

# First Baptist Church in Needham

## Transfiguration Sunday

Edition 49



1

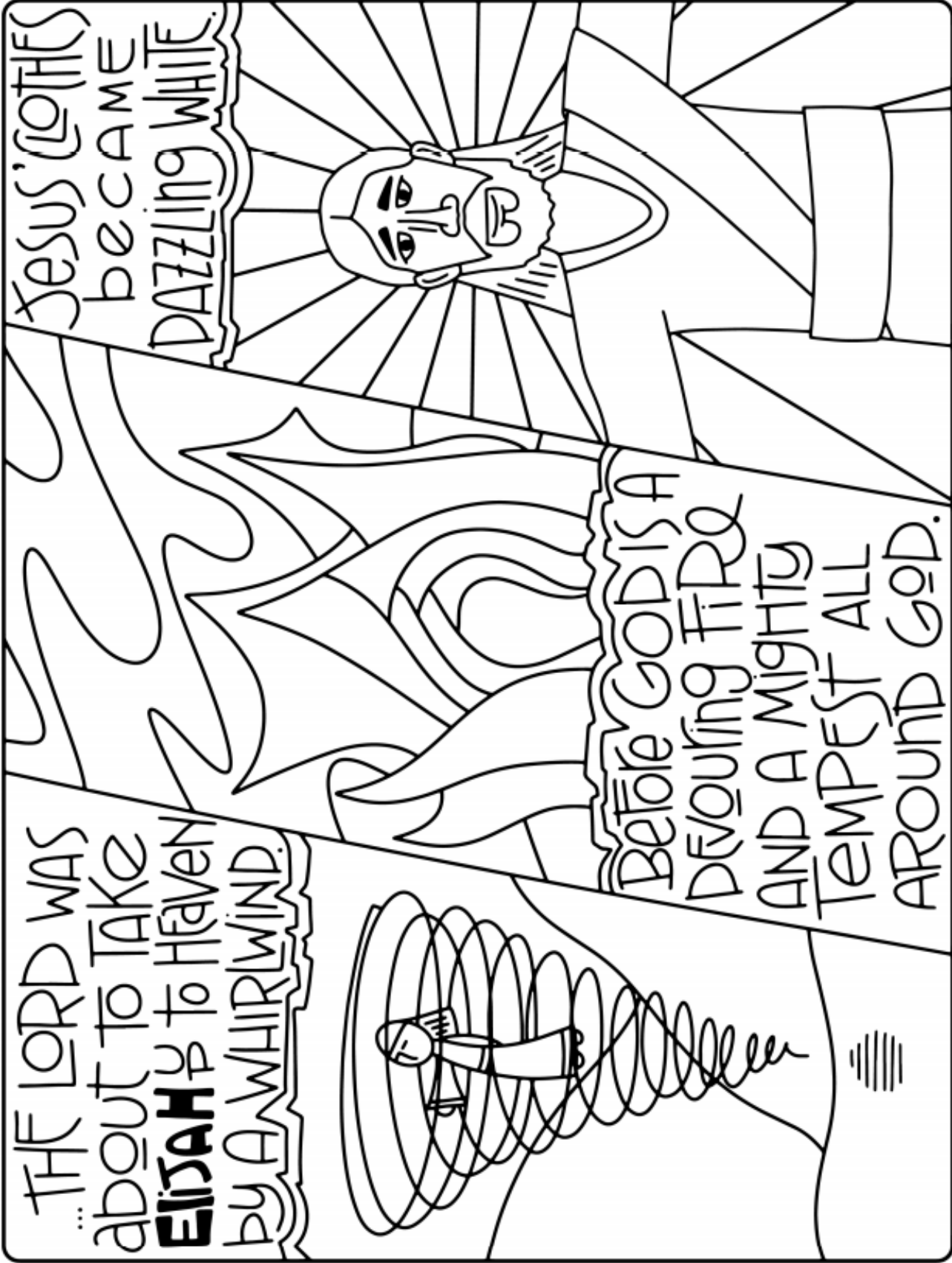
**Worship and Prayer Resource**  
**Sunday, February 14, 2021**  
*(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Photo: "Sunbreak at Canobie Lake" Salem, NH – 2020: ©Holly Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.



