

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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## April 2020

### Pastor's Note

#### Jesus Christ is Risen indeed!

This month, Christians will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In view of this, Christians around the world have looked with anticipation as they took the journey of Lent.

This year is a little different from past years due to the existence of the Corona Virus (COVID-19) that is affecting lives and liberty in our families, our churches, our communities, our country and the world. And though leaders (secular & religious) are working together to reduce the spread of the virus, we believe in God that gave us Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ came love, joy, hope, and peace. But most of all, is the resurrection.

I say resurrection because that is the most important event that gives us the foundation for our faith. We are all called to believe, stand firm and be nurtured in the midst of all human conditions of life. When we can strive through all the human conditions of life, as resurrected people of God, we can anticipate health and healing for the transformation of the world. And yes, we can say, "Jesus Christ is Risen indeed!"

As we claim the power that Jesus Christ is risen, it can also be a constant reminder that Christ suffered, died, and was buried. And because of this we shall also live. As we live and embody the love of Christ for all persons, let us never forget that just as joy came on Easter Morning, joy will come in the midst of all pains and suffering. When this happens, there will be a peace that the world cannot give or take away.

All that is required is resurrected people with love of God and neighbors that is more powerful than self. Then, we all can boldly proclaim that:

Jesus Christ is Risen! Jesus Christ is Risen!  
Jesus Christ is Risen Indeed!

Easter Joy with the Blessing of Good Health & Healing!

Pastor Alecia

### Pastor's Announcements

#### We WELCOME All

Fisk United Methodist Church is a loving community of believers and servants with open hearts. We extend our welcome to all people, celebrating differences in age, economic reality, nationality, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, and limitations.

- We invite all to find a spiritual home with us and to share in the fellowship, worship, sacraments, ministry, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation.
- We affirm the gifts and graces of all persons.
- We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family.
- And, we invite you to work for justice with us.

Statement of the Administrative Board,  
April 2019, Fisk UMC

#### Wednesday Prayer Time

We believe in the power of prayers. At Fisk UMC we have a prayer wall, a prayer mailbox on our front lawn and an on-line prayer form on our web site. Please use them during this time and never cease to pray. To stay in connection with each other and our God, there will be a prayer phone line (dial 1-712-775-7270 and enter access code 580274#) opened to all persons every Wednesday from: 10-10:30 a.m. and 7-7:30 p.m. Call in, ask for prayers, or just listen. God bless all of us with health and/or healing this day and all the days ahead.



#### For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection during this difficult time, read

	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
April 5	Isaiah 50:4-9	Matthew 21:1-11
April 12	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
April 19	Acts 2:14, 22-32	John 30:19-31
April 26	Acts 2:14, 36-41	Luke 24:13-35

## Worship

*"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."*

As you may have determined, worship at Fisk UMC will be held in very different ways in April due to COVID 19.

Going forward, at this time, Fisk will be using a remote form of worship. We are following Bishop Dedavhar's and the CDC guidelines as far as social distancing is concerned. On Sundays from 10:30 until 11:00 a.m., you can use your phone (cell or landline) to call into a conference call for a Fisk worship service led by Pastor Alecia.

**Dial: 1-712-775-7270, Access code: 580274#**

*Check Fisk's website as these numbers  
may be changed from time to time.*

This service will provide an opening prayer, a hymn, reading of Scripture, a short reflection, prayers, a closing hymn, and a benediction.

Other conference call services will include Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. The 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service will include communion from home: just provide small cups of grape juice and pieces of bread. Pastor Alecia will bless the bread over the phone.

The Good Friday vigil has been cancelled this year. More information concerning an Easter Service will be forthcoming. Stay tuned for info about our monthly Adaptive Worship (typically on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday afternoon).

Another suggestion: check our [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org) website, especially the Covid 19 heading, and our Facebook page at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church.

*"We share each other's woes, our mutual  
burdens bear  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing  
tear."*  
Words by John Fawcett, 1782



### April Worship Assistants

April	Liturgists	Acolytes
12	Kate Day	Danny J.
19	Sherry Culver	Tiffany S.
26	Dorothy Phillips	Kateri G.
15	Psalter:	Sarah F.

