

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760

April 2013

Reflections from Pastor Mark

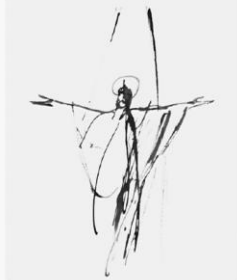
Today is the Wednesday before Palm Sunday, and as I write this April post-Easter pastor's page, I am looking out my office window at the aftermath of yet another snowstorm!

"Will spring never come?" has become the exasperated cry of many folks living in New England though, of course, when you read these words, the issue will have been well-settled: The snow will be gone, the flowers risen and blooming, and the sun standing taller in the midday sky (at least we are hoping this will be the case!).

So, too, with Easter, I think. We believe that Easter will come – every bit as much as we trust that spring will (finally) arrive every year. It is reassuring that that is so but also a little bit regrettable: *In a perfect world, I think, Christians would be utterly shocked and delighted by the rising of their Savior from the dead.*

Think of it: The man (who-is-God) was crucified and has risen from the grave! Is this not the most astonishing idea/reality in the entire world? Could anything possibly be as mind-boggling as this? And yet we often say "*Christ is Risen*" with no more surprise in our voices than if we were announcing that dinner is on the table. That is not to say that we are bad Christians or people of little faith. Not at all. But, perhaps, we need to sit in silence a little longer, pray a bit more deeply, open ourselves more fully to what God is doing in our lives and in our world.

Wendell Berry – a name you've heard from me before – is a farmer, poet, novelist and ecologist. He is revered by many for his intelligence and sensitivity. One of my favorite Berry poems is about Christ's rising:



*What hard travail God does in death!
He strives in sleep, in our despair.
And all flesh shudders underneath
The nightmare of his sepulcher.*

*The earth shakes, grinding its deep stone;
All night the cold wind heaves and pries;
Creation strains sinew and bone
Against the dark door where he lies.*

*The stem bent, pent in seed, grows straight
And stands. Pain breaks in song. Surprising.
The merely dead, graves fill with light
Like opened eyes. He rests in rising.*

-- from *A Timbered Choir*

I dearly love one line above all: "*Surprising the merely dead, graves fill with light.*" Yes – *surprising the merely dead*: that captures something essential about the Easter moment.

Perhaps Easter might also surprise the *merely alive*, you, me.

Christ is Risen!

-Pastor Mark -

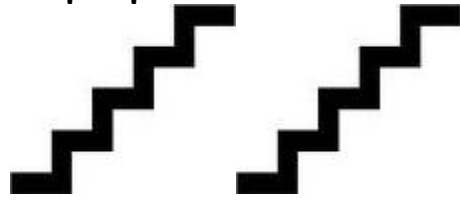
Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Mark Goad
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Ministers:	Joshua & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
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Fisk Step-Up Kids – Grades 3-5
Fisk Pop-Up Kids – Pre K-Grade 2



*During April, Fisk Kids are collecting
cans/bottles of juice for the
Natick Food Pantry!*

**Sunday, April 21
12 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Pizza and GlowGolf

\$5.00 per child – Permission Slip by April 14th

***April 26-27-28, 2013
30 Hour Famine***



UMYF participants will begin their fast on Friday after lunch. They will gather at Fisk for 30 Hours. Videos and discussions surrounding hunger will help give youth education and awareness of hunger around the world and in their own community.

Devotionals, a candlelight vigil, and community service projects will also be included during these 30 hours.

Please contact Deanna or Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi for more information.

Metro West Choral Artists

Concert at Fisk!

As part of our plans to offer quality musical performances throughout the year, Fisk will be hosting ***Metro West Choral Artists*** on Saturday evening, April 27, at 7pm. ***Metro West Choral Artists*** is a chamber chorus based in Natick and directed by the brilliant composer and pianist Leonardo Ciampa. The chorus will be presenting an all-Italian program, - and Leonardo and our own Music Director, Eric Mazonson, will be collaborating at the piano as the ensemble brings this warm and passionate music to life. Donations to cover expenses and to benefit Fisk will be accepted at the door. Those of you who attended our first concert will also not want to miss the wonderful (and delicious!) reception to follow.

