

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

October 2022



Transition Edition 16
(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 FBC Needham Community,

As I put this prayer resource together I became very aware of the amount of loss and grief we are holding as a community in this month of prayers. It is an act of faith and service to one another to shoulder the burden of mourning together. I thank you for that offering of your hearts in community.

Whether your burden of sorrow is personal, or whether you are grieving alongside a neighbor or loved one, remember these words of invitation, to find solace in Christ: “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). Whenever you need to take a moment to step away from the routine, to recollect yourself, to seek time for peace and solitude, or to receive the peace and rest that comes along with the assurance and presence of community and the comforting reminder that we are not alone, do not be afraid to ask for it. Ask it of the Holy One that tends to our every need. Ask it of your neighbors, your friends, your bosses, your families, your schools, your church family and houses of worship. Watch them show up for you. Witness them make room for you. Allow their compassion to bring something of Christ’s love near to you. In that offering of love and grace, find rest and comfort.

In this season of endings, of falling leaves, of cooler air – this season of transition that is noticeable and palpable – the realities of death and loss apparent at every turn, may beauty still find you. May you continue to see the goodness of God radiated in colorful and vibrant ways as you journey onward. And may a reassurance find you that yields the promise of life and hope beyond this season, and of a love that will not let you go – that will hold you through the chill, the emptiness, the sorrow, the doubt, the pain, the despair, the anger, the grief.

Even there, God is. Even there, Love is.

The peace of Christ be with you,
Pastor Daryn

Psalm 139:1-3, 7-14, 17-18

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways...

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;

that I know very well.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

+ 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 October birthdays, including Spiro Stylianopoulos and Marty Fassett! We're so glad you were born into this world and celebrate your presence in it and with us ...

With Clif and Anthony who celebrate 11 years of marriage this October! Continued blessings in your life together and much joy ...

In celebration with Bev Parsons whose daughter purchased a home nearby in Maynard. For the gift of family in close proximity, we give thanks ...

With Marty, as she celebrates the gift of a visit from her niece and niece's daughter. May the time be joy-filled and restorative. Shine your light upon their gathering, that something of beauty might last beyond their parting ...

With Dot Kinne, whose grandson, Mark, and family arrived safely back in the United States after a long time of living in China. We celebrate the arrival of Mark, Samantha and baby Bailey. God grant them a smooth resettlement in the U.S. and much joy to them as they reconnect with friends and family. We give thanks that Dot will soon get to see her great-grandchild, Bailey, for the first time ...

We celebrate with Katie J, that she is doing well, and successfully got her driver's license. God be with Katie as she navigates this world, protect her and help her to make wise choices, driving or otherwise ...

With Louise Mason for the good care of folks at Webster Park Rehabilitation in Rockland, MA and for the songs and prayers that remain with us as memory fails ...

With our church for the nearly completed front porch and the beauty of the autumn season ...

For our remarkable church staff ...

††† 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 Rev. Gordon Swan, our Pastor Emeritus, and his wife Edith, as they mourn the loss of their son, Douglas, who passed away unexpectedly. We hold them in our hearts, and mourn with them for this tragic loss. We pray for their consolation, and for the solace that only you can provide in moments like this, when the grief and heartache are heavy ... God, be with the Swan family, especially Doug's life-partner, Donna, and their four amazing children, Emilie, Steve, Ian and Gillian. Tend to their hearts in this time of sorrow. May Doug's memory be a blessing to them as they remember him ...

For Jim Fuller, his wife Bridget and their children as they continue to mourn the loss of Bridget's mother, their beloved Grammy ...

For Peggy, as she recuperates from a cold. We pray for your healing and for her continued improvement, and that Mark stays clear of all illness ...

With Clif Holbrook, for friend, Dr. Richard York, who has transitioned to hospice care. May the peace of Christ accompany through these last moments of life ...

With Anne Wile, we continue to remember her brother, Norman Blakely Simmonds, who has stage three kidney disease. God grant the doctors the skill they need to provide meaningful and effective care, and grant peace to the family of Norman in this time of uncertainty ...

With Holly, who has undergone three surgical procedures toward the healing of her wrist. God, ease any pain and discomfort she is feeling, and may the world offer her rest as she heals. We pray for grace from all around her, and that she would receive whatever care and attention and tending is necessary for a full and effective recovery ...

For Spiro Stylianopoulos, as he mourns the loss of his dear friend, Drew Goldman, who died by suicide in early October. We pray for Drew's family, his parents, sister and brother and their families, and for Drew's wife, Raquel and their four children. God tend to the hearts of the bereaved, remind them that they are loved and are not alone in their grief, and give them the strength and courage to hold all the emotions of this heartbreaking loss. May the gift of Drew's light in the world not be forgotten, and inspire the hearts that remember him toward goodness and light in their own living ...

With Pastor Daryn, whose father was diagnosed with cancer; God grant wisdom to the physicians and caregivers, and lighten the burden of anxiety that accompanies this diagnosis for Linwood and his family. We pray for healing and peace ...