*This list may be modified as more information comes  
in April regarding Fisk's worship plans.*

## FISK UMC APRIL 2020 CALENDAR

Wednesdays, March 25, April 1 and 8

10:00 AM Wednesday Prayer Time

7:00 PM Wednesday Prayer Time

Sundays, March 22, 29 and April 5—Palm Sunday

10:30 AM Phone-In Remote Worship (details below)

Thursday, April 9—Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Phone-In Remote Worship (details below)

Easter Sunday, April 12

10:00 AM Celebrate the resurrection at the empty tomb on the front lawn

Sunday, April 19

If social distancing is still in effect, services will continue to be held using the phone-in system.

Monday, April 20 and going forward

Information about Fisk's activities will be shared as details become available. Stay tuned!

## Stewardship

A quick reminder in this challenging time for us all, as we marshall our efforts to serve our brothers and sisters in need: we still depend on our pledged and unpledged support to continue our ministries and pay our bills. We can all continue our financial stewardship commitments in two ways:

- Use your pledge envelopes as US mail envelopes—add your check, a stamp, and go,
- Go our website and click on the "Donate to Fisk UMC Ministry" button in the purple bar midpoint on the home page. This link takes you a quick, easy and secure contribution form, where you can designate "Pledge Giving" or any of several other categories, and use your bank information or debit card just as you do on Amazon or any e-com site. All donations are credited to your Fisk Statement of Giving, and you can get receipts both at the end of the process, and via the email you designate on the form.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to Crystal Mayo at 1-774-287-1705, or email her at [crystaljp@yahoo.com](mailto:crystaljp@yahoo.com).

Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God.

— 1 Peter 4:10

## Education

### WE ARE BLESSED WITH A LOVING COMMUNITY

What does Fellowship mean in the Bible?

Koinonia can, therefore, refer in some contexts to a jointly contributed gift. The word appears 19 times in most editions of the Greek New Testament. In the New American Standard **Bible**, it is translated "**fellowship**" twelve times, "sharing" three times, and "participation" and "contribution" twice each.

What God says about community?

**Community** is **God's** desire for us. The Bible tells us to spend time and bear with one another in **community**. No matter what stage of life you are in, you always have something to share or learn from others. You are called to love one another, lift each other up, and be the friend that each of us longs for.

If you are in need, your Fisk Community is here.  
(S. Carney for the Sunday School Folk)

#### Parents of Sunday School Children

*We call for peace in this time of confusion.  
We ask for basic needs to be met and for us to  
be led to safely serve. Amen.*

There is no hiding the current situation from even the smallest of our family. Talk to your children giving them just what they need to hear. Act differently because things are different, but God remains steadfast and we all need to remind ourselves of that fact.

With that in mind, I suggest some activities for you and your kids.

Idea 1: Make cards for friends. How nice it would be to open a card and see bright colors and happy letters not necessary to mention the situation at hand. I know the middle school and high school kids can come up with some great words and pictures. Mass produce 10 and get them mailed to neighbors or Fisk folk.

Idea 2: Music Time.... Sing with your family or work on a puzzle with music on. Let members of the family pick their favorite songs. Youtube has great videos but I am thinking of music with just the audio. Tom loves the Beach Boys .... So we will be Surfing USA.

Idea 3: I am committing myself to writing a few ideas every week and getting them to Sherry Culver to put on our website. Please visit our church website [fiskumc.org](http://fiskumc.org)

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

Grade 5 and above kids - please send me your email addresses. I am thinking of a scavenger hunt we could do from home. Here is my address - [susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com)

Parents of younger children if you send me your address, I will consider that an ok to write notes and funny pictures to the youngest in our community.

Susan Carney, Chairperson, Education Comm.

### Prayer for These Days

May we who are merely inconvenienced,  
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,  
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,  
remember those who must choose between preserving  
their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children  
when their schools close,  
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,  
remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult  
of our economic market,  
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,  
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,  
let us choose Love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our  
arms around each other,  
let us find ways to be the loving embrace of our great  
God to our neighbors.

