

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

June/July 2022



Figure 1 Clif's dahlias

Transition Edition 13
(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

Dear First Baptist community,

As we move into these summer months, I want to encourage you to take some time to rest – advice I have not always been great at heeding myself. It is one of the easiest parts of the gospel to overlook, but Jesus by his example seemed to know that we cannot yield good news effectively without that component. Jesus talked about the kingdom of God being like mustard seeds – even they have a phase of dormancy and storing up energy before they are able to grow (Mark 4:30-32). Jesus retreated to spaces of quiet and prayer in the midst of his travels and preaching, to rejuvenate his spirit, to reconnect with God and those dearest him, to sleep ... remember that time on the boat (Mark 4:35-41)? In a world that measures a good deal of our worth by our productivity and work ethic, Jesus reminds his followers, “Come unto me, all who labor, and I will give you rest”, or in the New Revised Standard Version – “Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28-30). The gospel is not just about rest for our bodies, but also peace and restoration for our minds, and freedom from the compulsion to constantly do, freedom from the anxieties, fears, and burdens we bear. I realize that vacations are a bit of a luxury for many, but rest is not – it is essential to our health and well-being. As you move through these weeks of summer, be intentional about making time for rest and restoration. Each breath can be a reminder to take time to breathe deeply – find rest in the breath – and to quiet your mind for prayer and reflection. Expressing gratitude has been proven to help shift our focus from the things that cause anxiety and stress to things that bring our hearts joy. If you find yourself burdened by anxiety – take time each day to express in writing or spoken word three things you are grateful for (try to think of three new things each day). And of course, if you have the ability to get away for a time, lean into that opportunity, and try leaving your technological buddies – email, social media, behind as best you can - they are taxing in ways we still do not fully comprehend. Rest. Be present. Breathe deeply. Savor the time. Make room for those dearest your heart. Refocus on the good. Be good to yourself, just as you are good to others. You are worthy of rest and love.

Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos

+ 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...**

For Mason Fuller, the newest recipient of the Ambach Scholarship for high school seniors! Congratulations, Mason, and all the best toward your future endeavors ...

In honor of all those in our circles with June and July birthdays, including Anna, Nancy, Anthony, Teddy, Jacques, Holly, Bev, and Louise. We're so glad you were born into this world and celebrate your presence in it and with us ...

With John and Dianne List on the high school graduations of Avery and Jack, and for Avery who will attend and play soccer for the University of South Carolina! ...

For Dorothy Kinne, for days out and about, for family that cares for us, and times of relaxation and pampering ...

With Mark and Peggy Hellberg as they enjoy watching their granddaughter's tee-ball games ...

In hearing Louise Mason light up at the mention of her grandson, Bill LeMay, who was out to fix a light at the church ...

That there are folks who can fix and mend the places and people around us and dear to our hearts ...

For Anthony Calilung, and his week-long birthday extravaganza to British Columbia and Alberta, Canada. Prayers for restoration and rest on the other side, and prayers of gratitude for you ...

With Bev Parsons for the news that a new home will be ready to receive her around July 9th, as well as the new mattress that will accompany her move. We are excited for this next step for you, Bev ...

With Anne Wile, that her children are doing well, and for the faithful provision of her daughter, Sherrie ...

For the Christ-like witness of John List who sang Amazing Grace on a recent visit with Judy Currie, now residing in memory care – she was able to sing along. For the gift of song and spirit, and that the music remains with us ...



Figure 2 Wren and Carmen

With Andrew, for recent visits with Wren and Carmen, who just turned two ...

That COVID vaccinations are now available for children under 5 years of age! ...

With Pastor Daryn, for an opportunity to intentionally rest and restore, and to spend extended time in the presence of loved ones who, for most of the year, are at a distance ...

With Helen Turner, for the joy in each new day, and that her life is free from pain ...

With Jim Fuller whose family will be taking a vacation to London – for safe travels and lots of beauty and joy-filled moments ...

With Liz, for small things that bring our hearts peace in the midst of the turmoil of the world, like this YouTube video of Paddington Bear having tea with the Queen of England: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UfiCa244XE> ...

