

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

[fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

[www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

## April 2022

### Pastoral note

Christ, the Lord is Risen Indeed!

After experiencing the uncertainty of a pandemic and struggling through long cold winter's nights, I am wondering who might be looking forward to a spring of freshness?

Well, this month, Christians are looking forward to celebrating Resurrection Sunday. This has been a tradition of Christianity for centuries as we anticipate and celebrate new life with greater hope. But most of all, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to our faith and was brought alive by the crucifixion. In view of this, Christians around the world have looked to the cross for repentance and relief, with regrets.

I say resurrection because that is the single event that gives us the foundation to come alive as we live out our faith. For this, people have witnessed to their faith, knowing that death does not have the final word. Jesus Christ does! And because we have the resurrection power, we will always be the resurrected people of God. Hence, we are all called to believe, stand firm, and be nurtured in the midst of all human conditions of life. When we do, we will be the ones crying out and saying, "Christ the Lord is Risen Indeed!"

As we proclaim and reclaim the power that, "Jesus Christ is Risen!" it can also be a constant reminder that Christ suffered, died, was buried, and lives. And because of this, we shall also live. As we live, let us never forget that the message of the cross can, and will make a difference for each of us. And no matter what comes our way or what is happening in our lives, God is still present!

All that is required is resurrected joy that is more powerful than any one person as we boldly proclaim that:

Christ, the Lord is Risen Indeed!

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

### For Personal Reflection & Spiritual Growth

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

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>April 3:</b> Isaiah 43:16-21                | John 12:-1-8         |
| <b>April 10:</b> Isaiah 50:4-9                 | Luke 19:28-40        |
| <b>April 14:</b> Holy Thursday                 | John 13: 1-17, 31-35 |
| <b>April 15:</b> Good Friday Service on Zoom   |                      |
| <b>April 17:</b> Easter 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 | Luke 24:1-12         |
| <b>April 24:</b> Acts 5: 27-32                 | John 20:19-31        |

"Read as you study, study as you live, and live well!"

- Pastor Alecia

### Log in information for ZOOM Services

<https://zoom.us/j/93666906008>

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

Connect by telephone use either of these numbers.  
**+1 253 215 8782 US or +1 301 715 8592 US**

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

Or visit [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) click "Join Meeting" on top right. Type in **936 6690 6008** in the "Meeting ID"

### **WORSHIP PLANS**

As we approach the end of the Lenten Season, we continue to pray that each of you will continue to feel and be blessed. With prayers and positive thoughts, we offer the following:

#### **Sunday, April 10**

-At 10:30 am, we will celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. Please arrive a little early to wave a palm of blessing.

#### **Thursday, April 14**

- At 6:30 -7:00 pm – A Lenten Soup Supper.  
- At 7pm, Maundy Thursday, a short re-enactment with prayers in rooms 8 & 9.

#### **Friday, April 15**

#### **Good Friday's prayer vigil themes, April 15, 2022**

*(12-3pm- Pray at home, feel blessed to be a blessing)*

12 noon – **Ponder & Prepare**

12:30 pm – **Pray & Praise**

1:00 pm – **Promise & Provide**

2:00 pm – **Plan & Plant**

2:30 pm - **Protection & Perfection**

3:00 pm - **Person & People**

### **Good**

### **Friday**

### **Boston Marathon Day Gathering**

This is your official INVITATION to the annual Patriot's Day gathering (weather permitting) at the Hoyt's on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. From our house, you do have to "cross the tracks" and sit with a group of church people and cheer on your friends. Do we have any Fisk runners? Let us know!

We supply popcorn, cold drinks and hotdogs...you are welcome to bring anything else to share.



We suggest you bring your lawn chair. Come to visit, even if you don't watch the runners. The first athletes could be by just about 10am. Families welcome. (no pets)

Gary and Marcia 8 Bacon St. (weather permitting) Natick

### **Service**

7-8pm – Log into the Zoom Sanctuary and listen to Seven Reflections on the famous words from the cross by seven faithful mothers of Fisk UMC, Natick, MA.

**Sunday, April 17-** at 10:30 am A Celebrative Worship Experience of Easter/Resurrection as we rejoice and listen to a variety of music and words as "Resurrected People".

