

PRINCEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Princeville, Illinois



Senior Pastor Search Information Packet

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF PRINCEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our church was organized with 17 members and established as Prince's Grove Presbyterian in August 1834. The town was not officially established as Prince's Grove until 1838, so the church is a little older than the town.

As it first started out, private homes were used for worship meetings and as a result, little is actually known of the church's life between 1838-1843. Records were lost or disarranged or not written at all. There are indicators that the church underwent difficulties during those years. The first consistent records are found beginning just before 1844 when the first church building was built.

That first church building was completed after a long struggle at a cost of \$2000 and was located at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets where the Princeville State bank now stands. Once built the church attracted worshipers from neighboring areas, some traveling in from Dunlap and Elmore which involved a serious Lord's day commitment.

Princeville Presbyterian was generally an "old school" church adhering to conservative Reformed theology and looking askance at the revivalist practices, but as the need of life in small towns during westward expansion was to get along, the controversy was weathered with brotherly cooperation and affection toward those of the "new school". This gracious spirit between "disagreeing brothers" enabled the church to maintain strength and to grow.

The church went through other distressing times that troubled its existence. In 1865, the nation divided north and south, and so did the Presbyterian denomination. Princeville Presbyterian was faced with a decision that could have damaged it deeply. After much discussion and debate, the church voted unanimously to align with the north.

Shortly afterward in 1866, the church relocated to the current location on Santa Fe Ave and the building was completed debt free by way of many sacrifices. By 1910 (although the exact date is not so certain) the church was renamed "First Presbyterian", which is funny because there are no other Presbyterian churches in town or in the neighboring towns.

Several currently maintained ministries have their origins in much older church commitments. For example, a Thanksgiving service was begun about 1855 which continues to this day with community participation. The first Vacation Bible School was held in 1927 in cooperation with the Methodist church. This has become a significant outreach and continues to this day.

More recently, the conviction had been growing that there was a need to return to our stated theological foundations. By congregational vote, the church separated from the PCUSA in March of 2012 and aligned with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, which is when the church name was changed from First Presbyterian to Princeville Presbyterian.

As with every other church, part of the history that shapes us has been the ministries of the pastors who have been in our pulpit. There were 16 pastors between 1866 and 1982. The average tenure was 7 years. Some were only here a year or so, and others a little longer than 7 years. In some cases we didn't have a pastor for several years. Between 1982 and 2017 there have been six pastors, the longest tenure being 16 years, the others being an average of 3.5 years. The pastors that stayed a long time provided the church with stability and direction, yet with every change the church experienced a

discomfiting and some disorientation. Our current pastor is an Intentional Interim Pastor who provides regular teaching, preaching, guidance and counsel as we seek our next permanent pastor.

In 1982, a 120-acre plot of land was left to the church by a devoted member. A shelter was built on the property for church picnics and fellowship activities. Through the effort of volunteers 90 acres has been farmed in corn and beans, and 30 acres has been left wooded. The income from the crops supplements our missions budget and our general fund.

Other improvements to the church properties include the addition of a large fellowship hall (1986), the remodeling of the sanctuary which added seating (1989), replacement of the steeple (2001) and basement remodeling to provide five classrooms, a conference room, and an open activity area (2016).

Current ministries directed toward the church include Sunday morning Christian Education for ages 3 to adult, a recently revived Wednesday evening prayer service, a women's study / prayer group on Mondays and Wednesdays, and "Women of the Word" (W.O.W.) study / discipleship groups on Monday morning and Tuesday evenings which include occasional brunches and fellowships.

The church also currently has a few ministries directed toward our small community and are frequently conducted with the Methodist church across town – Summer Vacation Bible School, an annual "Worship in the Park", an annual Thanksgiving Worship Service, and a Community Food Pantry.

Throughout the life of this church there has been a strong missions outreach locally, nationally and across the world. We've also had the privilege of supporting two families from this congregation whom God has raised up and sent out to serve cross-culturally in missions. After the denominational change from the PCUSA to the EPC, our missions support was scaled back, but we are currently taking steps with anticipation to expand that.

DEMOGRAPHICS - PRINCEVILLE, DUNLAP & WYOMING, ILLINOIS -

Presented here are the demographics for Princeville and the three nearest towns large enough to sustain small businesses such as gas stations, banks, convenience store and restaurants as well as services such as fire department or emergency medical. These towns were selected because in some measure they contribute to the community dynamic of Princeville.

