

First Baptist Church in Needham

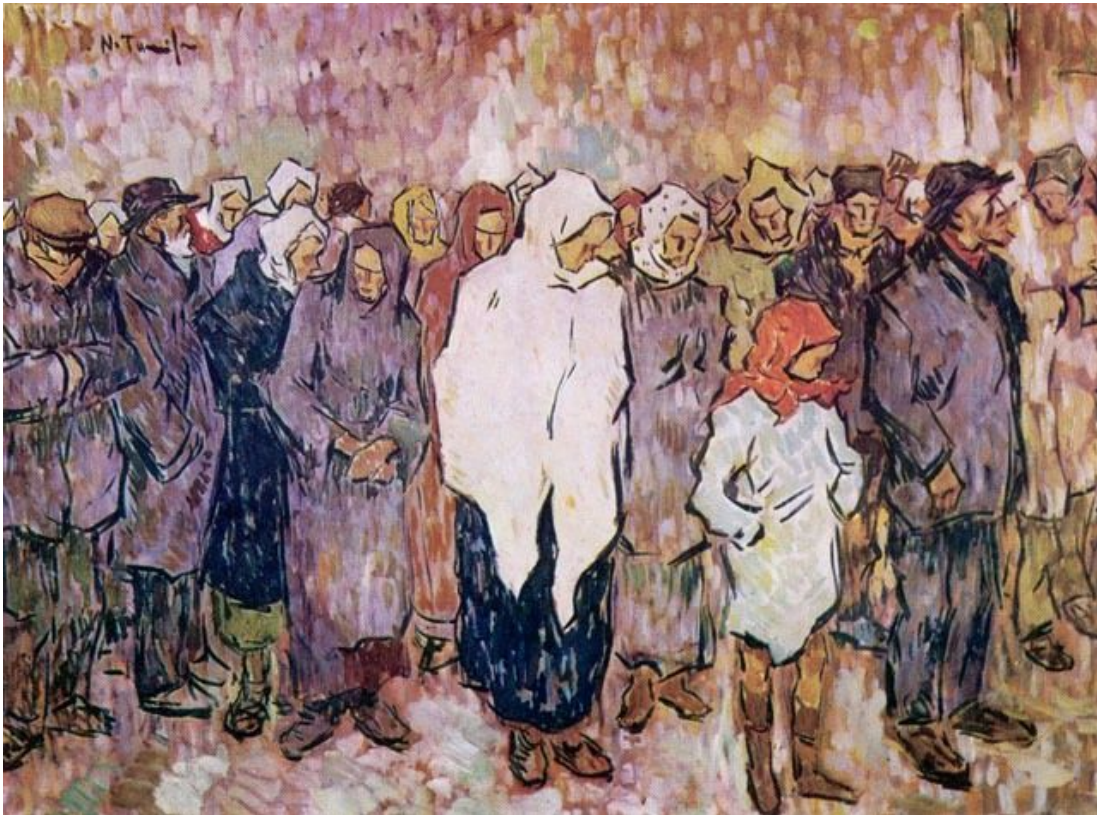
858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Edition 27



Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, September 20th

2020

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

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.

Scriptures for this Week

Choose as many of these scriptures to accompany you throughout the week as you would like. You may choose to read one a day, or focus on one for the entire week. What stands out as you read them? What word or idea “shimmers” for you? Are there themes or ideas of connection between the scriptures, or that speak to particular circumstances you are experiencing? Where do you find good news in these passages?

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 145:1-8

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Matthew 20:1-16

Song of Response **Brethren We Have Met to Worship** HOLY MANNA

Sing, read aloud, or listen to, "Brethren We Have Met to Worship", as sung by the band, Canaan's Crossing, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21tEZzVK0Vo>

Verse 1:

Brethren we have met to worship, and adore the Lord our God;

(substitute “children” for brethren if you'd like)

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?

All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;

Brethren pray that Holy Manna will be showered all around

(the Canaan's Crossing version repeats this refrain at the end of each verse, while our hymnal has alternate words for each verse)

Verse 2:

Brethren see poor sinners 'round you slumbering on the brink of woe.
Death is coming, hell is moving; can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down.
Brethren, pray, and Holy Manna will be showered all around.