[Cameron Bellm, Seattle](#)



#### **Altar Guild ~ Easter Flowers**

Due to the cancellation of physically attending worship services in March, and the uncertainty heading into April, we have decided to cancel the ordering of lilies and tulips for this Easter. If you have already submitted your order, your money will be returned to you. Once we know about a service on April 12, Easter Sunday, it is our prayer that we will be able to decorate and beautify God's sanctuary or the outside front of 106 Walnut Street with beautiful flower arrangements, and origami Easter lilies. For more information, or to share ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Barbara Beekman, Chairperson

### We Are a *Connected Congregation*

...So in Christ we, though many form one body,  
and each member belongs to all the others.

—Romans 12:5

#### At Fisk, we are connected....and how do we know this?

- We regularly attend worship as individuals and as one body to praise our faithful God.
- Fellowship time on Sunday mornings is a rather noisy event filled with smiling friends.
- Whenever there is a need, someone quietly steps up to help.
- We have groups that meet regularly to knit for others, to implement mission projects, to practice singing for worship, and to plan the many ministries of the church.

Though in-person activities at the church are currently suspended, we are now called to continue this connection, though in different ways.

#### How will this work?

Members of our congregation are stepping up, through this *Connected Congregation Project*, to make regular connections to others in our community. We will be reaching out through phone calls, emails, and snail mail. Through these connections we pray that we can support the needs that people might have.

#### What can you do?

- Let us know if you have a need. What support would you like? We have volunteers!
- Let us know if you'd like to help in these ways: making calls and reaching out, picking up and delivering groceries, etc.
- Sign up through Amy Bruns to be a *Fisk Connector*, one who reaches out.
- Call or email the Fisk Office: 508.653.1674 or [fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskoffice@fiskumc.org). or connect with Pastor Alecia at [fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskpastor@fiskumc.org) or Amy Bruns at [amybruns35@gmail.com](mailto:amybruns35@gmail.com).



Let's remember that we can all take positive action. First, please pray; Christians know that prayer changes things. Secondly, recognize God's nudge on your heart to call a friend at Fisk and in your friends' group, and then, respond to that nudge. Through Christ's saving grace, may you be blessed at this time.

Amy Bruns, Evangelism Chairperson

As you know, there is no Sunday school, worship, and any other church related activities currently at Fisk. As we keep our world in daily prayer – remembering that God is in control, and will always take care of us, - here are some suggestions to help pass the time as you stay safe while our church community is away from each other.

- **Pray Through Art:** A blank piece of paper and some crayons or colored pencils will do. Decide what colors will go with what you want to pray for. Example: Purple will be used as you pray aloud for animals, green for family members, orange for God's creation, the earth, and the environment. You can come up with all sorts of categories.
- **Prayer in Song:** Sing the Doxology, or sing a hymn or chorus. Amen!
- **Take a Virtual Field Trip!** By computer or by conversation on the phone with someone. On the computer, go to somewhere you have always wanted to go or to visit. By conversation, talk with someone of where you have been and by your voice, give them a guided tour.
- **Keep moving!** Design a dance routine to one of your favorite songs! Dance as if no one is looking!
- **Write a Script** of an intergenerational play for Fisk – to be done in the fall or at Thanksgiving!
- **Recycle Modeling!** Create something from yogurt containers, toilet paper rolls, cereal boxes, etc. What can you make?

Ministry of Caring Team



### Save the Date!

#### Green Initiative Celebration

May 16, 2020, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

It's an Open House to celebrate our **Green Initiative**. We'll be dedicating our new solar panels and showcasing our efforts to be good stewards of our planet. There will be cookout foods and treats, games and fun for everyone. Special activities for children and families are planned. Free to the community. Stop by and celebrate with us!

