

The Messenger

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Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

April 2021



My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ!

This month, we will be celebrating the power and glory of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. It states that, on the third day, Jesus Christ rose from the dead and everything changed. For some people, that change is only in the Easter Sunday experience. For many others, Easter Sunday brings a major crisis of faith. Easter confronts them with the essential question: Is the Christian religion natural or is it supernatural? And still others avoid the question even while attending annual Easter celebrations.

As I think about diverse views, I wonder if it is possible for Easter to be nothing more than what is in humans' little or lack of understanding. But to those of us who are alive in Jesus Christ, we confess that Jesus Christ is Risen. He lives. And because He lives, we live with gratitude and praise. Most of all, we too should live.

In 2 Corinthians, Apostle Paul explains his biblical conviction that the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead does in fact change everything. Easter puts human history in perspective and the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the foundation of our faith. So, as we think about the resurrection, does it bring about any personal experience for you now or any hope for the future? Now I asked because Paul knew he will be raised from death to live eternally. He even knew the story of Jesus' resurrection even before he became a Christian and was confronted by the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. This is faith with the supernatural power and brilliant glory of God at work. It happened to Paul and it is consistently displayed through the Easter perspective of the past, present, and future.

From Paul's experience, he emphasized the power of God that knocked him to the ground and the brilliance of his glory reflected in Jesus Christ: "...a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me" (Acts 26:13). With the blessed assurance of that same light, let us live each day reflecting on our own conversion, all of God's creation and the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, from the dead. Most of all, as we celebrate Easter this year, remember last year but rejoice in this year for great things that the Lord has done, is doing and will continue to do.

The Easter message this year is for each of us to proclaim and live out the victory that Jesus won at the cross. He lives and because He lives, we can all face tomorrow. And if I may add, we can all have a new or different perspective and dynamic for living for God and with each other on this journey of life.

**With an Amen and a Hallelujah Praise,
a Happy and Blessed Easter!**

x Pastor Alecia

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, Fisk UMC, 2019

Prayer Vigil themes for Friday, April 2, 2021

Pray as you wish, in any order for any person, place, or thing.

12 noon – Prepare

Mark 13:32-33—However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. And since you do not know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!

12:30 p.m. – Promise

1 Thessalonians 5:24—He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1:00 p.m. – Pray

1 Thessalonians 5:17—Pray without ceasing.

1:30 p.m. – Praise

Ephesians 5:20—Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.

2:00 p.m. – Provide

2 Corinthians 9:8—And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2:30 p.m. – Protect

1 Corinthians 10:13—No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

3:00 p.m. – People

Colossians 3:23-24—Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

May God richly bless us and hear our prayers!

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures that have been selected for our worship this month.

April 4	1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	John 20: 1-18
April 11	Acts 4: 32-35	John 20: 19-31
April 18	Acts 3: 12-19	Luke 24: 36-48
	Psalm 4	
April 25	Psalm 23	John 10: 11-18

Worship

PALM SUNDAY (March 28) will be a ZOOM service and four readers will share the Gospel of Mark Passion Story.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 1) also on ZOOM at 6:00 p.m. will be a time to share your family's evening meal with your church family and to participate in the Lord's Supper.

GOOD FRIDAY (April 2) Prayer Line from 10-10:30 a.m. as well as 7:00-7:30 p.m. **Dial: 712-775-7270, Access code: 580274#** The hours from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. are sacred to Christians everywhere. See the adjacent article on this page which gives good ideas for praying at home.

EASTER SUNDAY we are planning an outside service in the parking lot from 10:30-11:00 a.m., if the weather cooperates. In addition, for those who prefer to stay at home, a service will be provided over ZOOM. More information will be forthcoming.

Confronting Racial Injustice

Massachusetts is often heralded as the home of the abolition movement and one of the first states to abolish slavery. Yet the Commonwealth's economy developed in collaboration with states that claimed people as property. This 5-part series explores how enslavement and white supremacy shaped the history of Massachusetts and how they continue to shape its present.

The April 18, 2021 program is

**Boston School Desegregation
through the Rearview Mirror**

Massachusetts
Historical Society
Founded 1791



N
Northeastern University
School of Law

Developed by the Northeastern University School of Law Criminal Justice Task Force, Confronting Racial Injustice is a free, five-part series hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society and sponsored by a number of Boston-area organizations. Coming up—

May 19: The War on Drugs in MA, the Racial Impact of the School Zone Law and other Mandatory Minimum Sentences

June 9: The Charles Stuart Story: White Lies and Black Lives

For the full list of panel discussions and sponsors or to register, visit:

www.masshist.org/confronting-racial-injustice

Pre- packaged communion elements were ordered for Easter.

- After the blessing, you can pick up on Wednesday, March 31 from 10-11a.m. from Pastor Alecia at the church - ring the office door bell.
- After blessing, it can be delivered to seniors who call the church office (508) 653-1674, no later than Wednesday, March 31 at 10:00a.m.
- After blessing and during the 10:30-11:00a.m. Easter Sunday service outside, you can receive.



