

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

April 2023

Pastor's Message

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

*And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; **The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting.**"*

(The Apostles' Creed)

Recently I was asked why do clergy tell people that there will be a Resurrection. And if so, why has so many people died for centuries and there still has not been one. Well, the truth is, I do believe in the Resurrection. And as Easter is a vital part of Christianity, so is the Resurrection the foundation of our Christian faith.

The Lenten journey has come to an end. As we walk through and experience the Palm and Passion story, let us never forget that though the hopes of the community of faith was shaken centuries ago, they like many persons today still do not or have not taken the thought of the Resurrection seriously.

But as we reflect on the Resurrection, let us ask a simple but sometimes difficult question, "Didn't the events of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ centuries ago, provide proof that Jesus Christ is indeed risen from the dead? Well, if and when we reflect the truth, the reality is that Jesus Christ is alive and because Christ lives

- We can all face tomorrow
- All fear is gone
- Christ holds the future



Therefore, as we approach Resurrection Sunday, we can believe in the mystery of God and God's divine action in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can also try to understand what the Apostle Paul meant when he said he wanted to know the power of the Resurrection.

Happy Resurrection as we try to live in that experience and as we are raised on 'Resurrection Wings'. Believe that death is not the final state and has no power over true believers. Know that all those who have faith, place their hopes, and dreams in Christ will have eternal life because the Resurrection is real and serious. But most of all, the blessed assurance is that the power of the Resurrection would change our mortal bodies into immortality. And we will have the promised confidence when we ask, "Where, O death, is your victory?" as we proclaim, sing, and shout, "Jesus Christ is risen!"

Have a joyous and blessed Easter!

+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.

**All persons are invited to Fisk UMC
Worship Service, every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**
**To connect by telephone use either of these
numbers:**
+1 646 558 8656 US
Enter Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889
+1 312 626 6799 US
Enter Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889
**By computer, tablet, or smart phone, use this
link: <https://zoom.us/j/99433258889>**
**Or visit www.Zoom.us and enter
Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889**

Worship

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 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday)	Terry Ames
Isaiah 50:4-9	Matthew 21:1-11
April 9, 2023 (Easter)	Susan Carney
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	Matthew 28: 1-10
Psalter: Psalm 150 (UMH 862)	
April 16, 2023	Debbie Friscino
1 Peter 1: 3-9	John 20: 19-31
April 23, 2023	TBD
Psalms 116: 1-4, 12-19	Luke 24: 13-35
April 30, 2023	TBD
Psalms 23	John 10:1-10

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

+ Pastor Alecia

Please email the Church Office at:

FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org to choose a date to be a Liturgist. There is also a Liturgist Signup sheet located in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

As we start the celebration of spring....

Save the dates

- New England Conference UMC, Anti Racism Training-April 1

Anti-racism trainings have been rescheduled on April 1 at Fisk UMC, Natick, MA. Get registered. About the training: This in-person training is REQUIRED for clergy and laity serving on ministry

teams. Especially those in leadership positions are strongly encouraged to attend.

Participants are asked to watch these two videos in advance of the training session:

The urgency of Intersectionality by Kimberle Crenshaw and Intersectionality 101

Email Contact: Allyson Printz at:

cedistrict@neumc.org

Snacks and lunch will be provided. If you have any dietary restrictions please specify when you register. And yes, all persons are invited.

*During **Holy Week**, may we feel blessed together as God guides our hearts, minds, and hands to be God's 'Persistent Presence' in the world.*

- Palm & Passion Sunday, April 2- *Join us in worship at 10:30 a.m. as we listen to the story in a new way with the celebration of palm branches and praises.*

-Maundy Thursday, April 6- *We will meet in rooms 8 & 9 for a short reenactment devotional with the last supper 6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.*

-Day of Prayer- Good Friday, April 7- *call in on the Prayer line at*

- 10-10:15 a.m.
- 12-12:15 p.m.
- 2:45- 3:00 p.m.

Ask for or offer a prayer Dial: 1- (716) 427-1083, Access code: 580274#

- Resurrection /Easter Sunday- April 9 — 10:30 a.m. *Worship Service. As we celebrate as resurrected people, join us to welcome a child through baptism. We will welcome Amayah Madison Darrah. (Parents are Ahmed & Luna and grandparents at Fisk UMC are Pastor Alecia & George Freeman.)*

- Sunday, April 23- Is Native American Ministries Sunday, *one of the special Sundays that United Methodist celebrate. Our Christian Education Director, Susan Carney will share a special message with thanksgiving to God for all the gifts given to Fisk UMC. Also thanks to Susan's husband, Tom and the family for sharing her with us.*

May Messenger Deadline:
Please submit information by
Friday, April 21, 9:00 a.m.