Please join us on April 27 and help us share and celebrate this great talent in our own backyard!



YOUTH FOR HIRE PROGRAM

Need Help?

Do you have some odd jobs that need to be done

around the house? Do you need a babysitter?
House cleaning? Basement or Garage cleaning?

Leaves raked? Snow shoveled?

Garden weeded? Room painted?

Our Fisk youth are ready and willing to work for a donation towards the 30 Hour Famine weekend in April.

Contact Deanna or Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi.

May messenger deadline: April 25



The Book of Mark

10:30 Tuesdays in Ogle Parlor

Led by our Pastor

Materials – The Word of God



Children in Church

You all know how I feel about children.

Right now I am very proud of how their listening in church has improved . Look around and see the positive. I see children with hymnals open and little fingers trying to follow along with words that they can barely read, I hear voices asking questions about what is going on , I see kids using the worksheets that I place in the back for them , I hear baby squeaks and cries and I am blessed .

Parents: Set goals for improvements Remembering that 3 year olds have 2-4 minute attention spans and 6 year olds have 10 minutes on average.

Our service order changes and this can be great for children and adults with short attention spans ☺

Involve your children in the service.

Do they have a few coins for the offering?

Show them where we are in the bulletin.

Introduce them to Eric, so when he is playing the organ they will feel like thy know him.

Tell them why you bring them to church.

And finally let them know that they are very much loved by their church family.

Thanks for bringing them.... They bless me constantly.

Susan Carney ---- Education

Visit from Missionary Belinda Forbes!

Sunday, May 5th Belinda Forbes, a missionary dentist in Nicaragua, who Fisk Church helps to support, will be preaching during the Sunday Service. After the service we hope you will stay to meet Belinda and have lunch. This will be a time for you to ask questions of Belinda and to get to know her personally. In the coming weeks we will be asking for donations of food for this sandwich luncheon. We hope to see you there.

April Teachable Moment for All of Us



Finally, it is time to think about planting. I know from years of teaching and also spending time with a father who loved to plant that kids love packets of seeds.

They are pretty, and hold a wonderful promise.

If you are not a planter just stop in front of the seed rack at the grocery store for this lesson.

Ask what is different about the flowers.

You should get answers like – the colors are different, various shapes and sizes etc.

Explain that that is how God made us. We are all different.

God loves all of us. We are blessed with differences.

They hear this message from me and their teachers all the time.

Sing: Jesus Loves the Little Children

Pray this little prayer or one of your own;

God thank you for making me. Help me to love the differences that I see in all of your children. Amen

The Sunday School kids know the song “ If I Were a Butterfly “

Have them sing it to you.

S. Carney- Education

What Is Relay For Life?

Each year, more than 4 million people in over 20 countries take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer.

Celebrate--During a Relay event, **participants and cancer survivors** celebrate what they've overcome during the Survivors Lap.

Remember--During the **Luminaria Ceremony**, we remember people lost to cancer, and honor people who have fought or are fighting cancer. This alone is a very moving time.

Fight Back--The Fight Back Ceremony inspires Relay participants to take tangible action against a disease that has taken too much.



What Is A Relay Event?

- Organized, overnight community fundraising walk
- Teams of people camp out around a track
- Members of each team take turns walking around the track
- Food, games and activities provide entertainment and build camaraderie
- Family-friendly environment for the entire community

Because it's a team event, individual participants are not required to be there the entire time. But it's so much fun, you'll find it hard to leave!

Our Team is the Fisk Church Walkers sign up and join us at the NHS track on May 18 any time after 12 noon.

See *Marcia Hoyt, Sherry Culver or Susan Carney for more details. Sign up at Coffee Hour during April.*

Come to Dinner!

You are all invited to join us for dinner. We are suggesting once in April and once in May. You will gather with your group of **Dinners for 7** and plan to share a meal together at the home of a hostess in your group. We each share in providing the meal.

Dinners for 7 is a great opportunity for Christian fellowship and getting to know something about others members of our church family.

