

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

December 2021

Merry Christmas 2021



Transition Edition 8
(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

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

A Note for December – Christ is born! Glorify Him! May your holidays be filled with light and love, health and happiness. Blessings to you from all at First Baptist Church in Needham.

The coming months hold special moments for our community to gather and worship together. A calendar of events will be included as a part of this prayer resource.

Please join me in prayer... - *Pastor Daryn*

+ 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 John C. for good health and for the joy of grandchildren...

With Peggy and Mark, for time together for the holidays and a puppy reunion with Penny ...

With Louise and Dorothy, that they will see family this Christmas ...

With Liz, that her cousin Dan is recovering from a spell of amnesia ...

With Dorothy, that there are good people in the world who show up to fix your chairlift and to offer their concern for your wellbeing ...

With Bev, for the lovely Christmas service on December 5th ...

+++ 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 Nancy, for Lucille Louise Simons and her family ...

With Mark Holly, whose younger sister, Laurie, passed away unexpectedly. Comfort and peace be with Mark, and with Laurie's husband, Mike, and their family as they continue to grieve her loss. May her memory be a blessing and a source of strength for all who loved her ...

With Harry, who is currently at Mass General Hospital with heart complications. God, grant your wisdom to all those caring for him as they seek a diagnosis and plan of treatment, and strength for Harry and his family in this difficult time, as well as peace to their hearts. As Harry waits patiently for answers, we pray that his restless and uneasy mind would feel comforted, and that he has all he needs to feel loved, happy, and fulfilled and entertained ...

With Peggy, who is continuing to recover from pneumonia. Grant her sufficient rest and healing ...

With Clif and Anthony, whose friend, Smiley, is very sick in the Philippines and in a great deal of pain. God, provide solace and respite for Smiley in the midst of this difficult time. Surround Smiley with your faithful care, and ease the hearts of friends and loved ones the world over ...

With Bev, who has a fracture on her spine that has been causing severe pain for over a month's time, for relief from her pain, and for wisdom and guidance of doctors and surgeons as they determine the best path forward ...

With Clif, who is mourning the loss of a dear friend, Joanne Adams. Peace be with him in this time of loss, and may Joanne's memory be a blessing to his continued journey, and to all those who treasured her friendship ...

*+++ 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 Marty's son Chris, and his wife, Jean, who are caring for Marty on an ongoing basis – for their wisdom, strength and patience in their good care of their mom, and for their entire family as they discern the necessary care and living arrangements for Marty going forward. Continued prayers for Marty in this difficult time of transition ...

With Liz, as she thoughtfully approaches the questions surrounding her housing moving forward, and that she receives the resources she needs to make it through this time of uncertainty ...

For our 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 lives tragically lost and upended in the storms and tornadoes that devastated Kentucky and Tennessee. God grant rest to the souls of the departed, solace to their families and loved ones, and aide and restoration to those heartbroken and traumatized communities ...

With Louise, as she offers prayers for everyone in our church community ...

With Jim, Peggy and Mark Hellberg, for a peaceful, safe, and joyous holiday season and transition into the new year ...

For Oceanwood Camp as they navigate a time of creative revisioning ...

For our denomination, The American Baptist Churches, USA, for sister churches across the nation and the world ...

For the retired ministers and missionaries and their families who have offered so much of their time, love, and dedication to this world in the name of Jesus ...

+++ 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.

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.

Watch for the next Prayer Resource due mid-January

IMPORTANT DATES to REMEMBER!

2021 - December 19th --- Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service, 6pm,
for those heavy of heart this holiday season

2022 –

January 1st --- A Blessed New Year to all!

January 2nd --- We will gather the **9th of January** for our monthly worship service

January 9th --- Our monthly 5pm Worship Service of Prayer and Communion

January 16th --- A Zoom service of Prayer and Communion

January 23rd --- Annual Business Meeting of the Church (hybrid – in person and on Zoom)

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, January 9 at 5pm +++

(please note that due to the New Year Holiday, we will postpone our monthly worship until January 9 at 5pm)

Ecumenical Blue Christmas

A Christmas service for
those blue of heart this
holiday season

DECEMBER 19, 2021
6PM

ALL ARE WELCOME



Location: First Baptist Church in Needham,
858 Great Plain Ave.
(enter through the Warren Street office door)

Feel welcome to join us Dec 19 at 6pm
for an ecumenical service of Advent/Christmastide worship
for those heavy of heart this holiday season.

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 is 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, particularly as we move through this time of transition, and as we prepare to restore the front porch of our historic building. We are not embarking on an intentional stewardship campaign this year, but are encouraging each of you to continue in your regular giving toward the support of our continued ministry through this transition, and also to consider giving toward the Capital Fund for building restoration. Offerings can be turned in during Worship, 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. If it is an offering toward the capital fund, please indicate that intention on the memo line.

Denominational Offering for November/December: *Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering*

You can give your offering online at the website link provided in the image below, or by mailing a check to FBC Needham (please indicate the offering is for RMMO in the memo line).



Say “thank you” to retired pastors and missionaries who have served ABCUSA churches and ministries through your gift to the 2021 RMMO. Show your support, give at your church or visit

abc-usa.org/RMMO

*Transformed
by Generosity*

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5)

Dear FBC Needham Community

I have been learning the art of pottery recently – wheel throwing to be exact. It is a humbling endeavor. Just the elemental step of learning to center your clay on the wheel is a growing edge for me – so I never know from time to time what will emerge, if anything, or if my clay will flop or pot collapse. At any point in the process from throwing, to bisquing, to glazing, to firing, to cooling, to traveling from here to there – your pot can break, or explode, or the glaze can stick to the kiln, or the colors come out differently than you expected. It is all an experiment and one that takes flexibility and courage, creativity and humility to manage. Yet every now and then, you end up with something unexpectedly beautiful.

The other day, I made my first plate, and then right after that, I formed a chalice out of my lump of clay – a little communion set - tools for serving, for remembering, for hosting, for offering welcome and sustenance for the journey. If you asked me to do it again, I'm not sure I could – it just happened. I let the process use me, I offered myself to the task at hand, used the knowledge I had gained and attempted something creative and good. And this time around something beautiful emerged.

Our attempts at light, at goodness, at love are always experiments – we have what we have of ourselves to give – our hearts, our creativity, our courage - and we offer it to the task at hand. At any point in our journeys, the efforts can collapse, our best attempts fail, disappointments occur; we know that sometimes things can fall apart, and break around us and in us. Yet we try and try again because we know that sometimes something unexpectedly beautiful can emerge in our midst and for our world. And it is worth it. Keep offering your hope, peace, joy and love to the world – just as Jesus did. The light of Christ made manifest in this world is totally worth it.

~ Pastor Daryn

Blessings to you in this season of Christmastide.

May the light of Christ fill your hearts, your attempts at love, and our world.