

# First Baptist Church in Needham

## Third Sunday after Epiphany

Edition 45



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**Worship and Prayer Resource**  
**Sunday, January 24, 2021**  
*(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

[www.fbcneedham.org](http://www.fbcneedham.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Photo: 1932-33 Famine Memorial, Chernivsti, Ukraine, ©Holly Benzenhafer 2010. Use with permission.

## Lighting the Candle of Life

*You may wish to light a candle or use the photo above as a focus for this time.*

**ALL: We light the Candle of Life - a candle that represents community, spirit, and the fullness of all of life - birth and death and all the transitions in between and beyond.**

## Scripture

### **Psalm 62:5-12 (paraphrased)**

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from you, Holy One.  
You alone are my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in the Holy One at all times, O people; we pour out our hearts before you;  
For you, God are a refuge for us. Selah

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion;  
in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.  
Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

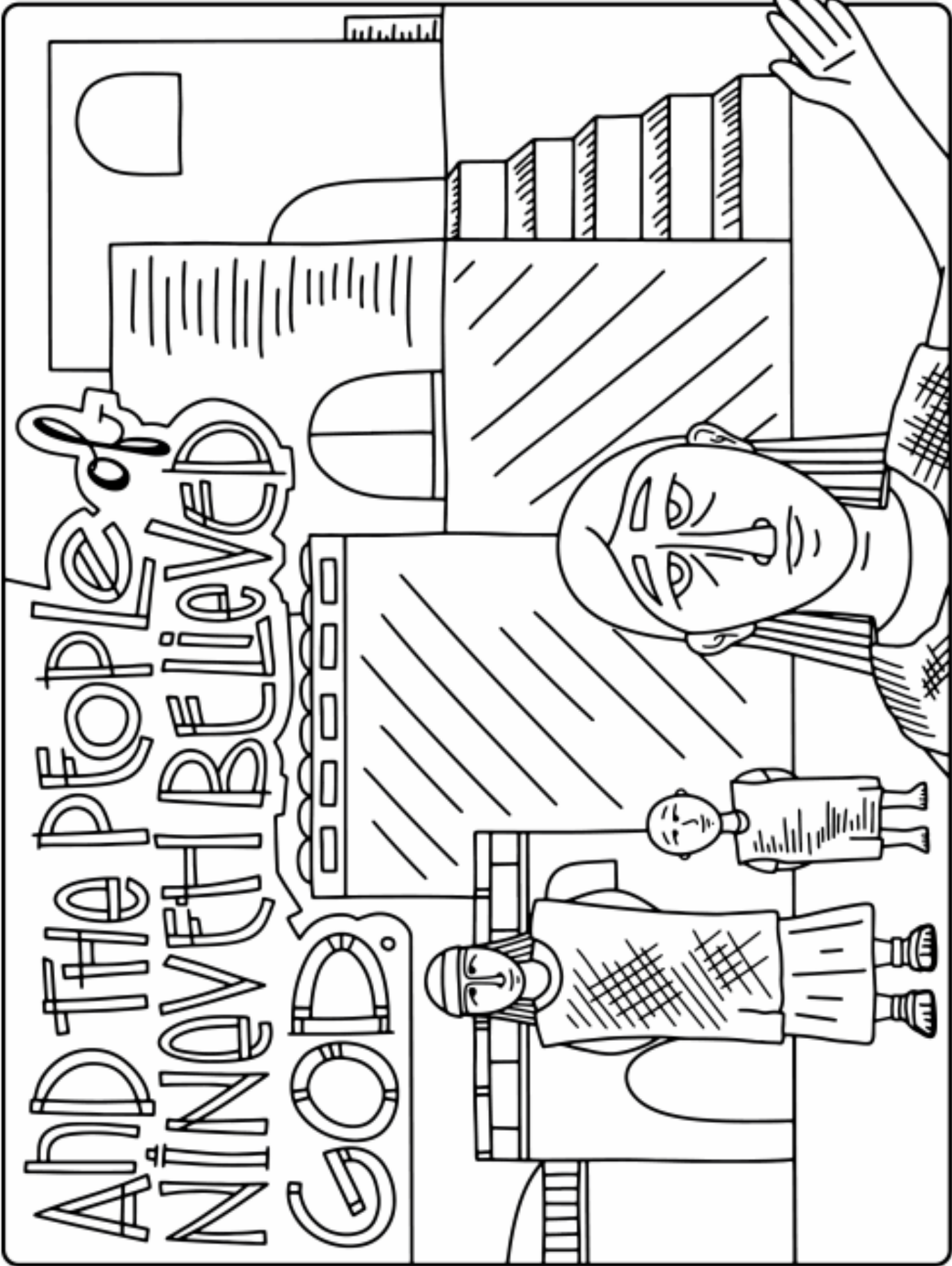
Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, Holy One.  
For you repay to all according to their work.

