

Non-Liturgical Protestants

Week 3

Funeral Directing & Professional Relationships

Non-Liturgical Protestants in general...

- No prescribed order of worship
- Wishes of family & local clergy take precedence
- Generally no restrictions on:
 - Notification of clergy
 - Removals
 - Embalming
 - Cremation
 - Dressing
 - Casketing

Non-Liturgical Protestants

- Usually less ornate architecture
- Single podium (**pulpit**): no epistle or gospel designations
- Often more similar to a funeral home chapel
 - Service will be similar whether in funeral home or in church



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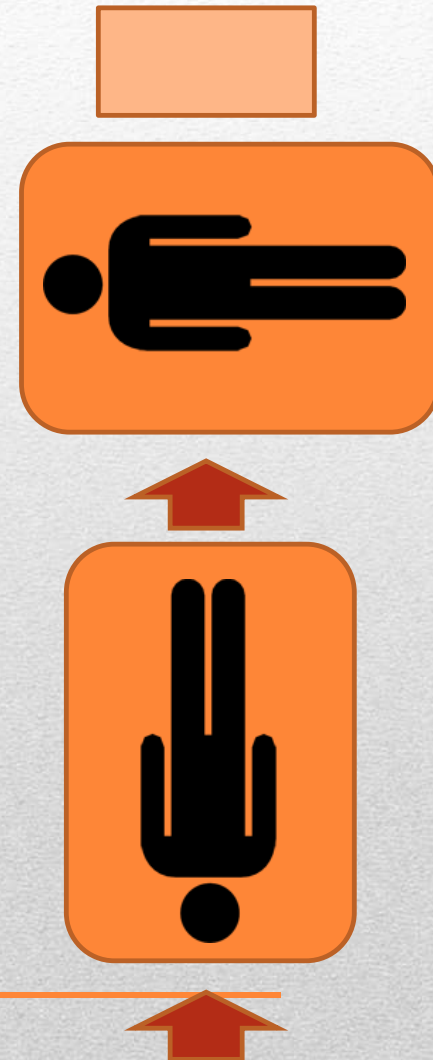
Catholic & Liturgical Interior



Non-Liturgical Interior

Non-Liturgical Protestants

- Visitation & viewing is more likely to be held in the sanctuary
 - Unlike liturgical protestants & Catholics
- Open casket is choice of family
- Procession may vary (but no acolytes or crucifers)
 - Clergy
 - Funeral director
 - Casket & casketbearers
 - Family
- Perhaps no recessional at all

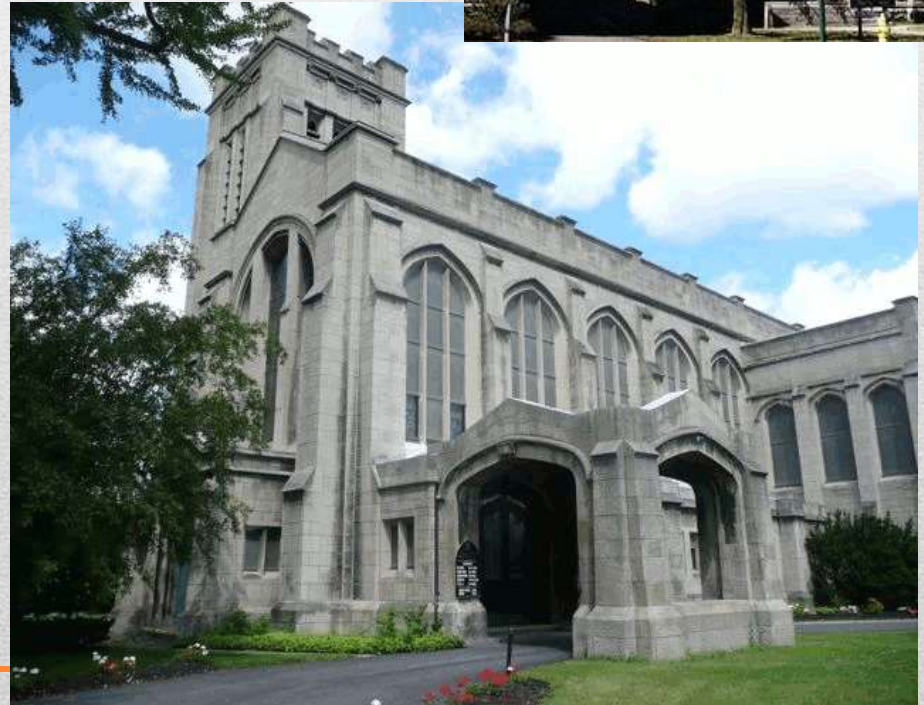


Non-Liturgical Protestants

- Funeral service will likely include:
 - Opening prayer
 - Musical selections
 - Scripture reading
 - Sermon
 - **Eulogy**
 - **Benediction**
- Committal service will likely include:
 - Prayer
 - Scripture reading
 - Benediction or closing prayer

