

PRAYER PROFILE: STONE CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stone Church was founded as a Congregationalist church in 1823. The founding members migrated from New England and were not well received by the Native Americans living in the area. They basically were struggling farmers. Over the years by polity arrangements many of the Congregationalist churches in New York state became Presbyterian and in turn Presbyterian churches in New England became Congregationalist. Reluctantly Stone became Stone Presbyterian.

If you drive by the church and expect to find a stone building you will be disappointed as you will find a white sided building. The original building, dedicated in 1828, was stone which came from a Fort Hill quarry located on present Rt. 19. For some reason the original building was torn down and replaced with the present structure.

Today this congregation of 22 active members is lead by Rev. Michael Stuart, who by the way, since the end of 2019 at his request receives no salary! A saint indeed.

Even though this is a very small congregation they dream BIG. Located on the church property is a one story home which they hope to renovate and turn into a comfort/palliative care home. This would be the second such home in the county. They are in the very early stages as much paper work with the state and county is required, but they have some very capable people already working to make this dream happen: Kevin Kent, Mike Hamon, Stevie Adair, Jamie Charters along with Rev. Stuart to name a few. The plans for the home have been drawn up and fundraising ideas are being floated. I could hear much excitement in Rev. Stuart as we talked.

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted worship at the church as it has with all of us but prayer concerns continue.

Prayers for:

- a member who is going through a second bout with cancer
- the session
- the women of the church whose role is huge
- additional and relevant uses for the church building
- engaging the community in use of the building and congregation
- keeping the connection with the Scottish and Celtic heritage of the church



Hospitality and generosity

Address: 7549 Lake Rd S, Bergen, NY 14416

Pastor: Rev. Michael Stuart

Clerk of Session: Ruth Stewart

Treasurer: David Belcher

Organist: Marsha Borys

Profile provided by Kay VanNostrand, Relationship Team

