

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of August 21, 2016

When You’re Fretful

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.

This week’s focus on enjoying pleasure takes the opposite viewpoint of last week’s concern for being discontent.

READ: That My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full . . . *John 15:11*

REFLECT: Sitting in front of a shopping center waiting for a friend, I was feeling fretful because she was late. The passing parade wasn’t helping much—whining children tugged impatiently at their mother’s coats.

Then a mother and her child came out of the store. She was the happiest-looking mother I’ve even seen. And her son was wondrously contented.

The young mother was in a wheelchair and held the little boy in her lap. She rolled them out of the store and, once on the sidewalk, she did a fancy little spin. Round and round they went as the little boy laughed out loud. She did too.

When my friend came I was still smiling and uttered a silent prayer, *Father, teach me again that joy never depends on circumstances.*

Marion Bond West

PRAY: *God, restore Your joy to mothers who have lost it.*

DO: Look around you for joy in others.

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 “Remember”—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](#), with additional updates and information to help you better understand our succession planning process. Pray for the leadership of the church considering the purchase of our property as they commission an appraisal and consider the feasibility of moving forward, a process we expect to take the rest of the summer. [The church name is withheld here, but has been shared with the church family in an email update].

** 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 (zqa041), 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.”