

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of January 10, 2016

When You Don’t Know How to Pray

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.

Don’t think these Touch Point reflections are just for prayer warriors! Developing a praying life is a life-long journey.

READ: Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us... *Ephesians 3:20*

REFLECT: Scripture gives us many pictures of God, and I find that when I cannot pray with words, I can pray through pictures.

When a friend is critically ill and I do not know whether to ask for healing or release from pain, I picture myself simply lifting my friend to the throne of grace and into the presence of God (Hebrews 4:16).

When I am baffled by own circumstances or feelings, I picture myself creeping into my heavenly Father’s lap, gratefully aware that “the eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms...” (Deuteronomy 33:27).

When I am tempted, I recall that “we are surrounded by...a cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1) and picture beloved friends who are now with God, bending down from heaven to encourage me.

If words won’t come, don’t let that stop your prayers. God’s gift of imagination can also be a doorway to prayer.

Patricia Houck Sprinkle

PRAY: *Father, receive my feeling and thoughts as prayers of faith.*

DO: Take your creative prayers a step further—write, draw or sing them.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week—it will be used in our weekly prayer time, which moves to Sundays at 11:15am for the winter months, starting this week. Copies can also be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service; the music, scripture, and Pastor Dave’s sermon “For Unto Us...Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas” (Luke 2:10-11 – part 6 in this year’s Advent series)*—and that they will encourage your 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), 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.”