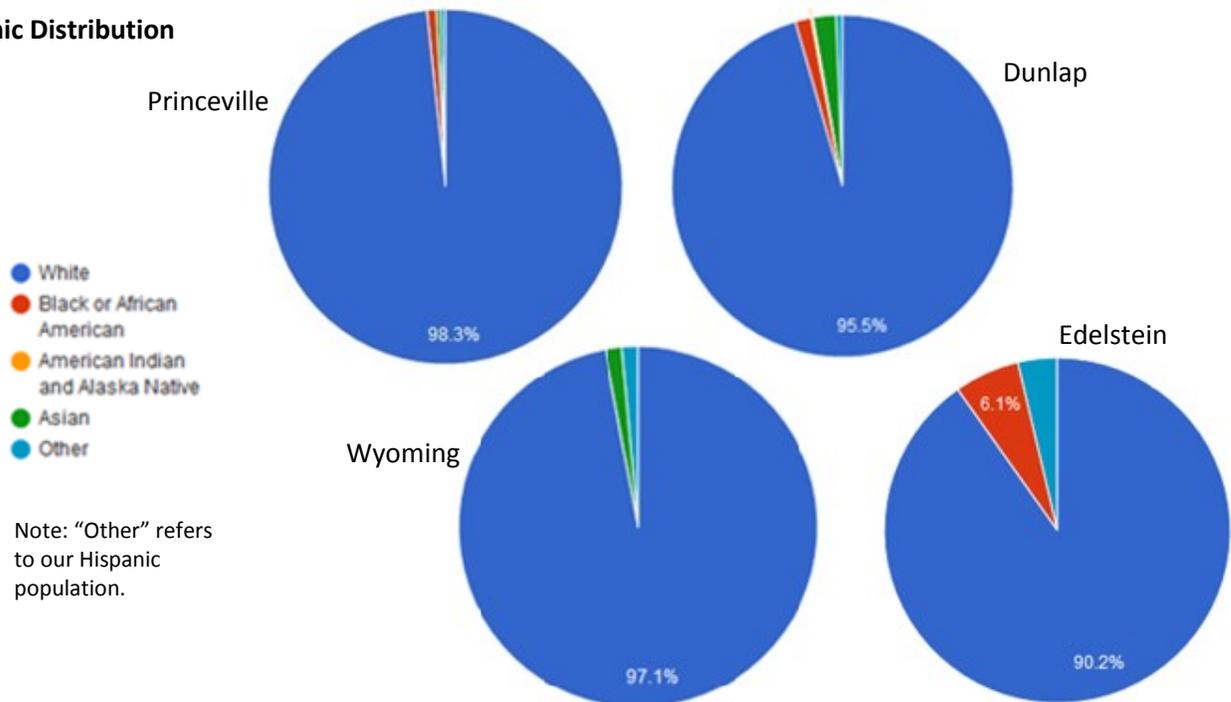
Princeville, IL – population 1850
Wyoming, IL (10 miles north) – population 1490

Dunlap, IL (9 miles south) – population 1590
Edelstein, IL (8 miles east) – population 1075

Age Distribution

Age Group (years)	Princeville		Dunlap		Wyoming		Edelstein		National Avg
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Under 5	193	9.5%	107	7.2%	84	5.3%	74	7.2%	6.2
5 to 9	132	6.5%	146	9.9%	122	7.6%	107	10.4%	6.4
10 to 14	190	9.4%	130	8.8%	99	6.2%	62	6.0%	6.4
15 to 19	124	6.1%	143	9.7%	98	6.1%	77	7.5%	6.7
20 to 24	59	2.9%	86	5.8%	85	5.3%	21	2.0%	7.0
25 to 34	289	14.3%	149	10.1%	123	7.7%	104	10.1%	13.7
35 to 44	222	11.0%	239	16.2%	145	9.1%	128	12.4%	12.7
45 to 54	230	11.4%	241	16.3%	201	12.6%	120	11.6%	13.4
55 to 59	155	7.7%	80	5.4%	97	6.1%	46	4.5%	6.7
60 to 64	70	3.5%	56	3.8%	151	9.4%	56	5.4%	6.0
65 to 74	180	8.9%	64	4.3%	221	13.8%	99	9.6%	8.6
75 to 84	144	7.1%	32	2.2%	104	6.5%	75	7.3%	4.4
85 and Over	36	1.8%	5	0.3%	69	4.3%	64	6.2%	1.9