To get you thinking GREEN, look for the Climate Calendar in this Messenger. It is filled with wonderful ways to be green and to step up your participation in recycling, protecting our planet, and using resources wisely. Ideas for the event? Want to help? Contact Sherry Culver, Chair of Council on Ministries [sherrycd@comcast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)



The Missions Committee had planned a Chili and Mac'n Cheese Luncheon for March 22...now you can just enjoy your Chili or warm soup at home.

We wanted to bring your attention to CLIMATE CHANGE as we planned to celebrate the First Day of Spring (March 19<sup>th</sup>). We encourage you to seek out a book, movie, or TV program that highlights what you/we can do to protect the world that God gave to us. He planned for us to care for this sacred space. We have not always done a great job.

What is Fisk doing?

- ✓ We banned Styrofoam cups a few years ago
- ✓ We will go back to using Fair Trade Coffee
- ✓ We will do a better job of recycling paper/cardboard. Watch for new marked receptacles
- ✓ DID YOU KNOW? Fisk collects aluminum beverage cans and plastic bottles (those redeemable in MA). There is a container in the closet marked RECYCLING. Redeemed funds are added to the church budget. First--remove the Aluminum tabs on the cans and leave them in the container in the kitchen...for Shriners Burn Hospitals. Bring yours any Sunday!
- ✓ We have programmable thermostats.
- ✓ AND....SOLAR PANELS on our roof!

Could we do more? Sure, make suggestions.

### **Climate Change** by Janis Townsend

*I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.*

Deuteronomy 30:19

Definition from the web site of the United Methodist Women:

A change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity; that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and that is in addition to natural variability, observed over time periods. Largely results in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from human activities; including industrial processes, fossil fuel combustion, and changes in land use such as deforestation.

Example: The USA has 5% of the world population, but produces 25% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.

### **From the United Methodist Book of Discipline:**

All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space

are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. (Social Principles)

In February, the Mission Committee brought personal health and wellness to the attention of the congregation to encourage each of us to perform at our best. Climate Change is our next focus. The ultimate success of our mission projects depend on a safe healthy world to live in. All systems are connected. Climate Change affects rainfall, temperature, loss of habitats, loss of some species, and more severe storms. In the last 50 years more than 1 in 4 birds have disappeared from North America primarily from human-altered landscapes (Cornell annual report 2019).

*The committee hopes to inspire you to learn more about Climate Change.*

This can be overwhelming. Where do you start? Pick an area that interests you. Do a little research - reading, look online. See what is going on in our local area. The library, Community Center, local high schools, and colleges often have free events and speakers. Look at volunteer opportunities. Some can be done from home. See what government officials and candidates are saying and doing about climate change. Use your voting power. Start small. Use your God given talents. Talk with your children and grandchildren. They may teach you about Climate Change. Happy exploring and learning. May we all be good stewards.

Here are a few places to start exploring. There are many others.

National Audubon Society	Natick Public Library
Cornell Lab of Ornithology	MA Audubon Society
Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary	Sierra Club
National Geographic Society	New Hampshire Lakes
Trustees of the Reservation	Wilderness Society
Loon Preservation Committee, NH	AARP

Please start by following the **Climate Justice Calendar** in this Messenger

Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, Janis Townsend, and Marcia Hoyt-Chair

**MAY Messenger deadline:**  
**Friday, April 24**  
**Mailing Date: Wednesday, April 29**

**United Methodist Women**

As we settle into our homes and adjust to a new life for this period of time, there are so many things you can do related to your health and United Methodist Women.

If you get a chance to get to a library/order from Amazon, consider reading books on the United Methodist Women's **Reading List**. You can find the LIST online. [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

If you knit or crochet---we are always in need of **Prayer Shawls** for families and friends of Fisk in need of comfort, hope and love.

If you have **INTERNET**, spend some time looking around the United Methodist Women site. There is so much information there, all very pertinent to life today.

Call a friend or neighbor to check on them and have some social conversations by phone.

