

PRAYER PROFILE: ATTICA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – Attica, N.Y.

What is going on in Attica?

- They have been modifying their activities, like most of us, due to Covid-19
- In August they restarted weekly services in the sanctuary
- When meeting in together, the large sanctuary and normal attendance meant social distancing was no problem
- They sung hymns and had a small choir during the Christmas season
- As of Christmas Eve they are taking a break from in-person services
- The after-worship coffee hour and in-church Sunday School program is also on hold at the moment—Attica has a small multi-age program which makes it difficult to administer with COVI-19 safety guidelines



Making the Most of the Situation—and prayers appreciated

- Although Attica is not equipped with any technical equipment—they do not have Internet—and they do not maintain a church office, even so, the clerk and pastor are able to complete the administrative work from their homes
- They hold Zoom meetings for business and make good use of group email and the U.S. Postal Service
- Worship materials are emailed to those who cannot attend while hard copies are provided to those without a computer
- The church maintains an effective phone-tree for personal connections—key people reach out to their “group” for chats; this also serves as a way to provide feedback to Pastor Brad so he can keep up to date on congregational needs
- Sunday School teachers deliver activity boxes to the children—including a children’s message by Pastor Brad Smith
- Children recently participated in gathering/making cards for the Batavia Veterans Home
- Last summer Attica held a scrap drive and a yard sale—for the scrap drive items were either dropped off at the church or picked up at their homes, while the “treasures” for the yard sale were set up for safety in the social hall and a controlled number of mask-wearing shoppers were allowed in at a time.
- According to participants’ comments, both events were very successful and provided a good connection to the community
- The church is blessed that members and friends maintain their weekly offerings and were able to meet their anticipated budget, finishing 2020 with a financial surplus and without any use of investment or capital funds—a cause for celebration and the foundation for moving into 2021 with hope



Of the folks at Attica Pastor Brad says, “They are calm and going with the flow and are praying they, as well as the nation, will get through this pandemic soon.” Attica is a small community where everyone is connected so when someone hurts the community hurts.

Attica First Presbyterian Church

Address: 115 Main Street, Attica, NY 14011

Pastor: Rev. Brad Smith

Clerk of Session: Sue Edwards

Organist: Eadie Krass

Website: www.atticafirstpresbyterianchurch.org

Thanks to Kay VanNostrand Relationships Working Group, for preparing this profile.