#### **April Liturgist Schedule**

April 3,	Dorothy Phillips
April 10,	Joanne Billo
April 17,	Amy Bruns
April 24,	Debbie Friscino

### **An Easter Special Appeal**

At Fisk UMC, we have a wonderful community of faith with many amazing persons who are serving and sharing. We have done so much to promote God's ministry and mission on earth as it is in heaven. We are grateful for all that has been done and is being done in and beyond the walls of the church. But sometimes we fall short in meeting all needs. Hence in the next few weeks of Lent, and into Easter, can we trust God and share an extra gift with

gratitude for repentance and forgiveness? Yes we can! And may God bless each of us as we travel life's journey with prayers, patience, and participation.

### **COMING SOON**

#### **Fisk UMC Discipleship/Prospective & New members**

**class.** Join Pastor Alecia for a light, informative, and heartwarming study and discussion on how we belong, what we believe, how we live, and the unlimited possibilities for growth as we travel the journey together as a United Methodist. If you have not yet connected as a full member of Fisk UMC, you may attend the four Saturday sessions (May 7, 14, 21, & 28) from 2-3:00 PM in the Women's Parlor. If you have already joined Fisk, you may also attend to, review, renew, remember, or reflect on your membership at Fisk. If interested, please contact Pastor Alecia by April 23, at:

Email: [fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskpastor@fiskumc.org) or call her at 617-966-7048 with blessings on our journey.

### *COM*

#### **From Council on Ministries**

We have nearly made it through the cold winter months. Spring is here and Easter is on the horizon. And it's a time for change. At our Council on Ministries meetings we are re-imaging Fisk – with plans to ***Strengthen our Connections and Participation***. We are coming out of a season of uncertainty, caution, and social distancing and we are ready to be connected in worship, fellowship, and service again.

At our recent meeting, a few items came up that I wanted to share.

**First, we are extending our masking policy for the time being.** As a faith community, we have been cautious in our approach to COVID and we want to continue to be cautious for a few week weeks more. We decided that there was not an overwhelming reason to change our policy as it is not interfering with attendance at worship or participation in any event. We will revisit this policy again prior to Easter.

**And second, we are making changes to restore our Sunday Services.** Some changes you have already seen like the use of the pulpit for reading and preaching, return of the acolytes and crossbearer and the collection of the Sunday offering. These changes result in issues with sound and camera

placement but know that we continue to work on these issues as we are able. We are striving to get back to normal!

**So, the committee wants to hear from you!** If you have an opinion on our safety and approach to COVID and mask wearing, please let me know. If you have comments or concerns about the live streaming of services, I need to hear from you. If you are finding issues with our Sunday Services related to the technology, sound or speaking locations, let me know. If no one tells us, Council on Ministries and the Tech Team cannot address it.

I do wish everyone a blessed season of Lent – this time of reflection is much needed - forcing an intentional re-prioritizing and clearing of space that will allow for new ministries to grow and flourish again at Fisk.

Peace to all,

**Sherry Culver, Chair of COM, [sherrycd@comcast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)**

### *Education*

#### **God is Great!!**

This is something we can all agree on.

In this season, let's work on filling our hearts, minds, and souls with this knowledge.

Going for a walk with the family or alone? Stop and be still... children playing , laughing , friends talking on a phone or in person ... whisper God

Is good. Or we could say ... those children are too loud and those people should be off their phones .... No focus on the positive. We have free will and can pick positive or negative.

Alone in your house or with children busy about? Stop and do house re-con.! 5 minutes in all of clean up.

Stop and whisper God is good. Or we could say ... but the house is not totally clean or it would have been nice to have help. Focus on the positive and make a phone call or read a book out loud with a crew. We have free will and can pick positive or negative.

Pick something new ....join us for Bible Study... women that is... Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. or Thursday at 7:15 p.m.

Exodus is where we are right now. God is great!!!

Contact the Church Office or Susan Carney at:

[susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com) for Zoom Link.

