

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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April 2017

Pastor's Note

Children of God's creation, Easter is here again. This month we will celebrate Resurrection Sunday!

After the season of Lent, we should be looking forward to rejuvenation and renewal. But the world we live in is far from what we think and believe. Some Christians are joyful, some are sad, some are hopeful and still others are living in hopelessness. There seems to be no end to the madness and chaos in which we find ourselves, especially in empty tombs. But the truth is Jesus Christ does not want us to remain in tombs. Jesus Christ needs real followers that follow Him from the cross to the grave, from the grave to resurrection. I say empty tombs because many of us place ourselves in tombs and we cannot get out. Yes, there are many kinds of tombs.

There are tombs of hatred, tombs of bigotry, tombs of greed, tombs of lust, tombs of anger, and all the things that obstruct our relationship with God and with each other. So, as we celebrate the Resurrected Christ, let us listen with new ears, see with new eyes, and feel with new hearts. Only when we see, hear, feel and believe that all persons are made in God's image will we be able to change and be advocates of change for the common good. Hence, this day and the days ahead, let us begin to reflect on how we are living our faith in this mortal life. As we live out our faith, I pray that we will continue to build prayer walls to open our minds, hearts and hands, not those walls that obstruct relationships with God and with people. I mean this and say this knowing that we cannot continue to ignore the needs and sufferings of those around us. We cannot close our eyes to those fallen tears and we cannot continue to support those who cause these things to affect humanity.

When I was a child we visited my dad's farm frequently and there was a lake near the house. My siblings and I often threw stones in the lake. As the stones dropped into the lake, the water would be disturbed and

splashes would go everywhere. So if this can happen, we can be stones to disturb the lakes of life or stop the flow of things not going right. As we do and as we strive to create a world of justice, equality and peace that is more joyful, more generous, and more hopeful for all of God's creation, **Happy Easter!** Most of all, let us be reminded of the continuous need for God's grace in our lives, the church, the community and the world.

I pray this day and all the days ahead that the Resurrected Christ remains with us as we travel life's journey, knowing that no one walks alone.

Jesus Christ is Risen! Jesus Christ Is Risen indeed!

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

We will have worship services, a vigil and Bible studies during Holy Week. All persons are invited on this journey knowing that we cannot leave anyone behind.

Palm

Sunday 10:30am – *Worship and palms in the sanctuary*
April 9 with fellowship coffee after the service.

**Maundy
Thursday
April 13**

6:30pm - *Last soup and fellowship supper followed by a short meditation of scriptures & communion in rooms 8 & 9.*

**Good
Friday
April 14**

12-3:00pm - *Prayer Vigil in the sanctuary*
A time of scripture, meditation and music.
This is an opportunity to focus on Jesus' last hours. All are invited to stop in for a few minutes or for as long as you wish.

**Easter
Sunday
April 16**

6:00am – *Sunrise Service with pancake breakfast to follow*
10:30am – *Worship with hallelujahs and brass in the sanctuary, with fellowship coffee after the service.*

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, please worship with us this month and every month. As you come, know that you are not alone and never will be. The gospel passages for this month are:

April 2	End of Lenten series – “Jesus experienced love and empathy”	
April 9	Philippians 2:5-11	April 23 1 Peter 1:3-9
	Matthew 26:14-27:66	John 20:19-31
April 16	Colossians 3:1-4	April 30 Acts 2:1-4, 36-41
	John 20:1-18	Luke 24:13-35

Sermon Series for Lent

Come and worship with us as the season of Lent comes to an end. And do not forget to come and listen with new ears as Pastor Alecia shares the final sermon in her newly created series, “The Humanity of Jesus Christ”. This will be on Sunday, April 2, at 10:30am in the sanctuary. As you come, be reminded that whatever we have experienced and are experiencing, Jesus Christ already has. More importantly, we can get through, and new life comes as we get ready to celebrate Resurrection Sunday, EASTER.

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, April 13, we will end our Lenten study with soup and bread supper. After the meal, we will spend time together with scriptures and meditations. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience as we end with celebration and a reenactment of the Last Supper. Please join us at 6:30p.m.

Good Friday

On Friday, April 14, we will have a continuous prayer vigil from 12 noon to 3:00pm in the sanctuary. It is an opportunity for each person to stop in for a few minutes. for reflection, meditation and prayer.

