

**WELCOME**

It is the hope of the congregation that persons looking for a church home and visiting Community Presbyterian Church will find here a place of welcome and friendship; a way of serving effectively our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



1865 - 1962

**COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

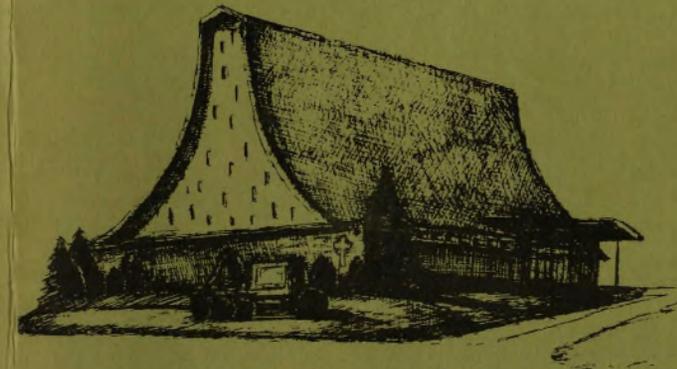
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**Community Presbyterian Church**

WHEELING, ILLINOIS



196 E. HIGHLAND AVENUE  
WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090

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# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## HISTORY

Community Presbyterian Church is the oldest church in the Wheeling community. Its history dates back to the early eighteen fifties when religious services were held in the school house and homes.

The first meeting for the purpose of organizing the German Evangelical United Reformed and Lutheran Church was held May 1, 1864. By the fall of that year, a decision was made to unite with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and on November 2, 1864 the German Zion Church became a part of the Presbytery of Chicago.

Zion Presbyterian Church, long a landmark near the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue, through years of both joy and struggle, became an influential center of community activity. In June of 1948 its name was changed to Community Presbyterian Church of Wheeling.

Population growth and land development in the nineteen fifties influenced the decision to seek a new church home. Ground was broken for the new building on Palm Sunday, April 15, 1962, and the first services of worship were held at Christmas, 1962.

In 1970 the John Calvin Presbyterian Church merged with Community Presbyterian to form the present reorganized congregation which continues to meet the challenge of providing an effective influential ministry to its surrounding and continuously growing community.



## GOVERNMENT

Community Presbyterian Church is related to:

The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

The Presbytery of Chicago

The Synod of Lincoln Trails (Illinois and Indiana)

Mission Council 2

Presbyterian is a word derived from the Greek adjective *presbuteros* which means "older" or "elder". That word used in the New Testament is actually a Greek translation of an older Hebrew noun, *zaken*, meaning literally "gray beard". It describes the "elders" who were ordinarily older men. In fact there were elders in Israel as early as the Mosaic Era.

In the church of New Testament times elders were selected by the people as leaders in congregational life. Some were ordained as clergy while others remained in lay status.

Whatever the origin and history of the word "presbyterian" the church by that name is ruled by elders. Elders are laymen who, though ordained, remain laymen, and yet exercise government in the church. A Presbyterian church was, and is, a church in which representative government was recovered and is jealously maintained.

Elders are elected by vote of the congregation to serve on the Session. Also elected are Deacons, whose duties include the general care and concern of members, and the Trustees who are empowered to care for the temporal affairs of the church. The congregation shares in the policy making decisions through these groups, as well as numerous committees and at annual or specially called congregational meetings.

## MEMBERSHIP

The congregation exists to make a difference in the lives of people, so that together and individually they can effectively witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Community Church program centers in corporate worship which balances the best in a rich tradition with new and contemporary forms. It involves belonging through occasions of simple fellowship around a meal or activity. Learning and teaching Christian Education is seen as essential both for children and adults. Sunday Church School is available for all ages in addition to special short term growth experiences for adults. Mission beyond the congregation is seen through a financial commitment to denominational programs in Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly; support of local mission oriented programs; and each member's witness in his daily life.

Membership in the church is both a privilege and an obligation. It requires a quality of commitment which enables each member to share his or her gifts to strengthen the whole congregation. This in turn enables all to proclaim in word and deed the good news of the Gospel!

Persons may become members of the church in various ways.

1. Children normally become members by Baptism and Confirmation.
2. Adults who have never been members of a church come by Baptism and Confession of Faith.
3. Adults who were once but are no longer members of a church come by Reaffirmation of Faith.
4. Active members of other churches come by letter of transfer.

