

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

May/June 2023
Pentecost



Transition Edition 22 - FINAL EDITION
(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

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633 Centre Street · Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

www.firstbaptistjp.org

A Letter from the Pastor

June 2023

*In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams (Joel 2:28).*

Dear First Baptist Church community,

This will be my final letter to you as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Needham. From here on, I will be on the staff of our merged church entity primarily as a pastoral care provider - continuing in visits and calls to those home-bound members of our community, serving alongside my colleagues of First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain: Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, Pastor; Rev. Darrell Hamilton II, Administrative Pastor; and Pastor Ben Herrmann, Pastor of Formation and Outreach. I welcome this shift in role and responsibility, but oh what an honor it has been to serve as your pastor in all the ways the recent years have afforded me. You are a beautiful community of faith, humbly seeking Christ's witness and the will of God for your life. You have undertaken a most faithful and awe-inspiring task of seeking the call of God in the life of this church community, even daring to move toward closing, trusting that God's goodness would hold you and bring you into a newness of life - you have exhibited a willingness to follow and go wherever God leads, a willingness to let go of control and offer everything you have toward the possibility of something new.

The early church, when it was starting out, was similarly called to a new, bold, and faithful witness – a new beginning. The disciples of Christ pooled their resources together, trusting in the support of community, and in the wild, unpredictable, yet life-giving Spirit to creatively cultivate a reimagining of ministry in the name of Christ - to reveal a new sense of what community could be like, new meaning and understanding to be witnessed, and new ministry possibilities that would emerge. Like fire from above, a new energy infused those gathered together, a new purpose and meaning was made known and understandable to all, and miracles continued to make themselves known. Even to this day, new miracles are being born into our midst, before our very senses.

I believe that miracles of the Spirit will continue to make themselves known in and through you, in and through our new iteration of ministry together with First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain. In every end is a new beginning, and just as the prophet Joel insinuates, even in times of ending, there are plenty of amazing things to witness, and yet to be revealed. This ending of one iteration

of ministry will yield plentiful moments of powerful prophetic imagination, and dreams, and visions in abundance to behold as we begin anew. Keep alert and pay attention to the goodness yet to be. Participate in it. Give towards it. Pray for it. Be active and involved in its creation. Don't miss out on witnessing the miracles of the Spirit yet to be revealed in this new thing God is doing in our midst.

Blessings be upon you, each and all. My love, my encouragement, my very best to you in all things.

With gratitude for the journey,
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...

For the blessing of our Spirit-led merger with First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain. May God continue to lead, guide, and direct our ministry and care of one another and community as our congregations join our efforts and resources toward the new things God has planned for us ...

For a beautiful celebration of our merger on May 6th in Needham, and inspiring worship and opportunity for mission on May 7th in Jamaica Plain as we walked in the Walk for Hunger. It was so good to have three returning Senior Pastors present with us, Rev. Gordon Swan, Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, and Rev. Dr. Gregory Mobley, as well as our former Associate Pastor, Rev. Dr. Holly Benzenhafer, and Vibrant Faith Coach throughout our Creative Callings process, Rev. Dr. Mark Slaughter who came all the way from Minnesota! We also welcomed First Baptist Church in JP folks, including Pastors, Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, Rev. Darrell Hamilton II, and Pastor Ben Herrmann, as well as singer/songwriter, Spencer LaJoye. We were blessed by the musical gifts of Pei-yeh Tsai, pianist at First Baptist Church in Newton, and Leonardo Ciampa, organist at Mechanics Hall in

Worcester, who began his organ ministry at First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain when he was just a teenager. And we had many friends join us in worship and celebration who came from afar, who joined after a long absence, and beautiful souls who joined via Zoom. In addition, we honored, and continue to honor, the spirit and presence of our ancestors – those who came before us. It was a beautiful and meaningful service of remembrance, honoring our transition, and celebrating future possibility. For the goodness of all that has been and all that awaits us, for each and every member who helped make the day possible, from organizing food, to participating in the service, to designing the bulletin cover, to welcoming and greeting, to showing up, we give thanks ...

For friends from First Baptist Church in Newton who showed up to help with greeting and getting the reception set up, we give thanks ...

For Maria Barletta, our photographer for the day who captured so many wonderful moments, we offer our gratitude ...