For Rev. Ashlee Wiest-Laird, Pastor of First Baptist Church in Jamaica Plain, and her family, particularly her mother, Jane Wiest, as they mourn the loss of Ashlee's father, Jim. We grieve with Ashlee, remembering Jim as a wonderful father, grandfather, and husband, a hard worker, conscientious and caring, one who sought and formed connections with those around him easily, and loved his family dearly. God be with the Wiest-Laird family as they grieve. Comfort their hearts and offer your solace in this time, along with the assurance of your eternal love and care of Jim ...

For John and Dianna List as they grieve the loss of John's sister, who passed away after having valiantly lived with liver cancer. God be with them as they mourn, and may the peace of Christ accompany them as they navigate this time of sorrow. Grant safe travels as they make their way to Baltimore for the memorial gathering, and may the comfort of being with friends and family offer some solace to John, Dianna, and their family ...

With Helen Turner, whose son, Kenneth, passed away unexpectedly. Our hearts and prayers go out to Helen and her family. We ask, God, that you would grant your peace to be with them as they continue to grieve Kenneth's loss. We give thanks for Kenneth's life and for his service in the U.S. Air Force, and as a paramedic. May his memory be cherished and his example of service be one that others can live by. Grant your solace, O God, the peace that passes all understanding to those who mourn ...

For Anthony, for peace and freedom from anxiety and for the resilience to live fully into each new day as it comes ...

With Marty, that she will be able to take each day as it comes, accept it, and find peace with and within it ...

For Spiro and Daryn's cousins, Pascal and Georgia Madiba, and brother, Aristide Madiba, as they mourn the loss of their beloved mother, Madeleine Epangue, lovingly known as Tata Mado. Madeleine was the daughter of a Cameroonian Baptist minister, and a beloved midwife in her community in Cameroon. After a long illness, she is finally at rest. We give thanks for Madeleine, for her life and light. May her legacy of service and care, her concern for the most vulnerable in her community, and her love of the Lord, be an inspiration to us all. God grant peace to the departed and her family.

With Dot Kinne, whose grandson Hunter tested positive for COVID, and to complicate matters, is sharing a home with brother, Mark, and Mark's wife and baby boy – all newly arrived back in the United States after a long stint in China. God we pray for Hunter, for his swift healing and recovery, and we pray with Dot, that no one else contracts the virus. God, afford your protection to their family that they might be well, and so that Dot Kinne can finally see her great-grandbaby, Bailey ...

With Liz Mercer, who offers prayers for the family of Harvey's Hardware in their decision to close. This year has been an especially difficult one for them having lost the mother of the family in January, the father of the family in March, and the fire of February 2022. God be with them in this time of significant loss, grief and transition. Help them to see some light and hope in the midst of all the heaviness they have endured. Grant healing and peace for their hearts, and for the community of Needham as it grieves alongside them ...

For Anthony, who departs for the Philippines in November. We ask that you would offer your traveling mercies upon his journey, and that his visit home with family and friends will be a life-giving and joy-filled time of reconnection. We also give thanks for Anthony, his gifts and caring heart, and that his generosity and stewardship of his Filipino community are recognized, as he is again celebrated as an alumnus of his school in the Philippines ...

With Louise Mason, prayers for her family and friends ...

With Louise and Louise's family, we mourn the loss of her dear friend and partner in recent years, George Waugh. We give thanks for his life and service to our country as well as his many years of service to the Needham Fire Department. God bless the memory of your humble servant, George; may it be a blessing to all who loved him. And may the love he gave in his living, remain a gift, and continue to be an inspiration and example to all who knew him ...

With Donna, Cindy, and David, Louise's children, we pray for their mom who after a hospitalization with pneumonia is now in rehab and is not expected to come home. We ask that you would accompany them in this time of transition. Give them strength and courage to make difficult decisions, and assurance that their love and care is enough. Tend to the sorrow they feel as they watch their mother in decline, and grant them peace for this journey ...

God we pray for Louise, as her body grows tired and her mind continues in its struggle to comprehend and remember, we pray for an ease to her weariness, and for rest for all in her that longs for breath, for peace. Settle her into the comfort of your love, be ever present with her in this time, and offer your solace and the assurance of unfailing and unending care ...

††† 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 Liz as she continues to seek resolution and a desirable solutions in the midst of her housing transition ...

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 Liz, we pray that our world would seek peaceful solutions to resolve conflict. Liz asks, "when does it stop ... can't we just live with each other? Can't we work things out? Do we have to have mad men with missiles that are going to hit someone one of these days!?" It is a prayer, God, a cry for help and for direction. Grant us the wisdom to do better, to seek better, to be better ...

For all those affected by Hurricane Ian, experiencing the devastation of nature, and loss of life, particularly in Florida. God, grant each soul peace, each survivor resilience, and offer strength and generosity of heart to the communities as they care for one another, and rally to the aid of their neighbors ...

With Jim Fuller, for our neighbors in Ukraine as they continue to live through the horrors of war, and live with the painful reality, and the deep sadness that accompanies the loss of loved ones to unwarranted acts of violence and brutality ...