James W. P. O.  
We missed each and  
everyone of your  
Lorraine Schmidt  
Mrs. Mrs. John F. Hoffmann  
Mrs. Mrs. Maria Hoken  
Mrs. M. Balling  
Dorothy Peric & Cat Edmonds on  
Ol. Edmonds  
He you boys. Sure missed  
you I hope you are here here  
Bazel Willis  
Mrs. H. Pericolat  
Howard Welflin  
Edward Welflin  
Adeline Schneider



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Zion Presbyterian Church  
Wheeling, Illinois  
Christmas Eve, 1944

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Prelude:

Call to Worship:

Let us listen and learn of His love,  
Let us hear again of the birth of His Son,  
The story of the first Christmas time.  
And as we think of the time when Christ came  
Let us prepare our minds and hearts for Him  
That He may come again this day  
And thru His spirit in the hearts of men  
We can truly say " Thy Kingdom Come."

The Lord's Prayer--in unison

Hymn- O Little Town of Bethlehem No.121

My Welcome- Peggy Lou Cargill

An Airman's Greeting- John Day

How Thankful We Should Be- Arline Grandt

My Gift- Max Zollner

Hymn- Joy to the World NO.122

The Joy Of Simple Things- Nancy Scott,  
Barbara Gall, Mary Ann Stenborg, Sandra Allison

Christmas Marching Orders- Louis Bos,  
Robert Grandt, James Dever, Franklin Zollner

Every Year- Nancy Clark, Nancy Schroeder  
Dorothy Kraus, Margaret Wenzlaff, Mary Gloden

Primary Room Songs-

Scripture- Luke 2;25-32

Prayer :

Hymn : Silent Night No.132

Announcements-

Offering-

Hymn : The First Noel No.129

Solo- The Birthday of a King- Lorraine Schmidt

The Nativity Play

Mary: Joan Nielsen	Little Angels
Joseph: Robert Wiest	Peggy Lou Cargill
Wise Men	Frances Carol Gloden
William Saunders	Angel Chorus
Christ Kraus	JoAnne Hoffman
James Stenborg	Janet Utpadel
Shepherds	Ethel Dever
Barbara Schwab	Dona Jean Miller
Frances Zollner	Marie Kraus
Norene Dever	Cynthia Hale
Sally Werhane	Janet Gall
Donald Werhane	Fatsy Saunders
John Hoffman	Bonnie Lambert
	Betty Lambert

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful 1st verse

Benediction in unison

Father of our Lord Jesus, as we go back  
to the Bethlehem stable, may our vision of  
the Babe in the manger open our eyes to the  
value of all the goodness and truth to which  
He gave His life. May His spirit be in our  
hearts, Amen.

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We Humbly dedicate these programs to all  
those who are away in the service of their  
country. The congregation is invited to  
autograph copies which will be mailed to them

Wheeling, Illinois  
December 31, 1944

Dear Friend:

This is quite likely to be the last time that I shall use 1944 to date a letter. I can scarcely realize that another year has slipped by. Perhaps for some of you it has seemed to drag and in any case I think we are all rather glad it has passed. There are times when it is good to have a new start and we can hope that 1945 will bring a new start in human relationships.

This is just a little note to explain the enclosed program with it's signatures. We wanted you to know that we were thinking of you at our Christmas services and so we reserved programs for you and gave folks the chance to autograph them and you can see that many of them did. Of course there were many who did not wait as we had only one hectograph pencil to use.

We again used the beautiful little Nativity Play which was presented for so many years by the children of Childerley and which we have adopted since they have left. The church was crowded and it was a good service, at least in view of the many of you who are away and the lack of a minister. Of course we have visiting ministers who supply the pulpit on Sundays.

We sincerely hope and pray that the New Year may have better things in store for all and we at home will do all we can to carry on until your return.

Sincerely

Lucile Schneider  
Congratulations on your sergeant rating.  
Your letters are always very interesting.

Virginia Heeske

Mr and Mrs Art Larrance

Mr and Mrs Bill Larrance

Mrs Mrs. Hecor Schmitt Mays

and Family,

Jim & Bud Bailey

Altfadel - Take it easy

Joe Rothkopf

Margie Becker

Pat Saunders

Marge Schmidt

Roy & Evelyn Allison

Lillian Bieber. Myky Lude

Mare Schultz

Joseph Friedman

662 Pearson St De Plains - God

Bliss you all.

Mrs Wesolke Hello Boys

Mrs. Chas. Becker, Hope you  
will all be home next Xmas.

Marjorie Miller

Clarence Schiefel

Bob & Bobe Scott

Ernest Starvo

"Hello, Boys"

Frank W. Spindel, Mike

"Lou" Uspodol

Winnie Waterstreet

Evelyn Wroble

Sophie Allison

Carl & Alice Dickhoff

Berting's & Letty Dickhoff

Mrs. E. E. Gutske

Dr. W. G. Gutske