Ethnic Distribution



Education

	Princeville		Dunlap		Wyoming		Edelstein		
Education Level	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	National Avg
Less than 9th grade	24	1.8%	0	0.0%	26	2.3%	27	3.9%	5.5
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	83	6.3%	22	2.5%	156	14.0%	22	3.2%	7.3
High school graduate (includes equivalent)	410	30.9%	174	20.1%	449	40.4%	172	24.9%	27.6
Some college, no degree	358	27.0%	161	18.6%	271	24.4%	155	22.4%	20.7
Associate Degree	179	13.5%	57	6.6%	83	7.5%	107	15.5%	8.2
Bachelor's Degree	170	12.8%	278	32.1%	91	8.2%	169	24.4%	19.0
Graduate or professional degree	102	7.7%	174	20.1%	35	3.2%	40	5.8%	11.6
Education Summary	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	National Avg
< High School Graduate	107	8.1%	22	2.5%	182	16.3%	49	7.1%	12.8
High School Graduate or Higher	1,219	91.9%	844	97.5%	929	83.7%	643	93.0%	87.1
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	272	20.5%	452	52.2%	126	11.4%	209	30.2%	30.6

Employment

Industry	Princeville		Dunlap		Wyoming		Edelstein		National Avg
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining	50	5.6%	9	1.2%	22	3.8%	0	0.0%	1.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	35	4.0%	36	4.8%	54	9.4%	9	2.3%	9.8
Construction	70	7.9%	39	5.2%	37	6.4%	16	4.1%	6.4
Educational services, health care and social assistance	175	19.8%	174	23.3%	147	25.5%	21	5.4%	22.9
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing	52	5.9%	41	5.5%	27	4.7%	54	14.0%	6.5
Information	7	0.8%	14	1.9%	5	0.9%	31	8.0%	2.1
Manufacturing	166	18.7%	199	26.6%	99	17.2%	82	21.2%	10.3
Other services except public administration	63	7.1%	22	2.9%	35	6.1%	17	4.4%	4.9
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	41	4.6%	83	11.1%	41	7.1%	71	18.3%	11.3
Public administration	14	1.6%	24	3.2%	0	0.0%	18	4.7%	4.6
Retail trade	129	14.6%	63	8.4%	72	12.5%	50	12.9%	11.5
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	30	3.4%	28	3.7%	24	4.2%	9	2.3%	5.1
Wholesale trade	54	6.1%	15	2.0%	14	2.4%	9	2.3%	2.7

CHURCH VISION AND MISSION

Mission – What Does God want us to DO?

He wants us to 'make disciples of all nations, seeking them and calling them into fellowship with God, teaching them all that the Lord Jesus has taught us, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'

Vision - Who does God want us to BE in this place where he has put us?

To Be a Gospel-centered Community of Love, under the authority of God's Word, to make him known in Princeville; and all for his glory. Our particular focus has been outreach to children, women, and families. We aspire to reach out to men and the Hispanic population in town.

OUR CORE VALUES

Scripture

We place a high value on Scripture. We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inerrant Word of God and perfectly sufficient to equip us in our faith, service and daily lives (Psalm 19:7-14, 2 Corinthians 3:5, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We acknowledge that Scripture is our ultimate and final authority but admit that many of us only have a very basic knowledge of the Bible itself.

Worship Style

We keep to a Reformed/Traditional order of worship. Our preaching is, for the most part, expositional. Our worship music is mostly hymns, although we do have occasional contemporary music. Our praise and worship music is chosen so as to be cohesive and fluent with the sermon and service. Although we have had a choir in the past, we do not currently have one. We would like to return to having a choir in the future. We partake in communion, served by the elders of the church, once per month. This is generally on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Covenant Community

Our congregation is well known for its loving and welcoming environment. Through various ministries (Women Of the Word, Sunday School, Youth Group, Titus 2 Discipleship), we seek to build open, transparent, and safe environments where all can come broken and be restored. We also have a Fellowship Team that focuses on planning events that build stronger bonds within the church body.

Growth and Spiritual Transformation

Romans 12:12 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." This is the focus of our preaching, teaching, prayer, and worship. We hold to the truth that, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are continually being sanctified.

