



Pleasant Retreat

United Methodist Church

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.
Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.
Philippians 4:6*

Friends,

Blessings in the name of Jesus Christ our rock and our redeemer!

I write to you today to extend an invitation to our 24 hours of prayer set to take place from Tuesday, February 23 at 10:00am, to Wednesday, February 24 at 10:00am.

Pleasant Retreat has a rich history of being a praying church. We have sensed recently a strong call from God to restore our prayer ministry and take more seriously the responsibility we have to pray over the people on our prayer list as a community. We believe God is calling us to pray intentionally, powerfully, passionately, and with expectation and faith that God hears us and answers us when we pray. I wonder if *you* have been feeling a call to pray lately?

As a first step in response to this call, we are re-launching our weekly prayer group. The group will gather weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00am beginning February 23 and you are invited! Our first gathering will be the first hour of our 24 hours of prayer. ***I am asking every member of the church to commit to praying for Pleasant Retreat and this community during these 24 hours between Feb. 23-24.*** This can be done in a number of ways - according to your ability and comfort level - as outlined below. After our 24 hours of prayer, the prayer group will continue gathering on Tuesdays at 10:00am and the prayer room will be available Tuesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm or any time that you can gain access.

2 ways to participate in the 24 hours of prayer:

- ***Commit to pray for a 30+ minute slot during this event.*** You can let us know you've made this commitment by getting your name on the physical lists we have in the entry way to the fellowship hall at the church or by going to www.prumcthorndale.com to sign up online. These 30-minutes of prayer can be done from home or in the prayer room at the church. We will have it open from 10am-7pm on Feb. 23, and beginning at 7am on Feb. 24.
- ***Use the included cards*** as prompts for prayer throughout the day and morning of Feb. 23-24. We'd love to know you're praying, but if you're not able to sign-up or are unsure of your availability, we still want you to pray. I hope you'll find these prompts meaningful and useful, and I trust that you will join us through them.

Saint Augustine said, "True, whole prayer is nothing but love." I believe that God aches when we distance ourselves from him. He grieves when we "don't have time" to draw near. So let us let go of our preoccupations and self-reliance and flee to the arms of our Father, always ready and willing to receive us. Will you join us as we retreat together into the presence of God next week?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mark