NE Conference Annual Meeting

Guiding Scripture: Psalm
137:4 NIV

*"How can we sing the songs
of the LORD while in a foreign
land?"*



At its February 25th meeting the Annual Conference Sessions Committee solidified elements of the 2021 New England Annual Conference virtual session schedule, including Clergy Session.

- **Clergy Session** will begin at 9 a.m. **Wednesday, June 9.**
- **Annual Conference** will begin on **Thursday, June 10,** and conclude on **Saturday, June 12.**
- **The Service of Ordination and Commissioning** for the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be held on the afternoon of **Saturday, June 12.** The service will be livestreamed.

Watch the [Annual Conference sessions page](#) on the website and the e-news for updates.



Join us at **Fisk on Saturday May 1st at 11 a.m.** and help change the future for families facing homelessness.

This year, the annual Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness is taking on a new format. Rather than walking as a large group through downtown Natick, each team is planning their own local walk. Bring the whole family and walk around the parking lot, the building, or

the neighborhood! Not interested in walking? Come cheer us on as we circle the yard raising money to support families at risk.

Rain Date: Sunday May 2nd at 1 p.m.



#STILLINMISSION

Despite the pandemic, United Methodist missionaries remain deeply engaged in work around the world. Normally, a number of them "itinerate" each year to visit the churches and individuals that support them in ministry. COVID-19 has put a stop to most travel but that doesn't mean the missionaries aren't available to meet virtually! Each month, we invite four missionaries to be in conversation with laity and clergy throughout the church to share the joys and challenges they've experienced. You can join them on Zoom on the day and time noted below.

Registration is required and is limited. You will get a confirmation email once your registration is accepted. If the limit is reached, you will get priority for future events.

Register at:

https://gbgm.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lcu6prTopGd0BvvqalRqEdr1NW_sp54iL

Join us on April 1 at 12 p.m. for conversation with missionaries:



Tricia Manns

Mission Advocate for Young Adults,
Advance # 3022241



Paul Webster

Mission Advocate, Advance #11865Z



Princes Jusu

Instructor at the UMC Women's
Training Center in Monrovia, Liberia
Annual Conference Advance #13037Z



Vincent Yohanna

Lab Scientist Fellow, Ganta UM Mission
Station, Liberia
Advance #3022577

Kayle and Mat Pelletier are missionaries, currently serving in South Africa. They have been home in the US for an extended vacation due to Covid-19. Fisk has supported them at a very minimum level since we first met them, as newlyweds...we have watched these 4 children grow into healthy kids while they have been in Africa teaching and preaching God's Word.

Returning with Full Hearts

Message from their latest Newsletter

We are getting ready to return back to South Africa. It has been a productive furlough time with quality family time, connecting with and preaching at donating churches, and Mat has been able to continue working from here, for the most part. We've been spoiled through the generosity of family and those around us: neighborhood trick or treating where the kids were given lots of candy, a camping weekend with the pastor and kids from our home church here, free weekly crafts at the local library, being treated to attempt snow skiing for a day, swimming with manatees in Florida, lovely older women teaching us how to quilt and do other stitching and sewing, horse camp with the cousins, and a trip to the replica of Noah's ark.



After spending time here, we definitely feel like we had quality visits with family, including aging parents. We feel refreshed in ministry and our hearts are full of thanks for the goodness of God in our lives: His calling, His provision and where He has placed us. Though it has been a good visit back, we are grateful to be where we are, and we know we are right in the center of God's will for our lives and for the mission God has set before us. So, with full hearts, we say goodbye and will hopefully connect the next time we are back.

Prayer requests from the Pelletiers:

- Thanksgiving that God has been sustaining our support networks and giving us connections with ministry partners. We've enjoyed connecting with partners and to see how God has faithfully sustained them through the Covid-19 crisis.
- Prayers for our biggest online conference SATS is doing on the Book of John. Mat organized much of the IT behind the conferencing software and programming. Please pray that all details go smoothly.
- Prayers for safe travels back (a full 2-day trip) and for a transition back into our lives in SA.
- Pray that we can continue to build up the African church through our students and to continue to help grow and bless the local church we are involved in there.

INTERESTED?

HANDS-ON Missions opportunities may open up!

Option 1--Are you interested in a One Day Workday at Cooper Community Center in Boston...doing yard work. The front of the building has been totally rebuilt and looks wonderful...now it needs some yard work...raking, mulch, plants etc. Maybe in May? Let me know if you have a Saturday to GIVE TO THIS MISSION SITE. I need to know if there is sufficient interest before I book a date and time. This depends on how many agree to serve in this way?

Option #2--A weekend in Maine could be scheduled later in the summer. This year we would be doing work at the UMEM site, probably with another group. Suggest at least a one-night overnight at Hoyt's lake house. UMEM is 5 hours from Natick. Natick Food Pantry volunteering is still on hold. Send your financial gifts to Fisk...marked PANTRY.

Questions about these can be directed to
Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077

Thanks for your prayers and gifts for these and other Mission Programs through our church.
Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, Janis Townsend, and Marcia Hoyt, Missions Committee

Earth Month

What are you doing to care for this beautiful planet we have been given to care for and to uphold?