### **Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."

So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed God's mind about the calamity that God had said would come upon them; and the Holy One did not do it.



## Prayers of the People

*Enter into this time in song. If you don't know the tune, let the words be the doorway to your prayer.*

### Sung Prayer

### *Hear My Prayer, O Lord*

BENZENHAFER  
arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

Hear my prayer, O Lord. Hear my prayer, O Lord.  
I am asking, hear my prayer, O Lord.

### Prayerful Meditation

“And so, we lift our gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another. We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true. That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped; that even as we tired, we tried; that we'll forever be tied together, victorious. Not because we will never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division.”<sup>2</sup>

*As Jonah, the Psalmist, and our country's first Youth Poet Laureate remind us, enter into prayer trusting that God who walks beside you in each action, each care in loving community, each celebration, and each sorrow also holds you in lovingkindness and hears the longings and desires of your heart.*

## We Hold in Prayer...

*Many of this week's prayers are requests from members of our congregation in the past week. If you have general or specific prayer requests - joys as well as concerns - to share please contact Holly or Daryn to pass them along.*

As a community of faith gathered in Spirit when we cannot be in person as we are accustomed, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer where we are, entrusting the Spirit's moving among us and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...

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<sup>2</sup>from Amanda Gorman, “The Hill We Climb,” National Youth Poet Laureate, read at the 46<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration, Washington, D.C. January 20, 2021. .

We anticipate the coordinated vaccination rollouts and the promise of another step toward removing the scourge of the COVID19 pandemic. We celebrate Harry's **sister and family in California and Washington** who have received their first doses. We are grateful Pastor Holly's colleague, **Johnny Gall** and the **Boston homeless people** he serves who received their initial vaccines at a Boston shelter this week. For vulnerable bodies living without adequate shelter during a pandemic in winter and the ministering bodies who work alongside them and who are each a step closer to vaccinated protection... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We join Anne, Dorothy, Harry, and Andrew in concern that people remain vigilant, diligent, and encouraged while enacting COVID protocols – masking, physical distancing, staying home, limiting exposure to people in households, and hand washing as we await vaccinations. As tired as we are, as much as we wish to move freely and unencumbered, we call on God for continued endurance as we face both the original COVID and now new, more contagious mutated strains. And as the nation gathered this week to **mourn the 400,000+ individual storied lives ended too early by this coronavirus in one year's time**, we hand our collective grief and unutterable loss to God's consolation... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*



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With Louise and Dorothy, we offer heartfelt thanks that so far, our congregation has had only mild brushes with COVID. We also offer thanks with Bev for **Trevor's**

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<sup>3</sup> National Mall COVID19 Memorial Lights, (January 19, 2021). Photo by Patrick T. Fallon/AFP via Getty Images. Could the COVID-19 memorial on the National Mall become permanent? (today.com)

current stable health and his good-natured, forward-looking view of life and with Anne for **Bruce's** sweet spirit and improved health ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Nancy, Jim, and Bev, we give thanks for the peaceful transition of power enacted in our nation's **Presidential Inauguration** this week. We pray for the calls to both unity and taking responsibility for the pain riven through our collective history in order to truly heal our people's wounds and transform our country—that these calls will be authentically brought into action. We offer, too, our own prayers of love and peace as we live into a new administration. For the uplifting images and words spoken and sung of possibilities of hope and cooperation at the site of the violent insurrection at the Capitol two weeks ago ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Harry, we hold in prayer members of our country who are concerned and distrusting of our governmental transition and the work of the current administration. We pray your watchcare over this distress and that in the midst of disappointment there remains willingness to nurture inclusive and diverse community, discourse, and cooperation as we address the wounds within our country together, own our collective history, and create a transformed future together.