JESUS' CLOTHES  
BECAME  
DAZZLING WHITE.

...THE LORD WAS  
ABOUT TO TAKE  
**ELIJAH** TO HEAVEN  
BY A WHIRLWIND.

BEFORE GOD IS A  
DEVOURING FIRE  
AND A MIGHTY  
TEMPEST ALL  
AROUND GOD.

2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, Mark 9:2-13 • illustratedchildrensministry.com

## 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

### 2 Kings 2:1-12

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father,

father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

### **Mark 9:2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

*The word of the Lord, thanks be to God.*

## **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**

"In these chaotic times, amid disconnection, the kind of transformation needed is one in which we are aligned with our bodies, with the nature we inhabit. We must all first know that we have inherited nature. Our bodies are a form of nature; they should not be hated, abused, or slaughtered....We can acknowledge, as we walk our spiritual

paths, that there are discoveries to be made about the nature of life. It is only due to these bodies in which we live that we can even explore the path to liberation. When we begin to hold an awareness of the body as inheriting nature, then we may begin to experience a liberating tenderness, to have authentic encounters, and to reconcile kinship between us.”<sup>3</sup>

*The texts today depict mystical events where the physical bodies of Elijah and Jesus are markedly transformed – Elijah taken into heaven on a chariot of fire and Jesus, fundamentally altered from his usual countenance. Mystical encounter—both experiences are noted to have had a number of witnesses—escapes our boxes, checklists, and measurements of explanation as the Spirit moves within the physical world. Significantly, these texts of transfiguration of bodies then confront the above quote by Zenju Earthlyn Manuel and bring us right back to the emphasis of our individual bodies as necessary – if not vital – to our full embrace of the Spirit if we are to live into the liberating message Jesus offers and God affirms.*

*Through our bodies, we are called to bring about mystical, liberating transformation each day through “tenderness...authentic encounters, and to reconcile kinship between us.” Through our bodies – limited though they are – we pause, focus, and call upon the Spirit to move with healing, justice, and mercy in prayer. Through our bodies, we enact our prayers and become the fulcrum of transforming light both within our circles of relationship and influence and even moreso within our own hearts and minds. May our prayer today be full-bodied, natural, as well as full-Spirited before God.*

## **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

---

<sup>3</sup> Zenju Earthlyn Manuel, *The Way of Tenderness: Awakening Through Race, Sexuality, and Gender* (Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2015), 93.

Spirit's moving among us and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...

We give thanks that the **Stylianopoulos family** has all tested negative for COVID and is released from quarantine. We offer prayers of gratitude for **Spiro's** recovery and continued healing of any residual symptoms as well as his starting physical therapy for his arm's healing and for **Pastor Daryn's** health and wellbeing...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Anthony and Harry, we continue to hold **Clif** to God's watchcare as he continues recovery from a flare up and continues his infusion treatments this coming week. We celebrate his being at 80% and anticipate his return to 100% health. We also hold **Ernie** in Spirit's ongoing presence as he continues treatment and has had a return of appetite for the first time in a very long while. ...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

With Anthony, we celebrate that most of the staff at the West Roxbury VA have received vaccines enabling them to serve patients with less risk. We also celebrate the medical professionals, staffs, home health workers, assisted living staffs, and volunteer caregivers who have received vaccinations and are ensuring others in their care do so... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Clif, we hold all **persons who are unable to receive the COVID vaccine** due to medical conditions. We hold their safety and health to Spirit's protection as they navigate prolonged and additional restrictions ...*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer...*