### **Prayer and Responsive Reading for Those Affected by Coronavirus**

by Rev. Dionne P. Boissière

*This may be done by household members, taking turns  
reading the "ONE" sentences and responses.*

**ONE:** Holy One, we come to you in this moment of uncertainty and uncharted territory – facing this unprecedented global pandemic. Amid universal fear, panic, confusion, and anxiety, please remind us that you are the God that calmed the storm and made the winds to cease. We cry out to you!

**MANY: Hear us O God of peace.**

**ONE:** Benevolent Savior, you have called us to be your hands and feet in this world. As we face this crisis together, help us remember to be mindful of how we speak to, live with and treat one another. May we truly seek to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

**MANY: Hear us O God of compassion.**

**ONE:** Master Physician, there are millions now in desperate need of your healing touch. Look now upon those who are at highest risk – the immunocompromised, the elderly, those who have existing chronic health conditions, cancer patients, transplant recipients, dialysis patients, those who have been exposed to COVID-19 and are seeking testing or immediate medical attention.

**MANY: Hear us O God our healer.**

**ONE:** All seeing God, look upon those who are now living in isolation, those who must be separated from loved ones for safety reasons, those who are single and/or without support systems, the disabled, those who are already living with mental disease, emotional and psychological disorders, those who are poor and already

do not have access to health care or social services. Help them know that social distancing does not mean social disconnection. Help us be the community that we seek.

**MANY: Hear us O God of mercy.**

**ONE:** Loving God, hear the cries of those who have lost loved ones to this virus or other ailments and cannot postpone their grief, but must refrain from gathering in order to care for the living, even while mourning their beloved who have died.

**MANY: Hear us O God of comfort.**

**ONE:** Discerning God, touch now those who are in decision-making positions, in governments, churches, corporations, and the like; help them to realize that their choices directly impact the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries and the wider world. Help them choose people over politics and the health of humanity over the wealth of individuals and profiteers.

**MANY: Hear us O God of wisdom**

**ONE:** God of justice, safety and care, we pray for all medical professionals, caregivers, researchers, teachers, first responders, law enforcement, school officials, those making decisions about fighting the new coronavirus. For the small business owner, the hourly wage worker, the uninsured, the undocumented and all those who will feel the economic impact of this pandemic on every level. Inspire those in position to develop better tests to diagnose the virus, vaccines to prevent it, and protocols and communication to eliminate the spread. May empathy be our guide.

**MANY: Hear us O God of protection and grace.**

**ONE:** Liberating God, remind us that we are still on the journey with Jesus during this Lenten Season. Restore our hope, renew our joy and give us your strength and remind us that resurrection will surely come.

**MANY: Hear us O God of grace.**

## Hannah Circle

### "Spring Cleaning"

The Hannah's will come together by telephone for our next meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Following an opening prayer and announcements, we will discuss Spring Cleaning for our minds, emotions, and our memory. Details of "your spring cleaning chores" and telephone access details with the call-in number are located in the April edition of The Hannah Banana Peel.

## Youth News

### **For Fisk youth and their friends in Grades 6—12**

*MYF directors Tian Zhang and Bingxin Xu*

**Youth & Family Night** will return after Lent and Easter,  
at a later date. At this event  
you can enjoy games, fellowship, food, and fun  
with members of the Fisk family.

*Please contact Tian or Bingxin if you have questions.*  
zhangtian96@gmail.com, (734) 883-0093.  
You may also email Pastor Alecia at Fisk.

**Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church -- tbd**

Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and  
events. Please use this link to view pictures and schedule  
updates.

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

Michael Igo, Andrew Colvin, Erik Maloney, Tyler Pettee,  
Joey Coraccio, *and others serving in the military*

Dr. Belinda Forbes--*Missionary--Serving Christ in  
Nicaragua*; Mat & Kayle Pelletier--*Missionaries serving in S.  
Africa, & others, serving around the world.*

- ♥ A Memorial Service for Loraine Moyer (Cindy Lovewell's mother) is scheduled on May 2nd, 11AM at Trinity Covenant Church, 7 Clematis Rd, Lexington, MA 02421. Phone: (781) 861-0780. There will be a collation following the service.

