

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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April 2018

Pastor's Note

Christians throughout history have looked forward to the resurrection after a tedious and tasteless Good Friday experience. Some Christians would like to bypass the Lenten journey by intention or omission and arrive at Easter. But the resurrection is the highest point in the development of the crucifixion story.

The truth is, there can be no Easter without a Good Friday and we cannot arrive without travelling the Lenten journey. Therefore, when we travel and arrive at Easter, we can boldly say that "Jesus Christ is Risen!" as we remember those persons who have witnessed to their faith in the midst of persecution and suffering. We can also claim that we serve a risen Christ as we remain God's presence in the world.

So, why is the resurrection important? Is it because of the promises for humanity? Well, the celebration of the resurrection has continued for centuries despite all the concerted efforts to disprove it. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is important because it has withstood the scrutiny of all investigations. That is, many professors of history and archeology who have set out to disprove the fact of the resurrection have left with the clear testimony that history is an ally of the resurrection.

As we rejoice in the resurrection, let us think about it this way; Jesus died, was buried, and is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Yes, Jesus Christ is Risen indeed! Hence, if Christ can rise from the dead, we can trust Christ with all circumstances of our lives. We can further understand what the Apostle Paul meant when he said that he wanted to know the power of the resurrection. For me, it means that the power is the hope and destiny of all who have faith in Jesus Christ. That power still exists today within each of us and among us. And that power is larger and greater than any power in the world.

WITH MUCH LOVE & BLESSING, HAPPY EASTER!

-Pastor Alecia

Pastor's Announcements

Meeting & Lunch with Pastor Alecia

Parents with young children at Fisk UMC met with Pastor Alecia for lunch and discussion after church on March 4th. As pastor it is important for her to reach out to all people and to have church relevant to today's busy lifestyle as well as to encourage participation in all aspects of the church's life.

There was a hearty discussion as we shared ideas on new ways of thinking and doing things that would be relevant and would enhance our ministry and mission. In addition, it was also a spirit-lead discussion that filled our hearts with love for parents with young children and their needs. And yes, we received great ideas.

Note: Thanks to our organizing and welcoming teams for making the tasty lunch and supporting our parents with young children. And most of all, thanks to our parents for accepting the invitation. We appreciate and honor their time with us!

Special Prayer Line

During Holy week, we opened a prayer line where you could call in and Pastor Alecia was ready to pray with you. No name or identification was required. All you had to say was "Please pray for....."

At Fisk we believe God already knows what we need but we humble ourselves by asking. Hence, remember, that prayer is the master key. Prayers bring us closer to God and keep us in connection. Therefore, never cease to pray. You can leave a prayer request online by filling out the form, at:

<https://www.fiskumc.org/pastor-visit-or-prayer-request.html> or by visiting our church and leaving a prayer on the prayer wall, or just dropping a prayer in the new prayer box (coming soon).

Vacation- Pastor Alecia will be away from April 23- 30th. If there is an emergency, call the church office and one of her colleagues will be contacted. Thanks, with blessing for the message on Sunday, April 29, by our lay Leader, Dorothy Phillips.



April 2018 – Bible Readings

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, please worship with us every Sunday. In addition, you may be touched and strengthened when you find time to study and reflect. During this month you can read the following scripture passages from the lectionary:

	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
4/1	Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18
4/8:	Acts 4:32-35	John 20:19-31
4/15:	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36-48
	Psalms 4:1-8	
4/22:	Psalms 23	John 10:11-18
4/29:	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

Up-Coming Classes

District

Our District Lay-Servant courses are offered for those who participate in worship and serve others. Spring classes are **April 7, 14 & 21 at Quinsigamund UMC, 9 Stebbins St., Worcester, MA, from 1-6 PM.**

This class is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Classes to be offered are **“Basic Lay Servant Ministry,” “Accountable Discipleship”** and **“You Can Preach”**. The cost is \$45 per person and covers materials and books. (Fisk UMC can help you with the payment). Class information and registration forms are in the church office. For more info and a registration form, see Diane French, Debi Henry, or Barbara Beekman.