With Louise, Harry, and Ernie, we are grateful for **loving family members** who check in, care for us, have Zoom chats, and keep us from growing even more lonely in our isolation ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We ask for Sacred Guidance as we prepare to hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting** online this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. As we endeavor to faithfully administer the yearly work of the congregation... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We acknowledge the severe and capricious nature of back pain and hold **Bev** to Spirit's care as she awaits MRI results on her spine. So too, we hold **Ernie** to your continued watchcare as he undergoes his next Ketruda treatment and manages continued loss of strength and stamina and lack of appetite... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Liz, we call you to the care of Margaret Nelson's daughter, **Elizabeth Nelson Smith**, as she undergoes surgery and prepares to move to Maine in April with her husband's new pastorate. We call upon your compassionate care of Pastor Daryn's

**Aunt Lana**, whose heart condition is worsening. And we continue to hold Nancy's family members, **Carol** in Florida, and **Maryann** in Vermont to your healing presence... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry we are grateful for technology that allows Zoom calls and visiting people while physically distancing and the pleasure of catching up with folks at the Senior Center during a Zoom Sunday dinner and with his dance group... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Harry and Bev, we hold **Liz** to Spirit's safekeeping as she navigates decisions about her home and future housing... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We rejoice that **Clif** is home from the hospital after a flare up of Guillain Barre Syndrome. We pray he continues to regain strength and that his neuropathy rescind quickly. For his continued healing and **Anthony's** stamina in caring for Clif and PJ ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Ernie, we offer prayers for the **Nursery School** as they navigate a **time of transition** from being part of the church's ministry to a part of the Needham Childrens' Center's effort to provide childcare for residents of Needham ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Louise, we delight in the weekly pastoral calls from Daryn and Holly and give thanks for the "day-brightening" conversations ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

With Anne, we honor the memory of the family's beloved Dillon, a 14-year-old retriever mix, who died this week. Knowing the heartrending absence when our companion animals are no longer beside us, especially now during the pandemic when the accompaniment is so treasured... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Marty, Harry, Dorothy, and Pastor Holly, we hold in community individuals living alone who continue to struggle with resilience in the face of isolation and the extended winter. Hear their soul's cries, Spirit, as they seek connection and relationship without the warmth and ease of being present with others ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We hold **Marty's extended family** to Holy Presence as they recover from COVID. We also continue to lift Pastor Holly's friend, **Eda Jackson**, to your watchcare as she has received a tracheotomy and feeding tube after over two months in COVID ICU. Having not awakened from her sedation was removed two weeks ago, we also hold her children **Gray and Dabs** to your discerning compassion as they navigate difficult decisions going forward. We lift Pastor Daryn's friend, **Mike Clodfelter** hospitalized with COVID pneumonia, **his wife and daughter**, and also Daryn's **Aunt Beth** –all diagnosed with COVID—for their return to full health and wellbeing... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

May you Deep Peace move among Pastor Daryn and her family as they mourn the death of her **Great Aunt Frances Bunce** after extended hospice care. That she be relieved of her mortal pain as she enters your nearer presence... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks that our **second year of Creative Callings** is underway and for our community partners' testimonies and support. For their insights and willingness to accompany us in our discernment... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We continue to hold in prayer Pastor Daryn's grandfather, **Dearl Bunce**, who has moved to a rehabilitation center for speech, occupational, and physical therapy after **suffering a brain bleed and lack of consciousness** during a violent home invasion and burglary. We pray for his ongoing recovery and for his wife, **Shirley**, as she recovers from the trauma of the experience... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, we ask your **mercy upon us** when the mistakes and misgivings of our minds, hearts and bodies lead to irrevocable consequences that cause others, and our world, more pain. **Have mercy on us** when we abuse our power and privilege, when we misjudge, or when our biases and prejudices cloud our vision and corrupt our action. We pray for our divided communities, **unite us in your love and mark us with repentance and humility** so we can seek the change we need to heal. Again, help *all of us* seek and be ready for the **transformation** that needs to come for justice and peace to reign in the hearts and systems we create ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*



We continue to offer prayers that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and the tendencies toward discrimination and dehumanization in our world would be eradicated.** Give us the **strength to overcome** these sins ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For the prayers of our hearts that you, Holy One, know even when words cannot hold them...*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive

those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

### **Offering**

*During this time of offering, consider going right now to <https://www.fbcneedham.org> (Take Action) to complete your offering or continue to support the ongoing ministry of the church by writing your check to the church office and preparing it to mail to: **First Baptist Church in Needham, 858 Great Plain Avenue, Needham MA 02492.** Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check. Let this act be a spiritual practice woven in within your worship.*

### **Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **Benediction**

*(Speak these words of benediction knowing that you are part of a loving community of faith. If you lit a candle at the beginning, you may wish to blow it out now.)*

One: Our blessing to one another is that we are here for one another, that we are with one another, that we celebrate and remember one another along the journey.

**ALL: We extinguish the Candle of Life, but the Light continues to shine within us. As we pass the peace we carry the Light of the Candle of Life from this hour into this world and beyond, offering peace, hope and light wherever the journey leads.**

## Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another in peace as we prepare for the journey ahead.

