

On June 1, 2011 a powerful tornado ripped through the Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts, leveling homes and businesses, ripping roofs off of buildings, and severely damaging one of the oldest and most historic churches in the area.

before



The First Church of Monson was built in 1873. Just before its 250th anniversary, the 2011 tornado toppled its iconic steeple, and destroyed its vestibule, spire, belfry, bell and clock.

In the days and weeks after the tornado, church officials and members opened the churches' doors to area residents to take shelter, get much-needed water and food, and to gather and regroup. The Church chose SMW to represent it in its claim for restoration of the church and steeple.

"The First Church was such an important part of this community, and its steeple was an important landmark," says Jeffrey Winnick. "We were onsite immediately after the tornado, and understood right away how important it was to return this church to the congregation, and to the Monson community. It was a long and intense process, but the end result is amazing."

SMW's experts were onsite right away, cataloging the extensive damage, working with the Church's council, and managing damage control contractors. In the two years of the rebuilding process, SMW worked tirelessly with Church leaders, construction personnel, legal and insurance experts and all of the others involved in the extensive rebuilding and claims process.



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Case Study

FIRST CHURCH OF MONSON

The Church's vestibule and foundation were rebuilt, and its steeple replaced. A new bronze bell was brought in from the Netherlands, inscribed with the words "Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, you are welcome here!" The motto holds true for the First Church of Monson, which is once again a gathering place for the community, and home to a vibrant congregation.

Read more here:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2013/10/17/monson/DgVL3oX5RGCNALNsY395rJ/story.html>



after

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JEFFREY WINNICK *focuses on sales and marketing for SMW, explaining the claims process, on-site organization, and ensuring every client is well cared for during the entire recovery and claims process.*

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