Presbyterians

- Descend from the Calvinist Reformed Church
- Adhere to Apostle's Creed & Nicene Creed of Catholic Church
- Named for Greek *presbyteros*, meaning “elders”
- More democratic



Presbyterians

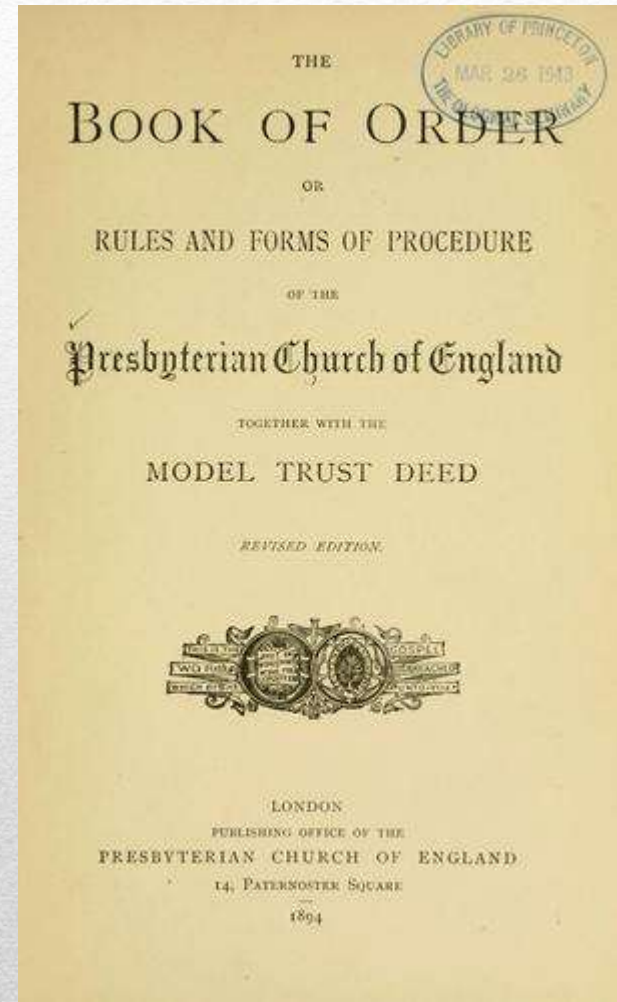
- **Elders** are elected by the congregation
 - Men or women
- Group of elders form a **session**
- Several sessions form a **presbytery**
- 3 or more presbyteries form a **synod**

- Synods are all members of the **General Assembly**



Presbyterians

- First Presbyterian church in USA was founded in 1706
- Use the **Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church**
 - But they are still non-liturgical & may deviate



Presbyterians: funerals

- 2-4 days after death
- Held in church
- Fraternal & military services to be held outside of church service
- Book of Order suggests:
 - Pall
 - Closed casket
 - Acolytes
 - Processional
 - Recessional



Local Presbyterians



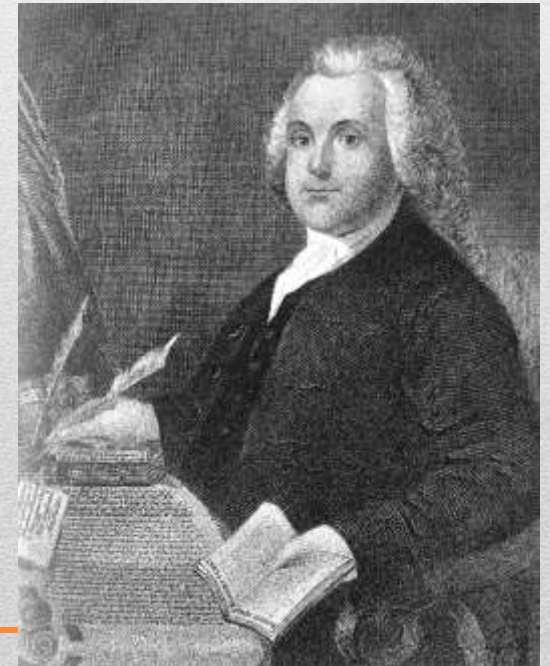
Park Central Presbyterian Church
(c) 2011 Sarah Hurwitz



