

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of January 8, 2017**

**Seek God’s Understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

*As Evangel faces change in 2017, we recognize how important prayer has been—and will continue to be—as we participate in the unfolding of God’s plan. For our Touch Points in 2017, we return to “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003), which was first used in 2013-14.*

**READ:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

**REFLECT:** These verses from Proverbs can be a continual, lifelong, daily prayer for us to pray for all those we love, because our natural tendency is to lean on our own understanding and do things our way instead of depending on God’s wisdom and ways. The longer I live, the more I realize that all of our responsibilities, all that God has called us to do, are beyond our own human ability. There is nothing I can do apart from God. In everything—whether it is parenting; relationships with my husband, children, grandchildren, and friends; ministry work; writing; speaking; or teaching—I need to depend on God, seek his higher understanding, his wisdom and his will, then trust in his leading with all my heart. As I do these things, I become the recipient of God’s wonderful promise in Proverbs 3:6—he will direct my path—a promise that is backed by all the honor of his name. Even when it seems that there is no way out, when we’ve hit our own limitations or a dead end, God will guide us and make a way for us.

**PRAY:** *Lord, help me to trust in you with all my heart today. Guard me from depending on my own limited understanding. Instead, help me to rely totally on you. I desire to seek your will in all I do today. Thank you for the promise that you will direct my paths so that I can walk hand in hand with you, depend on your higher understanding, and seek your will in all I do.*

**QUOTE:** Because our understanding is earthbound . . . human to the core . . . limited . . . finite . . . we operate in a dimension totally unlike our Lord . . . who knows no such limitations. We see now, He sees forever. *Charles R. Swindoll (b. 1934)*

**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, Pastor Dave’s message\* “Putting Jesus in His Place” (Part 1 – Matthew 16:13-17 – *this message was scheduled for December 18, but that service was cancelled due to the weather*)—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, particularly for our Negotiating Team as it works with a church in Wheaton that made an offer to purchase our property (we plan to use the proceeds to establish an Evangel Missions Legacy Fund to continue our commitment to missions for 8-10 years or more). An update will be given during a Ministry Moment in today’s worship service.

\* *a podcast and other materials from the service will be posted on the website by Monday.*

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([evbapt.org](http://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.”*