

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of February 14, 2016

When You Need to Hear “I Love You”

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.

READ: My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. *1 John 3:18*

REFLECT: From the day I walked down the aisle and said, “I do,” I expected my husband to say, “I love you” on a regular basis. He lived up to my expectations for a while. And then I began to notice that the “I love yous” were becoming fewer. *He doesn’t care much anymore, I decided. The honeymoon is over.*

One day as I sat brooding in church, suddenly the minister’s words pierced my inattention. “You must learn to listen for love,” he said, “because people express it in so many different ways. All of us have to learn how to watch and listen.”

And so one evening when my husband casually said, “I passed a kid selling roses on a corner but I was in the wrong lane to stop.” I realized, to my surprise, that he had just said, “I love you.”

Now I find myself surrounded by love because I’ve learned to watch—and listen.

Doris Haase

PRAY: *Lord Jesus, Your death on the cross spoke love in the most powerful way possible. Help me to lay down my life—my own choices, preferences and desires—as an expression of my love for others.*

DO: Express your love with words and show it with your actions.

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 has moved to Sundays at 11:15am for the winter months. Copies can also be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org).
- Reflect on this week’s Hymns of the Heart worship service—the readings, songs, Pastor Dave’s meditation, and communion—that all will remain in your heart throughout this Lenten season and prepare you for Holy Week and the celebration of Jesus’ triumph over sin on our behalf through his death and resurrection.
- 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. The Annual Meeting today will present more information on the Executive Search proposal (pastoral search through Converge MidAmerica) that will be voted on February 28. Pick up a copy of the Evangel Profile (one per household...or download it at www.evbapt.org/docs/evangel-profile.pdf) and prayerfully read through it to better understand our succession planning as Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement (tentatively late spring 2017).

** 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.”