

The Messenger

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

www.fiskumc.org

August 2021

Pastoral Note

My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ!

Genesis 2:8 tells us about the wonderful provision that God made for all of creation by placing us in a beautiful and wonderfully made garden. Hence, this summer as I sat in my garden made by my human hands, it reminded me of that first garden. The garden motif highlights all that can happen in a place but also gives insights into diversity.

The first garden, was made with diversity. It was where the first couple, the first family, and first creative work of God happened. But it also reminds me of all the human conditions of life; the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Time in my garden, I was also struck of how quickly flowers appear and disappear throughout the season. Then, I remembered that many years ago, I heard that family and friends are like a garden of flowers; diverse, beautiful and happy to be with. But they also can be different as they come and go.

So, let us stay in God's garden, having been justified by faith and strive for perfection. May we be united to have peace, take the courage to be happy, stronger, safe, comforted, and blessed. But foremost, may the blessing of the Lord be with all of us as we start another season of life with continued confidence in the Lord, for healing.

Thank you, for your presence and prayers at Fisk UMC, where God is always present!

+ 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.

Summer Sermon Series 2021:

The Ten Commandments

August 1 - Exodus 20:1-13 & Psalm 54

August 8 - Exodus 20:1-14 & Psalm 23

August 15 - Exodus 20:1-15 & Psalm 50:14-23

August 22 - Exodus 20:1-16 & Psalm 120

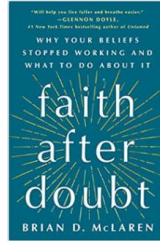
August 29 - Exodus 20: 1-17 & Psalm 10:1-7

Save the Dates!



September 5 - Fisk UMC Homecoming Sunday
September 12 - "Remembrance & Celebration" Sunday

At our 2021 annual conference, our Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, shared the summary of a book, **"Faith After Doubt"** by Brian D. McLaren, that he read and encouraged pastors and congregations to read and reflect on together. Therefore, this summer, I am encouraging each of you to read this book. In the fall, we will schedule time together to affirm who we are and where our faith lies amid all the doubts that exist.



+ **Pastor Alecia**

Worship



We are happy to announce, that in-person worship services began on July 4th, in God's Sanctuary.

Masks are required and it is suggested that you keep distance between families.

ZOOM service will continue as usual. Our services will start at 10:30 a.m.

You are encouraged to sit toward the front of the sanctuary to hear better, as there will be no public address system; just the sound system from the I-Pad used for the ZOOM people.

Pastor Alecia, will be offering sermons on the Ten Commandments throughout the summer and Communion on the first Sunday, of each month.

We can't wait to see you in church (or on ZOOM).

Log in information for ZOOM:

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

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

Connect by telephone use either of these numbers.

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

If those links fail to get you into

Fisk Service, do this:

www.zoom.us

Click "Join Meeting" on top right

Type in **936 6690 6008** in the "Meeting ID or Personal Link Name" box. Click Join

Prayer as we Return to In-person Worship

Precious and everlasting God, you are the one who created us, and you are the one who sustains us. You know us intimately, our thoughts, hopes, and fears. And you hold us in your right hand, loving us as your beloved children. As you promised to remain with David, through thick and thin, we know that you also promise to remain with us. Your steadfast love is with us. Your covenant will stand firm. For that, we give you thanks. What a relief to be able to rely on you, and know our faith is in good hands.

Gather us up now, Lord, as we start returning to your houses of worship. We have been scattered to the winds throughout this pandemic, Lord. Our thoughts, our fears, our sense of safety has been all over the place. Gather us back together in mind and spirit. Bring us back to the fold, where we can feel at home again. And then, as you promised, we shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing. For we are yours. In Jesus name we pray, and through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Bonnie-jean Rowe

First UMC (Framingham, MA), Commonwealth East District

Holy Humor

Two men were lost in a forest. One asked the other, "Are you a Christian?" The other said, "Yes". Then he asked again, "Are you clean?" The other replied, "Yes, I am. I took a shower this morning." The man smiles and says, "I do not know any Christian who was cleaned by taking a shower. So, was the shower hot or cold?" The other replied, "It was hot" The man said, "If it was hot, you must have gotten burned because Christians do not like the heat. They remain cold." -**Author Unknown**

Pastoral Question -After the heat of this past summer, can we take the heat of ministry and mission or just remain cold?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT UMEM?

What is the United Methodist Economic Ministry?

