

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of October 23, 2016

When Serving Isn’t Convenient

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: Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.
1 Thessalonians 3:11 (NIV)

REFLECT: I grew up in quaint Concord grape area on the shores of Lake Erie. As a preteen, I often would pick with my mother, a pleasant way to earn a little money.

I was not an efficient picker, though. I would spend five minutes carefully trimming away leaves from the vines. Troublesome leaves gone, I would nip a few clusters of grapes and move on.

“Kath,” Mama would say, “don’t pay attention to the leaves. There are too many. Reach right past them and get your grapes.”

Today I find I still fuss with the leaves. I put off visiting an ailing elder because of a dirty kitchen floor or a car rattle. I can’t attend prayer meetings because I’m too tired, or the clothes need folding.

Oh, the annoying, cluttering leaves of inconvenience! I see that I am going to have to reach right past them and get to the worthwhile fruit.
Kathie Kania

PRAY: *Father, I’m great at making excuses, not so great at serving. But I want to be like You Lord, a servant first.*

DO: Clear a regular time on your calendar for serving so you don’t have to make time.

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 “The God Who Answers—Part 1” (1 Kings 18:21,24)—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 on the Succession Planning Group as it meets tomorrow evening to follow-up on the Open Forum last Sunday and discuss whether it is ready to recommended an action to the membership or to outline the remaining steps needed to get there.

** 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.”