Evangelism

Our church implemented an AWANA program six years ago. Through this ministry, children ages 3yrs-Jr. High in the church, community and surrounding areas are taught the Gospel through scripture memory, structured lessons, fun activities, and group discussions. Although this program is typically used in Baptist churches, we have been able to adjust and add our own curriculum that holds fast to our reformed heritage and gospel-center beliefs. The number of children varies from year to year; however, we typically have around 35-40 children enrolled. This is our church's number one outreach ministry.

Community

As a church in a small town (population 1750) we have had an important connection to our community. There have been some deeply rooted community ecumenical activities such as a Thanksgiving service, a summer worship service in the park at the close of our "Heritage days", and a community Vacation Bible School, which we trade between three or four churches. Our response to these is ambivalent - we participate in some ecumenical activities because this is our town, but are cautious about what part we play because of our commitment to the Gospel and the desire to avoid diluting the message.

REGIONAL DESCRIPTION

As our congregation continues to faithfully pray that the Lord will lead us in our search and the man who is to be our full-time pastor, we seek to inform any likely candidate of some regional characteristics that will be factors as he realistically considers the pastoral position at Princeville Presbyterian.

Princeville Presbyterian Church is a rural church. The Pastoral Search Committee would like to make sure that anyone seeking to come to our Church would completely understand what the term “rural” means. The Merriam Webster Dictionary definition of rural is “relating to the country”, “agriculture”, “country life”. Our hope is to make clear that we are a small rural community (population 1800). We are a village surrounded for several miles by farm land planted with corn and soybeans. The nearest towns are 9 miles south and 10 miles north, a quick 12-minute drive in either direction each offering a change of scenery but little more than what we have in Princeville. We are by no means isolated, but we are removed from the activity of the city. Life is slower and quieter here.

Peoria is the closest city to travel to for groceries, entertainment, shopping, doctors, hospitals, etc. The nearest grocery store is 20-minute drive (about 14 miles) and to reach the hospitals in downtown Peoria the drive would be about 25-30 minutes (about 24 miles) . And while we do have a small town medical office, for any major medical and all dental appointments you will be driving into Peoria.

Having said that, Princeville is not without its own simple amenities. We have a very nice library with a new addition which can acquire books, videos, and CDs through a larger regional system. And just to name a few of our local businesses we have a bakery/ice cream parlor, diner and one other restaurant, gas station(s), pharmacy, a hardware store, a local fitness facility as well as a couple of parks, an aquatic center, and a small museum on local history. Princeville also has a Dollar General that carries your typical household staples but there is no grocery store to purchase fresh produce or meat.

Princeville has a public grade and high school with an average enrollment of about 760. Our community schools were rated number twenty in Illinois for the year 2018. While it may be considered a small town school system, there are plenty of academic and athletic programs for students to be involved in. There is also an aftercare program for families that have both parents working outside the home.

Hobbies will be an important element to fill your down time. If you don't mind contending with the occasional tractor there are miles of country roads for biking. Nearby we have the Rock Island Trail – a nice running/biking trail – and the 3200-acre Jubilee State Park is also just outside of Princeville.

Here we enjoy the beauty and wonder of all four seasons. Turbulent and stormy springs help to produce a lush green “rolling ocean” of crops. In the Summer, you may come to understand the expression “knee high by the Fourth of July”. And there is no sweeter smell than the scent of pollenating corn in late summer (*spoiler alert* for those of you who deal with allergies). The autumn has its own display of colors and crisp fall air along with the enticement of cider donuts and apple butter from nearby Tanner's Orchard. Admittedly our winters are an item to consider when living so far from a larger city, especially when there is a snowstorm - closed roads and power outages are a possibility and do

sometimes occur. Winters can sometimes seem to drag on and people can become as dormant as the winter landscape, but good fellowship helps to make the winter season move along more quickly.

In a small town it is unavoidable that many of your church members will be your neighbors and your unchurched neighbors will know you are the pastor of our church. This could maybe give some people the feeling of “living in a fishbowl”. But it is equally a blessing and opportunity for the Gospel!