VALUABLE FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

*THREE THINGS YOU WOULD DO TO MAKE
THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE:*

-
-
-

*IF YOU HAD THREE WISHES FOR FISK UMC,
WHAT ARE THEY?*

-
-
-

*THREE SUGGESTIONS/SOLUTIONS TO MAKE
THESE WISHES HAPPEN.*

-
-
-

***THANKS AS WE CONTINUE TO USE OUR MINDS,
HEARTS, AND HANDS TO MAKE A
'TRANSFORMATIONAL DIFFERENCE.'**

Trustees

Cemetery Lots Available

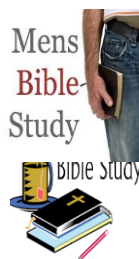
The Fisk Trustees would like you to know that we have been gifted a large cemetery lot (several adjacent burial spaces) in the Glenwood Cemetery in South Natick. We are working with the Glenwood Cemetery Association to understand how we might subdivide the 12 burial graves and make them available for purchase by our Fisk community at a discounted price. If you are interested in buying two or more of these burial sites, please contact Thom Townsend, David Cail, or Geoff Del Sesto for more information.

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will join The United Women in Faith on April 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. for a "Honey Brunch" at Fisk in rooms 8 & 9. There will be a discussion about Earth Day.



Education



Men's Bible Study at Fisk will meet in Ogle Parlor on Sat. April 8, Sat. April 22, and Sat. May 20. 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Bible Studies for women meet either every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. and finishes after one hour of sharing and listening. Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m. another group of women meet for one hour. The women meet on ZOOM and you can contact me at susanjcarney@gmail.com to get an invite. The more the merrier.

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School Classes

This month we have been learning about the many miracles that Jesus did while he was here on earth. The children have been reading "News Report" scripts and acting out what it would be like to be a witness to one of the many miracles Jesus performed. We are so proud of all of the children in class! They are true gifts from God! Join us **9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. on Sunday Mornings in Room 2.** Note: There will not be Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023.

-Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney

Stewardship

Save the date! May 6 How do we as Christians:

- Create a legacy of faith, gratitude, and giving?
- Structure our estate planning and wills to achieve our giving goals?
- Plan with our children and loved ones for our final journeys?

Several professionals are coming to Fisk on Saturday morning May 6 for a workshop:

Life, Legacy, and Preparation.

Three 1-hour interactive segments presented by the United Methodist Foundation of NE (UMFNE) will include reflection, estate planning tools, a family attorney, clergy, and a funeral director, with time for questions.

Time: 9am-12 noon; May 6; right here at Fisk. Come for fellowship! Get important information to lessen the burden for your family and let your request be heard as you leave behind a legacy of gratitude. See you there!

All men and women are invited to join us for an EARTH DAY celebration on Saturday, April 22nd at 10:00 a.m. for a HONEY Brunch and discussion.



This month's meeting will focus on the importance of pollinators. How might climate change and our use of pesticides impact food supplies if there are fewer bees?

Keith Garrant will talk about their garden and we will think together about ways to plant our own pollinator pots and spots!

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."
Genesis 2:15

Who are UWF women?

"We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation."

"Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done. And we invite you to join us."

"We are deeply committed to the ongoing work of racial justice. We strive to be in right relationship with one another; we work together for the transformation of church and world, following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ."



Think Spring!

~ When you plant your garden, you're apt to have a pile of plastic containers left over. DON'T throw them out! In support of our efforts to care for creation, recycle your empty pots at places like Home Depot or Lowes.

~ **Spring YARD SALE** is coming! **Saturday, May 13, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Start cleaning out your cupboards and closets!

FAMILY PROMISE METROWEST WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS -APRIL 30

Grab your sneakers, strollers, and leashes and join us for Family Promise Metrowest's first in-person walk since 2019! Family Promise is so excited to host this heart-warming event once again, which includes fun activities for all ages. Come join us for lunch. New this year we have Anzio's Brick Oven Pizza Truck joining us

for the afternoon serving their delicious pizza. This is their largest fundraiser, fueling its mission to transform the lives of families with children facing homelessness across the Metrowest region. Join us **Sunday, April 30 at Natick High School**. Pre-registration is encouraged. Same day registration opens at 12:15 pm and the Walk starts at 1 pm. It's a 3-mile loop on sidewalks through Natick Center and back to the High School. **Please register to walk with us or make a donation in support of another walker: www.tinyurl.com/2023FPMWalk**

Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle will meet in-person for a time of fellowship on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at Fisk in rooms 8 & 9.

\$\$ Tax Saving Idea \$\$

Are you 70+1/2 Years Old, ... Older ?

If so, you can make a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) from your IRA directly to Fisk and avoid having it count as income. That's right, not IRS taxable income.

And this gets even better, because a contribution made this way would satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

We suggest you talk to your financial planner or tax professional - or come to the May 6 event at Fisk and learn more.

New England Conference News

Anti-racism trainings have been rescheduled on April 1 at Fisk UMC, Natick, MA. Get registered.

About the training: This in-person training is REQUIRED for clergy and laity serving on ministry teams. Especially those in leadership positions are strongly encouraged to attend. Participants are asked to watch these two videos in advance of the training session: [The urgency of Intersectionality by Kimberle Crenshaw](#) and [Intersectionality 101](#) **Email Contact:** Allyson Printz cedistrict@neumc.org
Snacks and lunch will be provided. If you have any dietary restrictions please specify when you register. All persons are invited.

NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East
Website: 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
Administrative Assistant: Allyson Printz
Her email address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

Prayer Requests for Prayer Box / Prayer Wall/ Prayer line

Prayer is the master key that can open and close all doors. When you find the need to pray with the assurance that others are praying for and with you, leave a prayer on the prayer wall, in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church, on-line on our website, or just call and speak with **Pastor Alecia** at **(617) 966-7048**. Join us on the prayer line, **Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.** Dial: 1- (716) 427-1083, Access code: 580274 Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you. You can also find private time to stop at the cross and pray individually or invite family and friends.

MISSIONS

Health Kits ~If you took a **STARTER KIT** on Sunday, March 19, make sure you complete the Kit and return it to the office or the Parlor during the next month. If you would like a **STARTER KIT** (a plastic bag with 2 of the 7 items needed)--you just purchase the remaining 5 items and "it is done"! It will be delivered to those in need, by

MISSIONS



Did you realize that
Fisk already recycles?

beverage cans
plastic beverage bottles
aluminum tabs
(from the beverage cans)
clear or white caps

AND good, clean clothing

for the Thrift Shop in Salem Maine (collecting
April to October)

*Clothes must be in saleable condition and brought
to Fisk folded in sturdy paper grocery bags or
shopping bags. All sizes are needed.*

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

April 22

RECYCLING...again! Something **NEW** is happening. Fisk is making a new effort to recycle more and become more Earth - friendly. We have talked about this and made small steps, but now we are going to the **NEXT STEP**. Previously, we have banned the use of Styrofoam disposable cups and dishes, encouraged each other to **NOT** use plastic when a better option is available etc. Buy sustainable products when available.

AGAIN...we are starting to actually recycle paper, plastic bottles, cardboard etc. items used in the building. New waste baskets will be placed in each room...one for **TRASH** and one for paper (without food on it), bulletins, cardboard, art paper, any stray plastic bottles from water or juice etc. We need everyone's help. We will have a container for recyclable materials outside by the **FACE** driveway. Our church trash will still go into the dumpster...located at the other end of that driveway.

WATCH for the new waste baskets and **DO YOUR SHARE** to care for God's creation.

UMCOR SUNDAY was March 19 and Janis Cail presented a Mission Moment, explaining "UMCOR Sunday." This is the Annual Sunday Special Collection to cover the administrative cost of UMCOR, so that 100% of the donations during the year would go directly to the outreach sites in need. You can still contribute to UMCOR Sunday—memo your check: UMCOR Sunday.

You gave over \$350.00!

Thank you 谢谢 Gracias Merci
Danke! Molte grazie

MAPLE SYRUP is here again!



Quarts-just \$20.00

Pints- \$10.00

This supports the ministries of Salem Maine, serving the underserved of the Western Mountains of Maine.
Call the Hoyts 508-655-0077 or the church office

AWARENESS BOX

Topics discussed for a future program:

1. Teen homelessness
2. Staying healthy and regular exercise
3. What would you like to see us look into for a Missions Program?

This Mother's Day
blanket the world in
love

BLANKET SUNDAY

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS (Church World Service) Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm ~~with their own blanket~~.

"Love never fails."

1 Corinthians 13:8

This opportunity is highlighted for MOTHER'S DAY each year. We have cards that state "that a Blanket has been given in your name..." For just \$10.00 you receive a card to give as a Mother's Day gift. Simple? Yes, and a wonderful gift for someone in need of a warm blanket. Purchase cards for your mother, mother-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, grandmother, aunt and one who might have been a mother-figure for you. Your shopping is done!

Cards will be at Fellowship Time April 30, May 7 and May 14. Also, Carolyn has some in the office. Each one is \$10.00—it may be a tent, carry-all, a baby sling or hammock, bed for a child or a warm wrap to keep the cold out.

Altar Guild



Altar Flowers: If you would like to order flowers in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, the signup

sheet and order forms are on the Office bulletin board. It is \$50.00 for an altar arrangement and you may take the flowers home after the Service. Thanks for being a part of honoring and remembrance celebration.

Natick Interfaith clergy & community Announcements:

Natick Common Good Mini Food Pantry

You may have noticed the “mini pantry” outside the common street spiritual center. Started by a family in Natick who simply thought of their fellow neighbor, it is stocked by individuals in Natick on a daily basis. It is continually used- something stocked one day will be gone by the next. Two things that make the mini pantry unique: 1) it is completely anonymous, and 2) it can meet smaller needs such as a meal before a paycheck arrives versus the traditional food pantry’s full shopping experience. Note- It does not replace the Natick Food Pantry but people are encourage to support financially and/or donating. If any spiritual community would be interested in holding a collection or using funds/donations to purchase goods, it would be welcomed.

Contact Beth Garreau - gillispie.e@gmail.com