

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of October 9, 2016

When You Can’t Hear God Speaking

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: I will heed what God the Lord will speak. *Psalms 85:8*

REFLECT: The woman at the next table was obviously expecting someone, whirling around each time the door to the coffee shop opened. At last her friend Sue joined her.

Soon, everyone around was learning about the woman’s problems. Clearly, she had more of them than anyone could be expected to handle alone. An alcoholic husband, a delinquent son, a diabetic condition

I found myself covertly studying Ethel’s face. Warm, responsive, intelligent. I listened for the wisdom I was confident Ethel would supply.

“I wonder, Sue,” she began, “if you’ve thought about—“

But Sue had launched into another melancholy story of failed help. I could almost see Ethel give up the effort to communicate. As I rose to leave I heard Sue’s distressed voice: “I just wish I knew what to do!”

I thought of my word to God this very morning. “Why don’t you give me an answer!”

Maybe, I thought, He’s been trying.

Elizabeth Sherrill

PRAY: *I find it hard, Lord, to keep silent long enough to hear You speak. Please help me to keep quiet so I can hear you.*

DO: Ask a friend to be honest enough to tell you when you’re talking more than listening.

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 “Courage or Compromise” (1 Kings 18:1-16)—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 for the Lord’s leading as we prepare for an Open Forum next Sunday (October 16): for clarity of communication, for helpful discussion and a strong sense of unity in seeking God’s will.

** 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 (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.”