

First Baptist Church in Needham  
*One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource*  
October 2021



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Transition Edition 6  
*(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: Entryway Glass 3, Miramar Retreat Center, Hingham, MA (2019). ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021.

**A Note for October** – With summer’s end and the falling, fiery leaves of autumn swirling around us, we move through this time of our own spiritual and communal transitions in prayer and compassion. I invite you to hold our FBC community, the larger Needham and Boston communities, and our beloved world to God’s care and Spirit’s safekeeping along with the prayers of your heart as the Transition Prayer Resource arrives mid-month each month through the rest of our transition journey. Please join me in prayer... - *Pastor Holly*

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## + We Hold in Prayer +

### My Prayers of Gratitude & Thanksgiving

**O God, thank you for each new day and all that it brings.**

**You promise to provide all that I need, caring not only for me, but for all creation  
and so I rejoice...**

With Louise in gratitude for good health and her family...

With Clif for the still-warm days and time to be outside...

With Harry for his sons’ and daughters-in-law’s daily care for him in getting him to his treatments and enabling a fairly normal sense of well-being and that he is experiencing no pain...

With Clif and Anthony in celebration of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and blessings on the next 10 years together!

With Ernie in celebration of the birth of his great-grandson, Andrew John (AJ)!

With Harry for being able to reunite with a number of extended family members at his older sister’s grave for a three-day gathering...

With Harry in celebrating Pastor Holly’s move and the goodness of settling into new spaces...

With Peggy for her safe move to Colorado and setting up the new home...

*+++ Offer your own prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving here. +++*

*Praise God, from whom all blessing flow....*

### Prayers of Personal Concern, Healing, Solace, & Courage

**Faithful God, you know me inside and out,  
all my hopes and dreams, fears and failures.**

**You hear your children cry out for healing and consolation, courage and strength.**

**Send your Spirit in the sharing of the concerns of our hearts as I pray...**

With Harry, Liz, and Clif for Ernie who is in hospice care at home for each day and night, his caregiver, Bianca, and his loving family and large circle of friends...

With Trevor for continued health concerns and has entered hospice at home. And for Bev in her continuous, unflagging, and loving care for him...

With Clif for his friend who is living with ALS and is in ICU with pneumonia...

With Liz as she continues to navigate the complex and frustrating process of securing housing...

With Clif for the family of David Sanford in their grief in his death. And for Clif's friend George who has also died – that his partner Fred, family and friends know the Spirit's consolation...

With Harry for his daily treatments and ongoing transfusions...

With Fayrah who tested positive for COVID despite being vaccinated that her recovery be swift and symptoms remain mild...

With Marty in her ongoing recovery and complex decisions she and her family face...

With Anne as she deals with ongoing health concerns...

With Jim for his mom, Adele, who is in significant back pain, and his sister Cathy living with depression...

With the family of Ruth Long that they know Spirit's consolation in her entering God's nearer presence...

*+++ Offer your own prayers of concern, healing, solace, and courage here. +++*

*Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....*

### Prayers in Our Transitions

**God of Life, in all of life's turns – planned and unexpected – you are there.**

**For the transitions that are hard for me to bear,  
grant me the strength to be vulnerable and seek loving accompaniment.**

**For the changes I anticipate, grant me hope and wisdom.**

**Trusting your Spirit is moving to prepare a place in fellowship and community for  
each beloved member of our First Baptist congregation, I pray...**

With Pastor Holly for the Administration Ministry's continued good and dedicated work in preparing the next steps of our transition process...

With Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly for each congregation member's prayerful discernment of the next step in your spiritual journey and the communities of faith who will be blessed by your presence among them going forward...

*+++ Offer your own prayers for our transition here. +++*

*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*

### Prayers for the Community, Nation, & World

**God of compassion and justice, there is so much in the news that is painful, from  
natural disasters to governmental actions to hunger, poverty, and violence.**

**And there are so many instances of lovingkindness, beauty, and hope.**

**Move among your creation and your children, as I pray...**

With Dot Kinne for the choices individuals and people in power make that cause harm, pain, suffering, and chaos throughout the world that God's Spirit bring transformative change and healing...

For Needham's most vulnerable inhabitants that they know safety, security, support, and hope in community...

*+++ Offer your own prayers for our community, nation, and world here. +++*

*For the moving of your Spirit in hope and healing throughout our world, praise God, from whom all blessings flow ... And for your enduring presence, justice, and mercy in our brokenness, Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....*

*Hear my prayer, O Lord...as I pray the prayer your son taught us saying:*

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.

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## Announcements

Our **church office** is open 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.

*For pastoral care, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by phone, text, or email.*

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**Watch for the next Prayer Resource  
due mid-November!**

**First Sundays**  
**In Our Transition,**  
**We Gather in Reflection, Prayer, and Communion**  
**the First Sunday Evening of Every Month in the Sanctuary**  
**5:00 p.m.**

*Masks and Social Distancing Required.*

**+++ Our Next Service is Sunday, November 7 +++**

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*Creative Callings* Year 2, Session 3

**ADMINISTRATION STEWARDSHIP  
& PASTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT *through* TRANSITION**

With the congregational vote on Sunday, June 27, 2021, the Administration Ministry is tasked with developing a plan for closing the church. As the Administration Ministry continues to meet to develop a plan to bring before the congregation, **each member of the congregation is also encouraged to do your own good work of prayerfully discerning what community of faith you may wish to visit or consider joining.** Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly are available to offer spiritual and pastoral accompaniment and reflection upon request.

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## Offering

Your continued financial support of the daily work and ministries of FBC Needham is vital. Offerings can be turned in during Worship on the Lawn, through the church website online, or via mail. May the act of giving be a spiritual practice that accompanies your daily prayer and worship.

### Mail Checks to:

First Baptist Church in Needham  
858 Great Plain Avenue,  
Needham MA 02492

### Online:

Go to <https://www.fbcneedham.org>  
Click the **Take Action** link & follow the directions.

*Make checks payable to:* First Baptist Church in Needham.

Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check.

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