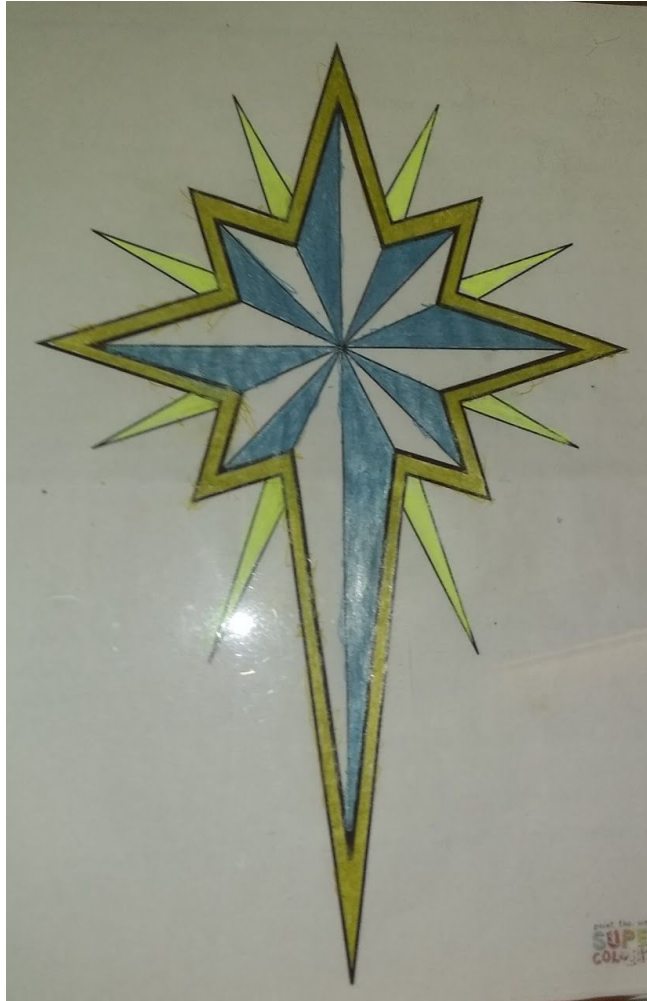


First Baptist Church in Needham

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Edition 44



Worship and Prayer Resource

Sunday, January 17, 2021

(or whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

858 Great Plain Avenue

Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

Lighting the Candle of Life

You may wish to light a candle or use the photo above as a focus for this time.

ALL: We light the Candle of Life - a candle that represents community, spirit, and the fullness of all of life - birth and death and all the transitions in between and beyond.

