

First Baptist Church in Needham Tenth - Fifteenth Sundays after Pentecost

Transition Edition 5



1

One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource

For August 1 to September 5, 2021

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

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

¹Photo: Angel Memorial to 1932-33 Famine, Kiev, Ukraine (2010). ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021.

A Note for August - Since March 2020, Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly have endeavored to ensure that our members remain in spiritual connection to one another even when we could not meet in person during COVID. Each week, they make Calls of Caring and prepared the Worship Resource (now Transition Prayer Resource). This ministry is an honor to perform. It is also a very intense commitment. Our pastors will be having a much delayed and needed time away with their families in August. This pause invites you, our FBC members, to do the good work of checking in and caring for each other to continue the ties that “bind our hearts in Christian love.” These spiritual ties connect us to one another as we celebrate, offer gratitude, prepare for transition, and bear the burdens of each soul together.

You will find instructions throughout this Prayer Resource for holding your friends and fellow congregants in specific prayer each week alongside prayers for our community and the world. Consider now reaching out to them and other friends, family, and acquaintances in these weeks to let them know they are loved, cared for, and appreciated. A small kindness on your part may be a true blessing to someone who needs to hear from you. *–Blessing, Pastor Holly*

Scripture

James 1:17-20, 22-25

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Calls & Cards of Caring in Community

Just as the Early Church in the Epistle reading from James cared for each other, as we move through the initial stages of our transition, we are also called to continue to check on and care for one another. **This month, you are invited to especially remember members of our community each week *by name in prayer* and perhaps with a call, email, or card of gratitude, encouragement, and care.**

If you want to send a card and do not have contact information for someone, drop a card off at the church office to be mailed on your behalf.

August 1 – 7

Marty Fassett – *Recovering at home*

Dorothy Kinney – *Celebrating her 100th birthday August 7th!*

Nancy Twombly

Robin Bevilaqua – *FBC Office Manager*

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love...

August 8 – 14

Barbara Arnold – *At Wingate*

Jim Fuller

Liz Mercer

Cindy Sullivan – *FBC Financial Secretary*

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

August 15 – 21

John Crimmings

Louise Mason – *At home*

Bev & Trevor Parsons – *At home*

Pastor Holly Benzenhafer

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers...

August 22 – 28

Harry Chin – *Undergoing cancer treatment*

Peggy & Mark Hellberg

Ernie Steeves – *Undergoing cancer treatment*

Pastor Daryn & Spiro, Fayrah, Anna, & Teddy Stylianopoulos – *Starting back to school*

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

August 29 – September 4

Anthony Calilung & Clif Holbrook

Katie Johnson (parents Kathy & Burr Johnson)

Anne & Sherry Wile – *At home*

Bruce Wile – *At Wingate*

+ We Hold in Prayer +

Consider how you may include your fellow members by name who are listed for each week in your personal prayers of gratitude, concern, our transition, and the world. As you hold them in prayer and reach out to them, who else in your life can you prayerfully lift to God by name? Who needs to hear a good word of encouragement, gratitude, concern, or hope from you? How might you reach out to loved ones, friends, coworkers, acquaintances, or even organizations in blessing and care, as well?

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...

+++ Offer your own prayers 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...

+++ Offer your own prayers 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...

+++ Offer your own prayers 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...

+++ Offer your own prayers 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.

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.

During August, if you have an urgent pastoral concern, contact the Church Office by phone (781-400-5867) or email (churchoffice@fbcneedham.org).

NOTE: This Edition of the Transition Prayer Resource is for the Month of August through Labor Day Weekend and is the only mailing for the month. Please hold onto it for these weeks.

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.

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.
