

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of December 6, 2015**

**When Life Seems Dark**

*The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.*

*This week’s topic is an appropriate tie-in to the beginning of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, and to our LIF@E Time presentation by Ryan Karp from Chosen People Ministries on “Hanukkah and Jesus: Lights of the Season”*

**READ:** The day is Yours, the night also is Yours . . . *Psalm 74:16*

**REFLECT:** Since early childhood, I have been afraid of the dark. As a youngster, I always sent my little sister before me to turn on the light—and as an adult, I prefer bedrooms where streetlights are shining in the window. Whenever I am in total darkness, I encourage myself by repeating a line from George MacDonald: “But the dark is still God!” I hold on to those words until I find the light.

Maybe you don’t fear actual darkness as I do. But life has many kinds of darkness—times of uncertainty, time of grief, times of pain and despair. To all of us, these kinds of darkness are bound to bring fear.

Isn’t it comforting, then, when we find ourselves in the dark, to know that God created the dark as well as the light—and that He lovingly resides in both?

*Patricia Houck Sprinkle*

**PRAY:** *God, be with me in my darkness until it passes. Let this season of light illuminate my soul.*

**DO:** Enter into a friend’s darkness with gifts, your prayers and/or your presence.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. The full version used on Wednesday evenings is on the table in the lobby and on the website (see Archives).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service, the second Advent candle lighting, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave’s sermon “For Unto Us . . . Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas” (Luke 2:1-7), the first is this year’s Advent series.\* Pray that the Lord will lead you to ways to apply the lessons learned in your own walk with Christ, as you connect with different people this week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services—especially with a number of special Christmas events in the coming weeks—and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.

*\* A podcast of the sermon and other materials will be posted on the website by Monday.*

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”*