††† 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, November 7 @ 6:30pm

Monday, November 21 @ 6:30pm

Watch for the next Prayer Resource due mid-November

IMPORTANT DATES to REMEMBER!

First Sundays

DINNER CHURCH!

In Our Transition, we've been gathering in Reflection, Prayer, and Communion the First Sunday Evening of Every Month. We've adopted 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. These gatherings are scheduled for our routine gathering time of 5pm.

Please see the following flyer for additional details.

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.

Join us!

Dinner Church

First Sunday of every month at 5pm
September - December 2022

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

December 04, 2022 @ Coombs Lounge at FBC Needham



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

www.fbcneedham.org
churchoffice@fbcneedham.org

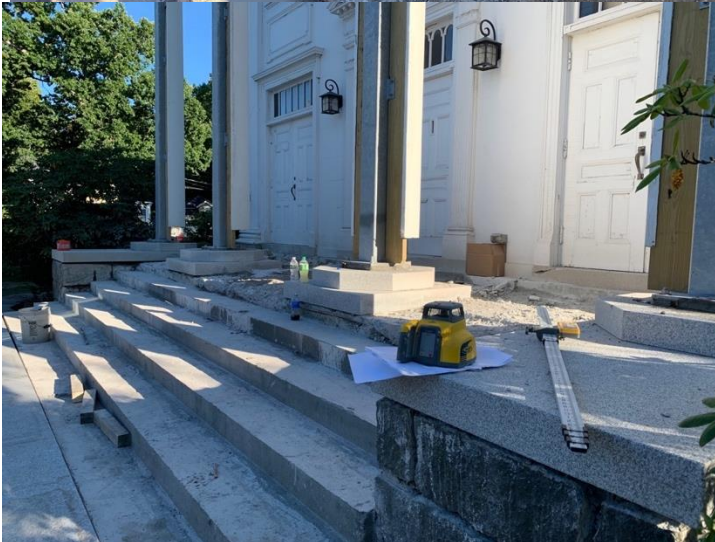


THE FRONT PORCH RESTORATION CONTINUES ...

September 26, 2022 –



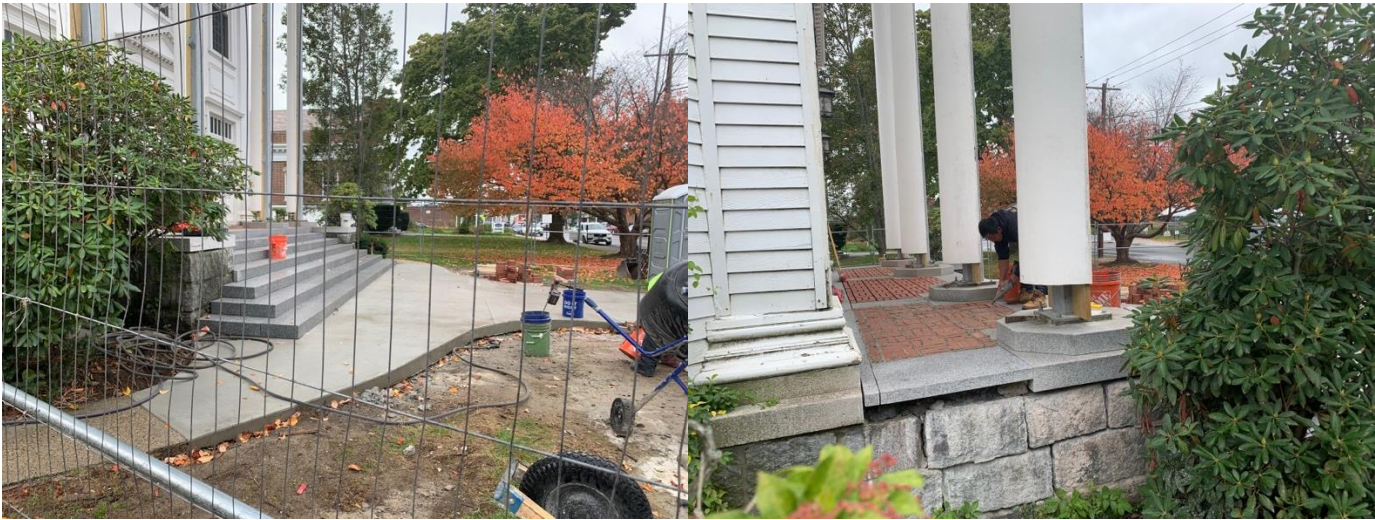
September 27, 2022 –



October 6, 2022 –



October 13, 2022 –



October 17, 2022 –



October 17, 2022 (cont'd)



Angel, Luiz, and Mario, of Curtis Landscaping and Design, completing the last bit of hardscaping for our front porch project.

Next up: Yankee Steeple will be finishing up the columns and cornice, brand new doors will be installed, and we'll welcome the final steps of the project, a fresh coat of pain and new railings!

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.