We hold **Liz** to Christ's loving presence as she continues to work through her housing concerns and ask for perseverance as she addresses ongoing details and necessary decisions ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We are thankful that **Ernie, Marty, and Dorothy** received their first COVID vaccine shot this week. For the diligence of folk navigating the process of getting the vaccine and for the administrators, medical personnel, volunteers, drug companies, and government officials diligently working to make available and safely distribute the vaccines... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Marty, we are grateful for **Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly's** weekly calls. For the experience of pastoral care and conversation and the meaningful connection it sustains for our members ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Andrew and Dorothy we pray for our governor and governing leadership who face the complex issues around COVID vaccination rollouts and encounter multivalent demands and needs from countless communities. We also pray for the public's continued patience and endurance with the necessary and beneficial precautions – masking, distancing, refraining from crowds and being indoors – and ask for the Spirit's infusion of empathy and compassion for others take root and bloom in the hearts of each person as we seek to protect others' health as well as our own ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Dorothy, we are thankful for opportunities to go out – if only to the grocery store once a week – and for the goodness of sharing time and delicious food with beloved family... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Pastor Holly, we acknowledge the stress of eleven months of constrained living and the unspeakable toll of grief from millions of persons who have died of COVID and millions more who died of other causes—none of whom have been able to be grieved and mourned in community. We recognize our own anxieties, grief, and experiences of loss and the weight of living in a world transformed in such an unfamiliar and unmooring way... *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Clif, we lean toward each day's lingering sun and the promise of spring arriving. We do so as we also offer thanks for warm, comfortable homes in the face of brutally cold and snowy weather... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Pastor Holly, we remember friends and loved ones drawn to God's nearer presence in death this week including Holly's long-time friends and mentors, **Leland Speed** and **V.A. Patterson**. For their lives and the legacies of service to their larger communities in bettering others' lives, work, and artistic expression... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry, we celebrate the wonders of technological advancements that make life easier, more comfortable, that aid healing, and enable staying in touch with friends and family...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Dorothy and Harry, we are grateful for the Worship Resource and the way it connects our FBC Needham congregation and friends in prayer and compassion each week ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow....*

We continue to lift Pastor Holly's friend, **Eda Jackson**, to your watchcare as she remains in COVID ICU. We also hold her children **Gray and Dabs** to your discerning compassion as they navigate difficult decisions going forward and learn to accept their mother's current health reality. We also continue to hold with Andrew, **Wren** as she awaits her COVID test results and for **Carmen** that she remain healthy ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*



4

---

<sup>4</sup> Photo: "Compassionate Heart of Christ" Muelder Chapel, Boston University – 2017: ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021. Use with permission.



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

With Harry, we offer gratitude for the Senior Center and the numerous ways they reach out to seniors throughout Needham with food boxes, online classes, cookies and popcorn for treats, and now by offering COVID vaccinations. For their presence in Needham and ongoing service... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

As our country observes Black History Month in February, we continue to offer prayers that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and that 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.

Hymns under copyright are used by permission under CCLI # 763542.

---

## Announcements

**Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!**

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.

**If you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.**

---

## **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 Holly if you need links to join these services.

---

## **Lent Begins This Week on Ash Wednesday**

Lenten Devotional Packets will be sent out to guide our season of theological reflection, spiritual pilgrimage, and creative discernment. Additionally, you will find our Lenten Prayers of the People take on a slightly different format as we hold our communities and our FBC family in ongoing intentional prayer and compassion. As we prepare our hearts for this 40-day journey toward Easter, may we also be open to the Spirit's moving in our congregation's discernment through our devotional resources, prayer practices, and daily faithful living.

---

## **Questions About Accessing COVID Vaccinations in Needham?**

Needham Public Health has created a dedicated email and phone line for vaccination questions. Before contacting Needham Public Health, please see the Frequently Asked Questions on the Town's COVID webpage

(<http://www.needhamma.gov/documentcenter/view/22927> - updated as of 2/5). You can email questions to [needhamvaccine@needhamma.gov](mailto:needhamvaccine@needhamma.gov) or call 781-455-7934. Note, this line is a voicemail box. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

---

## **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.*

---



**Boston University** School of Theology  
Center for Practical Theology

Join OUR THIRD & FINAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS Q&A with Latanya Steele, Director of Ageing Services at the Center at the Heights/Senior Center in Needham, and Sara Shine, Director of Youth and Family Services on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 6:30pm on Zoom. All of the previous and current videos are available on the Creative Callings link on the church website. 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.