Easter Morning

Community Sunrise Service “on the front lawn”

APRIL 16 ~ 6:00am – 6:20am

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Join us at Fisk Memorial Methodist Church as we gather together at sunrise on Easter Morning for a moment of sharing and fellowship, followed by a pancake breakfast for all!

We will gather on the front lawn of the church for a short Easter devotion at 6:00 am.

PLEASE NOTE: If we are blessed with rain or snow, the service will continue, but will be inside.

Pancake breakfast is from 6:30-7:30 inside Whipple Hall. All persons are welcome!

NOTE: **Traditional Easter Worship Service** – our doors are opened for all to attend from 10:30-11:30, followed by coffee hour and a time of celebration.

“WE ARE FISK”

On the second Sunday of each month we will be featuring on-going ministries in our Fisk community. Last month we heard from Pat Price about the Ministry of Caring.

This month at the April 9 service we will have Michelle Drolet speaking about the upcoming Easter sunrise service. “Let’s talk about inviting our friends, neighbors and even strangers. How? With Wooden Crosses.”

Join your Methodist brothers and sisters
at the annual conference



2017 New England Annual Conference

Radisson Hotel
Manchester, NH
June 15-17, 2017

Website: <http://www.neumc.org/acsessions>

All members of the United Methodist Church are welcome to attend the annual conference. Yes, clergy and laity attend. In addition to the business sessions or holy conference the program includes:

- worship services with preaching and singing that lifts you up;
- a dynamic guest preacher, a bible study leader and a renowned music leader;
- a heartwarming message by the selected lay speaker;
- a hallelujah ordination service that you do not want to miss.

You can come for one day, two days, or the full program, Thursday, June 15 to Saturday, June 17, 2017. Early registration deadline is **May 1, 2017**. Links to the on-line registration and schedule-at-a-glance:

<https://neumc-reg.brtaapp.com/2017NewEnglandAnnualConference>

<http://neumc-email.brtaapp.com/files/fileshare/ac%202017/ac%20schedule%20highlights%202017.pdf>

If you have any questions or want more testimonies, please see Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Rev. Cherlyn Gates, Barbara Beekman, or Dorothy Phillips.

MISSION POSSIBLE

by Marcia Hoyt

Daniel's Table

The Mission Committee thanks you for the support of the Bread Sale each month in support of Daniel's Table. On the first Sunday of each month (at least through June) we ask you to make any type of bread and bring it to the BREAD TABLE at Coffee Hour. All proceeds will help Daniel's Table "feed the hungry." For the last two months we have profited about \$150.00 each month. Help us continue and increase this amount. Next Bread Sale is this Sunday, April 2nd.

UMEM

United Methodist Economic Ministry, Salem Maine

Have you outgrown a coat? Don't really wear that sweater anymore? Have too many sweatshirts? Children have *stretched* and have too many clothes that do not get worn? I just heard at a Board meeting yesterday that UMEM volunteers are setting up their Prom Shop...slightly used prom dresses for the girls to purchase at a reduced cost...what fun! Making happy teen girls!

Well, we can help! Or better yet, YOU can help. We ask you to bag these clothes...making sure they are clean and saleable...in paper grocery bags or whatever works best for you. Bring them to church and put them in the wooden bin outside the office...one is for your Food Pantry donations and the other for UMEM clothing, etc.

These are taken to Salem Maine when the bin is full and delivered to a United Methodist Agency to stock two Thrift Shops. This process employs under-served people, provides very affordable clothing for this depressed area of the Western Mountains in Maine and raises some funds to sustain the mission work being accomplished. Thanks for YOUR help and your used clothing, etc. Clothing may also be brought directly to the Hoyt's at 8 Bacon St., Natick. If no one is at home, leave them on the porch by the side door.

Missions Committee: Marcia Hoyt, Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Janis Townsend and Pat Price.



MISSIONARY MAIL

**Submit your
newsletter items to
the church office by
8:30AM on April 23rd**

MISSIONARY NAME AND ADDRESS---

Send a card or message from yourself and/or Fisk Church. Offer prayer and emotional support as these men and women are doing God's work. We will highlight a missionary each month.



Kenneth Koome Nkando

Igreja Metodista Unida
Rua Comandante Dangerreux 46
C.P.9

Malanje Angola

knkando@umcmision.org

Birthday: April 27th

Ask about the work they are doing, what led them to this work, how long have they been in this position, etc. If you receive a response, feel free to post it on the bulletin board in the hallway entitled MISSIONS.



