

## Monday - March 11

*"For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I will be right there among them."*

*Matthew 18:20*

Before my husband and I moved to central Ohio in 1986 we had spent 24 years residing with our children in the small community of Canaan, New York where we were active members of the local community church.

In October of 2017, I received the devastating news that our beloved church had been destroyed by fire. Photos on social media confirmed my worst fears that the church was a total loss and would need to be demolished.

These resilient people salvaged what they could and soon began meeting for worship in the local firehouse. It was there that they held countless meetings with engineers and architects to plan and pray for the future.

The verse from Chapter 18 in Matthew was a constant reminder to this congregation that although the church building, which had stood firm since 1840, was no longer a landmark in the center of town, the church itself was very much alive and well and God was surely among them.

Plans for the new building have recently been approved and will be designed in response to the needs of this changing community. The completed building will provide a gathering place for worship, outreach, mission, Bible study, prayer and meditation as well as being available for community events.

Canaan, New York may not be the land of milk and honey, but it has proven to be an amazing place for God-loving people who felt God's presence and responded to His reality.

Nancy

**Prayer:** Help us to remember that You are with us wherever we are. You guide us through the difficult times and rejoice with us when troubles subside. We are grateful for your presence in our lives. Amen.