Verse 3:

Let us love our God supremely let us love each other too
Let us love and pray for sinners til our God makes all things new
Then he'll call us home to heaven at his table we'll sit down
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

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

“...prayer and meditation can be thought of as the creation of a mental space in which the energies of dreaming and the concerns of waking life are invited to meet each other and to have a mutual, open-ended conversation.”¹

*Enter into prayer trusting that God who
walks beside you in your waking
also accompanies you through your dreaming - keeping vigil, ever present.*

¹ Kelly Bulkeley, *Transforming Dreams: Learning Spiritual Lessons from the Dreams You Never Forget* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000).

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, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer where we are, entrusting the Spirit's moving among us and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...

With John and Joann Crimmings, we celebrate the arrival of twin grandchildren, **Kayleigh Josephine** (6lbs 7oz) and **Benjamin Michael** (5lbs 9oz) on September 10th! Kayleigh is John's fifth granddaughter, and Benjamin Michael is the first grandson in the family. We rejoice at their birth and celebrate the beautiful gifts they already are to their family and the world. For the **continued health and recovery** of mother, **Elizabeth**, and for **strength and energy** enough to keep up with all the demands of parenting for parents **Elizabeth and Matthew**, God we pray. We pray for the **wisdom** of physicians, nurses, and attendants as they tend to the particular needs of these precious preemies, particularly **Benjamin** who is still in the hospital. For **older sister, Madelyn**, we pray for **helpful hands and an attentive and patient spirit** as she welcomes these new additions to her life, making room for them in the circle of her love. With John and Joann, we continue to give thanks for all the joy of the little ones that have joined their family this year: for **Ella Rose, Kayleigh Josephine and Benjamin Michael ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**



We are grateful that **our church received an assistance grant through the generosity of the Association for Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB)**. Thank you AWAB! Our church is a supporting church of AWAB, an organization committed to expanding the inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Gender Queer individuals in Baptist circles and congregations.



We give thanks for **AWAB's important ministry and our participation in that welcome**, and offer gratitude for their generosity in this time ...
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...

Pastor Daryn was named President of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM) at their recent Annual Gathering. We offer **blessings to her** as she begins this journey of leadership and partnership within the region. We are **grateful for her many gifts** and know they will add a blessing to the churches of our regional denomination and their continued ministry. We pray **for her strength and wisdom** as she begins her service to this region, and the churches of TABCOM as their President ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*



We continue to pray for **Ernie Steeves**, for **his strength and endurance** during this time of treatment for cancer. We give **thanks that he received the gift of an unexpected break from chemotherapy** this past week. For the **relief** that offered, we offer gratitude ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With **Helen**, we give **thanks that her radiation treatments are coming to an end**. For all **those who care and pray for us** in difficult times, we offer gratitude ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With **Clif**, we are grateful for the opportunity he had to spend a **quiet birthday with Anthony**. For **Filipino noodles and beautiful flowers**, and **well wishes from folks across the globe**, from the Philippines to Brazil to

Wisconsin to Needham, we offer gratitude! We as a community **give thanks for Clif**, for his care and concern for First Baptist, and **the gift he is to our community...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Stan, we pray for his daughter **Julia** as she navigates the circumstances of **her upcoming wedding in Canada**, knowing that her family likely will have trouble joining them. For the **difficult decisions** she is facing, and **for the sadness of being apart from family** at such an important time in her life ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Liz, we offer prayers **for her Boston Terrier, Rascal**, who has a veterinary appointment this week. We pray it is uneventful and **that your peace, Holy One, accompanies Rascal** throughout his appointment ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Clif, we ask that **our community at First Baptist would be brought closer together in spirit**, and that you would meld our hearts and minds in **one accord ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Dorothy and Marty, we hold **our world** in our hearts. We pray **for its healing** and that **folks would live the way Jesus showed and taught us to live**; if we did that, as Marty says, “it would be God’s kingdom on earth.” ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn, we pray with the family of North Carolinian, **Andy Banks**, who went missing over the weekend after attempting to sell his car to buyers from Craigslist. Police have found the car Andy was selling, but have yet to locate Andy. Andy’s mother asked that **we pray “that the Holy Spirit is with Andy, and keeps Andy” until they find him**. **For the family of Andy Banks, for the presence of God to be with them** in this time of anxiety, concern and loss, and **for Andy, that God’s love would enfold him and the Holy Spirit accompany him** in and through whatever he faces in this hour ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan and Pastor Holly, we **give thanks along with those who can claim security and stability in their lives during the pandemic**, and we offer **prayers for those who are struggling** in this time. We know that many are dealing with **economic and emotional burdens and hardships** that are heavy and feel insurmountable. God we pray that **your wisdom and your peace will find them as they search for solutions**, and we pray especially **that our own hearts and the systems of our communities and nation will be oriented according to your purposes - according to your**

