour Singers finds a home here as does Southern Maine Gay Men.

2009, 2012 – Marriage Equality Campaigns use the UUCSB as a local base.

2009 – Prayer Shawl Ministry begins.

2011-2013 – First Pentecostal Church of Saco uses the building to develop a mission here. In lieu of rent they agree to paint the exterior of the church.

2013 – Rev. David Chandler leaves. Congregation takes time to reorganize finances and ministerial priorities.

2013 – Red Sox win the World Series.

2014 – 2015 – Contract with Rev. Sue Gabrielson as a part time minister.

2014 – Earthen Spiral Community Coven begins meeting here.

2016 - The congregation votes to begin a Capital Campaign: “Opening the Door to Our Future”

2016 – Congregation votes to share a full time minister with Sanford. Hires an interim shared with Sanford.

2017 The Search for a permanent, shared minister is launched.