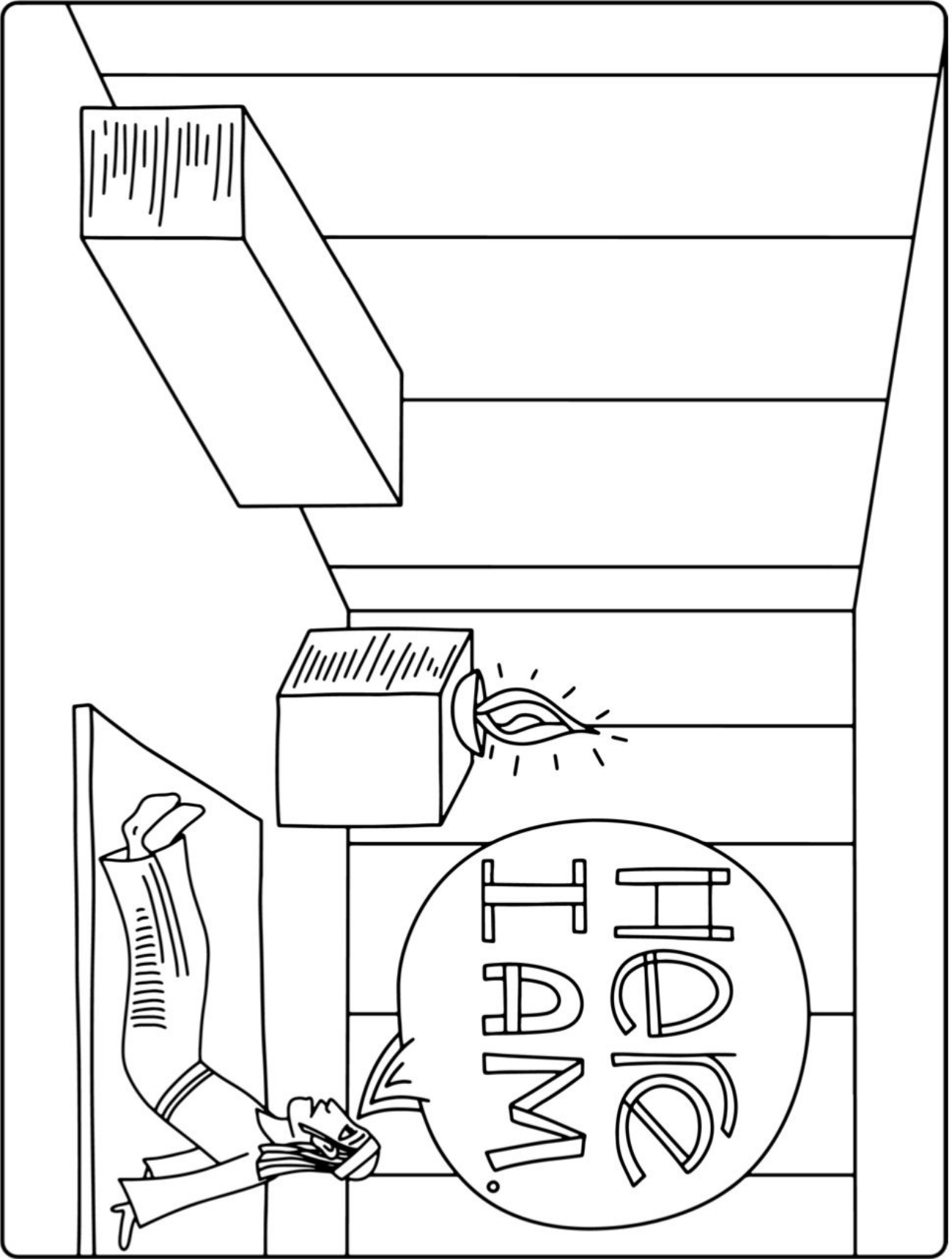
Scripture

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

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. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. 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. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. 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.



Prayers of the People

Enter into this time in song. If you don't know the tune, let the words be the doorway to your prayer.

Sung Prayer

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

BENZENHAFER
arr. Holly C. Benzenhafer

Hear my prayer, O Lord. Hear my prayer, O Lord.
I am asking, hear my prayer, O Lord.

Prayerful Meditation

“...prayer and meditation can be thought of as the creation of a mental space in which the energies of dreaming and the concerns of waking life are invited to meet each other and to have a mutual, open-ended conversation.”¹

*Enter into prayer trusting that God who
walks beside you in your waking
also accompanies you through your dreaming - keeping vigil, ever present.*

We Hold in Prayer...

*Many of this week's prayers are requests from members of our congregation in the past week. **If you have general or specific prayer requests - joys as well as concerns - to share please contact Holly or Daryn to pass them along.***

As a community of faith gathered in Spirit when we cannot be in person as we are accustomed, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer where we are, entrusting the Spirit's moving among us and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...

¹ Kelly Bulkeley, *Transforming Dreams: Learning Spiritual Lessons from the Dreams You Never Forget* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2000).