Family Promise Metrowest

8th Annual Walk to End Homelessness!

Support FISK CHURCH WALKERS participating in the **8th Annual FAMILY PROMISE Walkathon** on Saturday April 8th as we work to end homelessness in Metrowest.

There are 2 ways to participate:

- Sponsor a walker. Donation can be made online or during coffee hour at church on Sunday, April 2nd.
- Walk with us. The Fisk Team will meet at 8:30am at the Natick Senior Center where the 3-mile walk starts. Walkers can register and donate online (there is a registration fee) OR you can give your contribution to Sherry Culver prior to April 8th and she will include it in the Fisk Church donation.

For more information about Family Promise Metrowest or to sponsor a walker:

www.familypromisemetrowest.org

Questions: contact Debbie Friscino (fris@rcn.com)



25 Years in India

Elma Vaidya went to visit India and stayed 25 years.

She will share her story of culture shock and upheaval in her adopted country.

Come and hear of her experiences.

Everyone is invited!

Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00pm

Dessert will be served!

(Added note--Elma is David Cail's step-sister)

Building Bridges with Our Muslim Sisters

Do you know the definitions of the terms Islam, Moslem, Muslim, and Muslem? Do you know why there is misunderstanding and ill feelings among Christians, Jews, Muslims and others? Do you know why Muslim women wear burkas, hijabs, or other coverings? Are they required in Islam? What can you do to build bridges toward positive understanding and interactions with our Muslim sisters in these unsettling times?

To find answers to some of your questions about Islam and our Muslim friends and neighbors, come to the



Central MA District UMW Spring Gathering and join us for a presentation and informational panel discussion led by Asima Silva. She organized a nonprofit to foster understanding, dispel fear and hate, and promote the strengths in our diversity. Its motto is "Building bridges for a positive lasting impact on the world."

Bring some friends and we'll look for you on Saturday, April 29, at Wesley U.M. Church in Worcester, at 9:15 am. Learn about an important issue, enjoy fellowship and lunch with other women. There will be prizes, surprises, awards and more. Registration forms are on the bulletin board next to the nursery door. See Sherry Culver or Marcia Hoyt.

Added note: Did you know that Sherry Culver is the president of the Central Mass. District United Methodist Women? Also on that board are: Barb Beekman, Susan Carney, Terry Ames and Marcia Hoyt.

YARD SALE...

Are you setting aside all the things you have to bring to the May 13 Yard Sale? Pack up those dishes, glassware, tools, toys, books...and more books, bikes, baskets, kitchen items, puzzles etc. You know the expression... "one man's discards are another man's treasure." Bring items to the church beginning—May 8th. Please, no clothes...see UMEM article on page 3, about your good used clothing. All proceeds go to local missions!



...AND BAKE SALE!

The UMW will also be having a bake sale during the Yard Sale. Please stop by to select an item or two and surprise a mom on Mother's Day, May 14.



**UMM Meeting April 11,
2017
Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Room 9**

UMM has a grant!

All Fisk men are invited to the UMM Spring Gathering. After a dinner of pizza and salad at the church, there will be a presentation of local missions that benefit boys and young men. We will then decide how to sponsor one of these missions with the two grants that the UMM has received. Please join us for a fun and rewarding evening of fellowship and mission.

From the Finance Committee

Many good things are happening at your church! Those ministries and new ideas, depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us. Over 80% of our expenses are funded by the direct giving of all of us. Our stewardship, our sharing of all that we have, by God's grace, makes our ministries work. All of our missions and ministries require support: our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources.

Larry Drolet, Finance Chairperson



The UMW Hannah Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 11, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. Ladies are asked to bring 2 clean/washed rocks.

We will have discussions, complete our March-April mission project, and celebrate Eight Track Tape Day! If you have one of these in your house, bring it along!



It is now officially spring and we are celebrating the Potluck Supper and the great time we had reconnecting with our "Guests of Honor." We had a variety of wonderful foods and lots of fun getting to show our game skills. The Heart Gift Bags were hand delivered to our Caring Group; these visits were fun because they gave us an opportunity to see these people personally and they enjoyed receiving the gift bags.

Pat sent out 53 beautiful cards to our Caring Group this month and presented fruit baskets to Judy LeBlanc, Richie Mahoney and Jeananne Roche. Rose bouquets were presented to John Coates and Heather Oluwole in sympathy on the loss of loved ones.

