

“...my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”  
(Isaiah 56:7 NIV)

The founders of our country and the great leaders of our nation were people of faith. The writings of prominent people such as John Adams, Francis Scott Key, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Daniel Webster, John Hancock, Abraham Lincoln, James Madison, Patrick Henry and many, many others reflect this fact. Despite the efforts of many in our world today most of the men and women who figured so significantly in the history of our nation were also people who believed in the power of prayer.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked “to turn to God in prayer and meditation”. Each year since its inception, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

The current law enacting the National Day of Prayer was passed in 1952. Prior to the current law, days of national fasting and prayer had been established by the Second Continental Congress from 1775 until 1783, and by President John Adams in 1798 and 1799.

In a continuation of our national tradition this year on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> a National Day of Prayer will be observed. It may be seen as a political event by some, but it is first and foremost an opportunity for all Americans to acknowledge our Christian foundation and to pray.

I hope each of you will take an opportunity to respect the National Day of Prayer this year without any political overtones. There will be events throughout our area observing this event and I am asking our church to have an official 24-hour prayer chain on this day. We should all pray every day, but I am asking that we show our faith in our God and in our country by designating one hour on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to pray. A sheet will be available on the table in our lobby where you and your family can designate a time to pray. Please take advantage of this opportunity to grow as disciples as this Prayer of Saint Francis reminds us:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

It is in self-forgetting that we find;  
And it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

Have a great month,

Pastor Tim