

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

May 2022



Transition Edition 12
(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 FBC Needham Community,

I wanted to share some updates with everyone. We continue to gather on the first Sunday of every month at First Baptist Needham, for prayer and communion – and on some special occasions as well. Pastoral care is ongoing with visits, calls and accompaniment to doctor's appointments, and encouragement toward new ministry and worship opportunities for church members.

I will be traveling to the Carolinas at the end of June/beginning of July. We will not gather for worship in July but I pray that you will continue to hold one another and check in with one another in prayer and concern for that month and beyond. Our plan as of now is to resume first Sunday worship in August.

A colleague of mine, Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, is on sabbatical for the summer. I will be filling in for her and First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain as their sabbatical pastor through September. Feel free to join us on Sunday mornings in person or via Zoom. Call the office if you would like the Zoom link for the worship service Sunday's at 11am. All are welcome! Don't forget to be exploring other possibilities for worship and communities of faith for your own spiritual journeys, knowing that our FBC Needham community will remain with one another in spirit as we move forward individually along our uniquely called paths.

I have news about the restoration project of our front porch! The four columns of our front porch have been removed toward the restoration project. The next step is for the steps and landing to be replaced. Upon beginning that work, it was discovered that the space within the porch itself is hollow – there is no support for columns beneath the porch currently. That aspect of the project will be re-evaluated for engineering and cost before continuing. It may slow things down a bit, but we remain hopeful that the project will be completed this summer. A temporary fence was installed today around

the front porch for safety for our community as the project unfolds. Following the restoration of the porch itself, the replacement columns will go in, made of a sustainable fiberglass composite material, along with restored capitals that look identical to the former design. The front doors will also be replaced. It is our gift to the community to restore this beautiful and historic structure. I personally cannot wait to see it looking good again.

The Administration Ministry is continuing to explore options for our building and resources toward the potential for collaborative and life-giving ministry in our community. We are being very intentional in this exploration. We hope to know more, and be able to share more, by the end of the summer. Attorneys Paul Alpert and Dick Osterberg are accompanying us through this discernment. We are grateful for their expertise in church closure and mergers, and for their guidance in this process. Your Administration Ministry is doing good work on this front, and is being deliberate and thoughtful with this task entrusted to them. If you have specific questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me. I am happy to have individual conversations with church members about the process.

I hope to see you on June 5th at 5pm for our Pentecost service! It is a joy and blessing to be your pastor and to witness the spirit-filled way you are holding and praying for one another in this time of transition. You are gifts to one another and to the world. Thank you for offering yourselves to the life and witness of First Baptist Church in Needham as we lean into the next new thing that God has planned for us.

Peace and blessings,
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 Liz, that Rascal is feeling much better after a long illness ...

With Clif, for flowers and the beauty of warmer weather – for the dahlias about to bloom ...

With Liz, in gratitude for our church family ...

With Dot Kinne, for her granddaughter, Emily Lyons, who just graduated from college. Many blessings to Emily on her journey! ...

With Louise, for George who is doing well and for his presence in her life ...

With Liz, for Pastor Daryn providing a ride to the hospital in Boston, and for the physicians that care for us in our times of need ...

With Bev, for a ten day visit from her sister, Myrtle, who was incredibly helpful in cleaning out the house and taking things to the Needham Community Council, and for the wonderful time they had together. Also, in gratitude for her children who help care for her so well ...

With Marty, for the gift of air conditioning, and for the unit the church lent her son as he resides in her home, caring for her ...

With Pastor Daryn as she and her family celebrate the graduation of Fayrah from high school. For Fayrah, for the light and wisdom she imparts, for all that she has learned, and for all she will carry with her on the journey ...

With John Crimmings, who returned with his wife, JoAnn from a lovely trip to Kansas and Missouri. For new adventures and places of surprising beauty ...

With Marty, for a wonderful caregiver, Shirley, and for all those who care for us in our times of need ...

With Bev, for the news that she may have a placement and new home in a retirement community within two months' time! We celebrate this transition along with her, and affirm her decision to live the next chapter of her journey within a new, beautiful, and supportive community ...

