

PRAYER PROFILE: Country Neighborhood Churches

We break the mold a bit this week by highlighting the ministry of Country Neighbors, instead of an individual congregation as we usually do. Country Neighbors are a cluster of congregations centered in Genesee County, minus one since Elba partners with Barre Center in the Harvest Neighborhood, and plus one since Attica in Wyoming County joins with us! The complete roster of churches and pastors is as follows:

First Presbyterian Church of Attica (Brad Smith, CLP)
First Presbyterian Church of Batavia (Rev. Roula Alkhoury, Pastor)
First Presbyterian Church of Byron (Rev. Jim Renfrew, Pastor)
United Presbyterian Church of Corfu (position vacant)
East Bethany Presbyterian Church (position vacant)
First Presbyterian Church of LeRoy (Rev. Dave Pepper, Pastor)
North Bergen Presbyterian Church (Dave Fish, CLP)
Stone Church Presbyterian Church (Rev. Mike Stuart, Supply Pastor)

We sure could use your prayers!

- We have two congregations currently without pastors, but blessed to have guest preachers and elders to fill the gap on Sundays. **Please pray** for these congregations as they seek a more permanent solution.
- To be neighbors we need lots of chances to meet one another and collaborate on mission. Our attempt to have the Presbytery's first gathering of neighborhood elders and pastors—think of it as a huge session meeting with story-telling—was cancelled in March due to the virus. **Please pray** with us that our original plan can get back on track at such time that the virus has receded.
- Not wanting to lose our momentum, the neighborhood scheduled a Neighborhood Mission Day on November 15. It was held in the outdoor pavilion behind the North Bergen Presbyterian Church—yes, it was windy and cold!—but to keep physically distanced and as safe as possible we agreed that we had to meet outside. Our gathering accomplished three purposes:
 - 1) We assembled **53 Emergency Hygiene Kits for Church World Service**; the kits are deployed by CWS to disaster zones around the world.
 - 2) We assembled **15 Dignity Bags for Los Samaitanos**; the dignity bags are used to assist persons from the Buffalo Detention Facility in Batavia, primarily immigration cases. They are typically released with very few resources, yet are frequently embarking on long bus trips to reach loved ones. Like the Good Samaritan in the Bible story, the group helps travelers in difficulty or distress.
 - 3) Any **leftover items were donated to our North Bergen hosts for use by their growing Food Pantry**. **Please pray** for CWS, Los Samaritanos, the North Bergen Food Pantry, and all of our congregations as we strive to do the Lord's work in our neighborhood.
- As many anticipated, COVID-19 infections are increasing in our neighborhood. Adjacent urban counties of Monroe and Erie are being designated yellow and orange zones. Our numbers in Genesee County are also rising. **Please pray** for our congregations to be able maintain a spirit of unity and purpose. Some of our congregations have not been open at all, some have resorted to Zoom and podcasts, and some are doing electronic and in-person services at the same time. A few of our pastors have had to quarantine.



Neighborhood Mission Team at North Bergen Presbyterian Church



Hygiene kits and dignity bags assembled on November 15.

Thanks to Rev. Jim Renfrew, Relationships Working Group, for preparing this profile.