

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of April 24, 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.

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 my 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 feelings 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. 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, Pastor Dave’s message* “Honesty, Hope and Holiness” (introducing 2 Thessalonians)—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 this week for a meeting of the Search Team on Tuesday and for the two upcoming Open Forums in May. See the Succession Planning page on our [website](#), 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.”