In celebration of all those in our circles with May & June birthdays, including Anna Stylianopoulos, Nancy Twombly, Anthony Calilung and Teddy Stylianopoulos; we are grateful for your life and witness in this world! ...

We offer gratitude for all the mothers and father-figures of our lives who have shaped, guided, nurtured, and provided for us throughout our years of living ...

In thanksgiving that physicians have changed John Lists diagnosis from that of lung cancer to a treatable infection. We give thanks for all those providing for John's care, and for the relief John and Dianna are feeling in the wake of this news. May God continue to offer peace to their family as they seek new avenues of treatment ...

††† Offer your own prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving here. †††

Praise God, from whom all blessings 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...

Prayers for Clif Holbrook and Anthony Calilung as they travel throughout the Mediterranean, including visits to Greece and Turkey. Traveling mercies, joyful encounters, and a safe return ...

Prayers for Mackenzie Fuller, daughter of Jim, who will be traveling to Japan later this summer, for a safe trip, full of wonder and meaning making ...

For Nancy Twombly as she navigates some busy and stressful work weeks; may she find the strength and resilience to make it through to a place of rest and appreciation for the work, and gifts she has offered to the task ...

For Jim's sister, Cathy, who continues to struggle - may she know she is held in love and prayer, and may the peace of Christ that passes all understanding find her and offer something of rest to her heart ...

Prayers for Terry, Peggy's brother-in-law, who is struggling with health setbacks including dementia, and for her sister Jane as she cares for him. May God surround them with care and provision in this time, and may Jane find the resources within and around her to enable the best possible outcomes for Terry ...

In remembrance of Marty Fassett, who entered into hospice care and passed away



on May 19th. For Marty's kindness, compassion, and light in this world, we offer our gratitude. For her deep faithfulness in a God who provides for our every need, and holds each and every one of us and our world in love and healing, we give thanks. Marty was a deeply spiritual person, a mystic in many ways, a writer, an artist, and



collector of antiques and miniatures. She would often say her philosophy was “whatever” – not in the sense of not caring, but in the sense of trusting that whatever God has for us, or wherever we find ourselves, God’s love will enfold us and provide for us. Marty’s spirituality led her to believe in a higher knowledge and awareness, or way of being, that we truly only ever achieve in and through complete communion with God. I trust that Marty is experiencing a most beautiful realization of faith and light in the full presence of God. May her memory be an eternal blessing to our First Baptist community ...

As you move through this summer, I encourage you to find signs of beauty in the world, and whenever you encounter them, to say a prayer of thanksgiving for Marty and her life of faithful seeking ...

††† 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 the faithful vote of our congregation to merge with First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain toward new possibilities for ministry in our community and in the world, and ...

For Cindy Sullivan and Robin Bevilacqua as they embark on the next leg of their journey of ministry and service to the Congregational Church of Needham, United Church of Christ. We give thanks for their countless hours of service and provision to First Baptist Church in Needham, and pray for continued blessings as they serve our neighboring congregation. For the blessing they have been to us, we give thanks, and wish them all the very best in all things ...

For the faithful stewardship of our Administration ministry, Mark Hellberg, Peggy Hellberg, Clifton Holbrook, Nancy Twombly, Elizabeth Mercer, James Fuller, Cindy Sullivan, Robin Bevilacqua, Rev. Dr. Holly Benzenhafer, Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos, and our Vibrant Faith and Creative Callings Coach, Rev. Mark Slaughter, and all those who have thoughtfully, prayerfully, and compassionately brought the church to this moment of Spirit-filled possibility as we live into the new thing God is doing in our midst ...

For each member of our congregation as we live into this next iteration of ministry and calling, that they are cared for, that they know they are held by a love that will never let them go, that they feel a part of something holy and spirit-filled, and that unites our congregations in meaningful ways toward life-giving goodness ...

For all the graduates and those pursuing new opportunities, blessings of courage and meaningful moments of celebration, and resolution as they embark on the path ahead ...

††† 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...

Continued prayers for the people of Ukraine as they navigate this time of violence and war. We pray for just solutions to arise amidst the conflict and for a time of peace to follow ...

With Anne Wile, we pray with all those in our global community who are affected by war, trauma, and violence, we pray that something of God’s peace and presence would make itself known to them, and to our world, and that our prayers might offer a blessing of hope in the face of hardship. God, redirect our ways according to your will and purpose ...

