

First Baptist Church in Needham

One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource

August 2022



Transition Edition 14
(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

A Letter from the Pastor

Beloved community,

I dropped my daughter off at college this past weekend. She seems to be doing well so far. Her first days of classes have begun, and she loves her professors and is excited to learn from them. She has also made some friends – one of the things she feared would not happen. I am certainly glad that she has friends – people she can eat with and hang out with, walk to class alongside. It is a comfort to me. However, I want her to know something - that she, a precious child of mine, would be loved even if all of those friend networks weren't there. She would be inquisitive and gifted and filled with something of the divine, unique to her, even if no one on this planet liked her, or was attracted to her. She is worthy of love and care, she is precious and beloved, and full of potential for good all on her own – regardless of what anyone else thinks. I need her to know that.

I think God wants us to know that too – that our worth is not tied to anyone's approval. That we are precious and beloved because we are children of God, created in God's image. We are created uniquely beautiful and inspired with love, with the potential toward such amazing goodness. Our world would have us believe that it is in its eyes and esteem that our worth is determined. God's love says otherwise. In the eyes and heart of God, we are each a gift of goodness to this world. And though we can all meander away from living into that promise, every day is a new day to claim it once more for ourselves. Claim it, know it, live it: you are beloved - a beloved child of God.

Most assuredly,
Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos, Pastor
First Baptist Church in Needham

+ 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...

In celebration of all those in our circles with August birthdays, including Dot Kinne, Elaine Pipes, Helen Turner and Jessica Day! We're so glad you were born into this world and celebrate your presence in it and with us ...

With Dorothy Kinne, for family that cares for one another ...

With Louise Mason, for grandchildren and children ...

With Pastor Daryn, that so many have traveled safely this summer, and for the rest and respite it has afforded members of our congregation ...

With Clif and Anthony who just returned from an inspiring trip to Greenland and Iceland where they had the opportunity to explore new sites and enjoy the hospitality of local residents ...

With Bev Parsons who is loving her new home in Maynard! Bev, we are praying the transition continues to be life-giving for you. Blessings in this new chapter of life! ...

With Anne Wile, that Bruce continues to do well at the Timothy Daniels House in Holliston, and for the resilience and joy-filled attitude that Bruce exudes in his living. We also offer gratitude with Anne for trips to Bubbling Brook for ice cream with daughter, Sherrie. For the simple joys of life we give thanks ...

With Jim Fuller we celebrate the generosity of our church ...

With Mark and Peggy Hellberg, we give thanks for opportunities to try new things that bring us joy – like caring for goats in Colorado, and getting grandkids ready for a new school year ...

With Liz Mercer, we give thanks for the loving and supportive community of FBC Needham ...

With Pastor Daryn, we offer gratitude for recent rains after a long summer of drought ...

††† 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...

For Clif and Anthony, who returned from vacation only to test positive for COVID. Prayers for a smooth and speedy recovery, and especially for Anthony who is having a more difficult time with symptoms – for his relief and swift healing ...

With Marty, that the process of finding a new primary care doctor will be one of ease, and that the doctor she finds will tend to her with the skills of deep listening, wisdom, compassion, care, and attentiveness ...

With Jim Fuller, we hold his sister Kathy in our hearts as she moves through a difficult emotional journey ...

With Anne Wile, for her brother in California, Norman Blakely Simmonds, who has stage three kidney disease – may God provide comfort and peace to Blake and his family, including Anne, and allow them to feel the prayers and support of our community. We pray for joy-filled moments in the midst of difficult diagnoses and treatments ...

††† 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 Jim Fuller and Pastor Daryn as they send their children off to college, and for all those beginning new school years – we pray for astuteness, for resilience and grit, for intellectual curiosity, caring mentors, and joy-filled memories in the making for each one ...

For Bev, as she continues to acclimate to her new home in Maynard. We give thanks it has been a joyful transition thus far, and ask God, that you would continue to provide for her during this time of possibility and change ...

With Pastor Holly, for a smooth transition as her parents move from Mississippi to Massachusetts to live with her in September. We celebrate this long-awaited transition of goodness, and give thanks for the opportunity of good care it affords each member of this family. We lift up with joy the excitement Holly, and her parents, Emily and David, feel in having their family together once more. God, grant happiness and a peaceful coexistence for this household, and many moments of laughter and continued celebration for them along the journey ...

