



Did you know Jennie Pond Atwater...

Jennie Pond Atwater was born September 14, 1865 in Oberlin, Ohio. Jennie was the daughter of Congregationalist Rev. Chauncey Northrop Pond. Rev. Pond had a special interest in the efforts of the Oberlin College missionaries in Shanxi Province, China, so it was not surprising that Jennie caught the spirit of the missionary enterprise.

She went with her husband, the Rev. Ernest R. Atwater, as part of the "Oberlin Band" of missionaries. The Atwater's served the Fenzhou station under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. During the four years she was there, she frequently wrote home to her mother and father describing her daily life, her children and her struggle to learn Chinese.

The problems she described were many. The missionaries were ill-prepared and poorly supplied for their work. The American Board provided \$500 for food, transportation, and other items, but it was insufficient to counter the difficult living conditions. Crowded and unsanitary conditions resulted in disease and death.

Jennie herself died at age 31 on November 25, 1896 of a bacterial infection contracted during childbirth. Her husband, his second wife, Elizabeth Graham Atwater, and Jennie's children - Ernestine (b. 1889), Mary (b. 1892), Celia, and Bertha (b. 1896) - were all killed in the Boxer Rebellion in 1898.

...Was A Congregationalist?

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Call To Worship

L: We are keepers of the Way

C: We come, aware of our place as 21st century pilgrims.

L: May we bring to this worship hour and to our very lives, a commitment to refashion this world for Christ.

C: May we renew and cherish our life together, as God's free people.

Invocation (in unison)

Let your holy presence be among us, O Lord, in this year of remembrance, that we, being made aware of the conviction and character of those before us, may enter into our inheritance, standing firm in the convictions for which they ventured to this new world freedom. Let our forebears' dedication to freedom and righteousness be their gift to us this day, and all our tomorrows. Amen.

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard