

## **“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**

**For the week of June 4, 2017—Pentecost Sunday**

### **Prayer for an Outpouring (Acts 2:1-2)**

*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. Our Touch Points reflections come from “The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible” by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale, 2003)..*

**READ:** On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus’ resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. *Acts 2:1-2*

**REFLECT:** It has been seven long weeks of persevering prayer since Jesus had told the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until the Father sent the promised Holy Spirit. The uproar in the city concerning Jesus was increasing, and the pressures were mounting for Christ’s followers—even their lives were in jeopardy. Yet they didn’t frantically run around Jerusalem seeking help. They didn’t start a new building program or hire a church-growth consultant in an attempt to increase their numbers. Instead, they stayed continually in the upstairs room in unified, wholehearted, fervent prayer. It was the plan and purpose of God to pour out his Spirit, but the believers’ prayers were the preparation for Pentecost. Through their prayers, God laid the tracks for the demonstration of the Spirit’s power that was to come. Down through history we can see the same pattern being repeated: prayer is the preparation for every powerful movement of God’s Spirit.

**PRAY:** *LORD, grant us the same unity and fervency in prayer that your followers has in the upper room. We long to see your kingdom expand, your Spirit poured out in power, and the accomplishment of your will and purpose in our time. Give us hearts that take an active role in “laying the tracks” for your Spirit’s work in our generation.*

**QUOTE:** Never has there been an outpouring of the divine Spirit from God, without a previous outpouring of the human spirit toward God.  
*A. T. Pierson*

#### **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)).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message\* “Elijah Exists, but Endures” (1 Kings 18:36-37), continuing his series on Elijah—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.
- Continue to prayer for the succession planning process as we move through the transition of our property from Evangel to Vineyard Church of DuPage in the coming months, with the formal transfer likely to occur on or about August 1. The Negotiating Team, Church Council, and others are attending to a myriad of details. Pray for wisdom, energy, and attention to detail as there is much to do! This week, pray particularly for the Open Forum today and the upcoming vote on the sale contract planned for next Sunday. Pray also that, through it all and despite much sadness, in the end there will be a sense of joy in successfully “ending well” and “passing the baton” to Vineyard.

\* 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.”*