First Presbyterian Church
(Batavia, New York)

Baptists

- Broke from reformation over infant baptism & separation of church and state
- Founded by **John Smyth** in **1609** in England
- 1st American church: founded by **Rodger Williams** in **1638** in Rhode Island
- at least 50 different orders



Baptists

- Largest group of non-liturgical protestants
 - Over 28 million
- 21 different bodies
- Each church is autonomous & elects a **pastor**
- Each church may be a member of a **convention**
 - e.g. the Southern Baptist Convention



Baptists: funerals

- Dependent on local customs!
- Cremation is accepted
- Order of service totally variable
- Open or closed casket
- Flowers and music
- No vestments, acolytes or pall
- Committal services are simple
 - church yard cemeteries are still common in the south



Local Baptists



Bethany Baptist Church, Syracuse, NY First Baptist Church of Fairport, NY

Methodist

- **John & Charles Wesley** broke from the Anglican Church in **1729**
- Emphasis on personal holiness
 - Very conservative
 - Strict religious observances
- Holiness societies broke off
 - Church of Nazarene
 - Assembly of God



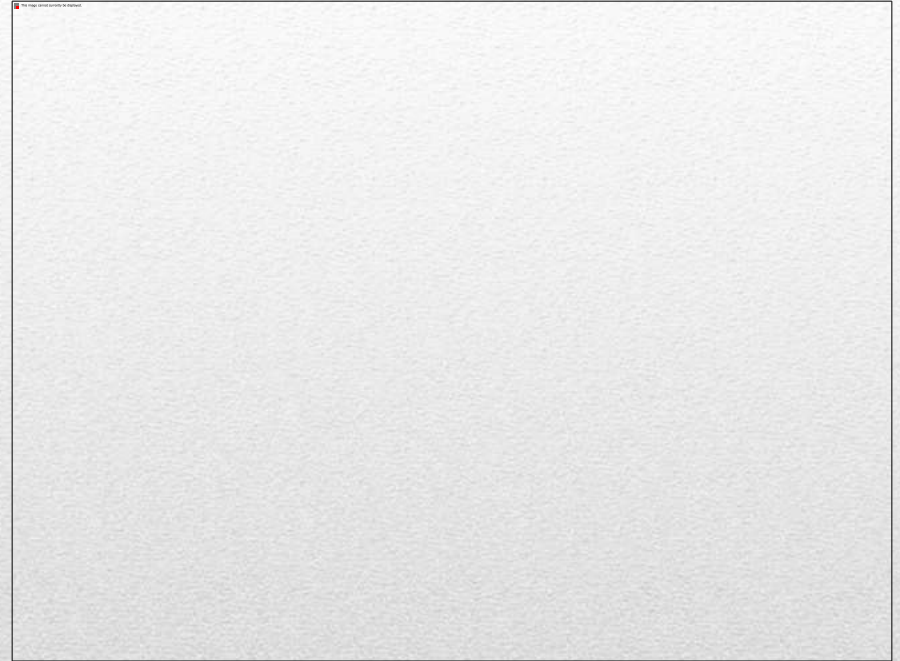
Methodist

- **Wesleyan Churches** = Overall organization
- Over 11 million in the US
- Local congregation elects **pastor**
 - Male or female
- Annual conference of elected representatives
 - Every 4 years
 - Review major doctrinal statements



Methodist: funerals

- Usually the deceased is set up before funeral
- Casket must be closed inside of church
- Short service:
 - Hymns, solo singer, scripture, eulogy
 - No fraternal or military services
- Committal may be omitted for cremation
- Red, purple, & white



Local Methodists



Syracuse:

James Street United Methodist Church

North Syracuse:

Andrews Memorial United Methodist Church

Syracuse:

University United Methodist Church

Quakers

- Founded by **George Fox** in mid-1600s from Anglican Church
- most Quakers immigrated to the US in colonial times to avoid persecution by the Anglicans
- AKA Religious Society of Friends



Quakers

- Shun organized religion
 - No clergy
- “meeting house”

- Two main groups:
 - the friends' general conference & friends united meeting



Quakers: funerals



- services are begun in silence
- conservative sects do not allow music; friends united is more liberal
- two elders rise & **shake hands** to indicate the end of the service & time for committal
- women and men may sit on opposing sites of the church
- the service could be one hour or five hours.

