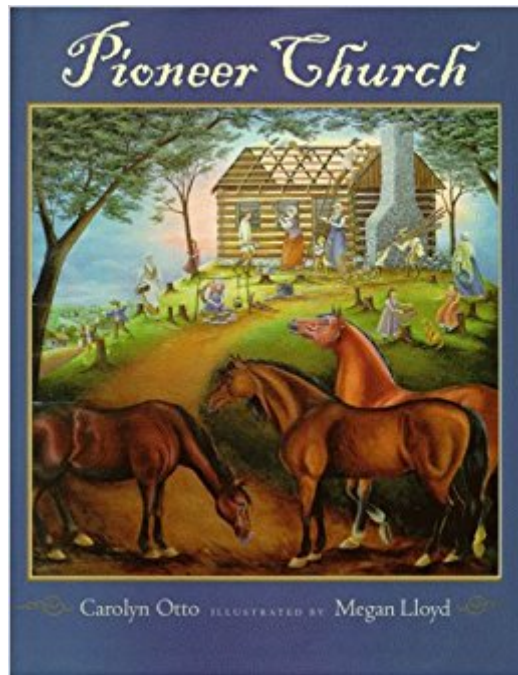




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Pioneer Church



Synopsis

The promise of religious freedom compelled many European men and women to undertake the arduous journey to the New World. The church was a crucial part of the first communities established, serving as meeting place, school, and even as makeshift hospital. Most important, the church was a place where people were free to worship as they pleased. Based on the history of a real church in Brickerville, Pennsylvania, *Pioneer Church* is the story of one of the first American churches and the community that built it in the 1700's. Accessible text and striking art give young readers a glimpse of Americana in a time when freedom of religion was not taken for granted.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); 1st edition (October 15, 1999)

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ISBN-10: 0805025545

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,682,555 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > People & Places](#) #1219 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial](#) #1700 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Education](#)

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6-A stunningly illustrated picture book. In an author's note, Otto explains her fictionalization of the building of the Old Zion Church in Brickerville, PA, as a way to balance the story since, "History may not reveal the whole, and records leave things out." She includes the roles of women and children in relating how 18th-century German settlers constructed a log cabin, how it burned, and how it was replaced several times in differing locations, concluding with a modern facility in the 1940s. In 1960, the 1813 structure on the original site was declared a historical landmark. The story is written as a flashback, and has a factual tone. Therefore, without consulting the foreword, readers could be convinced of its complete authenticity. Lloyd's rich oil, watercolor, and pen-and-ink illustrations have the formal and static look of early American artwork. In addition to the lovely

landscapes, smaller, livelier vignettes surround the text. This interesting, readable book about the evolution of a community stands on its own as a story and lends itself to many uses in classrooms. Christina Dorr, Hilliard City Schools, OH Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Based on the history of the Old Zion Church in central Pennsylvania, this exceptional book is part fact and part fiction. In the mid-1700s, four families set out to build a church, which is also to serve as a school and a town hall. In six days the log structure is complete. Soon other settlers arrive. The church holds its first christening, first marriage, and first funeral. During the Revolutionary War, it becomes a temporary hospital. A new church is eventually built, and one day the original log building burns to the ground. The townspeople decide to erect a new church on the same site, completing it in 1813. Many different pastors serve, until 1947, when its doors close once again, after which it sits empty for years until its final restoration. To this day, weddings, special events, and Christmas programs are held in this historic landmark. The blend of precise, almost primitive-style illustration with the fluid text is seamless, providing a vivid sense of the history of one of America's first churches, and an explanatory note at the front provides more of the background. Shelley Townsend-Hudson

A warm and true story about a beautiful little church in my homestead area. It is well told and very well illustrated. The church is a local and a national treasure, made into a bedtime and armchair story. William Zartman

Bought this after seeing originals of the illustrations, and it is as lovely as expected. Not really a child's book, but in children's book format.

Beautiful illustrations.

I have used this book in my 2nd grade classroom to help children understand history over time and the importance of community. We have made a timeline of events referenced in the book and even made a replica of the pioneer church out of clay. I love this book!

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