

First Baptist Church in Needham

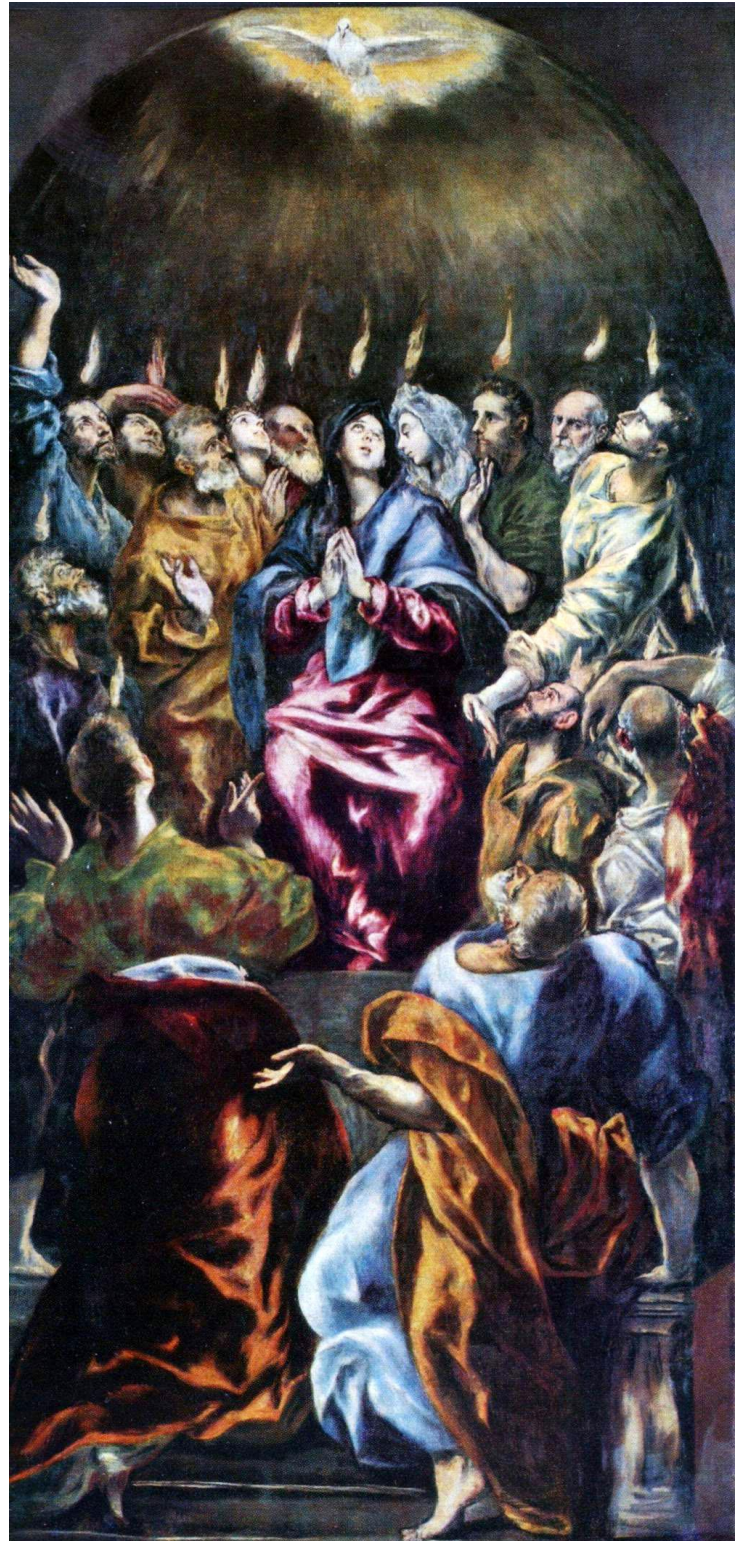
Pentecost

Edition 63

Worship and Prayer Resource Sunday, May 23, 2021

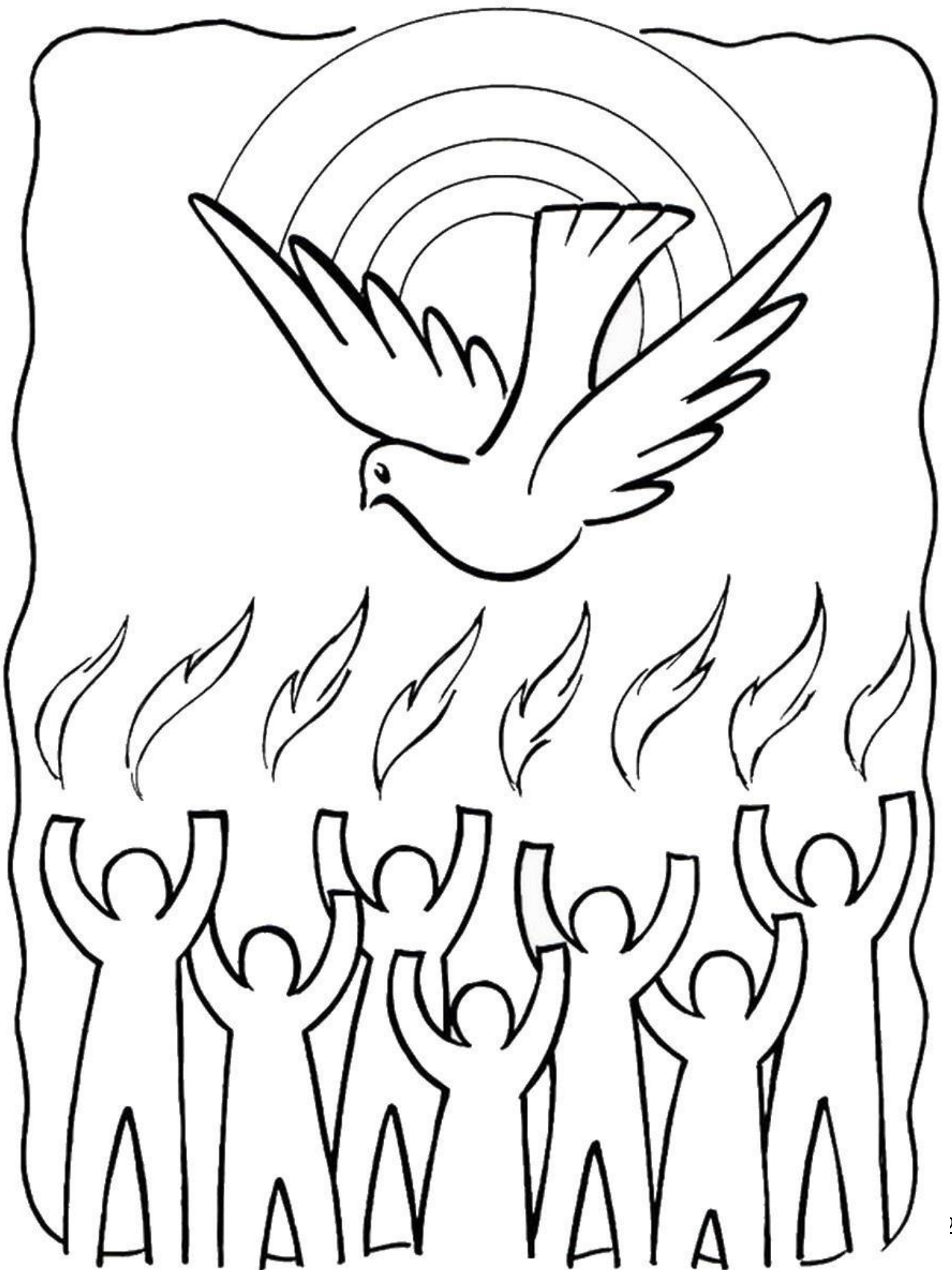
*(for whenever you are so led to pause,
reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
www.fbcneedham.org



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¹ Greco, 1541?-1614. Descent of the Holy Spirit, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48043> [retrieved April 6, 2021].



Scripture

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs--in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

Reflection

Christianity is more than a theory about the universe, more than teaching written down on paper; it is a path along which we journey – in the deepest and richest sense, the way of life.²

Instructions are included in pink italics throughout the prayers so you can follow along with the prayer beads or the provided drawing of beads.