Fisk Church,

As a community of faith and individuals, we can and are positively impacting the COVID-19 virus. The actions we take directly reduce the spread and help all of us stay healthy. Another week of COVID-19 related social distancing has gone by and Fisk Church remains active and connected.

This past Sunday Pastor Alecia and Diane led worship via teleconference at 10:30am-11am. The service was both inspiring and heartwarming. With about 40 participants it was quite well attended.

Did you miss the service? You can participate this week by simply dialing in and listening on your telephone. You can find the phone number on our web page. Check weekly in case we change teleconference vendors.

<https://www.fiskumc.org/>  
<https://www.fiskumc.org/covid-19.html>

Our teleconference service is free, so audio quality was “sufficient.” It was fun and quite memorable for me personally to participate in worship with all of you as we learn for the first time to do so via the telephone. It truly was a worship service of real Christians serving a living God. So, although there may not have been the production polish we expect from television, there was the sincerity that only our loving hearts can bring. This is an experience that we will remember and retell others for years.

Don't miss next week's service! It's great to gather as a community and worship God.

Refer to the website often. Fisk leadership has met and is adjusting our program to help us remain a connected congregation in this time of physical social distancing. There are more opportunities than you might expect for us to interact and we'll bring more on-line in the coming days and weeks.

Check out Fisk's YouTube Channel. Alecia's brief video messages are posted there as well as the website. In the YouTube app or website, search for “Fisk Memorial UMC” Click “Subscribe” and Fisk's posted videos will show up in your YouTube feed. Also don't forget to “like” the videos as well.

Without gathering in the sanctuary, you might be wondering how we should give our weekly offering. There are a few simple ways. You can give by simply mailing a check using your giving envelopes. You only need to put a stamp on them and put them in the mail. It's pre-addressed to Fisk Church. The website has a button to allow you to donate on-line as well.

Stay connected with Fisk. We are a community of Christians who love one another and love being together socially. Although there is now physical distance, we will continue to remain connected.

Continue your individual work to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Get enough sleep, eat well, get some exercise, and keep in contact with friends and relatives.

Together as a congregation, town, state, country and world we will overcome this and be stronger when it's over.

God Bless,

Tom Currie, Fisk Church Administrative Board Chair.



## Let's take a tour of our Fisk Website! [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

In this time of uncertainty and social distancing, we wanted to remind you about our own Fisk website. To facilitate info exchange, we've added a special page to the site. Time-sensitive announcements about Sunday service display at the very top of the website home page with a link to additional information about Fisk's response to COVID-19



Farther down the home page, you'll find a buttons to request prayers or a pastoral visit, to donate to Fisk UMC ministry and also to view recent bulletins. The link to our online calendar is on the right side. This is our master calendar and includes all events and user groups who are scheduled to be in our building and has dates for the activities of our congregation.

There are lots of pictures throughout the website – to remind us of our connected church family. I know I can't wait for more opportunities to add pictures to the website once we are able to gather and worship together again. The pictures chronicle our congregation's activities, our outreach into the community and also communicates our sense of purpose and love for others.

### **And ... In this uncertain time, it also is being used to announce COVID-19 related items.**

So what's on the COVID-19 page?

- Announcements about service and event schedules
- Periodic video messages from Pastor Alecia
- A link to an expanding resource page
- Links to government, community and UMC information
- Details about how to connect by phone to Pastor Alecia's Sunday call-in devotional time and other prayer times.




The website is the first place you should go to find out current info about what is happening. Changes in building status as well as opportunities for fellowship in line with the social distancing policy will be announced here. In good times, we rely on our website to stay connected – to remind us of events, view published documents, and see pictures taken at events. In this uncertain time – it is another way to communicate time-sensitive info to everyone in addition to phone calls, weekly emails and mailings.

If you are in need of some inspiration, check out the Newsletter and Sermons page. Thanks to Leo Jaco and his video ministry, the most recent services are available online as well as a link to our YouTube channel with more to choose from. Even the Messenger that you are currently reading is posted so you can view again online if you misplace the paper copy that was sent to everyone in our faith community this month.