Youth Confirmation class coming soon



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Ages 4-11

Free of Charge

June 25 - 29, 2018

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration Open Online at <http://www.fiskumc.org>

Contact Amy Bruns to be a Volunteer!



Get Ready to Be *Shipwrecked* at our *Vacation Bible School 2018*! Venture onto an uncharted island where kids are rescued by Jesus! Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through every storm in life. They'll learn to hold onto God's promises when they are lonely, they worry, they struggle, do wrong, and feel “left out.”



“Through every storm of life I know you’re by my side so I am holding on to your promises!”
(from “Never Let Go of Me”, VBS theme song)



Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner



Did you know that there is no Pepsi in Irish Soda Bread? The term “soda” comes from bicarbonate of soda — more commonly known as baking soda — which is a leavening agent and one of the main components that gives the bread its distinct flavor. Did you know that 93 people came for a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner at Fisk on March 10 and raised \$865.00 for UMCOR Health Kits? Our community of faith created an amazing event. We planned, worked, ate, sang, laughed, and talked. A family in the area had seen the dinner announcement in the newspaper and decided to come! We are thankful and we thank God for blessing this event with the time and talents of many. We also thank each one that came in support of comfort pieces (UMCOR Health Kits) that will go to those in need.

Debi Henry, C B & C Coordinator

Mission Possible by Marcia Hoyt

The Missions Committee hosted a lunch last week following worship. I hope you were there. We served a variety of sandwiches, three types of chili, chips, beverages and cookies. Our purpose, other than wonderful fellowship and sharing a meal together was to INFORM. We hoped to inform you of the many mission emphases that Fisk is involved in locally, nationally and globally.

One result from that discussion was the request for a one page explanation of these organizations and programs. We agree that is a great idea and we are working on it! Another suggestion was that we highlight one or two of these programs regularly. We have scheduled that also! Thanks for these suggestions.

GIFT CARDS...Yes, the Mission Committee has Gift Cards for you to purchase and give as a gift for

Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation, Birthdays or whatever occasions you may need a "gift that has special meaning and supports a great cause." You choose the cause, it could be UMCOR Blankets, Tools, Summer camp, Backpack programs, Daniel's Table or Health Kits. These cards support many of the organizations we are connected to through our United Methodist Church. We will have them available at Fellowship Time April 22, 29 and May 6.

ONE DAY MISSION WORKDAY

June 18-20 Fisk folks are headed to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine for a One Day Work Day. This is our *Third Annual* trip and we have done all sorts of projects i.e. mowed the lawn, sorted clothes, sorted cards, organized the food cupboard, repaired a few things, cleaned and organized the tool room, sorted and counted new socks.



Do you want to join us, witnessing and participating in the work being done by this United Methodist connection? We travel on Monday, work on Tuesday and travel home on Wednesday. Fellowship time and the overnights are at the Hoyt's home in Harrison, Maine. See Marcia Hoyt if you are interested.

CLOTHES FOR MAINE

April 8 is the day to begin bringing your good, used clothing to the church and place them in the designated wooden box in the hallway. Please donate things that are in condition to "give to a friend." We strongly suggest that they be folded into paper grocery bags. Large trash bags of clothes are heavy and difficult to handle...boxes or paper bags are much easier to handle—thanks. From April through October we make several trips, so just leave your clothes when you fill a bag(s). We don't have

a set schedule when we travel to Salem, just when we have a car full or we are "feelin' like it."

This mission site counts on our donated clothes etc. to help balance their budget. The clothes are sorted, hung and distributed to three Thrift Shops to serve this area of poverty. All sizes, types and styles. Good sturdy shoes, sneakers, children's cleats (for sports) are all in demand.

Mission Committee – Susan Carney, Janis Cail, Marcia Hoyt (Chair), and Janis Townsend
Articles submitted by - Marcia Hoyt



It's time to WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS.

Join the Fisk team at 8:45 a.m. on **Saturday April 7th** for this 3-mile fund-raising walk through downtown Natick in support of Family Promise Metrowest. Registration for walkers: \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 5-17. If you are unable to walk, please sponsor the team—all donations make a difference.

