



March 22

Commemoration: Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, 1758

Jonathan Edwards (October 5, 1703 – March 22, 1758) was a preacher, theologian, and missionary to Native Americans. Edwards "is widely acknowledged to be America's most important and original philosophical theologian," and one of America's greatest theologians. Edwards's theological work is very broad in scope, but he is often associated with his defense of Reformed theology (Calvinism), the metaphysics of theological determinism, and the Puritan heritage. Recent studies have emphasized how thoroughly Edwards grounded his life's work on conceptions of beauty, harmony, and ethical fittingness, and how central The Enlightenment was to his mindset.

Edwards played a critical role in shaping the First Great Awakening, and oversaw some of the first fires of revival in 1733–35 at his church — First Church — in Northampton,

Massachusetts. Edwards delivered the sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God", a classic of early American literature, during another wave of revival in 1741, following George Whitefield's tour of the Thirteen Colonies. Edwards is widely known for his many books: *The End For Which God Created the World*; *The Life of David Brainerd*, which served to inspire thousands of missionaries throughout the nineteenth century; and *Religious Affections*, which many Reformed Evangelicals read even today. Edwards died from a smallpox inoculation shortly after beginning the presidency at the College of New Jersey (later named Princeton University). He was the grandfather of Aaron Burr, 3rd Vice President of the United States.

Painting: Jonathan Edwards

Born October 5, 1703, East Windsor, Connecticut, U.S.

Died March 22, 1758 (aged 54) Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.

*Alma mater* Yale College

Occupation Pastor, theologian and missionary

Spouse Sarah Pierrepont