

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

When You Need Quietness

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: Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother, Like a weaned child is my soul within me. . . . *Psalm 131:2*

REFLECT: Twenty-five kindergartners make a lot of noise. When I helped out at our son Scott’s school, my voice rose louder over the din. That wasn’t the teacher’s way! Mrs. Dietz would make her announcements in a whisper.

Near her, a few children, straining to hear, would shush others, shouters would be poked and a wondrous hush would descend on the room. Because she spoke so quietly, the children’s listening had an alert, breathless attentiveness.

When, years later, I began praying for guidance, I thought of Mrs. Dietz. God will not raise His voice to be heard above the racket of my life. He wants me to shut off the TV, lay down the newspaper. He calls me to a room alone, then waits for the inner commotion in my head, too, to subside. He will not shout down the conversations in my head. Like Mrs. Dietz, He speaks more softly than them all, until they cease their chatter.

Then, quiet without, quiet within, I listen for the still, small voice that spoke the world into being.

Elizabeth Sherrill

PRAY: *Help me carve a quiet time from this active day, Father, when I can listen for the whispers of Your love.*

DO: Practice lowering the noise of your own life to create a quite space to listen to God’s whispers.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org/archive). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Nim Tica’s message*—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the 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 and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). Pray specifically that we will find ways to quiet ourselves so we can clearly hear God’s plan for us. For more information, see the Succession Planning page on our [website](http://www.evbapt.org), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process.

** 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.”