

First Congregational Church of Becket

22 Y.M.C.A. Road

42° 17'04.05"N 73° 03'54.45"W elevation 1600 feet

The colonial community was served by two churches, both centrally located in [Becket Center](#). The first, a standing order First Church of Christ, required by law, was formed in 1755. The meeting house was built between 1762 and 1764 across from the present church on Y.M.C.A. Road. The site is marked by a granite monument. The second a Baptist Church, formed in 1764, constructed its building between 1818 and 1819. The present **First Congregational Church of Becket**, built in the Greek Revival style in 1850, replaced the Second Meeting House built in 1800 on this same site. Its simple features, both on the interior and the exterior, are hallmarks of the building. The church has stained glass windows and an antique pump organ. In 1908 a tin metal ceiling and walls were added. The 7-stall horse shed was built in 1802 to shelter horses and carriages during the day-long church services.

“One of the town’s most notable historical treasures is the bell in this church, a Revere bell made by the celebrated Paul Revere of Revolutionary War fame. Xenophon and Stephen Wadsworth, young men of the town, went to Boston with horses and brought home the bell. The raising of the bell was accomplished without accident, but it had been in use only a short time when one of the frightened Wadsworth boys announced he had cracked the bell while ringing it for Sunday service. The bell was later removed and taken to Troy, New York, for remolding. One hundred dollars in silver was subscribed, and Augustus Perkins went to Troy with the bell. While watching the process of remolding, Perkins dropped the hundred silver dollars into the molten metal. The presence of the silver is said to have much to do with the present sweet tone of the Bell. The bell is one of only about thirty Revere bells known to be still in existence and in use, and is believed to be the only one in Berkshire County.” [*A Historic Tour of Becket, Massachusetts Edited and Compiled by Beverly K. Lambert and the Becket Historical Commission Drawings and Maps by Philip Buller*; copies available for \$3 at [Becket Town Hall](#)].

In 1788, the members of the **First Congregational Church of Becket** found it difficult to raise taxation money to support the minister. People were questioning their required financial support when they did not necessarily support the religion being practiced. After great effort and debate an attempt was made to raise donated funds. The 58 contributors to this fund were incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the first Congregational Society in Becket in 1798. The Society was one of the first groups in the country to use this model, still in use today, supporting the **First Congregational Church of Becket** with donations rather than by taxation.





For further information email the Becket Historical Commission:

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