

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 2022 there have been seven pastors, the longest tenure being 16 years, the others being an average of 3.5 years.

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 "Women of the Word" (W.O.W.) study / discipleship groups on Tuesday mornings and evenings which include occasional brunches and activities. The fellowship team – provides unity with the congregation through movies, games, and fellowship activities.

The church also currently has a few ministries directed toward our small community, Summer Vacation Bible School which is shared with the Methodist Church, an annual Easter Egg Hunt in the town square, a Community Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child, Back to School Back Pack program, and the National Day of Prayer. We use these opportunities to demonstrate our faith to our community.

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 a family from this congregation whom God has raised up and sent out to serve cross-culturally in missions.

DEMOGRAPHICS - PRINCEVILLE, DUNLAP & WYOMING, ILLINOIS -

Presented here are the demographics for Princeville and the Peoria Metro area. While Princeville itself is a small town, we are very close to a major metropolitan area, located in north central Illinois.

Princeville, IL – population 1,684

Dunlap, IL (9 miles southeast) – population 1,428

Wyoming, IL (10 miles north) – population 1,300

Peoria, IL (15 miles southeast) – population 113,150

Age Distribution

Age Group (years)	Princeville		Peoria Metro		Illinois
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
0 to 9	265	15.7%	51,831	12.8%	12%
10 to 19	230	13.7%	50,250	12.5%	13.1%
20 to 29	127	7.5%	48,829	12.1%	13.7%
30 to 39	195	11.6%	50,284	12.5%	13.4%
40 to 49	173	10.3%	49,380	12.2%	12.7%
50 to 59	241	14.3%	51,627	12.8%	13.3%
60 to 69	152	9%	50,798	12.6%	11.4%
70 to 79	166	9.9%	31,075	7.7%	6.5%
80+	135	8%	19,673	4.9%	4%

Census Data: ACS 2020 5-year

Ethnic Distribution

Race & Ethnicity	Princeville		Peoria Metro		Illinois
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
White	1,480	87.9%	333,967	82.7%	60.9%
Black	5	0.3%	35,176	8.7%	13.9%
Native	0	0%	670	0.2%	0.1%
Asian	0	0%	9,275	2.3%	5.5%
Islander	0	0%	31	0%	0%
Other	22	1.3%	410	0.1%	0.2%
Two+	56	3.3%	9,836	2.4%	2.2%
Hispanic	121	7.2%	14,382	3.6%	17.2%

Education

Education Level	Princeville		Peoria Metro		Illinois
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Avg Percent
No degree	114	10%	21,500	7.7%	10.3%
High school	366	32.3%	85,830	30.8%	25.6%
Some college	399	35.2%	93,322	33.5%	28.6%
Bachelor's Degree	184	16.2%	50,358	18.1%	21.6%
Graduate or professional degree	72	6.3%	27,355	9.8%	13.9%

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

* Legacy Data from 2010

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. To reach out in love and connect with and be visible in our community to make an impact for Christ and kingdom.

Vision - Who does God want us to be?

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 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, expository. Our praise and worship music, traditional and contemporary, is chosen so as to be relevant with the sermon and service. We partake in communion twice per month.

Covenant Community

Our congregation is a loving and welcoming environment. Through various ministries we seek to build open, transparent, and safe environments where all can come broken and be restored.

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 women's ministry, Women of the Word, is one of the strongest aspects of our church. Women from our congregation and the community come together to study the scripture and fellowship together as believers. The men's group, Men of Iron, is working to begin again and offer a place for men of the congregation and community to come together as brothers in Christ and support each other through fellowship and study of God's word.

Community

As a church in a small town, we have had an important connection to our community. We have participated in our community activities such as a shared Vacation Bible School. The community

ministers meet monthly, in a newly formed group, to discuss how we can unite to build the faith throughout efforts such as the National Day of Prayer and a community assistance program.

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 a larger 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 enrollment of 680. 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

We align ourselves and beliefs according to reformed theology. We require our pastor to hold to the same convictions and essentials of faith as guided by the WCF.

Princeville Presbyterian Church seeks a pastor who strives to live by scripture found in Titus Chapter 1 and preaches sound doctrine. He will have an intentional desire to grow and lead the church spiritually through effective communication and teaching of all age groups.

