

# Joseph Priestley: pioneering Unitarian and American patriot

presented by Larry J. Eriksson at UUFDC, Ephraim, Wisconsin, July 3, 2016

## For additional information

*The Enlightenment of Joseph Priestley: A Study of his Life and Work from 1733 to 1773*, Robert E. Schofield, Penn State Press, 1997. First volume of the definitive biography of Priestley. A long, but well-written and very interesting account of Priestley's early life.

*The Enlightened Joseph Priestley: A Study of His Life and Work from 1773 to 1804*, Robert E. Schofield, Penn State Press, 2004. Second volume of the definitive biography of Priestley. An excellent and even longer account of the second half of Priestley's life.

*Joseph Priestley: A Comet in the System*, John Ruskin Clark, Torch Publications, 1990. A somewhat shorter biography by a retired UU minister. Informative and interesting, but the structure is sometimes confusing.

*The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Faith, Revolution, and the Birth of America*, Steven Johnson, Penguin, 2008. An entertaining presentation of Priestley's scientific discoveries and the paradigm shift in science that resulted. The title reflects the author's internalist perspective in which things are invented as opposed to Priestley's externalist view in which things are discovered.

*The Lunar Men: Five Friends Whose Curiosity Changed the World*, Jenny Uglow, Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2002. An interesting history of the Lunar Society in Birmingham, England, and the lives of its famous members including Joseph Priestley, Matthew Boulton, James Watt, Josiah Wedgwood, and Erasmus Darwin.

## Wikipedia links

These links discuss Priestley's innovative development of time line charts and include images of his famous charts:

[A New Chart of History - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

[A Chart of Biography - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)