Our focus for April is on visits and phone calls; names beginning A-G being contacted by Pat and H-Z being contacted by Marilyn.

Prayer Bears are scheduled to be blessed during the service on April 30.

We continue to keep in touch with people in the Fisk family. If you know of anyone who needs a call, visit, meal delivered, or prayers; or if you feel God is calling you to participate in any of these activities, please contact us or Pastor Alecia. On page 8 of this newsletter you will find notes of thanks from people in our Caring Group.

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs
508-359-4025 508-873-1514

Ministry of Caring
Where Faith and Life Connect!

Education

Sunday School Substitutes **and Nursery Coverage Needed**

Please consider serving once or twice in the worship-time nursery. We have a professional leader who teaches the children (birth to kindergarten) and is in charge. We also have awesome middle school students who step in. There are between two and eight children who would love to meet you. Thank you in advance for serving the youngest.

We also are in need of Sunday School subs (9:15-10:15). All materials are provided. Our teachers have great attendance but there are times, when traveling is scheduled, that we need your help. It is a gift to teach these students. Please consider subbing just once, and I predict that you will do it again. If interested, please speak to Susan Carney, and may God bless your service.

Get ready for Vacation Bible School at Fisk Memorial UMC!



We are taking a trip, so grab your passport!

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

July 10 to 14

*****Mark your calendar, spread the news,
invite your friends!*****

Make plans to attend Summer Camp!



Our youth have many opportunities to attend camp this summer. The New England Conference is blessed with 3 possible choices for United Methodist Church camps. And because of Fisk memorial funds and scholarship fundraising, we are once again able to offer small scholarships to offset the cost of attending camp.

Each site offers a unique style of camp experience ... one of them will surely match your youth!



Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate, RI

<http://campaldersgate.com/>

Camp Wanakee in Meredith, NH

<http://www.wanakee.org/>

Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, ME

<http://www.mechuwana.org/>

See Sherry Culver, Chair Youth Council, for an application form. Once your child is registered for camp, complete the form and return it to her. After review, scholarship funds will be sent directly to the Camp.

We hope you will attend our fundraising luncheon on May 21st after worship. This is our main fundraiser for the year for youth scholarships and to support special events planned for our MYF. For more info about camp or to support our youth program in any way, ask Sherry Culver, sherrycd@comcast.net.

sherrycd@comcast.net

Remember – there are camp experiences for all ages of youth and there are even programs for an adult and a young child to attend camp. Scholarships are available for any Fisk youth wishing to attend one of the United Methodist Church camps.

Celebrations!

On March 12th we celebrated the baptism of **Clark Philip Carmichael Haranis**, son of Kate and George Haranis. This month on Sunday, April 23 we will celebrate another baptism. As with Clark, **Shauna Michele Nardia Gallagher**, daughter of Patrick and Karen Gallagher will be initiated into Christ's holy church and into God's mighty acts of salvation. And these are all gifts given without a price.

At Fisk we welcome all persons, even those who cannot speak for themselves. But most of all, we believe when Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14). To this end, we welcome all children and pray that each child will have a life-changing experience. *Thanks to our prayerful worship team.*



For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang

Meetings are held after Sunday services and we gather for special activities periodically. Friends of Fisk youth are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Reminder: to view MYF pictures and schedule updates,

see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>

What's happening in April?

April 2	MYF meeting
April 8	Family Promise Walk
April 16	MYF meeting
April 23	Lunch and fun time at Zoup (1300 Worcester St., Natick, MA)

How to contact Bingxin and Tian: For youth-related activities, they will be using fiskyouth@gmail.com. If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact them or Sherry Culver, Youth Council Chair, sherrycd@comcast.net

Marathon Monday at the Hoyt's

You are invited to join us for the Annual Gathering on Marathon Monday, April 17th. We meet in our yard for a time of great fellowship, food and the opportunity to walk "over the tracks" to cheer the runners as they go by.

We provide POPCORN, PEPSI and HOTDOGS! You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and something to share—if you would like. (8 Bacon Street, Natick) Additional parking at Lilja School or on Oakridge Ave.



Come any time after 9:30am. Mobility Impaired Participants will start in Hopkinton at 9:00am. Elite Women leave Hopkinton at 9:30am.

Gary and Marcia Hoyt