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## Announcements

**Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!**

Our church office has re-opened for our Office Manager, Robin Bevilacqua. We are encouraging limited visits to the church building, and all who visit are required to mask, sign-in, and socially distance. **If you need to speak with Robin, please call ahead if you can.** Pastoral and other church staff are working from home. Office voicemail and email are being checked regularly. **If you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.**

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**Worship - Worship Resource and Calls of Caring continue!**

**Worship Resources and Calls of Caring are provided each week.** You are encouraged to make use of the Worship Resources and to find other meaningful opportunities for worship and reflection, Zoom services, or other spiritually enriching means of communing with God and community during this time of social distancing. The Zoom links provided for FBC Newton and FBC Jamaica Plain remain the same as before and are posted on our website on our member page. Contact Pastor Daryn if you need links to join these services.

**We are aware how much the Worship Resource and Calls of Caring mean to our community,** particularly to those of our community members unable to attend services in person or via Zoom. We will continue with the publication of these materials and with our calls each week and will make an effort not to call during the time of Zoom services on Sunday mornings. Blessings, all!

## **Annual Meeting - January 24th @ 11:00am via Zoom**

**We will NOT be meeting in person - no in person attendance is allowed.**

A formal motion for the purposes of holding a virtual annual meeting will be made at the meeting. The following is previous notice of the motion to be made:

Zoom links will be made available via email and text message, and posted on our member page on our website. **Please do not share the Zoom links or passwords publicly - only with members of our community.** We hope you'll make every effort to attend. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, or need assistance accessing the meeting, please contact [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org), or call the church office 781-400-5867.

Daryn Stylianopoulos is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

**Topic: Annual Meeting 11am**

**Time: Jan 24th, 11am Eastern Time**

**FOR ZOOM INFORMATION & Passwords, email [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org), or call the church office 781-400-5867.**

## **Previous Notice of Motion**

The Moderator hereby gives notice that at the next Annual Meeting he will move the following:

“Whereas,  
Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020,  
due to the Commonwealth’s current State of Emergency  
due to the ‘COVID-19 Virus’ has directed us to suspend  
public gatherings and prohibits having meetings in a  
publicly accessible *physical* location; and

Whereas,  
The bylaws of The First Baptist Church in Needham  
do not expressly authorize holding electronic meetings;

Resolved,  
That a standing rule be adopted authorizing the members,  
boards, and committees of The First Baptist Church in  
Needham to assemble by holding electronic meetings; and

Resolved,  
That participation in such electronic meetings shall be  
fully remote with no in-person attendance in  
publicly accessible *physical* locations; and

Resolved,  
That notice of such electronic meetings shall include  
an adequate description of how to participate.”

To be included in the “call” of the Annual Meeting to be held on  
Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 11:00 am via Zoom.

Notice given:

Sunday, January 17, 2021 and Sunday, January 24, 2021.

# Creative Callings

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



Boston University School of Theology  
Center for Practical Theology

Videos by Sandra Robinson on Needham Community Council and Timothy Muir McDonald on Needham Public Health are available on our website on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Please watch them prior to OUR SECOND CONGREGATION CONVERSATION of the year on Thursday, January 28th at 6:30pm. You should have received a Creative Callings packet for Year 2 - it contains a schedule, bios for our community partners, and more information about the timeline of Year 2.

**Reserve Thursdays at 6:30pm in 2021 for our congregational conversations for discernment via Zoom!**

Thank you to all who have shown up curious, engaged the videos and video partners in meaningful dialogue, curated questions, and held possibility for our church in this process of discernment and dreaming. If you have questions about Creative Callings, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, please contact Pastor Daryn, [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org).

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## Offering Envelopes

TO PICK UP 2021 Offering Envelopes contact Robin in the church office to arrange a time for pick up. If you are unable to pick up yourself, we will try to arrange their delivery in the new year.

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## Do You Need Washable Masks?

