

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of January 3, 2016**

***When You Don’t Know What Lies Ahead***

*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.*

***Are you looking forward to the new year with eagerness and anticipation or a sense of foreboding? Faye Field encourages us to offer a helpful kind of prayer.***

**READ:** This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

**REFLECT:** As a child when I visited my uncle and aunt on their farm, I found that they arose while it was still dark. At breakfast, before going out into the fields, my uncle always prayed, thanking the Lord for the beautiful day. Of course it was much too dark for us to see the kind of day that was dawning.

One morning I said to my uncle, “Yesterday you thanked the Lord for a beautiful day, and it rained all day.”

“Yep,” he said, “and what a beautiful rain is was!”

Now I realize that my uncle’s prayer was **the kind that the Lord cherishes most—thanks for what we don’t even know await us.** [emphasis added]

*Faye Field*

**PRAY:** *Thank You, Lord, for this beautiful day. Even if it’s storming outside, I choose to be grateful for what this day holds.*

**DO:** Get up before dark, thank God for the beautiful day ahead and then see what the day brings.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. An abbreviated version appears in the bulletin. The full version will return when our prayer time moves to Sunday mornings at 11:10 for the winter months beginning next Sunday, January 10.
- Reflect on this week’s Hymn Sing and communion service. Pray that the Lord will lead you to new insights from the music, Scripture and your own reflection during communion—and that he will enable you to apply them to your own walk with Christ, as you connect with different people this week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services 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.
- Pray for the work of our Planning Group (Church Council and a number of additional people) as they explore options for Evangel’s future. Pray specifically for a number of important meetings in January with potential church partners. More details will be shared with the congregation when it is appropriate to do so.

*\* 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.”*