It is easy! Just call and be put on the list—but do it quickly we are ready to form the groups the day after Easter. The hostess for the first gathering will contact you to set a date and ask you to provide a salad, dessert or vegetable to serve 7. You will choose a hostess for the May dinner at the April gathering.



Enjoy your time together. The evening can go in one of many directions—just friendly conversations, board games, a book review, go to a play or concert, choose to study something of interest or discuss a book of the Bible... whatever your group decides.

Call or speak to Marcia Hoyt, 508-655-0077, if you would like to join this activity.



Mission in Maine

It is Springtime and time to clean out your closets and sort clothes you no longer need or want. I will be making three trips to the **United Methodist Economic Ministry** in Salem Maine during the next few months. I take your GOOD-CLEAN used clothing to the thrift shops that serve this very under-served population with very high unemployment.

Our United Methodist connectional system supports this mission site with monetary gifts, clothing and many other needs for those living in the western mountains in Maine.

Bring your appropriate clothing...best if folded and in paper grocery bags...easier to handle than large green plastic bags that are too difficult to lift :). New items are also welcome. **Questions: Gary Hoyt 508-655-0077**

UMEM takes, women's, men's and all youth and children's clothing!

Until April 15...leave your gently used women's clothing that is appropriate for the work place...in the hall by the office for Dress for Success.

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CONCERT

Sunday April 7th, 3:00-4:30pm
Common Street Community Church
13 Common St., Natick MA

- *The Kuumba Singers of Harvard College*
- *Boston College Voices of Imani*
- *Higher Praise Gospel Choir*

\$20 suggested donation

www.CommonStreet.orgwww.familypromisemetrowest.org

Family Promise Metrowest

United Methodist Women

UMW Luncheon at Fisk

Sunday, April 7th 12:00pm

We will be celebrating

“Prayer and Self Denial”

All Women are encouraged to attend.

See Janis Cail or Debbie Friscino

for more information

Central District Massachusetts

UMW Gathering

Saturday, April 27th

At

The Community UMC in Wayland

9:00am – 1:00pm

Includes brunch

See Janis Cail for more information

**CHURCH
YARD
SALE**

One of our major fundraisers for Missions is our Spring Yard Sale. Please start setting aside anything we can re-sell, re-use or re-purpose for our sale on May 11th

**Worship Service Participants and Nursery
Volunteers for**



Greeters for the month of April:



- April 7 - UMYF
- April 14 - UMW
- April 21 - Step Up & Pop Up Kids
- April 28 - UMM

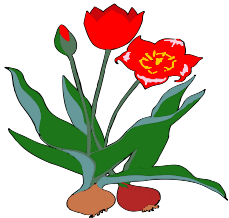
Acolytes

- April 7 – Sarah F.
- April 14 – Kelli G.
- April 21– Rose C.
- April 28- Sarah F.

Cross bearers

- Matt S.
- Will S.
- Ashley S.
- Kelli G.

Liturgists



- April 7 – Rev. Cheryl Gates
- April 14 – Deanna Bidy
- April 21– Barbara Beekman
- April 28- Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi

Communion Servers:

- April 7 – Thom Townsend & Barbara Beekman

Nursery 9:00am



Nursery 10:30

Please look for the schedule in a separate mailing

Finance Update – April 2013



Our stewardship of God's gifts to us is on "Plan", and on "Budget" as we emerge from winter and look to spring renewal. The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be a blessing, and we are spending wisely:

Our financial update:

- Your financial support is within 10% of our Budget through February, our normal trend,
- We are spending at, or less than our budgeted expenses, but snow removal is a concern,
- We are working with a deficit budget in 2013, and your support is needed,
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

Our church budget, our spending, is to support ministries, which touch so many people in so many ways: education, evangelism, worship, local ministries, children, youth, families, seniors. Our budget provides pastoral leadership, dedicated staff, facilities to worship, meet, and minister.

As a congregation, we have responded in the past, and with prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing our church, and HIS grace, we will respond and succeed in 2013.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Mark Goad, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC), Larry Drolet, Jen Garrant..