

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of July 17, 2016

When You’re Feeling Blessed

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: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
For He commanded and they were created . . . *Psalm 148:5*

REFLECT: Once I was the Sunday dinner guest at a home where a small boy named Dennis was asked to say grace. Dennis bowed his head and asked a blessing, which concluded with, “And most of all, God, that You for the sugar.”

At the time I was amused, but then I began to think of all the sugar God has sprinkled into our lives along with our daily bread. We certainly don’t need fiddleneck ferns or buttercups to survive. Brassy blue jays and tiny chickadees are also superfluous. My list of God’s extras began to grow rapidly: freckles on little boys’ faces, the ability to smile, the warmth of a touch. It wasn’t long before I’d concluded that God had used an exceedingly generous hand when He planned this universe.

Ruth Heaney

PRAY: *Thank You for life’s simple pleasures that You didn’t really have to create, God.*

DO: Look around you for blessings you’re never noticed before.

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 “I’d Rather Be. . .” (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15)—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 the Succession Planning Group meeting tomorrow evening (July 18) as the team discusses options following the withdrawal of College Church from discussions about a merger.

** 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), 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.”