For the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain community of which we are now apart, whose building was desecrated and vandalized during the first week of June with homophobic and hateful rhetoric. We pray for all those hurt by the words spray painted on the church walls, and hope they know the false narratives proclaimed thereon. May all know that God does indeed love them, and in this month of LGBTQIA pride, may the LGBTQIA community know especially their worth and belovedness in the eyes and heart of God. We pray also for those who vandalized the church - that whatever pain and fear led to their actions would be met with a persuasive love, forgiveness, grace and healing, that they might experience the height, depth and breadth of God’s love that Christ showed our world ...





We give thanks for the outpouring of support, love, and encouragement toward First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain following the vandalism incident, and for the community showing on the lawn the following Sunday, June 11th. It was a

beautiful gathering, full of joy, music, solidarity, and dancing, declaring that indeed, Love Wins! ...

For the leadership and wisdom of Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, Rev. Ben Herrmann, and Rev. Darrell Hamilton II, we give thanks ...

††† 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

Creative Callings Year 4, A New Beginning **ADMINISTRATION STEWARDSHIP** **& PASTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT *through* TRANSITION**

With the celebration of our merger on May 6th at First Baptist Church in Needham and May 7th at First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, we commemorated the historic and collaborative united mission of our two congregations. First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain will continue to steward the building and other resources of the Needham congregation toward future ministry and mission possibilities within the Needham community and beyond, and Pastor Daryn will continue to provide pastoral care alongside the pastoral staff of Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, Rev. Darrell Hamilton II, and Pastor Ben Herrmann.

A long, intentional, and faithful process of discernment - over the course of five years, has led us to this point of new beginnings. May God continue to add God's blessing to our journey. May the love and light of Christ ever be our compass, and may the peace of Christ that passes all understanding accompany each member of our beloved community. May we always be open to the Spirit's calling, trusting that life-giving goodness will be. Blessings upon blessings as we conclude one iteration of ministry, continuing in Spirit and calling toward a beautiful and hope-filled new beginning.

The Creative Callings team of Boston University has offered First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain a \$15,000 sustainability grant toward our new ministry endeavor. We are grateful for the Creative Callings program, and for Boston University School of Theology, and the commitment and provision they have offered First Baptist Church in Needham and First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain throughout our journeys of calling and vocation. May this sustainability grant offer something of goodness toward our new initiatives as one.

This is the final prayer resource of First Baptist Church in Needham. Pastor Daryn will continue to provide pastoral care to home-bound members, and is available for pastoral support to those who have been members of FBC Needham. Reach out to First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain to request care or a visit, churchoffice@firstbaptistjp.org

Know that you are loved and held by the love of God, your pastors and our united church community.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Regular Sunday morning worship will continue for our community at First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain.

Worship is held on Sunday mornings at **11am**. All are welcome!

First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain
633 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Offering

Your continued financial support of the daily work and ministries of First Baptist is vital, particularly as we move through this time of transition. We encourage each member of our community to continue in your regular giving toward the support of the ministries of our FBC Needham/FBCJP collaborative ministry. Please make checks payable to **First Baptist Church**, or **First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain**.



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



May 6, 2023

A Service of Transition: Honoring Ministry, Calling and New Beginnings









The service can be viewed on our website: www.fbcneedham.org
 (the sound was not 100% in the beginning of the service - music is not always audible. Everything from the podium mic should be clear for the most part) Enjoy!