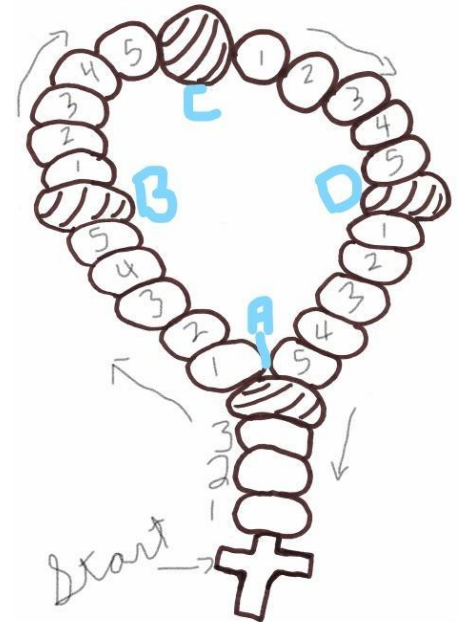
Prayers of the People

Prayerful Meditation

Holding or sitting with the image of your prayer beads, enter a quiet pause with this prayerful meditation:

“Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
that unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace, give faith to hear your call,
and readiness in each to work for all.

“Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
the people of all lands and every race.
Like wind and fire, with life among us move,
till we are known as Christ’s and Christians prove.”³



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.

Place your finger on the cross and begin the prayer with these words:

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

² Kallistos Ware, in *Celtic Daily Readings: A Year of Devotions from the Northumbrian Community* (London: HarperCollins, 2001) 92.

³ From “Filled with the Spirit’s Power.” Hymn 331, in *Worship & Rejoice*.

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

Place your finger on the first three beads above the cross saying:

Bead 1: Creator God, hear my prayer.

Bead 2: Loving Christ, hear my prayer.

Bead 3: Abiding Spirit, hear my prayer.

The 4 ridged beads mark off four themed sections of our Prayers of the People. Each ridged bead is followed by 5 smooth beads that represent five specific prayers from our FBC Needham community that are related to that theme.

1st Theme: Gratitude & Thanksgiving

Place your finger on the first ridged bead (A) above the original three smooth beads saying:

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...

Move to the first set of 5 smooth beads, and offer your prayers of gratitude & thanksgiving along with those of our community of faith:

Bead 1: With Ernie Steeves for a good night's sleep and a day without fever.

Bead 2: With Louise Mason for her memories of singing with her sister, and for my own joyful memories of creative play and song.

Bead 3: With Clif Holbrook and the List family in celebration of John List's 75th birthday.

Bead 4: With Bev Parsons for the calls and worship resources each week and the dedication of our pastors and church staff.

Bead 5: With Barbara for coloring pages and continued opportunities for creativity.
Praise God, from whom all blessing flow....

2nd Theme: Personal & FBC Needham Concerns

Place your finger on the second ridged bead (B) saying:

Faithful God, you know me inside and out, all my hopes and dreams, fears and failures. Guide and support the FBC Needham community and me as we seek to follow Jesus's teachings and life's ministry while sharing the concerns of our hearts as I pray...

Move to the *second set of 5 smooth beads*, and offer your prayers of concern along with those shared within our community of faith:

- Bead 1:** For better days for Trevor Parsons who is not feeling himself - for his swift healing.
- Bead 2:** For safe travels for Kayla Steeves, Ernie's granddaughter, as she journeys to Iceland to play soccer.
- Bead 3:** For our Pastor Emeritus, Gordon Swan, who is recovering from surgery.
- Bead 4:** With Andrew Thoresen and Peggy Hellberg who are each traveling to see loved ones - for blessed visits and safe travels.
- Bead 5:** With John, Ernie, Clif, Nancy, Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly for the congregation's continued discernment and clarity as we move into intentional decision-making with *Creative Callings*, and for clear and effective communication as we navigate this time as a congregational body.
- Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer....*

3rd Theme: Healing, Solace, & Courage

Place your finger on the *third ridged bead (C)* saying:

God of mercy and peace, your people cry out to you for healing and comfort, courage and strength. Surround your children known and unknown to me with your watch care and abiding presence, as I pray...

Move to the *third set of 5 smooth beads*, and offer your prayers for Spirit's comfort, healing, and peace saying:

- Bead 1:** For Pastor Daryn's friend, Lindsey, who is battling a debilitating condition of chronic fatigue, and for her family as they care for her.
- Bead 2:** With Pastor Holly's friends, Darren and Natasha Higgs, whose mother, Barbara Higgs, died this week. May her memory be a blessing to all who loved her.
- Bead 3:** For Leslie Lafaver and his family as they mourn the passing of his wife, Pamela. May they find some peace knowing that she rests in God's everlasting care and provision.
- Bead 4:** With Anthony Calilung as he mourns the loss of his cousin, Arthur Zulaybar, to COVID-19. Peace be with Anthony and with his family in the Philippines as our prayers accompany them through their sorrow.