In 1969, the Rev. Charles Reid was assigned to two small, rural churches near Salem, Maine. At his post in the mountains of western Maine, he witnessed the need of the hard-working people in the area. Many struggled economically; poverty and the people in its grip were apparent. Although the residents of the community were strong and hardy, many families struggled to meet basic, daily needs like food, clothing,



and adequate shelter.

Rev. Reid and his wife Norma recognized and responded to this call in their new community. The couple, with the assistance of their churches and other local congregations, began plans to address the basic needs of local residents. They moved a building to the current site of the Salem UMEM and began a thrift shop, which offered good, used clothes at very affordable prices. Norma Reid first stocked the accompanying Food Cupboard with items from her own pantry. **Fisk sends a van load(s) of good used (and some brand-new) clothes each year.**

In the early 1970's, the first summer mission teams were welcomed to the Economic Ministry. These groups worked and stayed at the ministry during the warm Maine summers to help local families stay safer, warmer, and drier during the harsh Maine winters. The UMEM's outreach has expanded over the years and now includes a Thrift Shop in Howland Maine.



Since its inception nearly 50 years ago, the UMEM has continued to provide first-step support the residents of western Maine to promote self-sufficiency as a means to break cycles of poverty. The core of our services continues to be our Food Cupboards, Thrift

Shops, and Summer Mission Teams. The scope and nature of our outreach continues to

grow and evolve to meet the needs within our communities. UMEM strives to create healthy, sustainable communities through respect for and day-to-day connection with the people we serve!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

Each year, Salem's Christmas Shoppe serves over 100 children with the generous donations from individuals, churches, friends and businesses.

To help make Christmas special for each child and parent, we collect donations of new toys, clothes, coats, snow pants, mittens, hats, boots, personal care items, books, school supplies, and more! We try to give each person a new package of underwear and new socks in addition to their Christmas Wishes.

Families apply and receive an appointment so they can choose gifts, clothing, stocking stuffers, personal care items, and even wrapping supplies to help make the holiday magical!



Volunteers preparing the Christmas Shoppe.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

You can participate in the giving of JOY to these children and families. Fisk helps to supply UMEM with toys and new packages of underwear and socks—for all ages and sizes.



There is a RED BUCKET in the Narthex of our church. Add your gifts anytime through August. Take your

children shopping for these families -this is the beginning of Mission Work for them. Talk about the JOY this will bring on Christmas Day.

Pray for the families in need in the Western Mountains of Maine. This area is often called the "Northern Appalachia".

GIFT CARDS are welcome...leave them in the office for Missions. Walmart, Hannafords, Target or anywhere they can shop online.

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

FACE Children's Center **Helps Others**

This month, I would like to highlight FACE Children's Center's community service endeavors. The children and their families are encouraged to give to others in various ways.



At Thanksgiving the children bake breads and attach Happy Thanksgiving tags to them. There are often 100 loaves of bread that are put into the baskets of food for needy families and distributed through the Natick Service Council.



For many years FACE has had an annual Trike-a-Thon to raise money for

St. Jude's Hospital. The kids love it. They learn about the cause of St. Jude's which is helping sick kids that cannot ride bikes. They like raising money for this cause while they are having fun. The children ask for pledges for each lap they ride around a make shift course. They usually ride during a 1 ½-hour period.

FACE marched in the Natick 4th of July Parade for a few years, when we were younger. Long time church member and FACE Board of Director; John Wicks drove the car with our homemade "Care bears" on the roof. Debbie Friscino and Jane

Therhault walked along as clowns and their kids carried the banner.

Over the years, FACE has held food and warm coat drives for the Natick Community. We've supported A Place to Turn, Natick Open Door, The Lion's Club coat drive and Wilson Middle School Coat drives.

In fact, in 1983 Governor Dukakis proclaimed December 22, 1983 as FACE Children's Center Day. FACE Directors and a small group of children took the T into The State House to accept the proclamation from the Governor. We were in the corner office on a very snowy day. He was quite pleased to hear about our food drive and especially pleased we took the T.

I will try to inform the congregation when these events are taking place in case you would like to contribute to the children's causes.

We will have more information, when we host the 50th Anniversary party for FACE on Oct 17th.