compassion, your mercy and your grace - where dollars and cents are not the measure of worth or success, but rather how we choose to be toward and with one another. Help us care for one another in this time in ways that are tangibly helpful and merciful, without judgment or shame ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Holly, we pray for all **those in the path of Hurricane Sally**, especially those in eastern Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle, we pray **for their safety and for their protection** as they anticipate disastrous flooding. We hold at the same time, **our earth and the effects of climate change we are witnessing every day, and the resulting storms and devastating weather patterns**. We are only half way through hurricane season, and have nearly exhausted our alphabet for named storms. Lord, **have mercy on us and on those in the path of these hurricanes**. Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, we pray, and ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, for **those negotiating and fleeing wildfires** in the western United States, we pray for **their swiftness in escaping danger**, and **for the resilience and tenacity of those battling the flames - the first responders and firefighters** putting themselves in harm's way so that others might live. With Clif, we pray **for relief and rain** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Anne we remember how small our world is when it comes right down to it, that **we are all so connected to one another** and our well being affects the wellbeing of others (and vice versa). New England has a haze in our atmosphere from the fires all the way in California! God, **help us see our interconnectedness and that what affects one of us affects all of us** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Louise, we pray **for the health and well being of all our families and our church community** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan, we **continue to celebrate the life of his granddaughter, Ruth Frances. For the joy she brings and the legacy she continues**, as her name (Frances) bears the memory of Stan's mother and grandmother ... *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Liz, we offer **gratitude for the presence of our neighbors at the Art Emporium in Needham throughout the years. For the ways they have contributed to the creative spirit of our community**, we give thanks, and

offer **prayers for their continued journey** in whatever is to come as they close their doors ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Pastor Daryn we offer gratitude for the life of family friend, **Cole McKittrick**, who was **bar mitzvahed this past weekend**. We give **thanks for Cole**, and celebrate along with his family and friends Cole's commitment to walk with God and be a force of goodness, humility, and reconciliation in the world. **Mazel Tov, Cole! ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Nancy, we continue to hold her friend **Mary** in our hearts **as she accompanies her sister, Carol** in her struggle with cancer. **God be with Mary and Carol** - give them strength and an assurance of your presence and love in this time, and help them to know each other's love across distance when they cannot be together ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan we offer **thanks for the worship resource** that keeps us connected to one another ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

We celebrate **Sherry Wile**, whose birthday was Wednesday! We give **thanks for her life and continued health and ask your blessings** upon her in the coming year. We continue to pray for her **as she navigates her current furlough** in anticipation of future work ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

Prayers for **Gretchen** as she recovers from illness, and for answers and healing ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry, we celebrate **neighbors who offer good gifts of their abundance** during this time. We particularly give thanks for Harry's neighbor who offered the gifts of plants for his yard: hydrangeas, daisies and grasses to be planted and enjoyed in what were empty places in his yard ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Anne and Sherry, we give **thanks that Bruce is doing well at Wingate**. We continue to give thanks **for all the many folks at Wingate and other retirement homes and nursing care facilities who are striving to keep their residents happy and healthy** ...*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...*

With Clif and Anthony, we celebrate **beautiful gardens**, and their backyard garden in particular which looks better this year than it has ever before. **For the beauty and cut flowers that emerge from the garden's bounty ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