May 7, 2023

Together in Ministry: Worship and The Walk for Hunger



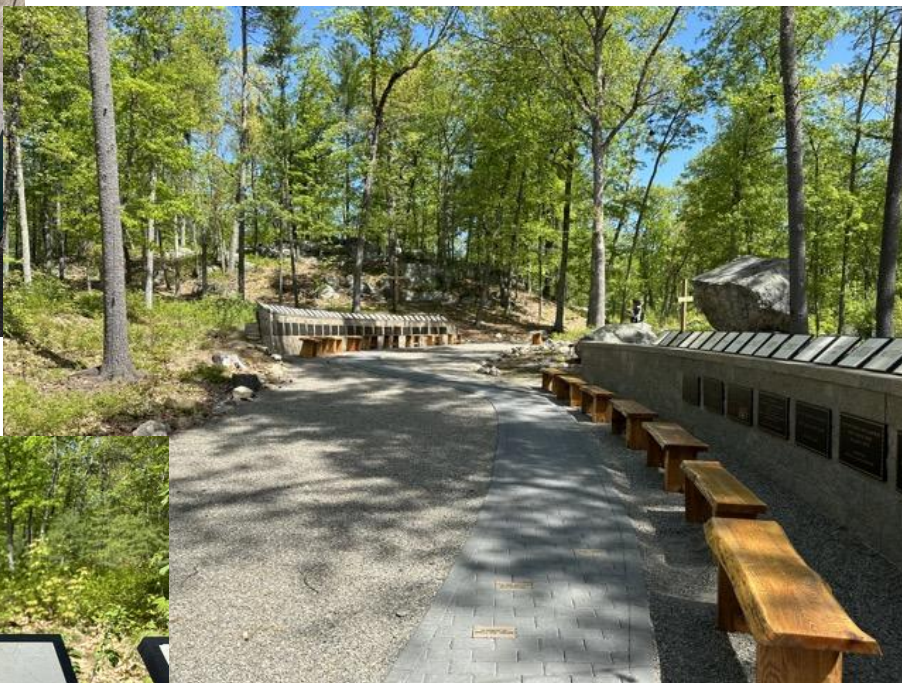




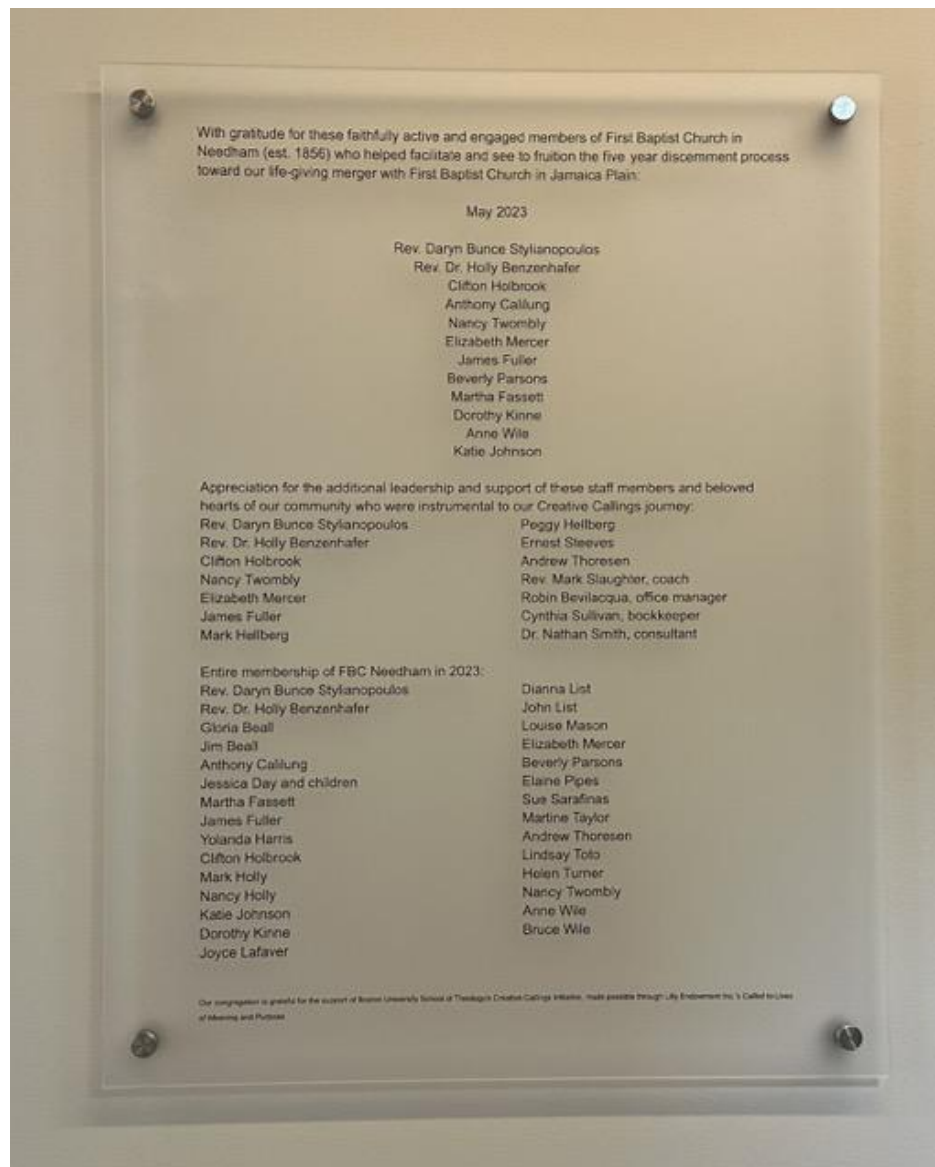
Memorial Plaques at Grotonwood:

