

Saturday - March 8

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

We should make plans counting on God to direct us. Proverbs 16:9 (TLB)

As our congregation celebrates the 200th anniversary of the founding of our church, it is both inspiring and also humbling to read and hear the stories of the early years. The Anniversary Committee has done a remarkable job helping us to appreciate the families who traveled from Middlebury, Connecticut to Powell in the early 1800's. These early settlers established a community and anchored that community by building a church where they could gather and worship.

I have read about Middlebury, Connecticut which was first mentioned in history in 1687. And following the American Revolution proudly recognized 30 veterans from among the established community. In the early 1800's Middlebury was primarily an agricultural town which also had a growing blacksmithing trade. The dairy farms would come soon after along with the textile mills which provided industry for the townspeople...so what prompted some people to leave this rural community and risk the challenging travel west to Ohio... We may never know for sure but certainly their faith and trust in their God who would guide them along the way was a part.

It could not have been easy as they struggled to make a community here. They worshipped with the guidance of circuit riders who traveled through terrain which must have been challenging. Seeing pictures of the early log structure and then of the church building, which they even moved to a better location, shows their focused need for gathering for worship.

As we look back with deep gratitude, we also need to look forward. For 200 years the church has continued to meet the needs of this community. Planning for the future is a critical challenge. We pray to a faithful God who will surely establish our steps...

Nancy Tela

Prayer: Lord God, in gratitude we pray for guidance as we look to the future of our church and thank you for your faithfulness over the years as we responded to the needs of a growing community. Continue to guide us as we share the Good News. Amen.