For our Administration Ministry's continued good and dedicated work in preparing the next steps of our transition, and wisdom for us and for the legal counsel that is accompanying us through our process ...

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, we offer prayers for the troubling commotion of our world, the violence and the wars. May God inspire our hearts away from such things, toward a more peace-filled and harmonious way of existing together. We pray for understanding and solutions that are life-giving ...

With Liz, we pray for the Florida postal worker, Pamela Jane Rock, who died as a result of a dog attack along her route. We pray for her family as they grieve. May her memory and the kindness she demonstrated in her living inspire others toward goodness and compassion ...

We pray for those traumatized by this incident, and for the dogs' human companion, who will undoubtedly bear guilt, shame, and regret in the wake of this tragedy ...

We continue to pray for the people of our country, that we would see the humanity and dignity of one another, and honor the things we have in common over what divides us – help us to seek truth, to seek justice and goodness above all else...

God, give us clarity and eyes to see the truth, even when it is hard to accept and move us forward in your will and ways of love. Hold accountable those who would attempt to deceive and divide us, and keep our hearts, minds and eyes clear and free of deception. Lead us into closer communion with you and one another ...

††† 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, and hold all the prayers of our community...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.** Office voicemail and email are being checked regularly.

Upcoming Administration Ministry Meetings:

Monday, August 29th 6:30pm
Monday, September 19th 6:30pm
Monday, September 26th 6:30pm

**Watch for the next Prayer Resource
due mid-September
IMPORTANT DATES to REMEMBER!
First Sundays**

DINNER CHURCH BEGINS!

**In Our Transition, we've been
gathering in Reflection, Prayer, and Communion
the First Sunday Evening of Every Month in our sanctuary. Beginning in
September, we are going to adopt a dinner church model for this fall season.
We will be gathering for sustenance and fellowship and continued prayer and
reflection together at various locations. The first gathering will be September
11th at the Holbrook/Calilung residence. We hope to see you there! These
gatherings are scheduled for our routine gathering time of 5pm.**

Please see the following flyer for additional details.

**PLEASE NOTE
DATE AND LOCATION CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS
ANNOUNCEMENT IN OUR AUGUST BULLETIN.**

Beginning in September join us for
Dinner Church
First Sunday* of every month at 5pm
September - December 2022

September 11, 2022* @ Holbrook/Calilung Residence
21 Morley St, Needham

October 02, 2022 @ FBC Needham cookout
on the lawn at 858 Great Plain Ave

November 06, 2022 @ Wayside Inn
72 Wayside Inn Rd, Sudbury

December 04, 2022 @ Coombs Lounge at FBC Needham

*We will gather September 11th due to the Labor Day holiday



First Baptist Church in Needham
"One in the Spirit, One with Our Neighbors"

www.fbcneedham.org
churchoffice@fbcneedham.org



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Creative Callings Year 3, Session 1
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.

Update: Your Administration Ministry is continuing to prayerfully explore possibilities for our resources with the aid of legal counsel. We anticipate having an update for the congregation in the approaching months. Bear with us as we intentionally and prayerfully continue in the work of developing a thoughtful plan for closing that will honor the legacy of First Baptist Church in Needham and its many years of ministry in the Needham community and beyond.

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THE FRONT PORCH RESTORATION CONTINUES ...

New capitals installed July 19, 2022





Columns in waiting for the anticipated new porch and stairs



Liz Mercer looks on with awe and anticipation



Liz Mercer in front of FBC Needham – front porch restoration 2022

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:21

Dear family and friends of First Baptist Church in Needham,

I urge you to consider a financial contribution toward the restoration of our historic front porch. The town of Needham has contributed \$90,200 toward the project as a Community Preservation initiative. We are grateful for their support and enthusiasm! With the gift from the town, First Baptist will shoulder upwards of \$350,000 in costs toward the Front Porch Restoration, ensuring a visible marker of our legacy, and preserving this beautiful resource for our Needham community. I thank you for considering a significant gift toward our capital fund in addition to your regular giving. What a beautiful way to offer a piece of your heart toward the future life and witness of this historic and beloved monument.

With gratitude,
Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos, Pastor

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 encourage each member of our community to continue in your regular giving toward the support of our continued ministry throughout our time of transition, and also to consider giving toward the Capital Fund for our front porch 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.