With Anne Wile, for Bruce's adjustment to new life and care at the Timothy Daniels House in Holliston. We offer gratitude that this transition has been fruitful and life-giving, and that Bruce is able to receive frequent visits from family – particularly his sister and brother in law who live just down the street ...

With the family of Kayla Steeves, Ernie Steeves' granddaughter, who was recently appointed to the role of head soccer coach at Needham High School! Congratulations to Kayla, and many blessings ...

With Holly, for a wonderful visit with family, in town to celebrate the graduation of her son-in-law, Dr. Grelyn Hydinger, from Boston University with his PhD ...

+++ 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 Anthony, for peace of mind ...

With Bev, for healing of her back pain that continues to impede her quality of life and ability to do the things she loves ...

With Marty, as she continues through the difficult realities of limited capacity and ability following her stroke ...

With John Crimmings, who upon return from travels, tested positive for COVID-19. For his healing, for his comfort and recovery ...

For Mark and Peggy's daughter in law's mother, who broke her upper humerus and will be undergoing physical therapy toward recovery. We pray for the skill of the physicians tending her needs, and for her comfort, patience and resolve as she engages their instruction and exercises toward healing ...

For Mark Hellberg's cousin, whose family is navigating some health concerns ...

With Anne Wile, who prays for good fortune in the restoration of the church and the discernment of the Administration Ministry ...

For the families of Laura Clayton and Barbara Owen Tripp, two lives celebrated in remembrance in recent weeks at First Baptist Church in Needham. For the light and love of these two individuals, and for their families as they navigate this world without their physical presence. May their memories be an eternal blessing to all who loved and knew them ...

For Dorothy Kinne's daughter, Betsy, who is not well. We pray for her strength and resilience in the face of current health setbacks. We pray also for Dorothy, as she lives in concern for her daughter's health and wellbeing – God, grant her the peace she needs in each day ...

For Liz, who is feeling discouraged by recent test results, but is also feeling empowered and inspired by her own sense of grit and determination that has brought her through life, that has contributed to her own self-awareness and sense of dignity ...

With Jim Fuller, for safe final weeks of school and all upcoming events related to the graduation of his daughter, Mason. God, inspire her heart toward beautiful possibility as she embarks from her high school career into the path that awaits ...

+++ 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...**

For all those graduating and moving into the next new thing, for courage and strength, for grace and blessings abundant, for life-giving possibility to find them along their journeys ...

For those members of our church discerning questions around end-of-life care and preparation, for the reassurance that they are addressing important and holy questions and concerns, and for their peace and clarity, for them and for all those participating with them in their preparations ...

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...

For the families of those killed by a gunman in Buffalo, NY. God be with them as they grieve the loss of those dear to them; may they know something of your presence and solace in this time ...

For a cure for the pestilence of racism, bigotry, and hatred that builds in the hearts of this world - that leads to violence enacted upon the innocent, that claims lives too soon, that breaks hearts the world around. God, we pray that we will be able to see one another as you see us in all ways, in all things: as beautiful and beloved, and deserving of life in its fullness ...

Continued prayers for Ukraine and for all experiencing violence, oppression, and lived experiences of fear, trauma, and uncertainty ...

For the full inclusion and recognition of the LGBTQ+ community, for their dignity, identities, and expressions. We pray toward a time when they are able to live their truths fully in the world and in our communities and churches. For all the ways this is already happening, we give thanks, knowing that we still have much work to do toward this expression of your kingdom ...

+++ 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



Courtesy of Clif Holbrook: Last of the columns at First Baptist Church in Needham taken down on May 2, 2022

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.

For pastoral care, contact Pastor Daryn by phone, text, or email.

Watch for the next Prayer Resource due mid-June

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 is Sunday June 5, 2022 (PENTECOST)

Other upcoming services at 5pm unless otherwise noted:

June 5th – PENTECOST 5pm Worship, Prayer and Communion

July 3rd – We will NOT gather for worship in the month of July. Please take this opportunity to 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 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 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.

Photos in the Life of First Baptist:

