

Thursday - March 14

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me. Psalms 13:5-6

Shortly after Tom and I joined PUMC, I was asked if I would be interested in co-directing the Youth Dinner Theater. I was excited at first, but that was shortly replaced by sheer terror, thinking that I would not do a good enough job, that the kids would reject my ideas, and that I would let everyone down. My friend, Joe Franz talked me down from the ledge. The teens were amazing in the play, and I got to enjoy the whole process and got to know the teens. I thought it was ending there and then. Little did I know God and the teens had something else up their sleeves.

The teens decided that I would make a good middle school youth leader and decided to tell Pastor Ed Lewis that it should happen. After several panic attacks and heartfelt conversations with Tom, I decided to go ahead and do it. I am so glad I got to serve in that role for two years.

I learned so much from the teens. I learned that they were open, vulnerable, and wanting to share at 2 A.M. during a lock-in prayer circle, because a safe space was created. I learned that I could help create a safe space. The teens believed that I had something to offer them. With God's help, I spent two great years creating experiences for middle school youth. Without God's grace, I would never have been able to take on two roles that I felt totally unqualified to perform.

Rita Stevenson

Prayer: Dear God, You see potential, even when we don't. You make things happen and put people in roles they never imagined doing, all to carry out Your plans. Your blessings are bountiful. Thank you for all you have done for me. Amen.