-Janis Cail

United Methodist Women

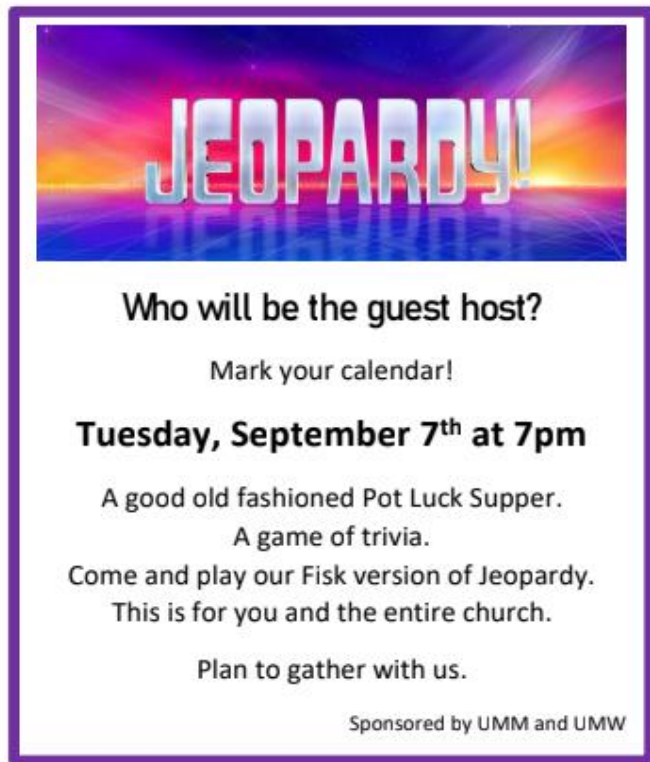
United Methodist Women are looking forward to:

September 7 - Join others in a game of Jeopardy and a Pot Luck Supper

October 16 - Yard Sale time again---save your good stuff!

October 23 - Trip to Brunswick Maine for the Conference UMW meeting

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



*Mark Your Calendars
for our Two District Events!
*** SAVE the DATE ****

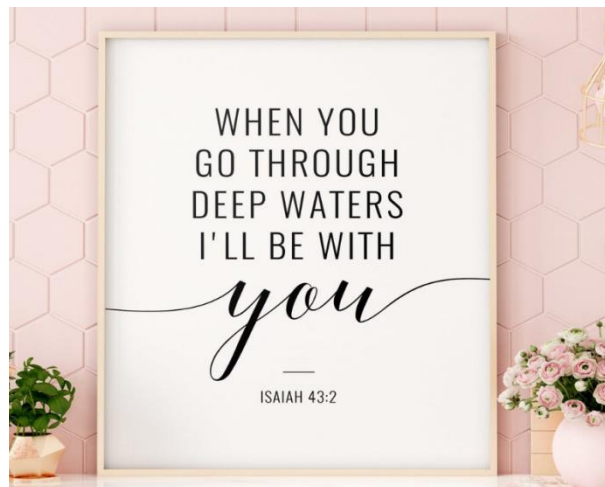
Informal Fellowship with Bishop Devadhar
Tuesday, August 10, 2021; 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
[Crawford Memorial UMC](#), Winchester, MA [34 Dix St, Winchester, MA 01890](#)
Bishop Devadhar is visiting the districts for informal gatherings to greet and meet lay and clergy members in the district after 17+ months of pandemic isolation. Attendance is not required. Weather permitting; it will be an outdoor meeting. Please bring your own lawn chairs. Light refreshments provided.

Bishop's Day on the Commonwealth East District
Thursday, September 16, 2021; 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
[Aldersgate UMC](#), 235 Park St, North Reading, MA 01864
This will be a hybrid gathering with an in-person gathering and live streaming. Clergy are required to attend this meeting. More details to be published.

Methodist Men's 2021 National Gathering (virtual)

The 2021 National Men's Gathering will be held virtually on Saturday, August 28, 10:00-4:00 (CDT). Men who would like to gather for fellowship and to watch in

person are invited to [St John's UMC](#) in Dover NH. If you can't join them in NH, please [register](#) and watch on your own! Keynote speakers Rev. Dr. Ron Bell, Jr. and Rev. Tom Albin will address topics of "Combating and Healing the Trauma of Racism" and "Evangelism & Discipleship".
Note: Please check the New England Conference website for more information.



From the Church Office

Would you like to receive our Church emails?

If you currently are not receiving our Church emails and would like to be, please email the Church office at:
Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org



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 address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

FISK CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor
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Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com

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Fiskyouth@gmail.com

Carolyn DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant

Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Church Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Church email: Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Website: www.fiskumc.org

Church Office Hours: Open

Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

September Messenger Deadline

Please submit information by

FRIDAY, August 20 at 9:00 AM