We celebrate **this community** that shares the love of Christ across barriers of technology, distance, time --- God, yours has always been a love that transcends --- **for that love we are truly thankful**, and we **celebrate our church community for exhibiting that so well** each and every day ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We continue to remember **all those in assisted living facilities. Keep them safe and grant your peace and vigilant care** to all. We hold **Gloria and Jim Beal, Marilyn Blake, Meg Shannon, Gaby Young, Bruce Wile, Barbara Arnold** and others in assisted living in our hearts ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We give thanks that **vaccines** are beginning to make their way to the assisted living facilities for workers and residents. **Barbara** has already received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **gives thanks that she experienced no ill effects whatsoever!** She is looking forward to the second dose ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We offer gratitude that **Ernie's sons were both vaccinated** this week with their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

As we celebrate the vaccinations that are being rolled out, help us to remember **that we must still be careful for those who have not yet received their vaccines.** We need to **continue to wear masks and socially distance** until we have brought the virus under control. According to Needham Public Health representatives, in order for the vaccine to contribute to herd immunity, we need 75% of folks to have been vaccinated - so we have a while to go yet. We also do not have conclusive research as to whether vaccinated individuals can continue to be asymptomatic carriers of the virus after vaccination. **We need to continue in our vigilance.** Keep it up, good people! All the same, **we give thanks for what has been done so far and pray for the efficient and safe continuation of vaccinations across our community, state, country and world ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Barbara, we give thanks **for the coloring page in the worship resource and opportunities to express ourselves creatively** ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Harry and Andrew, we pray **for all those children in foster care - that they feel loved and cared for** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to hold **Liz** in prayer, who recently learned she may be **at risk of losing her housing** and is **facing difficult decisions** in the days ahead. **Give her strength, courage and the reassurance that she is not alone.** Help her to find the **legal resources** and **social services** she needs to navigate this time with wisdom and care toward the best possible outcome for her, and Rascal and Maxwell ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry and Ernie, we give thanks **for the gifts of food that the Senior Center and Meals on Wheels deliver** for our beloved seniors ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With **Liz**, we continue to pray in celebration of the **belovedness of this FBC community of faithful friends.** We give thanks **for all the ways Liz has felt accompanied, reassured, and buoyed up** in difficult and tumultuous times throughout the years by the love of this church family. We give **thanks for the way community holds and encourages us** when we need it most ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We give thanks **for fresh air and making our way outside to take it in** ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Marty, we give thanks for the knowledgeable and capable folks President-elect Biden is bringing on board to assist him with leading the country ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We pray for the **Baha'i community in Iran**. Members of the faith, a lot of women, are experiencing persecution, heightened numbers of arrests, and lengthened imprisonments. We pray for an **end to religious persecution** and that we would all be able to respect and honor religious differences ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Anthony, we pray for **Clif** who was **admitted to the hospital** this past week with a flare up of Guillain Barre Syndrome. We pray for **peace** for Clif, Anthony, and PJ and for Clif's **swift healing** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Bev, we offer gratitude that **Trevor continues to do well** and pray for **good outcomes** at his upcoming appointments ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Ernie, we offer prayers for the **Nursery School** as they navigate a **time of transition** from being part of the church's ministry to a part of the Needham Childrens' Center's effort to provide childcare for residents of Needham ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan and Louise, we give thanks for the **health of family and friends**, and continue to hold them in our prayers ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Andrew, we pray **for all those feeling overwhelmed by life**. God be with them, **help them to see a light** at the end of the tunnel, and give them the **courage and creative lens to put practices and resources in place to ease their worry and burdens** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Dorothy, we offer prayers of healing for **Spiro** ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Stan, we give thanks that his daughter, **Christie, has moved a bit closer** to him and that in their new house, his daughter will also be closer to her siblings. **For the blessing of being closer to the ones we love** ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow*
...

With Andrew, we pray that **Baby Carmen** grows up safe, happy and healthy ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Nancy we remember her **sister in law's mother, Mary Ann**, who is concerned for the possibility of a recurrence of cancer. God, **give her strength** to face whatever challenges tomorrow brings ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to remember and pray for Harry's sister, **Emma (Bunny)**, who is struggling with Alzheimers and hearing loss, while living in Seattle alone - far from family. God, **make your presence known to her**, and **carry Harry's love to her**, along with **the prayers of this congregation**, that she might recognize something of love and hope in this time of isolation ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Dorothy, we celebrate the **birth of a great grandbaby, Bailey**, who is two months old. We **give thanks for Bailey's health and the blessing of new life** in our world ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