In 2022, First Baptist Church in Needham purchased some marble memorial pavers in honor of Ernie Steeves and Marilyn Blake, along with a bench in honor of Marilyn and Don Blake's son, John Philip Blake. The bench is still being made; upon completion it will read, *In loving memory of John Philip Blake' 'Given by his loving family, Donald A. Blake, Marilyn A. Blake, Nancy E. Webb, and Douglas A. Blake, and First Baptist Church in Needham.*

The plaques were up at Grotonwood in the Memorial Garden upon my most recent visit. The painted bench below was painted by the children of a past Missionworks; Anna Stylianopoulos was among the painters.



Plaques and Artwork to commemorate our merger and past and present saints:





These are among the names offered in a spirit of thanksgiving during the service celebrating the merger of First Baptist Church in Needham and First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, May 06, 2023. These are the names of those who have inspired our journeys of faith – those who have been instrumental in the legacies of our two churches. We recognize that there are many others, in addition to these named, who have been a blessing to our communities of faith over the years.

All of these of our faith saints - those living and departed - are a part of who we are, and are integral to our collective story of calling and faith.



Andre and Martine Taylor
 Florence and Sandy Sanderson
 Barbara and Lance Jackson
 Bernice and Fred Schortmann
 Fred and Marion Schortmann
 Flora and Tom Scott
 Cindi Toto
 Ruth Holbrook
 Sean Lair
 Anna McWhorter
 The Cox Family
 Dorothy Reynolds and Family
 Joe Savignano
 The Savignano Family
 Gage and Dell Hotaling
 Bob Beaumont
 Dave and Liz Sutcliffe and Family
 Brenda Moulton
 Marilyn and Don Blake and Family
 Margaret and Roy Nelson
 Judy and Jack Currie
 Otto and Olive Moulter
 Ron Moulter
 Jack and Marty Fassett
 John and Amy Gilmore
 Michael Gould
 Deacon George Howland
 Tillinghast Whitaker
 Emily Ann Smith
 Elizabeth Fuller
 Mary Jane Fuller
 Andy and Evelyn Brown
 John and Dianna List
 Elsie Kent
 Roger Brown
 Enid MacGray
 Janet MacGray
 Lucy Murray
 Rev. Gordon and Edith Swan
 Rev. Dr. Gregory Mobley
 T.J. and Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson and Jadon
 Ralph and Ruth Shannon
 Stu Tibbetts
 Bernie and Peg Reagan
 Jim Nye
 John Hopkinson
 Clarence Wilson
 Gil and Sande Lafaver
 Alice and Harley Mutzfeld
 Ernest Steeves
 Virginia and Walter Steeves
 Jeff Jones
 Hal Gold
 Charla Kouadio
 Ross Varney
 B.J. Nickerson
 Henry Heald, Sr.

Lorraine Claxton
 Eunice Elmer
 Jeanette Tanner
 Anne and Paul Wile
 Mary Sears
 Myrna Heald
 Lurline Haugen
 Gloria and Jim Beall
 Carol MacGray
 Lucille and Ed Remsen
 Ruth Long
 Raymond and Claire Snay
 Judy Thorpe
 Elaine Pipes
 Helen Turner
 Marguerite Pipes
 Ellen and Ed McKinnon
 Karen Campanella
 Gladys Sonnenberg
 Mark and Nancy Holly, Pat and Maggie
 Jim and Aleta Crawford
 Jean Higgins
 Ed and Helen Carlson
 Bill and Frances Gibson
 The Gibson Family
 Beulah Green
 Muriel Harris
 Dorothy and Clif Kinne
 Henry Heald
 Anita and Jeff Kinne
 Louise Mason
 Sandy LeMay
 Leah Micciche
 Steve Sawter
 The Ambach Family
 Marion Schortmann
 Marion Lyons
 Elizabeth Mercer
 Dottie Rogers
 Trevor and Beverly Parsons
 Terry Moore
 Viola Miller
 Margaret and Paul Nichols
 Laura Jones
 Ken MacGray
 Carol MacGray
 Doris Walsh
 Jeffrey Jones
 Bea and Joe Savignano
 Dorothy Fader
 David Dobson Gray
 Dorothy Peluso
 Elisabeth and Dan Rider
 Helen Steel
 William Moseley
 The Crossman Family