To use a credit card, donate online at www.walk.familypromisemetrowest.org (search for our team: Fisk Methodist Walkers). For cash or checks, please see Debbie Friscino or Marcia Hoyt for details.

Other opportunities to serve:

Since the program began in Natick in 2008, members of the Fisk community have hosted families in our building and provided meals at other churches. It's been rewarding to see the children having fun on the playground and the sense of relief on parents' faces as they feel cared for and safe. Participating is a blessing, a true opportunity to be God's hands at work. **If you are willing to help provide part of a dinner at a local church, please let Debbie Friscino or a member of the Missions Committee know. Next opportunity is April 27th at the First Congregational Church in downtown Natick.**

Not familiar with Family Promise Metrowest?

The model is simple. As part of a national program, 19 host congregations convert their classrooms into bedrooms for one week at a time to provide safe, temporary shelter to as many as four families without a permanent home. Volunteers arrive every evening with meals and stay overnight, providing a warm, nurturing environment. In the morning, families return to the day center where professional case managers assist in addressing the root causes of their homelessness. Goals are addressed in areas including budgeting and

employment to ensure families have an opportunity to move themselves out of poverty.

During this process, families are required to work or attend classes, saving 80% of their income after expenses. The goal is not for them to just have a job but rather to reach their highest earning potential. Parents receive case management and subsidies for education, day care and transportation allowing them to reach their employment goals and bring themselves permanently out of homelessness and into a life where they can sustain themselves and their children.

We Are Fisk

Giving is a spiritual practice but it is also an act of worship. By your generous giving, you make it possible for God to use us for ministry and mission locally, nationally and globally. As God uses us; hearts, minds and hands, lives are changed and communities are transformed to and for God's glory. But most of all, our church continues to live on, serving God and humanity. Thank you for sharing from your abundance for the ministry and missions of God's work at Fisk UMC.

Finance Committee



Through the Holy Spirit, we are blessed and empowered with spiritual gifts to be used in "the building up of the Body". That is, to take care of each other through the caring, and expression of Christ's love.

Fisk's Ministry of Caring (MOC) shares Christ's love through ministries of prayer; hospitality; spiritual, emotional, and practical support; nurture; enrichment; and education. So how do we do that? Are we responsible and required to do that? Most of all, "What does the Lord require of us?"

Each week, Sunday bulletins are mailed out to those who cannot get to church on Sunday. If you observe that someone is missing at church on a Sunday morning let us know. Better yet, show you care and give them a call during the week to say "Hi" and check on them.

God's love is not a faucet that you turn on at 10:30 a.m., and shut off at 11:30 a.m. until the following week. Share God's love, and receive His love at all times!

Marilyn Donnelly, Co-Chair



United
Methodist
Women

*The following programs are open
to all women who may be
interested in supporting the*

mission work for women, children and youth.

We are looking forward to Spring....we know that it is coming. We have very interesting and informative programs planned for the next few weeks, before we go on our Cruise!

APRIL 8 . . . Our United Methodist Women
Invites all women to a
Spring Luncheon
following worship on April 8.
Program: Cleaning Up the Fire
Presented by: David Billo

We encourage all teen girls and all women to join with us for lunch and to learn about an Environmental Issue.

APRIL 21 . . . EMPOWERING GIRLS
EMPOWERING WOMEN

This is the topic for our District UMW gathering in Wilmington. Many of us are involved in that meeting and have hopes that many more will come along for this program. Registration Forms are on the UMW bulletin board.

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY 4 . . . Women of Faith Brunch
Watch for details

MAY 12 . . . **YARD SALE**

Are you setting aside all the things you have to bring to the May 12 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 7th. 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 13.





The UMW Hannah Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 10th – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Ogle Parlor. Our March meeting was cancelled due to “inclement weather” – OK, 24+“ of SNOW – hence the March meeting becomes the April meeting. Our hostesses for this meeting are Judy Maloney & Barbara Miller. All women are invited to bring their lunch. Beverages & dessert will be provided. Survey Says! “Church People” all across the country were surveyed on a variety of topics – both serious and silly. We will have lively discussions on certain parts of this survey. Do you have opinions? Like to talk? Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend. Join us!



