

## FPCGH-1AA – HISTORIC LANDMARKS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
22 CHURCH STREET  
GOUVERNEUR, NY 13642

**1817** May 24 Congregational or Presbyterian Society, Cambray NY organized.

Trustees: William Colton, James Parker, Richard Kimball, William Cleghorn, John Spencer, Rockwell Barnes with 24 members.

**1820** .....April 20 incorporation of the church organization, first church building at \$1,400, the site deeded to the church by Mrs. Gouverneur Morris

**1820** .....July 1, joined Presbytery of Ogdensburg

**1821** .....Rev. James Murdoch, first regular pastor began his 4 years

**1824** .....second church building erected 34' x 39' balconies on 3 sides

**1825** .....Five month revival services by evangelist Charles G Finney, 80 people became members. 1827 membership was 174.

**1843** .....separate Congregational Society formed, lasted 1843 – 1862, 27 members left to that, with some founders. Observed 25th anniversary.

**1844** .....third church building erected 60' x 40' at \$3,500

**1862** .....second congregation dissolved and many returned

**1863** .....May 18 became wholly Presbyterian, elders - George Roger, Melville Thrall, Samuel Wright, James Brodie, Simeon Parmelee, Joseph Howes, George Lockie

**1866** .....parsonage and pews added, in 1879 had 297 members

**1892** .....May 14 groundbreaking for present structure Sidney Rose Badgley, Cleveland, architect, 400 members.

**1892** .....July 27 cornerstone laid of present "fourth" church building Rev. William F. Skinner swung the huge stone into place

**1893** .....Oct. 3 dedication of present "fourth" church building. \$50,000

- 1895** .....Oct.16 First wedding in the new building united Rev.William Skinner and Katherine Markwick in marriage. Rev. James F. Brodie performed the ceremony.
- 1902** .....the \$50,000 cost of church four was paid off
- 1904** .....new parsonage built, now Gouverneur village museum, provided by Myra Dean & daughters Jenny and Cora. In 1905 445 members
- 1907** .....Union Evangelistic campaign, Rev. M.S. Reese of Rochester, 58 added.
- 1912** .....hosted the "Synod of New York" with Dr. Mark Mathews, then Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. precursor as speaker. Also celebrated 25 years of ministry by William F. Skinner
- 1916** .....Revival services, Dr. John H. McComb, 111+ members, total 550 members.
- 1917** .....Hundredth Anniversary celebrated
- 1920** .....new pipe organ provided by Jennie Dean, given anonymously. Played for the first time Sept.5 1920 by Lillian Tait Sheldon.
- 1933** .....New kitchen and dining room built
- 1940** .....William F. Skinner marble memorial baptismal font dedicated
- 1942** .....Anniversary of 125 years from the founding of the church and 50th anniversary of groundbreaking for the present church building.
- 1943** .....Sound system and tower chimes were installed as tribute to WWII participants and in honor of those who gave their lives.
- 1950-51** Major renovations, Robert Witt architect
- 1962** .....First woman trustee elected to office, Jean Davidson
- 1965** .....Scholarship established for students attending Presbyterian colleges.
- 1967** .....Celebration of 150 years from the 1817 founding of the church
- 1967** .....First woman session elder elected to office, Mrs. Barton (Anna) Van Slyke
- 1969** .....HeadStart began in the downstairs of our church, continues
- 1974** .....November manse sold to Gouverneur Historical Society to be used as it museum

**1975** .....September "Gingerbread" daycare began, went to 2009

**1992** .....Anniversary of 175 years from the founding of the church and 100 years from groundbreaking for the present church building.

**1999** .....extensive rebuilding of the sanctuary organ

**2003** .....October 5 dedication of elevator installed on the church south

**2007** .....Saturday June 30 Malawi Youth Choir at our church

**2015**.....June 11 recorded on New York State Register of Historic Places

**2015**.....September 17 recorded on National Register of Historic Places