C.J. Marchant
 Thomas Willgoose
 Mary Grace Moseley
 Lloyd Allen
 Jane G. Avery Carter
 Ralph Leader
 John H. Leader
 Jean Higgins
 The Fader Family
 Louis Kent
 Lila Nichols
 Rev. Dr. and Mrs Orlando Tibbetts
 Minnie Kent
 Joan Holt
 Marjorie Holgarson
 George F. Wollinger
 Florence Wile
 Doug Heald
 Marcia Muir
 Rev. Daryn and Spiro Stylianopoulos,
 Fayrah, Anna, and Teddy
 Rev. Dr. Holly Benzenhafer
 Clifton Holbrook
 Anthony Calilung
 Nancy Twombly
 James Fuller
 John Tanner
 Elizabeth Mercer
 Andrew Thoresen
 Katie Johnson
 Bruce Wile
 Sue Sarafinas
 Andi Bowers
 Yolanda Harris
 William and Sarah Drumm
 Robert Gale
 David Hartwell
 John Pipes
 BSA Troop 1
 The Pudge Family
 The Ackermans
 The Scotts
 Sandra Dorsainvil
 Chuck and Inrid Johnson
 The Nelsons
 The Dowds
 Joyce Fuller
 The Vestals
 The Adams
 Bill Turpie
 Krista Kingsbury

Lucia Angell Jackson
 Harry Chin
 The Eaton Family
 Tom Jones
 Ashlee Wiest-Laird
 Darrell Hamilton
 Ben Herrmann
 Phyllis Meserlian
 Nancy Sweeney
 Kyle Larginha
 Carolyn Webster
 The Gates
 Eloise Taylor
 John Taylor
 Gwendolyn Twombly
 The Pillsbury Sisters
 Martha Jane Hackett
 Shirley and Bill Latham
 Alva Burton
 Edward Whitaker
 Hollis Blue
 Veronica Lanier
 Rev. Arnold G. Hawkins and Jean Hawkins
 John Hawkins
 Heather Hawkins
 Lois Hawkins
 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wilson
 Linda Karpeichik
 Bill and Cindy Drumm
 Jessie, Ted, Shirley, Ed, Donna, Helen, Barbara,
 Nancy Sweeney
 Bob and Joy Gayle
 The Jenkins Family
 Ken Guilloti
 The Card Family
 Mr. Allen
 Charlesetta Hobson
 The McFarlands
 The Uppams
 Jessica Day and children, A. J. and S.
 Mark and Peggy Hellberg
 The Pudge Family
 Bill Drumm and family
 Florence and Sandy Sanderson

To loved ones and friends who I have cherished
 over the years and have been blessed to have in
 my life ...

...The Holy Spirit...
 ... and so many others ...



Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, Ashlee studied religion and sociology at Wake Forest University and received an M.Div. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991. For four years, she served as the Southern Baptist chaplain at Harvard University and then spent a year working with Sabeel Liberation Theology Center and the Middle East Council of Churches in Jerusalem. In 1998 Ashlee completed an S.T.M. degree in religion and society from the Andover Newton Theological School. Having received standing in the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, she served as an interim pastor in

Allston, MA and as an associate pastor at Seattle First Baptist Church. In September 2003, Ashlee was blessed to be called to pastor the The First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain. Over her years as pastor in JP she has overseen the renewal and rebuilding of the congregation and the church building and has encouraged the church to embrace social justice ministries as integral to the gospel message of Jesus. She is married to Lance Laird and mom to Naim, Aidan and Mycah.



Rev. Darrell Hamilton is an ordained Baptist minister and graduate from Wake Forest School of Divinity where he received his Masters in Divinity in 2017, and earned his degree in Political Science from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2012. His ministry and leadership is centered on advancing diversity, inclusion, and advocacy for the vulnerable and marginalized to inspire our world toward greater justice and love for all people.

