

## Monday - March 24

*Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. James 5:13 NIV*

Prayer has been important throughout Powell United Methodist Church's past 200 years beginning in the old log cabin church and always present in our current location. Did you know that there is even a box of prayers written by the children of PUMC that is buried under the altar in our sanctuary when it was built? Look for the gold plaque on the steps leading up to the altar and that is where they are located!

One of the most memorable prayer experiences that I have had at PUMC was during Lent in 2006, during the Pastor Marcus Atha era. A 24-hour prayer vigil was held in the fellowship hall which was the sanctuary at the time. I selected the 1AM one hour slot for my time to participate in the vigil. I am a little bit of a night owl so this time was perfect for me! Sitting in the fellowship hall late at night was so special! I had the whole fellowship hall to myself and the candles on the altar lit the space beautifully. As I recall, there was some music playing softly and there were activities that you could do as you prayed. I don't recall what I prayed about or prayed for that night, but it was that one on one time with God and the overall experience that has stayed with me for almost 20 years now. I am going to suggest that we do another prayer vigil soon!

Another prayer activity that I have enjoyed at PUMC is when we put up the Prayer Tabernacle. In case you have not seen it in use, it is a simple pop up tent with chairs placed underneath the tent, usually in a circle with a makeshift altar made from a folding table. The table is usually topped by a lit candle and a cross. Those that visit the Prayer Tabernacle are invited to write a prayer for themselves or others on a strip of cloth and it is tied to the top of the tent. As additional prayers are written, they are tied to the other prayer strips of cloth. When 3 or 4 strips of cloth are tied together, the gentle breeze will begin to blow them gently as if the breath of God is being blown on the prayers. I just love this! It is a reminder to me that God is always with us when we pray.

What are your favorite ways to pray? Continue to pray as we celebrate the next 200 years of Powell United Methodist Church. No prayer is too big or too small for our God.

Karen Curren

Listen to this song today: "Don't Stop Praying" by Matthew West

**Prayer:** Lord, we lift our prayers up to you in both good times and bad times. Thank you for listening to all of our prayers and for always being there for us. Amen.