Local Quakers



Syracuse Friends Meeting



Rochester Quaker Meeting House

Adventists

- AKA Seventh Day Adventists
- originated in New England in **1844** with **William Miller**
- **Great Disappointment**
- **Ellen White** stepped in
 - said the prophecy was right but the date was wrong
- Founded church in **1860** with her husband



Adventists

- each local church has a local **board of directors**
- several churches make up a **local conference**
- several local conferences = **union conference**
= a grouping of several states & foreign nations
- the union conference makes up the 12 international division of the **general conference**



Adventists: funerals

- follow Orthodox Judaic dietary laws
- follow a literal Saturday Sabbath
 - No funerals Saturday
 - No visitation Friday evening
- Funeral held within a week
 - Friends & family visit before the funeral
- cremation is allowed
- believe that death is the soul sleeping until judgment
- Dark clothing, no jewelry; arms & knees covered

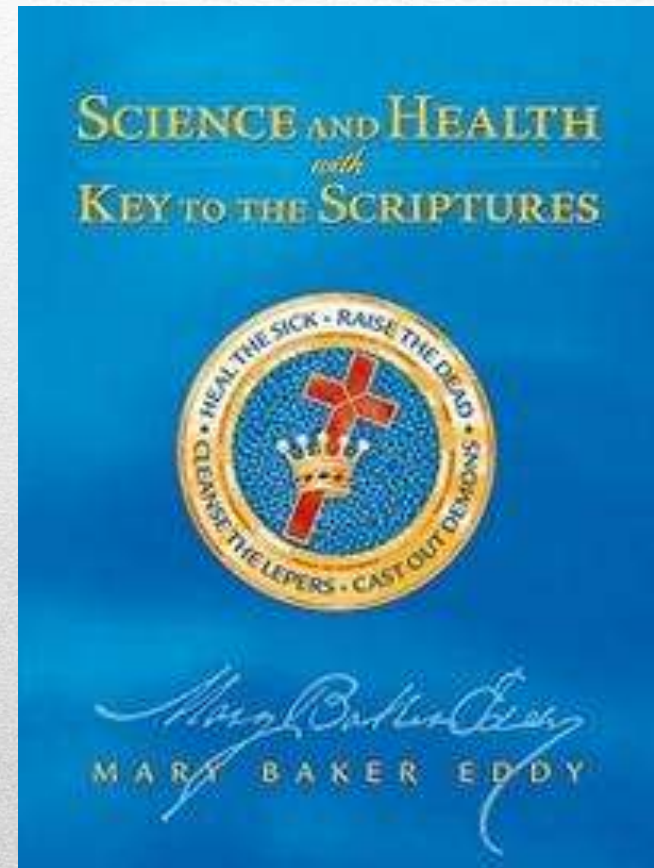
Christian Science

- AKA Church of Christ, Scientist
- Founded by **Mary Baker Eddy** in **1879**
- mother church is in Boston, MA
- no structure or government
 - No clergy
 - **Readers or practitioners**
- **reading rooms**
- principle text = **Science and Health with Key to Scriptures**



Christian Science: beliefs

- all illness and death is a result of sin
- injustice, sin, evil and sickness is not real because only God is real and he is good
- death is a figment of the mind; through prayer, we can heal ourselves.
- death is not the termination of life but only a manifestation that life is material
 - avoid terms like death
 - **prefer the term “passed on”**



Christian Science: funerals

- a funeral service is totally optional
- cremation is common
- embalming is also fine (preferably gender division)
- visitation is not common

- **funerals are never held in the church;**
most are in the funeral home
- Service:
 - reader who will read a service
 - hymns may be sung by group
 - conclude with Lord's Prayer