Bead 5: For the life and memory of Joan Holt, a former member of our community, who passed away this week. May her memory be an eternal blessing, and may she find rest and peace with God in a new and beautiful way.
Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....

4th Theme: Community, Nation, & World

Place your finger on the fourth ridged bead (D) saying:

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...

Move to the fourth set of 5 smooth beads, and offer your prayers for Spirit's moving:

Bead 1: With people across our state as more folks are vaccinated and guidelines are loosened; we give thanks for these opportunities to celebrate. We also pray that we will be mindful of those who cannot yet be vaccinated - may we continue to mask precautionarily when we are in groups of unknown composition, and when we are in our church building (including the office) where there are young children and immuno-compromised folks passing through our halls - their lives are sacred.

Bead 2: With the Palestinian people of the West Bank and Gaza who are continuing to suffer under Israeli occupation, and a recent campaign of bombings that have claimed the lives of many innocents.

Bead 3: For the people of India and the Philippines, and other countries battling COVID-19, as they continue to address the overwhelming horrors of the pandemic in their communities.

Bead 4: With those seeking asylum and safety from the fears of their homelands, particularly those at our border. Guide us, Lord, in a faithful and humane response to their needs.

Bead 5: For our Needham community as we continue in our intentional quest for equity and racial justice in our town.

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....

Concluding the Prayer

Return to the first ridged bead (A) saying:

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

You may wish to use the original 3 beads to offer your own prayers.

Bead 1:

Bead 2:

Bead 3:

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

Holding the cross, end with 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.*⁴



⁴ Pentecost at FBC Needham, May 15, 2016 & May 20, 2018. Photos courtesy of Daryn Stylianopoulos and Gretchen Leary.

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.

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

Worship Resource 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. Contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly if you need help finding links to join other online services.

Worship on the Lawn

(weather permitting)

Sundays May 2 – June 6, 2021

10:00 a.m.

COVID protocols – masks and physical distancing – remain in place.

As we are moving through *Creative Callings* congregational decision-making and prepare for individual vocational discernment and exploration, join us on the Warren Street side lawn of our building for worship on Sundays. Contact Pastor Daryn with any questions.

Planning to Attend? Pre-register at: www.fbcneedham.org/worship-ministries

Services are also recorded and posted on our website for later viewing at:

www.fbcneedham.org/outdoor-worship

You're Invited!
Celebration on the Lawn
for First Baptist Church Nursery School

DATE CHANGE!

Thursday, June 3, 2021

6:00pm



We will gather in celebration of the Nursery School's years as a ministry at FBC Needham and their transition and future as part of Needham Children's Center. Our celebration will include a ceremony of remembrance, a blessing, and sending forth!

(If rain is predicted on June 3rd, the celebration may take place on June 2nd according to the Nursery School's prerogative - advanced notice of this change will be given if possible).



Boston University School of Theology
Center for Practical Theology

Creative Callings Year 2, Session 2:
COLLECTIVE & INDIVIDUAL VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Intentional Decisions – Faithfully Stepping Forward

Continues on Thursdays, at 6:30pm on Zoom!

April – May – *Honing Our Congregational Call/Recognizing New Life*: intentional conversation and reflection as a community

June – July – *One on Ones*: individual vocational discernment conversations

Previous videos are available on the *Creative Callings* link on the church website. 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, or Pastor Holly, pastorholly@fbcneedham.org.

India COVID Crisis Donation Appeal

through International Ministries of ABCUSA

International Ministries continues to work with partner conventions and mission hospitals in India to respond to the need of the current COVID crisis. We are raising funds to help mission hospitals to purchase life-saving equipment like ventilators and oxygen concentrators, and PEE for doctors, nurses, and hospital workers.

The Board of the Vellore Foundation has approved \$250,000 to help the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India, to respond to the current COVID crisis. International Ministries of ABCUSA has provided a first gift of \$10,000. In addition, International Ministries has provided \$14,500 to the hospitals of the Council of Baptist Churches in North East India to assist their work in this crisis. Follow the link to learn more about the COVID response of the Vellore Foundation: <https://vellorecmc.org/>.

Make checks payable to “International Ministries”

Note on the check “India COVID”.

Send checks to:

International Ministries,
1003 W. 9th Ave., Ste. A.,
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1210

Give online at:

<https://portal.internationalministries.org/disaster-relief>

Click link “I would like to support”

Choose “OGHS Covid Response: International”

Check the box “Dedicate my donation in honor or in memory of someone”, **and add** (India COVID)

Thank you for your prayer and support in this global crisis.

