

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

***When You’re Facing a Fear***

*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:** Do not be afraid . . . I am your shield . . . *Genesis 15:1*

**REFLECT:** A friend once told me that when he was a youngster he was deeply afraid of thunder and lightning. He looked upon this fear as a personal weakness and he was determined to do something about it.

One night a violent storm swept in over the fields where he lived. Smith got out of bed, put on his raincoat and heavy rubber boots, and went outside. While the thunder rolled and the lightning flashed he walked across a meadow and through a dark wood. When he had trudged half a mile he sat on a fence and turned his face to the wind and rain until the storm quieted. Then he went home, climbed back into bed and slept more peacefully than he had ever slept before.

Thunder and lightning never frightened Smith again. He had laid his fear to rest by following this advice—do the thing you fear, and the death of fear is certain.

*Norman Vincent Peale*

**PRAY:** *God, show me how to lay my fears to rest.*

**DO:** Look for opportunities to do the thing you fear until you no longer fear it.

**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](http://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 “Run to Daylight” (2 Thessalonians 3:1-5)—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). See Pause to Pray for specific prayer requests. 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. Pray for an upcoming meeting of the Feasibility Teams of Evangel and College Church on July 20, that the Lord will use it to reveal His direction regarding the merger option, one of three we are currently pursuing.

*\* A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material 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.”*