

Rev. Lois Wendell, Wife Of Newburg Pastor, Succumbs

November 22, 1962

The Rev. Lois Wendell, wife of the Rev. Roland M. Wendell of Newburg, died Tuesday at a Des Moines hospital following an illness of two weeks.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday from the Newburg Congregational church with Dr. Judson Fiebiger, minister of the Iowa Conference, United Church of Christ, officiating. He will be assisted by the Rev. Paul Dowty, pastor of the Gilman Community church.

Vocal music will be provided by Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Palmer, accompanied by Mrs. Don Renaud at the organ. Pallbearers will be Harold Palmer, Emery Kaisand, Lawrence Wallis, Richard Sears, Raymond Harris and Fred Weaver, Jr.

Services will also be held at 2 p.m. Monday at the Freehold.

N.Y., Congregational-Christian church with the Rev. M. DeForest Lowen, pastor of the Emanuel Baptist church of Ridgewood, N.J., officiating, assisted by the pastor of the Freehold church. Burial will be in the church cemetery at Freehold.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home until noon, Friday, when the body will be taken to rest in state at the Newburg Congregational church.

Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the Newburg or Chester Congregational churches.

She was born in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1902, the daughter of Thomas Franklin Hamblin and Lillian Hall Hamblin, and attended the public schools and Bucknell University at Lewisburg, receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1924, and then a Master of Arts at Chicago University in 1925. After a year of teaching in Junior High School of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, she was

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united in marriage with Reverend Roland M. Wendell, then the pastor of the Conesus, N. Y. Community church. To this union were born two sons, Richard Hamblin and David Livingston, both of Golden, Colorado.

Assisting her husband in pastoral labors in the Conesus and also churches in Williamsville, N. Y., Elmira, N. Y., and Rochester, N. Y., she completed her theological training in 1934, graduating from the Colgate Rochester Divinity School with a Bachelor of Divinity degree, and was ordained into the ministry that year. Since then she has co-pastored with Mr. Wendell in ministries at Sidney, N. Y., and Salamanca, N. Y., occupying the pulpit at regular intervals until 1945, when her husband became Rural Life Director of the New York Congregational Conference, and, her sons away in higher schools, she began regular preaching at one or more churches weekly until the time of her death.

After co-pastorates in Cortland, Ogdensburg and Freehold, N. Y., the Wendells came to Iowa and served jointly larger parishes, first from 1953 to 1958 at Cromwell, Iowa together with Fairview, Corning and Oak Hill. Gravity, all Congregational churches, then from 1958 to 1960 at the Stuart, Iowa Congregational and Fairview Congregational Christian church, and since 1960 at the Newburg, Iowa, and Chester Center Congregational churches, which she was co-pastoring at the time of her death.

In addition to parsonage home making and her pastoral duties, Mrs. Wendell served in larger State Conference capacities, being at one time Assistant Moderator of the New York Congregational Conference, and a member of its Board of Directors, and in Iowa on the Board of the Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Conference of Iowa as Spiritual Life Director, an office she held till now. Her voice was heard as guest speaker and leader in many Iowa churches, and her last official act was to vote for the adoption of the Constitution of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ in its merging formation on October 31, 1962.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. Roland M. Wendell, her sons, a brother and sister, Dr. Russell Hamblin and Miss Clarissa Hamblin, both of Watsonstown, Pennsylvania.