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME WITH STACEY PEASLEY

was held on March 17, 2018 in Whipple Hall
It was a fun and joyful event. Thanks to those who serve
and support this ministry.
75 Children & Parents + Fisk’s Ministry = Joy!

Next event:



**Music & Movement Time
For Kids Ages 2 To 7**

11:00AM–12:00PM

**April 7 - April Flowers!
April 21 - Spring Fling!**

This event is FREE! No registration is required.
For more information please contact/email Deborah
Hernandez deborahlhernandez@gmail.com

Fisk Youth

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang**

Methodist Youth Fellowship meetings are held following Sunday services (usually twice a month) and there will be special activities periodically for all youth. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Please check out

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

to view MYF pictures and schedule updates. In addition, they will host a monthly family event:



Date: Friday, April 6th

Time : 6:30 - 8:30

Who : Youth and Families of Fisk - all ages. It's a multi-generational game night for our Fisk Family

What : Light meal provided (pizza, veggies, dessert)

Bring : Board, card, etc. game to share with the group. There will be ping pong, badminton and maybe a few other surprise games and activities

Why : Fun, Fellowship, Friends, Family, Food

Date: Sunday, April 22nd

Time: After worship

What: "Youth Shopping Date" - and health kit preparation

**If you have an idea for a youth event or activity, wish to volunteer or have questions /concerns, you may send those to Pastor Alecia, at fiskpastor@fiskumc.org during April, May and June.



Do you like to sing or play a musical instrument?

Come join Fisk Music Ministry!

Please contact John Bybee, Minister of Music:

fiskmusicministry@gmail.com

“All persons are welcome!”



SPECIAL THANKS

To the Chairperson of our Trustees, Geoffrey Del Sesto and those who took time out of their busy schedule to come out for cleaning day, March 24th.

We appreciate the intentional work you all do to make God's house a welcoming, clean and wholesome space. Thank You and may God richly bless your families for sharing each of you with us.

The deadline for submissions for the May issue of
The Messenger
is the Friday after COM meeting
9AM on April 20

APRIL 2018

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1 Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Sunrise Service on the Lawn 7:00 AM Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE		2 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh.		3 7:00 PM Trustee meeting		4 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl		5		6 12:00 PM Natick Women's Club 6:30 PM Youth and Family Night		7 8:00 AM UMW Walk Away Homelessness 11:00 AM Music & Movement	
8 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Bible Study / Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE - followed by Time of Fellowship 11:45 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM UMW spring luncheon 12:00 PM Youth Group 4:00 PM Girl Scouts		9 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh. 7:00 PM FACE Board 7:00 PM Finance Comm.		10 11:30 AM Hannah Circle		11 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl 7:00 PM Susanna Circle		12		13 3:45 AM Girl Scouts		14	
15 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Bible Study / Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE - followed by Time of Fellowship 11:45 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal		16 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh.		17 7:30 PM COM		18 10:00 AM NWC-Exec. Brd. 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl		19 10:00 AM Missions		20 8:30 AM Newsletter Deadline		21 9:00 AM UMW @ Wilmington 11:00 AM Music & Movement	
22 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Bible Study / Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE - followed by Time of Fellowship 11:45 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Evangelism Dr. Hickman Experience 12:00 PM Youth Group Shopping 6:00 PM Sanctuary Revitalization Team		23 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh. 7:00 PM UMW Exec. Board		24 Sr. Ctr. uses parking lot 7:00 PM SPRC		25 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl		26		27		28	
29 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Bible Study / Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE - followed by Time of Fellowship 11:45 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal		30 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh.		1		2 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl		3 National Day of Prayer		4 12:00 PM Natick Women's Club 6:30 PM Youth and Family Night 7:00 PM A Cappella		5 10:00 AM UMW Women of Faith Brunch 11:00 AM Music & Movement 2:00 PM A Cappella- Set Up 6:30 PM A Cappella Rehearsal 7:30 PM A Capella Concert	