Our hope in sharing these regional descriptions is not to discourage a candidate considering a call to Princeville Presbyterian Church but to make you aware of some factors you may not have considered when seeking a church in a small rural setting.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE “BEST FIT” PASTOR

Our church has a personality profile that is most comfortably described as Conscientious and Competent. We tend to set high standards for ourselves which is manifest in our concern for doctrine and “doing things the right way”. We will be methodical and orderly about the things we do – most noticeable in our style of worship – but also seen in the care we give decision-making. We also have a respect for clear policies (while hopefully not getting carried away). But this should not lead you to think that we are cold and lifeless or mechanical. The congregation is friendly, kind and empathetic. We care for one another “in sickness and in health”, are generally service-oriented and can be exceptionally loyal.

The pastor who will fit best at Princeville Presbyterian is someone who is balanced between being people-oriented and task-oriented. He will need to be diligent and “industrious” (motivated by his love for the Lord) to accomplish weekly tasks, monthly deadlines and annual commitments while also caring for us as people. We can become too comfortable in our traditions, practices and procedures, so we need a shepherd who will care for us pastorally, but who also knows where we need to be led and gently but firmly leads us to get there. This shepherd will also be patient with us and not try to change us too quickly! We need someone who will bring us to the Word and show us what God would have us to be or to do, who will listen to us, who will take our ideas and perspective into account, and make decisions or take action without compromising what is true and good and right. Given the amount of pastoral turnover we have experienced, we need someone who will consider committing to us for long-term.

There are plenty of quiet times in Princeville, so the pastor who comes should have a hobby or two to occupy him when he is finished with study and office work. But there are also plenty of opportunities to become acquainted with neighbors and village merchants. Overall, the best fit pastor will have a balanced life incorporating the rhythms of work and relaxation, solitude and relationship-building, connecting with people inside the church and outside the church.

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Jerry Dwyer - is currently a Deacon and has been a member of Princeville Presbyterian Church going on twenty years. He has served the church in various capacities including elder and deacon. He has been married to his wife Kelli for twenty-five years. They have four daughters and a grandson.

James "Tater" Harwood – has been a member for over 30 years and serves as a Ruling Elder and trustee. He and his wife, Robin, have two grown children and seven grandkids. They have lived in Princeville since 1973.

Amanda Keighin (Co-chair) – is the church's Administrative Secretary, Women's Ministry Coordinator, and serves as a Director in the AWANA program. She and her three children, Kailee (16), Alaina (15), and Eli (13), have lived in Princeville since 2008. She has been a member of the church since 2013. She also works as an optician in Peoria but has a calling on her life to serve in ministry full-time.

Lynn Lehmann - and her husband Steve have been members of the Princeville Presbyterian Church since 2013. Lynn currently serves as a deacon and is the director of the Sparks program for AWANA. Steve and Lynn have been married for 18 years and are the parents of three boys, Brayden (13), Ryan (11) and Nickolas (8). Lynn is a registered nurse for OSF Medical Group where she has worked for the past 18 years. In her spare time, she enjoys attending her children's activities, playing the piano and reading.

Holly Litwiller – has been a member of Princeville Presbyterian for 12 years. She serves as a Sunday school teacher as well as a youth group leader. Holly is a wife, mother, and an oncology nurse by trade.

Suzi Noonan - has been a member of Princeville Presbyterian since 2010, wife to Chris since 2004, and mother to Sophie (age 10) and Michael (age 7). She enjoys working as a hair stylist in a busy Peoria salon while balancing life at home with her family and pets. Suzi's sanity is pieced back together in the quietness of the early morning, save the sweet sounds of nature, in time spent alone with Christ and a pot (or two) of hot coffee.

Kirk Potter – is a Ruling Elder and is retired from Caterpillar Inc. after 43 years of service. His wife Nancy, a retired RN, grew up in this church and they were married here in 1973. They have both faithfully served in many roles since then. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Teresa Snodgrass (Secretary) - is not only part of the pastoral search committee, she is also part of the women's ministry leadership team, teaches Pre-K through first grade Sunday school, is the recording clerk, and clerk of session. Teresa is married to Randy and has two step sons. Other interests Teresa enjoys are running, reading, traveling, and most recently golf.

Michaele Webber – is a stay at home mom, has two sons, and is married to Tom Webber. She has been a member of Princeville Presbyterian Church for five years. She enjoys being on the women's ministry leadership team, leading the Fellowship Committee, and serving the church.

Chris Baker (Intentional Interim Pastor/Moderator) – is a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America with 30 years of ministerial experience having served the last 6 years as an intentional interim. A resident of St. Louis, Missouri he and his wife Marilyn have two grown children and three grandchildren who keep them very busy when not out on ministerial assignment.