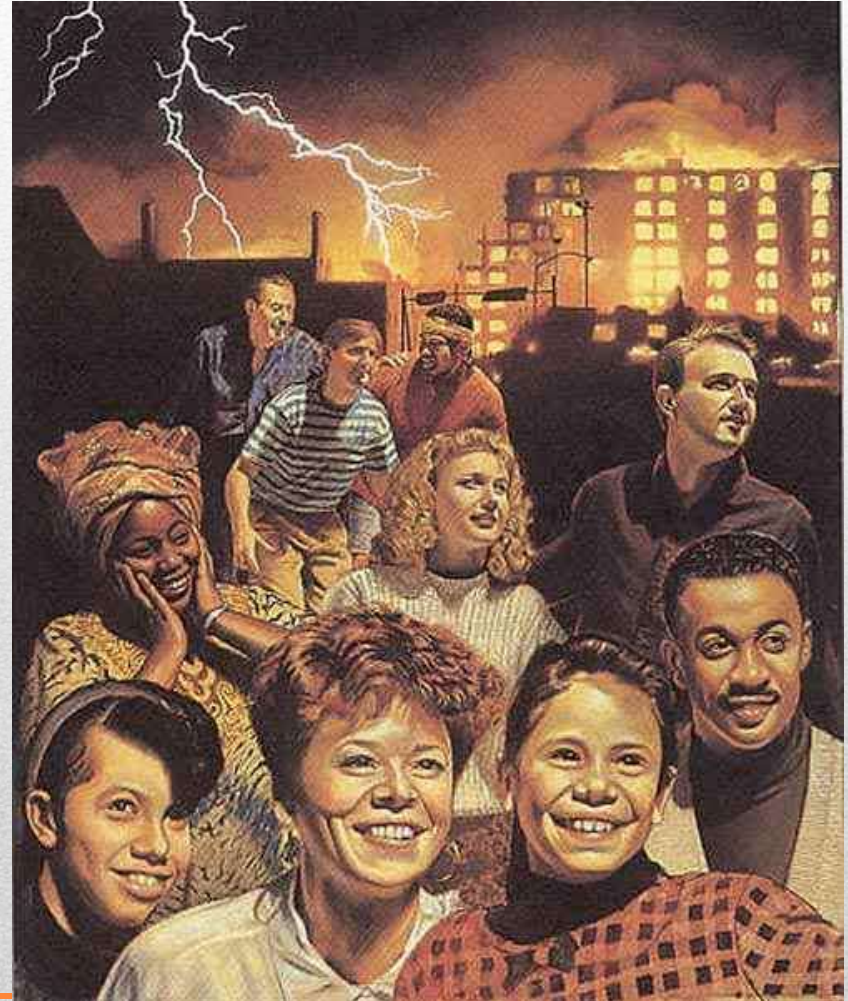
Jehovah's Witness

- founded by **Charles Taze Russell** in the **1870s** as the International Bible Students
- Changed name in 1931
- Unincorporated group
- Building is a **Kingdom Hall**



Jehovah's Witness: beliefs

- The Bible is **literal** word of God
 - 144,000 people will be saved
- There should be no formal government of a church
- All men are ministers of God
- Do not believe in ceremony
- Do not salute the flag, celebrate holidays, or birthdays

