

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of September 11, 2016**

***When the Daily News is Getting You Down***

*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:** You will hear of wars and rumors of war . . . *Matthew 24:6*

**REFLECT:** At a conference in upstate New York, I was getting a pre-breakfast mug of coffee and listening to the news blaring from the lobby TV. That’s when I spotted my old friend Andrew Foster, pastor of the Church of The Ascension in New York City, who was attending a conference at the same hotel. We exchanged how-are-yous, and for once I told him, “Oh, you know, there’s so much trouble in the world i don’t even know how to pray anymore.”

“I used to fall into that trap, too, but no more,” said Andrew. “I’ve put myself on a strict news fast until noon.”

A *news fast*. How those two words have changed by life! Today, I listen to the birds, feed a chipmunk, read Scripture and wait till noon to catch up with the latest tragedy. By starting the day with calm that comes from listening first to God, I cope more successfully with my own problems and see my role in the larger problems around me.

*John Sherrill*

**PRAY:** *Thank You, Father, for granting me time each day to look at the world from the perspective of eternity.*

**DO:** Turn off the TV, radio or internet until after noon and start your day focusing on God.

**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, Gil Zinke’s message “From Us....to You”—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://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 review an appraisal and consider the feasibility of moving forward, a process we expect to hear about shortly. {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](http://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.”*