We offer **gratitude that Harry was able to go to the Cape with his family and enjoy one of the most beautiful weekends of his life**. We are grateful that he enjoyed his favorite fried clams and lobster, and that he once again was able to visit the house he used to own; **for good times and good memories - we give thanks ...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Harry, we give **thanks for the technology of voice to text and voice dictation** that allows him to easily connect with family and friends and also is allowing him to record and document with ease the stories of his life. We also offer gratitude for the **grandson** whose tutelage helped Harry learn the skills required to make this possible **...Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...**

With Harry and many others, we acknowledge **the difficulties of the times we are living through**. For **Harry**, this year has been a hard one; he has lost five veteran friends, along with others who have passed in recent months. While Harry is grateful that he was able to honor the life of his wife, Jean, just before the COVID-19 pandemic isolation, **he mourns the loss of his friends** who have passed since, and the loss of the funerary rituals and opportunities to grieve with others in celebration of their lives in the ways we are accustomed. **We hold Harry and the families and friends of those lost, and we pray for them and honor their beloved memories ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Stan, we pray, not just for a vaccine or cure, but that it is **safe** for all who receive it **... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Marty, we pray **that we are able to see the good and the divine belovedness of each person we encounter**. We know that folks do not always live into the possibility of their best selves. Some live in ways that are hurtful and harmful to others around them and to the world, and yet we pray we are able to remember that they too - somewhere within - have the potential for good. It doesn't mean that we accept the things they do - those hurtful actions and words, but it means that we acknowledge that they too are a beloved child of God, created for good with potential to be better, and we pray for the realization of that within them **... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Marty we pray, **God bless our world ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With **Dorothy** we give thanks **that she is okay after suffering a fall** last week. Her son was immediately there to lift her to her feet. **For Dorothy's well-being and for the family that cares for her, and all those that care for us, who lift us up when we are down, have fallen, or are crestfallen ... Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We offer gratitude that **Pastor Holly's** hands have improved ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

With Liz, we celebrate the life of her Uncle Jimmy who turned 87 this week. For his life and the love he has shown in his living we give thanks ... **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

With Stan, we pray **that impatience and complacency do not contribute to a lack of intention and diligence when it comes to combating COVID-19** through social distancing and mask wearing. We acknowledge that we are better off than some in this country because of the effort we have put forth so far. **Keep us faithful to the cause of caring for one another** - help us to follow the guidelines and expert advice and precautions prescribed in this time of pandemic living ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, for yet another week, we ask your **mercy upon us** when the mistakes and misgivings of our minds, hearts and bodies lead to irrevocable consequences that cause others and our world more pain. **Have mercy on us** when we abuse our power and privilege, when we misjudge, or when our biases and prejudices cloud our vision and corrupt our action. We pray for our divided communities, **unite us in your love and mark us with repentance and humility** so we can seek the change we need to heal. Again, help *all of us* seek and be ready for the **transformation** that needs to come for justice and peace to reign in the hearts and systems we create ... **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

For yet another week we pray that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and 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 ...**

With Stan, we pray **that we will be equal to the tasks and tests ahead of us and strong enough to endure ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

We celebrate **Barbara** whose birthday was Tuesday! She is grateful for her 87 years, and we **give thanks for her light and love that have graced this world through her over the years.** Barbara offers Psalm 23 as a gift from her to our community this week:

Psalm 23

(King James Version)

23 *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

² *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

³ *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

⁵ *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

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. **World Missions Offering!** Throughout the month of September, we are collecting a directed offering to support American Baptist missionaries and the work of International Ministries. See the enclosed materials and give on our website by clicking Take Action and specifying Missions Donation.*

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.

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Announcements

Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!

With the gradual re-opening of the Needham Children's Center DayCare, our church office has re-opened 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.

