

May 2 at the courthouse ... Community draws together for National Day of Prayer

Written by George Browning
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From businesses to education, from non-profits to government and civil servants, and from churches to the media, groups within the community will receive specific prayer during New Albany's National Day of Prayer commemoration outside the City-County Building on Thursday, May 2.

From noon to 12:40 p.m., the Salvation Army, in conjunction with the City of New Albany, will once again host the public for the brief time of music, Scripture reading, and prayer as the community and others throughout the United States at that time unite in faith.

This year, 300 folding chairs will be provided for the comfort of those attending the service. The added feature of having representatives offer a short prayer for several areas of the community is expected to draw even more than the 200 who gathered last year, according to Roxanne Haley, the Salvation Army's business administrator.

LOCAL PARTICIPANTS

Brian Frame, associate pastor of worship at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, will provide background music and lead the singing of a hymn and "God Bless America," while the Christian Academy of Indiana fifth grade choir will sing. Jeff Barbour, pastor of Graceland Baptist Church, will give the opening prayer, and George Ross, pastor of Northside Christian Church, will read Scripture.

Mayor Jeff Gahan and Maj. Steve Kiger, executive director of the Salvation Army in the region, will welcome guests and introduce those who will pray representing various groups in the community: Doug Drake of Personal Counseling Service, Inc.--non-profits; Joe Brown of Rodefer Moss & Co., PLLC--business; Dr. Brad Snyder of New Albany-Floyd County Schools--education; the Rev. George Wasson of Faithpoint United Methodist Church--churches; State Rep. Ed Clere--government and civil servants; and Karen Hanger of Southern Indiana Living magazine--media.

Following Maj. Kiger's closing prayer, people will have the opportunity to gather to pray in small groups on the grounds.

TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER

The courthouse area has welcomed citizens as part of the national commemoration for more than 20 years. The convenience of gathering during part of the lunch hour at the central location and the involvement of a variety of churches and people of all ages are strengths of the event, according to Maj. Kiger.

"When adults, young people, and children from different backgrounds attend and pray, it makes a strong statement that our community stands together when our culture needs God most," he said.

The Salvation Army offers an array of services to residents of Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, and Washington counties.

For additional information, call 944-1018.