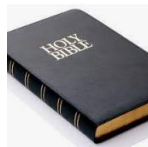
## Sunday school

### Bibles for All Children

If your child or grandchild has not received a Bible from Fisk, please let one of the Sunday school teachers know. We will be providing Bibles by age in May. Most of our students beyond Grade 5 have received Bibles but we do not want to leave a child off the list. We will start with the youngest and every few years, where needed, we will give a Move Along Bible. By fifth grade, all will have a Bible similar to the NIV in the sanctuary.

Nothing is as sweet or as valuable as the word of God. Bible Sunday will be during service on May 15. Mark that special day on your calendar.

Join us for Sunday School:  
Sundays 9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m.



## MISSION u – 2022

## FACT SHEET



**LOCATION:** Southern New Hampshire University  
2500 North River Rd. Manchester, New Hampshire 03106

**DATES:** July 22 - July 24 (Friday afternoon through Sunday noon)

**STUDY:** Luke 13 **WHO CAN WE BE TOGETHER?**

### Luke 13

A Transformative Biblical Curriculum for ALL Adults, Youth and Children

#### REGIST

Context: We find ourselves in a period of incredible disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, a divisive political climate and economic turmoil, we are turning to stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities in challenging times for over two millennia. Some of these stories of Jesus are found in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. The chapter opens and closes with a community trying to make sense of and navigate their way through times of turmoil and tragedy. However, the chapter centers on a story of Jesus teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath when a woman suddenly appears. Jesus makes the choice to “set [her] free from [her] ailment” (Luke 13:12) which causes a great deal of commotion among the leaders and crowd gathered there. In this context, Jesus likens the kingdom to a mustard seed and yeast (Luke 13:18-21). What did those images evoke for Jesus’ first-century Jewish audience? And what possibilities might seed and yeast hold for us today? At the end of this study our hope is that participants will leave with a bigger and broader vision of the kind of community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small and often disruptive ways as Jesus did in Luke 13? May we do so with the faith that a multitude of small actions, like seeds, can activate a community’s healing and renewal.

#### SCHC

**Save the Date**

**QUESTIONS...ask Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077**

when registered and paid by July 1, 2022.



## MISSIONS and O

### UMCOR is assisting the people of Ukraine

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

100% of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause. **Checks made payable to Fisk Church and Memo to "Advance #982450-Ukraine"**

The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in

*Prayer:*

*God of the past, the present and the future,*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and the surrounding countries in their fear and distress.*

*We pray too for all other regions of the world where there is conflict, unrest or oppression.*

*We pray that reconciliation will overcome hatred, peace will conquer war, hope will replace despair and that your plans for the region will be fulfilled, God, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

*(written for World Day of Prayer by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, on February 25, 2022)*



We thank Mary Lou Greenwood Boice for her message from UMCOR on March 20.

## Reduce Reuse Recycle

At Fisk we offer many ways for you to help in this recycling mission...it is a way of life. It all helps with Climate Justice, economics, landfills, saving energy and natural resources.

Fisk installed Solar Panels!

We recycle beverage cans and plastic bottles.  
Barrel in closet.

We collect the pull tabs from the cans---container in kitchen.

UWF have two Yard Sales each year...pass along your reusable goods. May 7th

Fisk hosts a Shredding Event each April for your confidential records. April 23 (Sponsored by Charles River Rotary Club)

Years ago we banned "Styrofoam container/cups"

Natick Board of Health has banned "Plastic straws and stirrers"...we are following that mandate.

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Please take note of the waste containers in each room. BLACK CONTAINER for trash

BLUE CONTAINER for recycling



### Clothes for Maine

April 15 we will begin to collect GOOD, CLEAN, WEARABLE, SEASONABLE--summer/spring for now--clothes to be delivered to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine. Please FOLD the clothes and put in paper grocery bags. All sizes, all genders. Leave in the wooden boxes in the hallway at Fisk. Questions? Ask the Hoyts





United  
Women  
in Faith

That is correct! We have changed our name. Not just Fisk UWF, but nationally. United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith! The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

**YARD SALE and BAKE SALE**

**MAY 7, 8:30am-12**

Semi-Annual Yard Sale  
*Mother's Day Weekend*  
Begin to put aside the things you are ready to pass on to someone else while we raise money for missions.



**Hannah Circle** - Donna Henry, Chairperson

These women continue to meet by phone but are doing the important work of this organization. This month they purchased, assembled and packaged 10 Hygiene Kits for UMCOR for those in need. THANK YOU.

