
“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of January 6, 2013

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

31 Prayers - #18

From *31 Days of Prayer* by Ruth and Warren Myers (Multnomah, 1997) – each week, use the prayer and “As You Have Time” features to reflect on the focus for the week.

Pray for Love in the Church

Dear Father, the Source of every mercy, how I thank You that each of Your children is dear to You—as dear as Your beloved Son!

You love us, even though we differ in some of our doctrines and spiritual practices. You still love us even when we sin! Lord, how unworthy I am of such love! How unworthy we all are! And how much we need to grow in loving others as You love us!

Enable each of us—in my church and in all churches everywhere—to experience Your love more fully, and to let it flow out to others. May Your Spirit fill us day by day, bringing forth the fresh, abundant fruit of love in our lives. Love that keeps growing richer in knowledge and wise insight, in patience and kindness, in humility that honors the other person. Love that overcomes jealousy and arrogance and self-seeking. Love that is not touchy or resentful or judgmental. Love that covers a multitude of sins and refuses to gossip. Love that chooses to look out for the other person’s interests, as well as our own—whether we feel like it or not. Work in me this kind of love for all believers—and especially for those I find hard to love and those who tend to rub me the wrong way.

May we constantly show the fragrant love of Christ to one another. May the world see Your love in our lives, and may this draw many to you.

Amen

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

As You Have Time

PRAY ALONG WITH SCRIPTURE. Praying God’s Word makes for powerful praying. Follow Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 3:17-19, NLT: Pray that believers’ roots (including yours) will go deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love, and that they will have the power to understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is and to experience this love for themselves.

Then pray for the outshining of this love, based on Ephesians 4:2-3, NLT: Pray that believers—those the Lord brings to mind as well as yourself—will be humble and gentle, patient with each other, making allowances for each other’s faults because of their love; that they will keep themselves united in the Holy Spirit and bound together in peace.

FEELINGS IN CONFLICT. Praying only when we feel like praying greatly hinders faithful and continual prayer. So refuse to let conflicting feelings and interests keep you from prayer. Say yes to prayer by saying no to other things you feel like doing or feel pressed to do. And pray often that your feelings will learn to cooperate. Ask the Lord to stir your heart to pray, both in your set times of prayer and in on-the-spot praying.

In coming weeks: Praying for the World’s Peoples Who are Still in Darkness; for All Who Profess to be Christians; for New Christians.

The Prayer of Expectancy

Remember to use this each week. It is included in the version posted on the [Prayer Vigil](#) page of the website or in the Touch Points for September 9 when we began this series

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that as we resume the regular Wednesday evening prayer time, the sense of this week’s prayer will be abundantly evident. Pray that God will bless us with love in the church as we spend time in his presence seeking that blessing. If you have not been part of the Wednesday prayer time, come join us this week in the Fireside room at 7pm.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s communion meditation, “Putting Jesus in His Place” (Matthew 16:16).
- Pray for Evangel as we enter a new calendar year. Praise God for blessings of the past year—lives changed, faith deepened, new faces at Evangel, while recognizing the loss of a number of people that makes real growth a challenge. Pray that we will be faithful to God and claim his promise of blessing.

*Materials from the sermon (podcast, plus pdf versions of sermon outline and PowerPoint notes) are available on the website by Monday

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.