

PRAYER PROFILE: CORFU UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Corfu, NY—a country neighborhood congregation

It is fall in Western New York and we are experiencing changes as we get ready for winter. Leaves are changing colors, our gardens are changing from summer produce to empty spaces, and we are beginning to test out inside worship in our churches. So too, the Corfu United Presbyterian Church is in a period of change. Their beloved Pastor Aron Neff left for a new call last spring.

Despite a spring/summer of change this church has carried on with their worship and mission. In mid-August they again began worship in the sanctuary with a variety of pulpit supply pastors and leadership by the elders of the church. They will have Pastor John Goehle for the entire Advent Season and are looking forward to this.

The session realizes not all will be able, for various reasons, to return to in-person worship and so are live-streaming their Sunday services to reach them and others. They have stayed connected to their members through this pandemic with newsletters, mailings, and pastoral calls from the session and other church leadership.

The annual turkey dinner which I, among others, have always looked forward to, was canceled. But Corfu was able to hold other events this summer such as a very successful chicken BBQ, which sold out (248 dinners). They also held a successful “bargain basement” sale in August. There is a lively Bible study via Zoom on Mondays led by Clerk of Session Patty Miles. She reports great spiritual learning from each other and many in-depth discussions on God’s word. Currently they are studying the Gospel of Luke. The mission of the church through its food ministry has grown immensely both in outreach to those in need and by being embraced by the community through the contributions they receive. God is at work in Corfu.

Prayers for the church:

- The church has formed a DPNC (designated pastor nominating committee) as they search for new leadership—we wish them well in this
- Members who are home-bound
- The leadership of this church as they work to keep the faith, spirit, and strength of this congregation vibrant

Corfu United Presbyterian Church

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