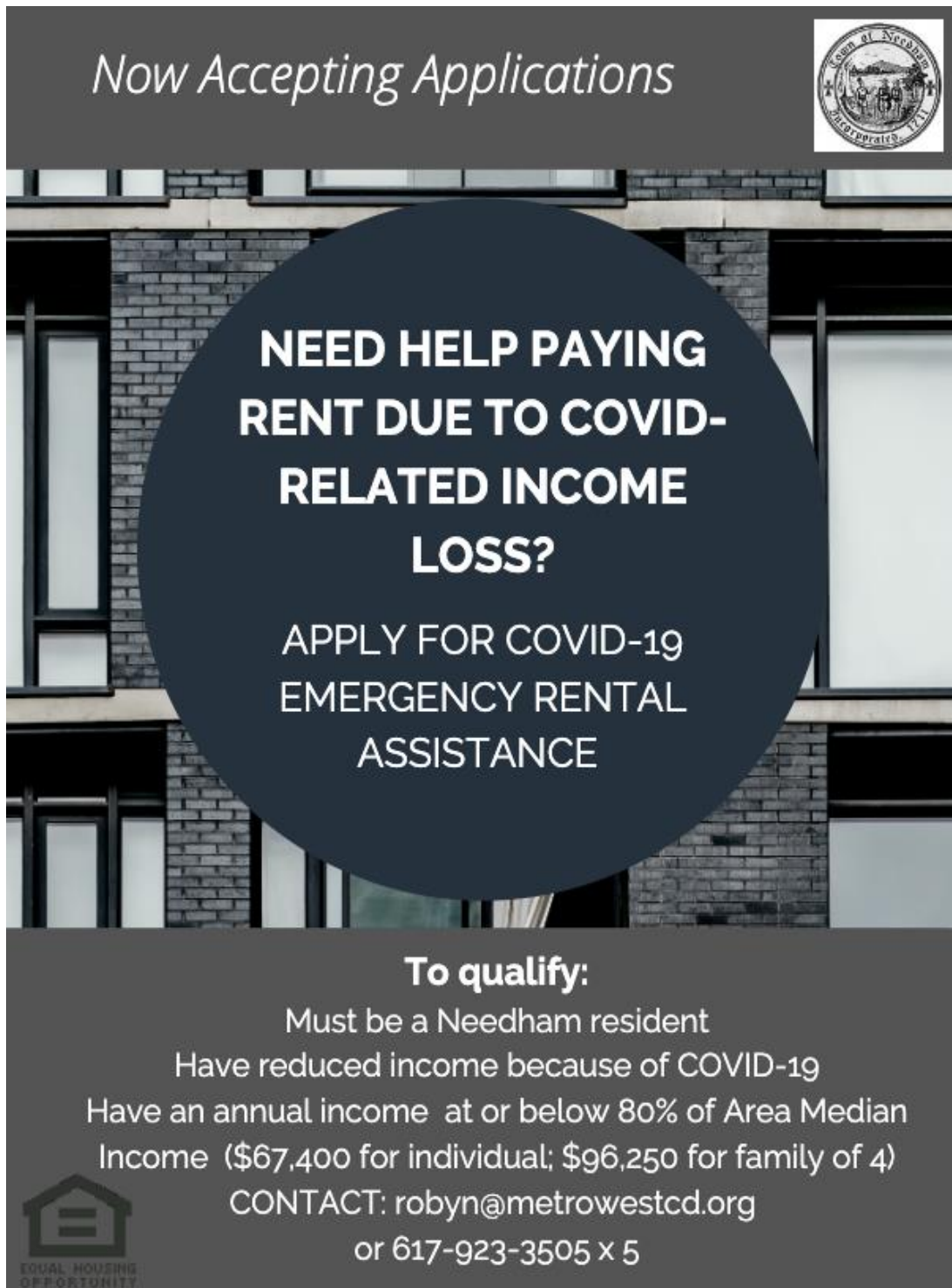
Be Kind Needham Masks for Seniors is a local organization making washable fabric masks available to local senior residents *for free*. Your health and safety in the weeks and months ahead is paramount, and having reusable, washable masks aids sanitation, is environmentally friendly, and is cost-effective. If you or a senior you know need masks, please contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly.

**Needham Community Council** continues to provide necessary resources and food to individuals in need of their services: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>.


*Please note: They are accepting donations by appointment only at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.*

## Security Adjustments

**Changing Member Page Password:** email or call Pastor Daryn for the NEW password for our church membership page. Our Creative Callings password is the same as before. The membership directory has been taken down from the website for now. Please let Pastor Daryn know if you need to be in touch with someone in the community [pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org).



*Now Accepting Applications*




**NEED HELP PAYING  
RENT DUE TO COVID-  
RELATED INCOME  
LOSS?**

APPLY FOR COVID-19  
EMERGENCY RENTAL  
ASSISTANCE

**To qualify:**

- Must be a Needham resident
- Have reduced income because of COVID-19
- Have an annual income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (\$67,400 for individual; \$96,250 for family of 4)

CONTACT: [robyn@metrowestcd.org](mailto:robyn@metrowestcd.org)  
or 617-923-3505 x 5



EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY