

## WHAT IS A BAPTIST?



In 1638 Roger Williams established the First Baptist Church in America in Rhode Island, whose government became the first in history founded on the guarantee of absolute religious freedom.

Jimmy Carter served as 39th U.S. President from 1977 to 1981, and was the recipient of the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the Middle East.



Joanna P. Moore (1832-1916) established schools for freed African American women following the Civil War.

Bill Clinton served as 42nd U.S. President from 1992 to 2000.



Lulu Fleming, the first female medical missionary appointed by Baptists, brought Christ's love to the people of the Congo in the 1880s.

Mike Huckabee, 44th governor of Arkansas, finished second in the 2008 U.S. Republican presidential primaries.



The first woman ordained to ministry in the American Baptist tradition was Edith Hill of Kansas in 1894.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. brought a ministry of justice, peace and love that transformed U.S. society in the 1950s and 1960s. Dr. King won the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize.

Baptists believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and that we are called to live and act as witnesses to that truth.

Baptists believe in "soul freedom," that people are able to live in direct relationship with God and to interpret the Bible for our lives. Baptist decision-making is mostly at the local church level. At the First Baptist of Branford, all are welcome and invited to receive communion at our services. In addition, we honor all forms of prior Baptism for those joining us from other Christian traditions.

With 1.5 million members and 5,800 congregations, American Baptist Churches USA share with more than 43 million Baptists around the world a common tradition that began in the early 17th century, with the commitment to religious freedom.