We seek someone who can work with the congregation as a compassionate, relational, counselor (marriage, grief, questions of faith, etc.).

We desire our pastor to be community-oriented (National Day of Prayer, Community Worship, VBS). He will seek the council of the Session and work collaboratively with the congregation.

Given the amount of pastoral turnover we have experienced, we need someone who will consider committing to us for long-term.

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Jim and Julie Bayless - Julie is co-leader of the W.O.W. (Women of the Word) ministry and an active participant in the Outreach committee ministry. She is also co-chair for the pastoral search committee. Julie has been working the last twelve years as the elementary school principal in Princeville. In her free time, Julie enjoys working jigsaw puzzles and spending time with her family and two grandchildren. Jim is retired after working as a press operator and worship leader in a former church he attended for many years. Jim currently serves as the chair of the Outreach committee and he and Julie lead the music ministry together. Jim enjoys writing and recording music. He also likes to work outside in the yard and play with his grandchildren. Jim and Julie have been married 16 years and have been a member of the Princeville Presbyterian Church for two years.

Joyce Basehoar - I have been married to my husband Ron for 49 years and have been a member of this church since 1972. I have done a variety of jobs in this church loving each one. I have been church secretary, treasurer, both recording and dispersing. Sunday school teacher and superintendent. VBS director. I have served on session and board of Deacons and chair of previous pastor search committees. I am a co-chair for WOW and Pastoral Search committee. Ron and I have 3 grown daughters, 2 sons-in-law and 8 grandchildren. And of course our 2 French bulldogs. I feel truly blessed.

Chuck German - My name is Charles "Chuck" German. I feel honored to be on the search committee, although I have not attended any of your meetings as of this date. Kathy and I will be back in Princeville May 12, The Good LORD willing. I started attending Princeville Presbyterian Church in the early 1940's. I was baptized in the church when I was approximately 5 years old. I have attended Sunday school, youth group and church most of my life. Kathy and I were married in this church June 16, 1957. I have served in various positions. Church treasurer, Sunday school teacher, deacon and elder at various times over the years. Kathy and I have been married 64 years and raised four children. All four children attended and were baptized in this church. Our daughter, Gretchen was married in this church. Our church has supported our son, Jeff and his wife Marilyn for approximately 30 years. They have served with Wycliffe Bible Translators in South East Asia. They are currently serving OUR LORD in Laos. Kathy and I have deep roots in this church and we want to do everything we can do to see that this church survives and that God's word continues to be preached and taught.

Steve and Lynn Lehmann – Steve and Lynn have been members of the Princeville Presbyterian Church since 2013. Steve is currently serving as an elder and Lynn has served in the role of deacon. They have been married for 22 years and are the parents of three boys, Brayden (17), Ryan (15) and Nickolas (12). Steve has worked for OSF Healthcare in Information Technology for 23 years. He is also co-owner of Noize Communications – a high speed wireless internet provider. Lynn is a nurse and has also worked for OSF Healthcare for the past 22 years. She is a co-administrator of the Princeville Community Food Pantry. In their spare time, Steve enjoys camping, fishing and scouting. Lynn enjoys attending her children's activities, playing the piano and gardening.

Holly Litwiller – Holly Serves currently as elder and is a part of the fellowship team and involved with women of the word. She is married to Doug (blended family) and has 4 children total... Justin (23), Hunter (22), Parker (20), Hope (18). She has been a nurse for 27 years and the last 21 have been in the field of Oncology. She also helps with the local Food pantry on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

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.

Michaele Webber – Michaele Webber is a stay home mom, has two sons, and one daughter-n-law and is married to Tom Webber. She enjoys serving in the church, Co-leader for women of the word (W.O.W), fellowship team, and helping with the food pantry. She has been a member of Princeville Presbyterian Church since 2013.

Bret and Rachel Williams - We are Bret and Rachel Williams. Bret grew up in Princeville and has attended Princeville Presbyterian Church his whole life. Rachel grew up Presbyterian and attended Hamlet-Perryton Presbyterian Church from birth to 2015 when they both joined Princeville Presbyterian

in membership. We are parents to two daughters; Charlotte who is three, and Victoria is eight months old. We both work in the field of education. Bret works as a high school social studies teacher and Rachel as a high school counselor. We serve our church in various ways and are passionate about our mission as a church family.