Thanks for sharing, Liz! (this small clip brings Liz joy ... what brings your heart joy when things feel overwhelming and difficult?) ...

+++ 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 Anthony, as he returns back to work after a time away, for strength, confidence, and resilience ...

With Marty, for strength and purpose in each new day
...

For Chris, Jean, and Marty as they continue to navigate the ongoing difficulties that are inherently a part of caregiving ...

With Clif and Anthony and John and Dianne List, for Judy and Jack Currie as Judy struggles with cognitive decline and memory loss. In Clif's words, Judy was one of the most positive people. We give thanks for Judy's life and legacy at First Baptist, and for her inspirational leadership in the community ...

With Anne Wile, that everyone at First Baptist stays clear of COVID ...

With Jim Fuller that all the kids enjoy a safe summer ...

+++ 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.



Figure 3 Marty's dragonfly pin

**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 Andrew as he considers possibilities for new places to live ...

For Liz, as she continues to discern housing options for her and her Boston Terrier boys, Rascal and Maxwell ...

For Bev, as she navigates the transition to assisted living, and her first move in quite a long while. God, offer your peace during this time of change ...

For Clif's friend, Eileen Leveque, whose husband was diagnosed with lung cancer; God pour out your tender mercies upon Eileen and family, and grant them strength as they move through this difficult time ...

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 Anne Wile, Liz Mercer, and Louise Mason, for our world – it feels as though things are upside down and topsy-turvy – like the whole world is coming apart. God, grant us direction and guidance toward a life-giving future ...

With Dianne List and Marcia Muir, we continue to pray for the Uvalde, TX community as they live in the midst of grief, navigating their trauma, all the while confronting the reality of an inadequate and negligent public safety response. We mourn with them, and hold them in the hearts and prayers of our community in this time ...

With Dianne, for all those seeking relief, treatment, and solace for addiction, and other ongoing medical and mental health needs – We pray for long term solutions that are holistic, compassionate, and effective ...

+++ 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.



Figure 4, Mount Sanitas (near Boulder), courtesy of Peggy Hellberg



An Invitation for the Month of July

Attached to this prayer resource you will find a journaling guide for the month of July. Each week you will be offered a scripture passage and journaling prompt with questions and exercises to ponder and engage. In addition to the prompt, there is a Creative Way that offers a suggestion or action to live into for the week. Enjoy!

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.

Vacation Coverage –

While I am away, Rev. Jana Yeaton of First Baptist Church in Newton will provide pastoral coverage. If you have a pastoral emergency or wish to speak with a pastor, contact our church office, and Robin will put Jana in touch with you. If you would prefer reaching out to Jana directly, you may email her at jana.yeaton@gmail.com. Rev. Cody Sanders of Old Cambridge Baptist Church, and Rev. Christine Keddy of TABCOM Missions and Elder Ministry, will offer back-up coverage in the event of something unexpected. I am grateful for these colleagues, and feel confident I am leaving you in good provision and capable hand. Blessings to you all!

Next Admin Meeting: Monday, July 18, 2022 at 6:30pm (hybrid format – Pastor Daryn will be present in person at FBC Needham).

**Watch for the next Prayer Resource
due mid-August**

IMPORTANT DATES to REMEMBER!

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 will be **Sunday, August 7, 2022**

Other upcoming services at 5pm unless otherwise noted:

July 3rd – We will NOT gather for worship in the month of July. Please take this opportunity to engage the Journaling Through July journaling guide, and intentionally connect with, and check in on, one another in prayer, concern and encouragement.

Aug 7th – 5pm Worship, Prayer and Communion

Masks and social distancing required.

Creative Callings Year 3, Session 1



Boston University School of Theology
Center for Practical Theology

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.

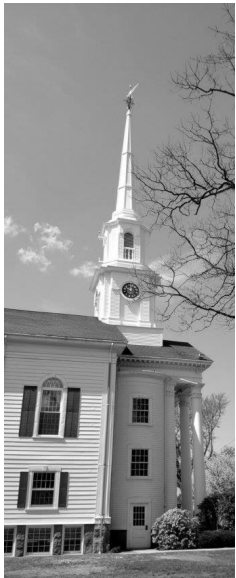
Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:21

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.