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

For the week of November 17, 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 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Give Thanks

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Psalms 100:4-5

Prayer for the Week

Lord, transform my heart and give me an attitude of gratefulness. Open my eyes to see your hand in every area of my life. When I have forgotten your goodness, remind me of what an awesome God you are and the myriad things I have to be thankful for. I thank you for your goodness, love, and faithfulness to me that you have shown in these ways you have blessed my life: _____,

_____, _____,
_____.

Notable Quote

The most important prayer in the world is just two words long: “Thank you.”

Meister Eckhart (ca. 1260-1327)

Reflection

This psalm is a song of thanksgiving that God’s people used in the temple along with the sacrifices of praise they offered. [It is also the theme of the calligraphy art on the walls as you enter the sanctuary at Evangel]. The psalmist tells us to come into God’s presence with grateful hearts and expressions of thanksgiving because he is a good God—all the time—even when we are in difficult circumstances or think our prayers have not been answered yet. We express our gratitude because he is the creator of everything and we are his possession; and because his unfailing love continues forever and his faithfulness endures to every new generation. Perhaps Scripture reminds us so often, as in this psalm, to come to God with thanksgiving because we are so apt to forget his goodness and what he has already done for us or because we simply forget to say thank you. (Continues as first bullet point below).

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Today as you pray, begin by numbering some of the many blessings God has given you, and then thank him and bless his name. Enter his presence with words of praise on your lips and in your heart.
- Prayerfully reflect on the theme of thanksgiving from the Sunday service – use the words of songs, Scripture, readings, or the Thanks Sharing to trigger your own offering of praise to God. And ask the Lord to provide opportunities from now through the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday to tell others about God’s blessing in your life—and how those blessings can be available to them if they are not yet Christ followers.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Prayer for Mark Albrecht of Converge Mid-America as he seeks the Lord’s direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area. In the meantime, take seriously Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel by year’s end—a seemingly impossible task, especially as the calendar winds down! But not impossible for God! In fact, we have seen several new faces, including a recent growth in Coffeebreak that has not occurred in some time. Let’s ask the Lord to fill both sides of the sanctuary with people who are eager to worship and to be partners with God to reach those appointed to eternal life!

There is no sermon this week, so no podcast or other sermon-related materials will appear on the website.

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.