Having completed Stage 1 (Congregational Partners Conversations) and Stage 2 (Community Partners Conversations), we will begin our THIRD STAGE of Creative Callings (Collective and Individual Vocational Discernment) on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 6:30pm via Zoom! Put it on your calendar, and plan to be part of the process!

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), or Pastor Holly, [pastorholly@fbcneedham.org](mailto:pastorholly@fbcneedham.org).

---

*The following pages include a number of helpful resources for yourself or others. You may want to detach it and keep it on hand for future reference.*

*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



## *How Are You?*

### **Mental Health Awareness & Care**

The pandemic is exacting a daily price from each of us mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually, financially, and through our sense of instability and insecurity. If you are finding life increasingly difficult to navigate, there are numerous resources available to help throughout our larger local, county, state, and national communities. **At FBC Needham we recognize the necessity of behavioral and mental health support in nurturing wellbeing and safekeeping of our community as well as physical safety and wellbeing. Isolation occurs in so many ways.** As your pastors, Daryn and Holly endeavor to address your spiritual needs *and* connect you to agencies and services that can directly help meet other potential needs. Please utilize these resources and share them with friends and loved ones who may benefit from them.

+++++

**Norfolk County's "Are You Ok?" Program for Seniors & Residents with Disabilities** – Provided free of charge to Norfolk County seniors and residents with disabilities, this program provides a daily check-in call 365 days a year monitored by staff from Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and Fallon Ambulance. **For more information or to sign up, call Deputy Sheriff Cheryl Bambery at 866-900-7865.**

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline** – 800-273-8255 · We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals. **For more information, check online at [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)**

**The Trevor Project** – [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org) · The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth. Our trained counselors offer 24/7 support. If you are a young person in crisis, feeling suicidal, or in need of a safe and judgment-free place to talk, call the **TrevorLifeline** now at 1-866-488-7386. **TrevorChat** is a free, confidential and secure instant messaging service that provides live help to LGBTQ youth. **TrevorText** is a confidential and secure resource that provides live help for LGBTQ youth with a trained specialist, over text messages. **Text START to 678-678.**

**Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline** – [www.helplinema.org](http://www.helplinema.org) · The Helpline is the only statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment and recovery services. Helpline services are free and confidential. Caring, trained Specialists will help you understand the treatment system and your options. **Call the helpline at 1-800-327-5050**

**Mental Health America (screening tools)** – <https://screening.mhanational.org> · Founded in 1909, MHA promotes mental health as a critical part of overall wellness, including prevention services for all; early identification and intervention for those at risk; integrated care, services, and supports for those who need it; with recovery as the goal. MHA provides online screening tools, recommendations for maintaining wellbeing, and resources/programs, a newsletter for current mental health information, and advocacy.

**SafeLink – Massachusetts' Domestic Violence Hotline** – 877-785-2020 · Casa Myrna is Boston's largest provider of shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, providing safety, resources, advocacy and information since 1977. They operate SafeLink, the 24/7 statewide domestic violence hotline, and promote domestic and dating violence prevention through awareness and education. All of their supports are provided to survivors free of charge. **For more information, check Casa Myrna online at [www.casamyrna.org](http://www.casamyrna.org)**

**Needham Community Council** – [www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.needhamcommunitycouncil.org)  
The Needham Community Council is a private non-profit organization which supports people in Needham who have under-met health, educational or social needs and promotes volunteerism, community and a sense of shared responsibility. If you are a Needham resident in need of resources from the **Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Lift Transport Program, Tablets & Tutors, Medical Equipment Loan Program, Child Assault Prevention Program, Cyber Bullying, etc.**, the NCC can help! Check online or call 781-444-2415 for more information.

**Needham Public Health** – [www.needhamma.gov/85/Public-Health](http://www.needhamma.gov/85/Public-Health)  
NPH's **Traveling Meals** program provides two meals/day to qualified Needham residents (both temporary and long-term). NPH also offers **Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention** and the **Gift of Warmth Program** (utility bill relief). For more information on the full list of services, check online or call 978-455-7940.