The website is always changing – check back often to see what is new. And be blessed in this time of uncertainty. Know that your church – Fisk UMC – is there for you.

Prayers and Peace,

Sherry Culver, Fisk Webmaster and Communications Director

CLIMATE JUSTICE CALENDAR - April 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>We are called to worship God with all our being and to care God's creation as sacred. Fisk's Mission Committee is challenging you to reduce your family's <u>CARBON FOOTPRINT</u>. We are offering these suggestions to you for the month of April. See how well you can do! You can calculate your "footprint" by visiting—<a href="http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator">www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator</a>.</p>						
<b>5 PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>PRAYER</b> – God of all, instill in me that I am called to tend and care for your gardens. Amen	<b>6</b> Obey the speed limits. Every 10 mph over the limit reduces fuel economy by about 4 mpg.	<b>7</b> Do not accept plastic straws or plastic take-out containers when possible.	<b>8</b> Remember to use your cloth reusable grocery bags. Take and use them for any shopping.	<b>9</b> Grow plants indoors. House plants improve the air quality in your house. They help remove toxins.	<b>10</b> Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving.	<b>11</b> Clean out a closet or two. Reuse, recycle, share, or bring to the <u>Yard Sale on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Fisk.</u>
 <p>He is risen!</p>	<b>13</b> Watch a movie about environmental issues. Great video! <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s3BT_LLH8">YouTube.com/watch?v=-s3BT_LLH8</a>	<b>14</b> We encourage the use of Fair Trade Coffee from your supermarkets and/or UMCOR.	<b>15</b> Put out some bird seed. Enjoy the gift of God's creatures on Earth	<b>16</b> Buy re-chargable batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs. They use 20-25% less energy	<b>17</b> Take time to write or email your elected officials about your concerns for climate justice.	<b>18</b> Turn your A/C UP one degree during the warm weather and your heat DOWN one degree in winter months.
<b>19 PRAYER</b> – Grant me the wisdom to cultivate the land for the good of all of your creatures. Amen	<b>20</b> When heating water on the stove, use a lid. Microwaving food uses 80% less energy than the oven.	<b>21</b> Use cold water (just as effective) for laundry. 75% of the energy used is from heating the water.	<b>22 EARTH DAY</b> Create a paper-free kitchen. Use cloth towels and cloth napkins.	<b>23</b> Unplug your cell phone chargers and/or small appliances when not in use. They may still draw electricity.	<b>24</b> Plant a tree A single tree will absorb 1 ton of carbon dioxide in it's lifetime. Check <a href="http://arborday.org">...arborday.org</a>	<b>25</b> Don't use chemical pesticides. Prevent runoff. No matter where you live, the ocean is downstream.
<b>26 PRAYER</b> – Loving Creator of our beautiful world, motivate me by compassion, empathy and recognition to act with love and care for all you call sacred. Help me learn to live in harmony with nature. Open our eyes to ways I can conserve energy and make them daily habits. Amen	<b>27</b> Stop unwanted junk mail. Save trees, reduce waste. <a href="http://Wikihow.com/Get-Rid-of-Junk-Mail">Wikihow.com/Get-Rid-of-Junk-Mail</a>	<b>28</b> Run your dishwasher only when it is full. Don't use heat to dry your dishes. Saving 15-50% energy!	<b>29</b> Consider a new programmable thermostat. Turning it back 10-15 degrees for 8 hours can save 5-15% annually.	<b>30</b> Reflect on the issues you have worked on these four weeks. Begin to educate yourself and others to be a good consumer. Where did the item come from? How was it produced or manufactured? What were the conditions of the workers?		
<p><b>PRAYER:</b> Great God, Creator of all that is, I give joyful thanks for all I have discovered during these four weeks. Keep me mindful that how I live and what I use affects the earth, the people, and resources. Give me courage to accept my responsibility. Amen</p>						
			<p><i>Some information has been adapted from the United Methodist Women website for the use by churches.</i></p> <p>Marcia Hoyt Missions Chair</p>			