We give thanks that our **second year of Creative Callings** is underway and for our community partners' testimonies and support. We also, along with Andrew, give thanks for **Nathan Smith** and **Mark Slaughter**, consultant and coach partners through our process of discernment - **for their wisdom and accompaniment**, we offer gratitude ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Marty, we pray **for her niece and nephew, Lisa and Tim**, who are **still struggling** through difficult times in their lives ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry, we give thanks for his **newfound opportunity** to share his experience of aging with anthropology students at Olin College ... *praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...*

With Bev, we give thanks that **Helen is doing much better following treatment for cancer**, and that **Elaine and Helen are both well ... praise God, from whom all blessings flow ...**

We pray for **Pastor Daryn's grandfather** who remains in the hospital after **suffering a brain bleed and lack of consciousness** during a violent home invasion and burglary. Please pray for **Dearl and Shirley Bunce - for their peace following this traumatic experience**. Gran Shirley told her assailants, "The truth shall set you free." We honor that wisdom and clarity of thought in the midst of a horrific situation, and **we pray the assailants are brought to justice ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

God, we pray for the **unrest and violence that occurred at the Capitol this past week**. We **condemn this assault on our Capitol building and national leaders**, and offer prayers for all those who found themselves in harm's way. We name our **disgust at the blatant racism on display**. We continue to **pray for peace and unity in our nation**, and **pray in the wake of this act of domestic terror that justice will be done**, and that the **perpetrators and instigators of violence will be held accountable ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

For the families of those who lost their lives in the attack on the Capitol, we pray for their comfort and the assurance of your presence with them as they mourn their loved ones. We remember them:

Capitol Police Officer, Brian Sicknick

Ashli Babbitt

Kevin Greeson

Rosanne Boyland

Benjamin Philips

We pray that the lies and disinformation rapidly spreading across our world will be **recognized for the untruths they are - and that Truth will prevail ... Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...**

With Bev, we pray **that everything on the 20th of January will be peaceful** for the inauguration ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray for the **symptoms of peripheral neuralgia** that **Ernie** has been experiencing lately, that they will ease and his body will continue to heal ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Harry, we remember a life-long friend, **Mary Lew**, who recently passed away. Mary (who eventually married Harry's cousin) was a life-long friend and Harry's date for his senior prom. **May her memory be an eternal blessing to all who knew her. We hold her memory, Harry, and her family in our hearts ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to remember **the many lives that have been lost due to COVID-19**. We pause, and remember in this time of prayer that **they were each precious children of God**. We hold **each family, and each individual** grieving the loss of a loved one in our hearts. We pray **that our prayers might bring some comfort and some awareness that they are not alone, that they, and those departed, are remembered and loved ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We pray for Marty's son, **Chris**, who has severe sleep apnea and trouble breathing and is at high risk, as he tries to navigate the higher COVID-19 numbers without falling victim to them ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to pray for **Eda Jackson** who is in her eighth week in COVID ICU ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

With Bev, we continue to recognize that this virus is still affecting so many in our communities, and pray **for their healing and recovery. For all those with so much sickness in their families ...** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

God, we ask your **mercy upon us** when the mistakes and misgivings of our minds, hearts and bodies lead to irrevocable consequences that cause others, and our world, more pain. **Have mercy on us** when we abuse our power and privilege, when we misjudge, or when our biases and prejudices cloud our vision and corrupt our action. We pray for our divided communities, **unite us in your love and mark us with repentance and humility** so we can seek the change we need to heal. Again, help *all of us* seek and be ready for the **transformation** that needs to come for justice and peace to reign in the hearts and systems we create ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

We continue to offer prayers that **the stain of racism that exists on the fabric of our nation and the tendencies toward discrimination and dehumanization in our world would be eradicated**. Give us the **strength to overcome** these sins ... *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer ...*

For the prayers of our hearts that you, Holy One, know even when words cannot hold them...*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering

*During this time of offering, consider going right now to <https://www.fbcneedham.org> (Take Action) to complete your offering or **continue to support the ongoing ministry of the church** by writing your check to the church office and preparing it to mail to: **First Baptist Church in Needham, 858 Great Plain Avenue, Needham MA 02492**. Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check. Let this act be a spiritual practice woven in within your worship.*

**TO PICK UP 2021 Offering Envelopes ...*

... contact Robin in the church office to arrange a time for pick up.