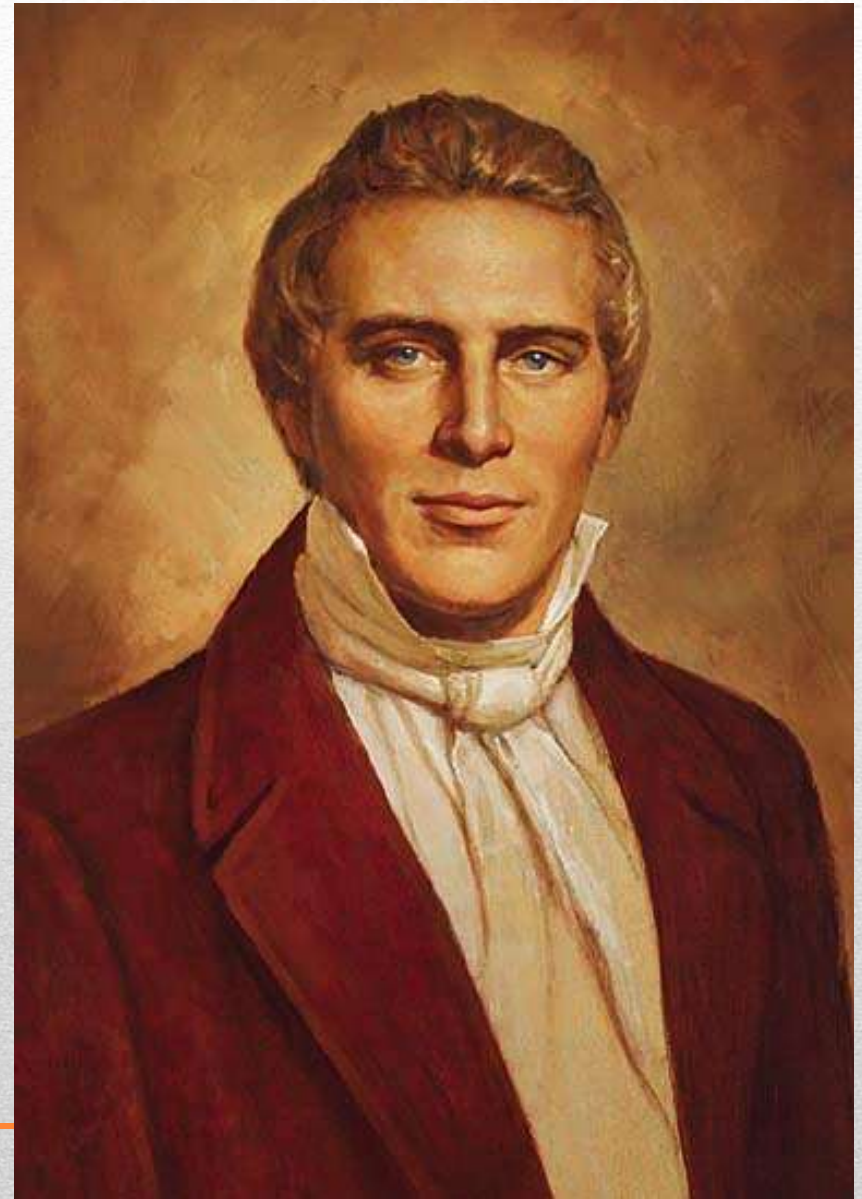


Jehovah's Witness: funerals

- No notification of clergy
- No restrictions on removal, embalming or cremation
- Dressing & casketing is entirely up to the family
- Visitation is held at the funeral home
- Funeral may be held in the Kingdom Hall or funeral home with the casket in place at the beginning
- Service:
 - no formal procession
 - prayers and scripture read by anyone
 - simple burial is common

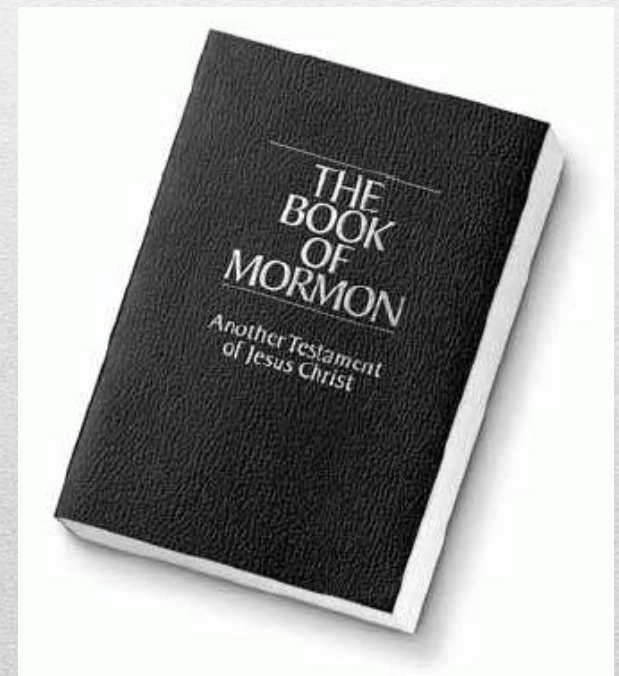
Mormons

- founded by **Joseph Smith** in **1830** in Palmyra, NY
- **Book of Mormon**
- Persecution – moved to Illinois then to Utah to mid 1800s
- AKA **Church of the Latter Day Saints**



Mormons: beliefs

- follow basic doctrines of the new testament: God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- man is “a child of God”
- all men are brothers
- life is eternal
- heaven is of “various grades and stations”
 - there is no hell
- clergy are **BISHOPS OF THE WARD** appointed regionally
 - All male



Mormons

- Building for special forms of worship = **temple**
- Building for weekly worship services = **meetinghouse**
- Only people of the temple can enter the temple
 - Dress all in white



Mormons: funerals

- Notification of the clergy is not required
- No restrictions on removals or embalming
- Casket is choice of family
- Dressing and casketing
 - members of the congregation dress the deceased
 - Men: white garments, including tie & moccasins, robe worn from right shoulder to the left ankle, **green apron**, white sash on the waist with white cap.
 - Women: similar, with the addition of a white veil



Mormons: funerals

- Services held at meeting house, chapel, or funeral home
 - **Never in temple**
- Visitation commonly done at the funeral home
- No crosses, crucifixes, palls, candles, or flowers in church
- Music is similar to most protestant churches
- Cremation is allowed but is rare
- service is at discretion of the officiant