Tuesday, April 6th at 4:30pm by Zoom

Janis Cail and Susan Carney are presenting
What is happening with Climate Justice?



United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders, and advocating for justice.

Members raise up to \$20 million each year for programs and projects related to women, children, and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

United Methodist Women and The United Methodist Church's principles and values include:

- Promoting the empowerment of women, children, and youth
- Promoting anti-racism and multiculturalism
- Promoting inclusion and equity
- Promoting fair labor practices
- Promoting economic and environmental stewardship and sustainability



Yard Sale with some food options and maybe a Grab 'n Go Lunch

Save your "treasures and stuff" for

May 8th



We have so many great on-going programs and projects. Do you know what they are? You are invited to participate in all of them.

Wednesday's at 10a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

Contact Joanne Billo

Any day Anywhere / Reading Program

Contact Terry Ames

Bible Study Tuesday at 10a.m. or Thursday at 7p.m.

Contact Susan Carney

Hygiene Kit collections for UMCOR

Contact Marcia Hoyt

Aluminum tabs from beverage cans

Leave in the church kitchen, the office or mail slot in red doors

Commonwealth East District Spring Meeting

OUR MENTAL HEALTH-dealing with isolation during the COVID 19

Speaker and awards

See new and old friends by ZOOM

Saturday, April 24

from 10am to 12 noon

To register: martae.rodriguez@gmail.com



United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

UMM at Casey's Diner - April 13, 6 PM

Inviting all men ages 16+ of Fisk Church to join the United Methodist Men (UMM) on Tuesday, April 13 at 6 p.m. for famous Casey's Diner hot dogs at 36 South Ave Natick – “where the elite meet to eat.” In operation for over 120 years, Casey's also serves burgers, grilled cheese, BLT, and other diner fare and be sure to save room for pie.

We'll order and eat outside so bring an outdoor chair and we'll keep our social distance. Call Geoff at (508) 740-4843 for more info.



From the Church Office



Job Opening: Administrative Assistant **12 to 15 hours a week**

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church in Natick, Massachusetts is currently accepting letters of interest and resumes for the flexible 12 to 15 hours a week position of Administrative Assistant. We are looking for one to support and field the needs of the Pastor and the various ministries at Fisk, to provide communication to the church community and coordination of church activities. This person would serve as a weekday link between Fisk members, UMC and the community through phone, email, and office activities. This position reports to the Pastor.

Qualifications

1. Firm understanding of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
2. Use of databases—experience with “Realm” helpful
3. Good communication and organizational skills

4. An understanding of Google apps – able to share documents – create sheets and docs.
5. Minimum of 3 years of Admin experience (preferably with a church)

Location

About Natick: Natick is 15 miles west of Boston. It is easily accessible via the Mass Pike, and Routes 9,16, and 27.

To Apply

Please mail a letter of interest and resume with references to:

Senior Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)
Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut Street Natick, MA 01760
Telephone: 508-653-1674

E-mail: fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

For all church office business, at this time, please contact Pastor Alecia directly.

fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

phone: 508-653-1674

email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Note - When you call the church, always leave a message. Messages are played and heard daily.

NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East

Website: www.neumc.org/CE

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02421

[\(781\) 861-0249](tel:(781)861-0249) Phone

District Superintendent: **Rev. We Hyun Chang**

His email address: CEDS@neumc.org

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

MAY Messenger Deadline
Please submit info by

FRIDAY, April 23 at 9:00 AM



New England Conference

The United Methodist Church

March 17, 2021

A letter in support of our Asian Community

Yesterday another tragedy of targeted racism happened in the United States of America. Yesterday our Asian siblings were gunned down, maimed, and killed at their places of business. Yesterday another bandage was ripped off the festering wound of racism in this country.

The New England Conference Commission on Religion and Race stand in solidarity with our Asian community in NEAC as well as around the world. We are reminded by Scripture that when "one of us hurts, all of us hurts." We recognize that investigations are still underway regarding the shootings in Atlanta however that work does not take away from the increase of violence that has been exacerbated around the nation as it pertains to the Asian community.

Racism is real! The killing and abuse of the other due to the color of their skin and heritage is real! As members of the Body of Christ we must not turn a blind eye to the pain that acts of violence reveal to the greater society. Understanding that members of the Asian community have endured MORE TARGETED racism and racist acts since Covid-19, we must see to their care and safety.

NEAC church family, it is up to all of us to be agents of change and grace for our Asian kin. It is up to us to make sure that they know that they are safe with us. It is up to us to reach out and care for them. As we lift our prayers may we also lift our voices and move our hands and feet into action by working to end racism and racist violence of all kinds. Enough is enough.

NEAC Commission on Religion and Race

Rev. Effie McAvoy, Chair
Ms. Claire Holston
Mr. Todd Warfield
Mr. Gordon Anderson
Rev. Dr. Adama Brown

Ms. Rachel Cozzens
Rev. Jill Colley-Robinson
Rev. Kristy Besada
Rev. Bob Stewart
Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson