

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

September 2022



Transition Edition 15  
*(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)*

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492  
[www.fbcneedham.org](http://www.fbcneedham.org)

## A Letter from the Pastor

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. - Jeremiah 29:11*



Beloved FBC Needham Community,

I want to share some exciting news with you! October 2, 2022 will be my first Sunday as the Pastor of Faith Formation and the Arts at First Baptist Church in Newton. I am excited about this opportunity in ministry! I will regularly be facilitating creative and arts-centric possibilities for Christian education and faith formation for youth and children, as well as intergenerational initiatives within worship and the wider community. For anyone who knows me, you know that creativity, playfulness, and the arts are a part of who God has created me to be – these bring me so much joy! It is a blessing to be able to further live into these gifts in ministry.

One of the things I found appealing about this new role with FBC Newton, is that it is a quarter-time position that allows me to continue as your pastor at FBC Needham. In tandem with the ministry in Newton, I will continue to provide pastoral care and guidance, and spiritual accompaniment through our transition as a people of faith into whatever is next for FBC Needham, and for each of you in your own journeys of calling toward whatever new thing God has in store for you. It is a blessing to be with you along this journey of calling, to recognize that God is constantly calling us toward new possibility, and to see God at work in our life of faith together, and along each of our journey's of calling.

Thank you for recognizing God at work in me and my ministry. Thank you for loving me enough, and encouraging me enough in my own sense of creative calling to say – go for it, Pastor! And I give thanks to God for providing this possibility – an opportunity for my passions to meet the needs of the world, for my feet, hands, head, and heart to find meaning and work in the things that bring them joy in service to the Gospel.



**First Baptist Church in Newton**  
September 8 at 9:58 AM · 🌐

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos as our new Pastor of Faith Formation and the Arts!

Daryn is a lover of art, dance, music, and gardening, among many other joys, and celebrates learning and opportunities for play. Daryn believes that creativity and playfulness are inherent to who we are as beloved children of a creative God. She finds creativity and artistic expression can facilitate deeply meaningful connection with the Divine and one another. When fostered in community, creative expression can enhance our own experiences and understandings of our faith journeys, nurture an appreciation for the stories around us, serve as a powerful tool and witness in the face of injustices, and can cultivate a spirit of cohesion, welcome, and healing in the world.

Daryn graduated from Boston University School of Theology with her MDiv, and is ordained through The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (ABCUSA) and Alliance of Baptists. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University. Originally from Lexington, North Carolina, Daryn has called Boston, MA home for nearly twenty years. She resides here with her husband, Spiro, their three children, Fayrah, Anna and Teddy, and great dane, Deacon.

In addition to her new role in our community of faith, Daryn currently serves as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Needham.

Please join us as we celebrate Rev. Daryn Stylianopoulos' first Sunday in worship with us on Sunday, October 2!

*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21*



## + 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 September birthdays, including Clif Holbrook and Sherri Wile! We're so glad you were born into this world and celebrate your presence in it and with us ...

For our first dinner church gathering – full of great conversation about God, faith and our calling in this world to provide for those in need around us. God add a blessing to each one in attendance and those whose needs have been met by their kindness and generosity. We give thanks for the good food and hospitality of Clif and Anthony, and for good and holy fellowship ...

With First Baptist Church in Newton, as they welcome Pastor Daryn as their new Pastor of Faith Formation and the Arts. We celebrate this opportunity with Pastor Daryn and their community of faith, and all the beautiful possibilities to be ...

With Anne Wile, in celebration that Bruce continues to do well at the Timothy Daniels House in Holliston ...

With Pastor Daryn, whose parents and sisters have tended to Fayrah's needs while away at college and have provided a respite for her as she navigates a time of illness ...

*††† 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 Jim Fuller and his wife, Bridget, following the passing of Bridget's mother, Maureen Bradley. Peace to each one of their family. May God hold them close in this time of grief, and grant peace and eternal rest to Maureen ...

With Clif Holbrook, for his friend Eileen Leveque whose husband passed away after battling lung cancer. We pray for her solace and comfort as she learns to live in this world without his presence and as she grieves this loss. God accompany Eileen and her family through this time of loss, and may Tom's memory be a blessing to them and all who loved him ...

With Anne Wile, holding in our hearts continued prayers for her brother in California, Norman Blakely Simmonds, who has stage three kidney disease – abide with Norman as he navigates treatment. We pray for the wisdom and skill of the physicians and caregivers tending to his needs in this time ...

For Cindy Sullivan and her family, as they mourn the unexpected loss of a family friend. God, comfort all who mourn, and grant rest and peace to the departed – may his memory be eternal

With Pastor Daryn, whose grandfather “Daddy Jim” James Jung is in the hospital, after having lost consciousness on several occasions. He underwent a bronchoscopy to remove a large clot in his lungs last week, and is now recovering from that procedure. God grant Dr. Jung strength and healing and rest. Rest and peace also for his children/caregivers ...

For Stuart, a friend of our church who was recently hospitalized and is now in rehab. We pray for those tending to his care, and for his own healing, strength and resilience ...

With Pastor Daryn, for Fayrah's roommate and for Fayrah who have been sick over the past week and a half – one testing positive for COVID, and Fayrah whose lingering symptoms are without definition. God, we pray for their recovery, and for their persistence in this school year the face of this medical setback ... for good spirits, and patience ...

*††† 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 Marty Fassett as she continues to discern the best path forward for herself and her children and her continued care. Remind her constantly that she is not alone, and that there is nowhere she can go from your love and abiding presence. Grant her wisdom, grant her courage and the assurance of your provision in this time, O God ...

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 and Dot Kinne, we pray for our world – things seem upside down and there is so much violence. God, we pray for a calming, for a peace, for reconciliation and wholeness...

For those in Puerto Rico, The Dominican Republic and Alaska who are living through the aftermath of powerful storms – Hurricane Fiona and Typhoon Merbok. Grant them the resilience and strength they need in this time of loss and rebuilding. May they feel our prayers holding them as they move toward recovery...

With Anne Wile, for our neighbors in Ukraine as they continue to defend their nation from Russian invasion and assault ...

*††† 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, September 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm

## **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. 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. The first gathering on September 11th was a beautiful one! We hope  
to see you at our next dinner church on the church lawn. These gatherings are  
scheduled for our routine gathering time of 5pm.**

**Please see the following flyer for additional details.**

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

**October 02, 2022 @ FBC Needham -**  
burrito bar courtesy of Los Amigos

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**



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

[www.fbcneedham.org](http://www.fbcneedham.org)  
[churchoffice@fbcneedham.org](mailto: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 ...

September 12, 2022 – Getting ready for the steps!





September 13, 2022



September 21, 2022 – Concrete poured, next steps for landing and granite on the way!



## *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.



# Dinner Church



September 11, 2022