If you are unable to pick up yourself, we will try to arrange their delivery in the new year.

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

(Speak these words of benediction knowing that you are part of a loving community of faith. If you lit a candle at the beginning, you may wish to blow it out now.)

One: Our blessing to one another is that we are here for one another, that we are with one another, that we celebrate and remember one another along the journey.

ALL: We extinguish the Candle of Life, but the Light continues to shine within us.

As we pass the peace we carry the Light of the Candle of Life from this hour into this world and beyond, offering peace, hope and light wherever the journey leads.

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Let us greet one another in peace as we prepare for the journey ahead.

(Hymns under copyright are used by permission under CCLI # 763542.)

Announcements

Our ministry at FBC Needham continues!

Our church office has re-opened 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. Pastoral and other church staff are working from home. Office voicemail and email are being checked regularly. If you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.

Worship - Worship Resource and Calls of Caring will continue!

Worship Resources and Calls of Caring will be provided each week. You are encouraged to make use of the worship resources we provide, and to find other meaningful opportunities for worship and reflection, Zoom services, or other spiritually enriching means of communing with God and community during this time of social distancing. The Zoom links provided for FBC Newton and FBC Jamaica Plain remain the same as before and are posted on our website on our member page. Contact Pastor Daryn if you need links to join these services.

We are aware how much the Worship Resource and Calls of Caring mean to our community, particularly to those of our community members unable to attend services in person or via Zoom. We will continue with the publication of these materials and with our calls each week, and will make an effort not to call during the time of Zoom services on Sunday mornings. Blessings, all!

Annual Meeting - January 24th @ 11:00am via Zoom

We will NOT be meeting in person - no in person attendance is allowed.

A formal motion for the purposes of holding a virtual annual meeting will be made at the meeting. The following is previous notice of the motion to be made:

Previous Notice of Motion

The Moderator hereby gives notice that at the next Annual Meeting he will move the following:

“Whereas,
Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020,
due to the Commonwealth’s current State of Emergency
due to the ‘COVID-19 Virus’ has directed us to suspend
public gatherings and prohibits having meetings in a
publicly accessible *physical* location; and
Whereas,
The bylaws of The First Baptist Church in Needham
do not expressly authorize holding electronic meetings;

Resolved,
That a standing rule be adopted authorizing the members,
boards, and committees of The First Baptist Church in
Needham to assemble by holding electronic meetings; and
Resolved,
That participation in such electronic meetings shall be
fully remote with no in-person attendance in
publicly accessible *physical* locations; and
Resolved,
That notice of such electronic meetings shall include
an adequate description of how to participate.”

To be included in the “call” of the Annual Meeting to be held on
Sunday, January 24, 2021, at 11:00 am via Zoom.

Notice given:

Sunday, January 17, 2021 and Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Annual Meeting - January 24th @ 11:00am via Zoom (cont'd)

Zoom links will be made available via email and text message, and posted on our member page on our website.

Please do not share the Zoom links or passwords publicly - only with members of our community. We hope you'll make every effort to attend. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, or need assistance accessing the meeting, please contact pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org, or call the church office 781-400-5867.

Daryn Stylianopoulos is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Annual Meeting 11am

Time: Jan 24th, 11am Eastern Time

Jan 24, 2021 11:00 AM

FOR ZOOM INFORMATION & Passwords, email pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org, or call the church office 781-400-5867.



JOIN FOR OUR FIRST Q &A of the year with Paula Jacobson, Executive Director of the YMCA on January 21st at 6:30pm. You should have received a Creative Callings packet for Year 2 - it contains a schedule, bios for our community partners, and more information about the timeline of Year 2.

Reserve Thursdays at 6:30pm in 2021 for our congregational conversations for discernment via Zoom!

