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

For the week of November 24, 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)

Rejoice and Be Glad

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Prayer for the Week

Lord, this is the day you have made, a place of new beginnings for me. You display your glory in all of creation. Help me to see your goodness and lift up my head and rejoice. No matter what happens during the next twenty-four hours, help me rejoice and be glad in the day you have made! And help me to see even my problems as one more opportunity to depend on you.

Notable Quote

There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make us rejoice.

John Calvin (1509-1564)

Reflection

Some days we wake up with anything but a rejoicing spirit. We may not feel up to par physically. The sun may not come out for a few days. Our life situation may be stressful; burdens may weigh heavily on our hearts. We may have experienced a loss. Unanswered prayers may be stacked as high as our pile of unpaid bills. Still, God has given us this day, and he calls us to rejoice in it. No matter what else is going on, God is still God, the Father, the Creator, who rules from his throne and declares his glory in every blade of grass, every bird that sings, every sunrise. Think of it—every day is new! His mercies are new. He has made us new creations in Christ Jesus and has given us a world full of his beauty. This day is another day to love our family and friends. It is another day to serve God, another day for him to extend his kingdom through us. It is another day of opportunity to trust him and see him work even in the problems and difficulties we face.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- As you celebrate Thanksgiving this week and begin Advent next Sunday, use the theme of this week’s topic to focus your attention each day on a different part of God’s creation (including circumstances and relationships) for which you can be glad and rejoice through a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to your Creator.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message*, “What Child Is This?” (John 1:1-14) as he begins this year’s Advent series. Pray for opportunities to apply the lessons of this series (and other elements of the service) from week to week.
- 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!

A podcast of the sermon, plu pdf documents of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes are posted on the website, normally 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.