Rev. Hamilton is the former Executive Minister for Operations and Resource Development at Middle Collegiate Church in New York. Prior he was the Pastor for Formation and Outreach at the First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Baptists and has held leadership positions as the Program Director for City Mission's Urban Pastoral Ministry Program, the Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, and on the Board of Directors for The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts. Rev. Hamilton currently serves as Protestant Chaplain at Babson College.

Lastly, Rev. Hamilton is the father of a beautiful daughter, Kaylani Rae, and regards fatherhood as the most important ministry he has been both blessed by and called to do.



Alex Olsen has performed in world-renowned venues including Rose Hall, Symphony Hall, and Lincoln Center alongside genre-defining artists such as Wynton Marsalis, John Oates of Hall and Oates, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Alex is known for his inventive compositions and improvisation drawing inspiration from his studies in jazz, classic orchestral, and hip-hop. Alex graduated from the Berklee College of Music with honors and is now frequently playing in the Boston music scene.



Ben Herrmann serves as the Pastor for Formation and Outreach at First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain. A 2023 graduate of Boston University School of Theology, Ben holds a Master of Divinity which he tailored toward the work of Interfaith Leadership and Queer Christian Theology.

Ben also holds a vocal performance degree from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, and taught music to children ranging in age from preschool through third grade for 7 years prior to his call to pastoral ministry.

While he is no longer active in his musical profession, his love for music, children, and education often come

in handy as he plans for worship, children's programming, and Bible study each week at First Baptist.

When he is not ministering to the community of Jamaica Plain, Ben finds restfulness in the artistic endeavors of writing poetry, creating stained glass art, and practicing piano.

Not pictured:

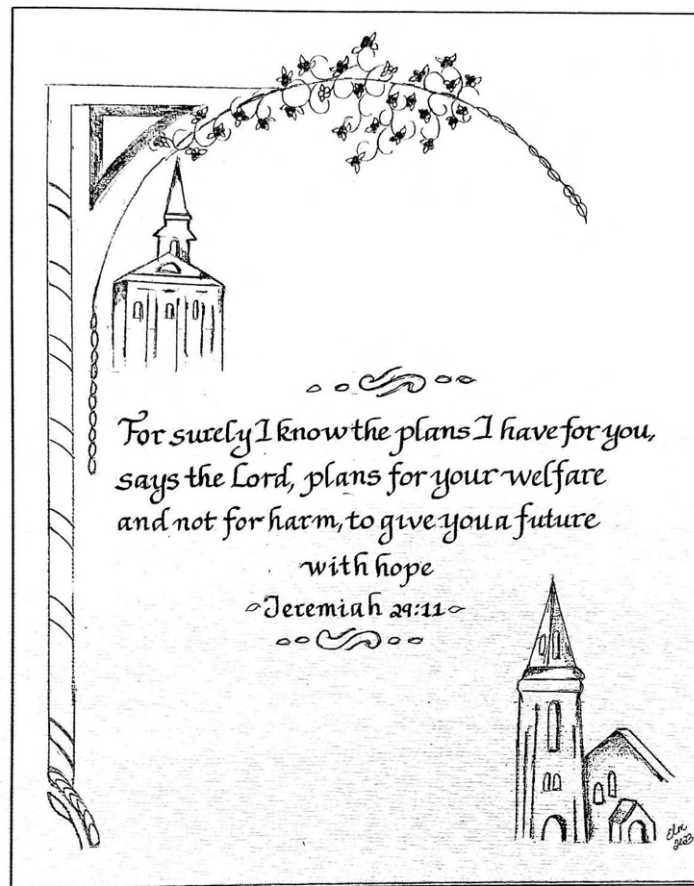
Kym Barboza-Owens is the Food Justice Coordinator for First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain's Food Hub and Food Outreach programming.



Rev. Daryn Bunce Stylianopoulos, former senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Needham, will continue as a pastoral presence for the newly merged ministries of First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain. Daryn's care for the homebound members of Needham will continue, alongside efforts toward community engagement and connection within the Town of Needham, and between the Needham community and First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain.

Daryn also serves as Pastor of Faith Formation and the Arts at First Baptist Church in Newton.

Merger celebration bulletin cover artwork by Elizabeth Mercer:



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