Creative Callings

Collaboration, Innovation, and Prophetic Witness



Boston University School of Theology
Center for Practical Theology

Creative Callings Hub Gathering - October 3rd! 9am - 1pm

Please RSVP if you are able to attend:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-4ZBjhKuSzPOcftQ69sc1N3swC5CuvpKcFBHkTk8VA7Ya2w/vi/ewform?usp=sf_link

Anyone from the congregation can attend this Zoom gathering related to our participation in Creative Callings with Boston University. If you have questions about this initiative, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, or if you would like to speak further or know more about Creative Callings, please contact Pastor Daryn, pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

Administration Meeting - Monday, September 21st 6:30pm

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21st at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please make every effort to attend. We are preparing for an intentional Creative Callings exploration beginning in October. In preparation for that, Pastor Holly will lead the Admin team in an opportunity of reflection and deep listening to one another, and the collective spirit of our leadership at First Baptist.

Baptism! Due to health concerns, we postponed Gretchen's baptism to a date in the near future. Stay tuned. Also, keep an eye out for the Zoom link so you can Zoom in to watch and support Gretchen in the moment of her baptism, and her continued commitment to Christ. Due to COVID-19, we cannot be present in person with Gretchen as a congregation, so Pastor Daryn is asking everyone to submit words of affirmation and encouragement for Gretchen and her journey of faith in following Jesus. **Please email your words of encouragement for Gretchen to pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org!** Pastor Daryn will compile them and offer them as blessings for the baptism.

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. If you or someone you know are in need of reaching out to them or if you want to learn how you can best volunteer to help at this time, go to their website at: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>.

Please note: They ARE NOT accepting drop-off donations at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.

Come Worship with Us in God's Green Sanctuary!
Outdoor Worship will Resume in September.
Stay tuned for more information about these services.

~ *Reservations Required!* ~

Preregister ON the THURSDAY of Worship to attend at the following link:
www.fbcneedham.org/worship-ministries

Pastor Daryn is leading a worship experience outdoors on the lawn of First Baptist Church
on Thursdays at 6:00pm.

We are delighted to creatively navigate this interesting moment in our lives of faith. Just a word of anticipation, this worship experience will not be traditional! Due to evidence that suggests group singing and collective responses to be unsafe, we will be experimenting with other forms of praise - drumming, streamers, clapping, etc. We trust that our praise, in whatever form it takes, will be glorifying and pleasing to God so long as we are also committed to the forms of praise God most cares about - care and justice for our neighbors (Isaiah 58, Amos 5:21-24). And in keeping with our care for you, we will continue to mail out and post online (www.fbcneedham.org) our At-Home Worship Resources, and will continue to reserve Sunday mornings for our Community Calls of Caring.

We are stressing the health and well-being of everyone, so please understand **social distancing and mask wearing are a requirement for all participants!** Mingling before and after worship is discouraged. If you have been sick or are not feeling well, stay home. If you are in a vulnerable population and have underlying health conditions, or do not feel safe joining, please do not feel pressured to attend; God is with you wherever you are. Please do what feels right and safe for you and for others. If we realize we cannot accomplish this worship experience in a safe manner that upholds the dignity and health of all gathered, we will cancel until another time presents itself.

We will NOT GATHER in the event of inclement weather (thunderstorms or heavy rain). An attempt will be made to notify all pre registered attendees by 5pm on the day of worship if services are cancelled. Blessings, all! We are looking forward to gathering on the lawn once again for worship.



GENERIC MINISTRY

CARING FOR BOSTON'S HOMELESS

Donate Supplies and/or Organize a Collection of Supplies

We are looking for:

- Backpacks
- Paper Shopping Bags
- Adult T-Shirts
- Masks
- Travel-Size Toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and wipes are top priorities).

ONE-CLICK ORDERING is available via our AMAZON Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/.../w.../3HF40DALVPQ27/ref=cm_wl_huc_view

** All donations can be left on or delivered directly to front porches at 19 Rae Avenue and 82

Deerfield Road - OR for **First Baptist Church Needham contributions, 67 Mayo Avenue**

PLEASE LET LIZ MERCER KNOW IF YOU HAVE MADE DONATIONS TO GENERIC MINISTRY SO SHE CAN INCLUDE OUR CHURCH'S CONTRIBUTION IN HER MISSION'S REPORT - you can email her at elmtreeartworks@verizon.net

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