

**Open Prairie United Church of Christ**  
25 East Marion Street  
Princeton, IL 61356  
[www.openprairie.org](http://www.openprairie.org)



Open Prairie is a young church established in 2004 by a core congregation that split off from its previous church due to its commitment to be an Open and Affirming community. Our congregation has grown to 135 members with an average weekly attendance of 45.



We worship in a newly renovated, 1930s vintage building that features an inviting, open sanctuary that is adaptable and multi-functional. As a congregation, we are willing to try new things, and we appreciate a safe environment in which to explore different avenues of faith. We have a can-do attitude that is generous and cooperative. We celebrate a diverse, multi-generational, family atmosphere, accented by a strong music program. We have a deep sense of spirituality in which

dialogue on issues of faith is permitted and encouraged. We feel OPUCC is being called to mature into a stable church with a liberal voice in ways that extend beyond merely being Open and Affirming. We are called to be a beacon for tolerance and justice in the local community and beyond.

We are looking for an amazing pastor to match our amazing congregation. The best analogy we can come up with for the type of pastor we are looking for is that we need a small town family doctor, as opposed to a specialist. We are looking for someone who has a well-rounded background and who can provide guidance and leadership in many areas. We want a pastor who can take the pulse of the congregation, both individually and collectively, in an effort to have a guiding hand in identifying and supporting our strengths as well as helping us overcome our weaknesses. Our pastor should be focused on Open Prairie, immerse herself/himself in our background, and engage with us on a journey to become a mature church. Our congregation is full of creativity, and we want a pastor to help harness that creativity and channel it toward the fulfillment of our mission and our vision of what OPUCC can be in our community and in the larger world.



Princeton (population 7,400) is a north central Illinois community 120 miles west of Chicago, served by both Amtrak and Interstate 80. Nestled in cornfields, Princeton takes pride in its locally-owned businesses, its sense of history, and its significantly high activity centered on arts, culture and recreation.