Thank you to all who have shown up curious, engaged the videos and video partners in meaningful dialogue, curated questions, and held possibility for our church in this process of discernment and dreaming. If you have questions about Creative Callings, or how you can best support First Baptist in our participation, please contact Pastor Daryn, pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

Offering Envelopes TO PICK UP 2021 Offering Envelopes contact Robin in the church office to arrange a time for pick up. If you are unable to pick up yourself, we will try to arrange their delivery in the new year.

Do You Need Washable Masks? Be Kind Needham Masks for Seniors is a local organization making washable fabric masks available to local senior residents *for free*. Your health and safety in the weeks and months ahead is paramount, and having reusable, washable masks aids sanitation, is environmentally friendly, and is cost-effective. If you or a senior you know need masks, please contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly.

Needham Community Council continues to provide necessary resources and food to individuals in need of their services: <http://needhamcommunitycouncil.org>.

Please note: They are accepting donations by appointment only at this time due to safety protocols. Financial donations are greatly appreciated and needed.

Security Adjustments

Changing Member Page Password: email or call Pastor Daryn for the NEW password for our church membership page. Our Creative Callings password is the same as before. The membership directory has been taken down from the website for now. Please let Pastor Daryn know if you need to be in touch with someone in the community pastordaryn@fbcneedham.org.

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

Join us for
Needham's Celebration and Observance of

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 18, 2021

On Zoom

10:00 AM- 11:30 AM

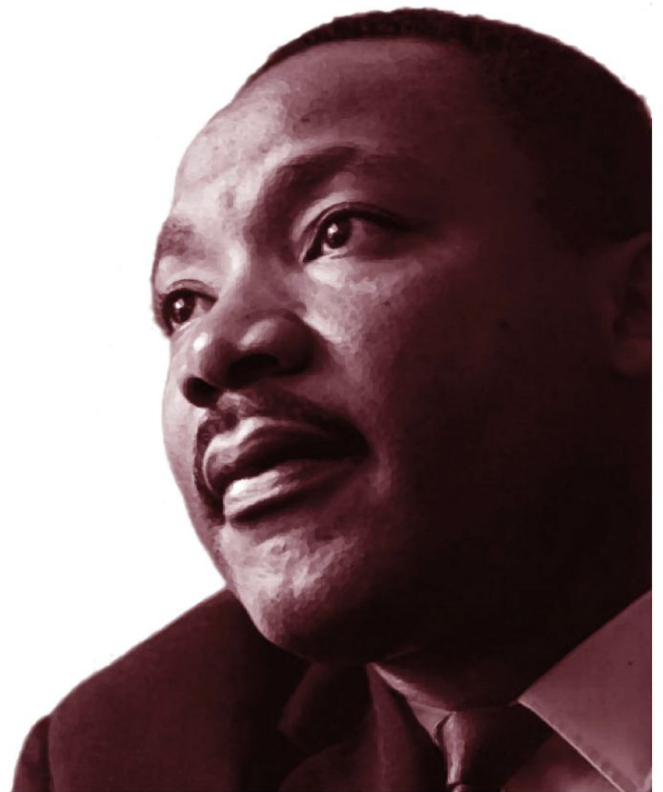
Zoom Link will open at 9:45 AM

Free Registration At:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/needham-2021-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-day-celebration-tickets-133610840621>

For more information visit:

www.NeedhamDiversity.org



Sponsored by the following Needham organizations:

- Diversity Initiative
- Interfaith Clergy Association
- Human Rights Committee
- Public Schools and its METCO Program

Now Accepting Applications



**NEED HELP PAYING
RENT DUE TO COVID-
RELATED INCOME
LOSS?**

APPLY FOR COVID-19
EMERGENCY RENTAL
ASSISTANCE

To qualify:

Must be a Needham resident

Have reduced income because of COVID-19

Have an annual income at or below 80% of Area Median
Income (\$67,400 for individual; \$96,250 for family of 4)

CONTACT: robyn@metrowestcd.org

or 617-923-3505 x 5



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