If you would like to contribute to this on-going project, speak to Marcia Hoyt or check out the Bulletin Board.

**Susanna Circle** -Janis Cail, Chairperson

The Susanna's meet at Fisk, bring their own lunch and "do the work of UWF." This month we had a Trivia Contest for Women's History Month. Many interesting facts! Did you know Susanna Wesley birthed 19 children?

**Just home from Afghanistan - David Fox**

**April 23 at 12 noon Luncheon served**

Invited Guests include YOU, all Fisk women, women from Weston UMC and Wayland UMC.

Time for fellowship, sharing a lunch and hearing from David Fox. David is an acquaintance of the Cail's and currently living in Weston. David had been living in Afghanistan and working in and around the Afghan media sector since 2013, serving as a Media Relations Manager at the University. He and his family were fortunate to escape when the Taliban took over. He will bring us his story and what he sees as the plight of women. Hear his story.

David has a degree from Emory University in Middle East and South Asian Studies and is a self-taught photographer and videographer.



**OUR CONNECTIONS**

**CE District UWF Meeting - on Zoom May 7th**

**Assembly**

May 21, 2022 in Orlando Florida Interested ? Speak to Sherry C. She is planning to attend.

**Mission u**

July 22-24 at Southern NH University  
Study: LUKE 13 More info on Missions page

Do you know that UWF have their own Library in Ogle Parlor? Did you know that Amy Bruns is the new coordinator of the Reading Program? Sit and read, look over the books available, join the Reading Challenge or just read for your own pleasure and knowledge.



**Prayer Shawl**-- Janis Cail, coordinator The needles are clicking...knitting and crocheting ...even finger knitting! No needles required! We gather each Wednesday at 10am to fellowship and make Prayer Shawls for those in need. Need? Sickness, loss, celebrations, thinking of you... whatever the need may be, we have shawls.



## **Enter the 2022 Laity Address Challenge**



The Conference Board of Laity is pleased to invite all laypersons in the New England Annual Conference to enter the Laity Address Challenge to have an opportunity to give the Laity Address at the 2022 Annual Conference.

The 2022 Annual Conference will be held online and in-person on June 9-11. The Laity Address will be pre-recorded. The specific date/time of the Laity Address broadcast has not been set.

Our Annual Conference theme is "Envisioning the Beloved Community." Our guiding scripture Philippians 3:12-14 (The Message). The address must use that as its theme.

The address should be 15-20 minutes long. Entrants must submit a written copy of their entire proposed address along with a video of themselves delivering the first 5 minutes of the address. The deadline to submit your proposed address and video is May 6, 2022.

Please submit your manuscript to Ruby Blake at [msrube65@gmail.com](mailto:msrube65@gmail.com) and you will be sent instructions for how to upload your video file. If you have a link to your video to share, you can email that along with the manuscript.

\$20 each Lily

\$12 each Tulips

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cash ☐ Check

Due to supply chain issues, specific tulip colors are not able to be offered.

Please take flowers home after Easter Service.

*Write check to Fisk UMC and please note "Easter flowers" on the memo line. You can drop off your flower order and check in the basket on the Office door. Thank you.*

**Order Deadline: April 10, 2022**

### *The Church Office*

#### **FISK CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor**

[Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org)

**Dr. Americo Motta, Minister of Music**

[Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com](mailto:Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com)

**Susan Carney, Director of Christian Education**

[SusanjCarney@gmail.com](mailto:SusanjCarney@gmail.com)

**Carolyn DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant**

[Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

Church Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Church email: [Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

Website: [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

Church Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **May Messenger Deadline**

**Please submit information by**

**Friday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

**District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East**

Website: [www.neumc.org/CE](http://www.neumc.org/CE)

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02421

Phone: (781) 861-0249

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

His email address: [CEDS@neumc.org](mailto:CEDS@neumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Allvson Printz**

### **Easter Lilies – Tulips– Order Form**



**Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church**

**(Please print legibly)**

Your Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ In honor of ... ☐ In memory of ... ☐ In celebration of ...

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Specify quantity for each \_\_\_\_ Tulips \_\_\_\_ Easter Lily

Prices: