

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

## August 2023

### Pastor's Message

Be Happy and Blessed this month!

There are traditions that many have cherished over the years after the bliss of a cold winter, the falling rain in spring and the hot and humid summer. As we enter the fall season, think about it as a season of diversity and appreciation. Yes, a time when we can intentionally reflect on the changes that occur and the beautiful diversity of leaves; living and falling together.

Before we begin, I am affirming that together we can strive to either live together or we will die together. Hence, as leaves fall, watch them. Not one color of leaves fall or one color of leaves survive. But what amazes me is, no living being decides which one falls and which one dies. So, I often wonder why we always want to be in control of every person, place, and thing?

Well, whether we believe this or not, let us keep living. As we live, we will realize that no one is in control of anything. Our God is awesome and is in full control of everything. Therefore, as we enter another season, remember that life's journey is also a season. Give up and/or surrender all to the One who knows everything, can do everything, sees everything, and hears everything. Most of all, the One who holds the future and makes the final decision.

As we surrender, we can continue to engage in various activities with all of creation by cooling, heating, and re-heating the grills of our lives. I hope each one of you had a great summer as we welcome all persons home to give, share, and receive.

**HAPPY FALL!**

*+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

### All persons are invited to Fisk UMC

**Summer Worship Service, every Sunday at 9:30 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](http://www.Zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889**

## Worship

### For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following. In addition, may you be strengthened and inspired to continue to go out and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>August 6, 2023</b>  | <b>Carolyn DiSciullo</b>    |
| Romans 9:1-5           | Matthew 14:13-21            |
| <b>August 13, 2023</b> | <b>Terry Ames</b>           |
| Romans 10:5-15         | Matthew 14:22-33            |
| <b>August 20, 2023</b> | <b>Debbie Friscino</b>      |
| Romans 11:1-2, 29-32   | Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28     |
| <b>August 27, 2023</b> | <b>Dr. Dorothy Phillips</b> |
| Romans 12:1-8          | Matthew 16: 13-20           |

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

**+ Pastor Alecia**

Please email the Church Office at:

[FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org](mailto:FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org) to choose a date to be a liturgist. There is also a liturgist signup sheet located in the back of rooms 8 & 9. Thank you!

### Worship-This month

**-On the first Sunday, August 6,** we welcome Rev. Ted Crass, the president of the New England UMC Foundation.

Rev. Crass leads the organization that is one of our partners in ministry. For over twenty-five years this organization has:

**-strengthened** the financial capacity of churches and agencies through stewardship services, planned giving resources, socially responsible investment management, loans, capital campaigns and grants.

**-equipped** clergy to be more effective in serving Christ and the church through personal and life planning workshops, consultations, pastoral resources, and leadership development.

**-encouraged** individuals to live and give as faithful trustees of God's generosity through stewardship services and gift planning.

For these and others, we say thanks and welcome your presence in worship with us.

**-Sunday, August 13** - Michelle Drolet, SPRC chairperson

**-Sunday, August 20** - Dr. Dorothy Phillips, Lay Leader

**-Sunday, August 27** - Deborah Hernandez, Former President and member of Trustees

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

After a summer of rest and relaxation, we will celebrate our annual 'Home Coming' Sunday on September 3, 2023. All persons; visitors, old members, and new members **are** welcome into God's holy sanctuary. We will continue to be refreshed and revived as we study, worship and serve together with blessing for all.

-September 10th is 'Remembrance' Sunday.

**THANKS:** Heart-warming thanks and appreciation to all our siblings who are serving in the month of August while Pastor Alecia is away on a well-deserved and needed time off. Pray for her and her family as the Lord does a new thing in her life and our **lives** at Fisk UMC.

## United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

**The Hannah Circle** The Hannah Circle will not meet in August; they will resume back in September.

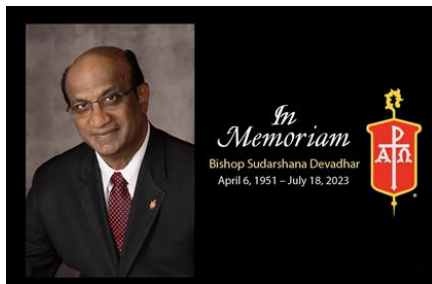
## Stewardship

As we all enjoy summer, please remember your stewardship commitment. The ministries of Fisk continue in the summer, and the needs for financial support continue as well. If you cannot attend our summer casual worship at 9:30 am on Sundays, you can mail in your support check to the office, marked "Financial Secretary", or utilize the easy electronic giving option on the Fisk website. Contact Crystal with any questions. Enjoy your summer and thanks for your continued support!

Stewardship is...

the opportunity to serve God and serve your church.

## We announce with deepest sympathy:



The New England conference of the United Methodist Church announced the unexpected death of our beloved Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar who just

retired. Bishop Devadhar died unexpectedly on July 18, 2023.

Bishop Devadhar was a faithful light to our conference. He was dedicated and extended his service into what would have been his retirement. He has left us an indelible legacy that lives on among us even now.

Our hearts and prayers are with Prema and their family. The family has requested **no phone calls** at this time, but prayers and letters of condolence can be sent to them at:



7128 Thorndale Lane  
Cincinnati, OH 45244

Special note: I grieve because he was faithful and great!

### Prayer:

God who overcomes every obstacle, you are the one who loves beyond our understanding. You have called us for your purpose and placed us in the moments where we are needed. You truly are for us in our lives. In these days as we continue to mourn Bishop Suda, we thank you for having called him to serve as a Bishop in the United Methodist Church. We thank you that his ministry journey brought him and Prema to our beloved New England Conference. We thank you that his commitment to you and us extended his ministry through the time of Covid. Our words of thanks at Conference last year, in the final days of his ministry in December and through so many posts on Facebook showing how many lives he touched could never fully show our thankfulness. In these days, as family, friends, colleagues and the church universal gather to celebrate his life and ministry, call us again. Call us to be those who will demonstrate your love as Suda did for us and so many others. Remind us again that there is nothing that can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*Written by Rev. Dr. Wesley Palmer, Executive Director of the Preacher's Aid Society  
Inspired by Romans 8: 26-39 and the ministry of Bishop Devadhar*

## Sharing Events of Youth Mission Week

### Second Annual Youth Mission Week

Nine youth from the area United Methodist Churches (Wayland, Natick, Sudbury, and



Weston) gathered to fellowship together while experiencing Mission Work in different venues. They gathered each morning for devotions and discussion before "doing for others." Each day was a different project or experience. One day they did major work in the yard and on the porches of a parishioner. They scrubbed the porches and rinsed them down while others, cut piles of branches, overgrown weeds, and trimmed bushes AND mowed the lawn. Great job and well-done. A minister from the Outdoor Church came to speak to them about homelessness in the city and the need for a safe group to gather with for help and faith-building while sharing a meal...all on the streets of Cambridge. Later in the week, they made stacks of sandwiches and brought them to Cambridge to fellowship and have devotions with the group. What an experience for our youth to see first-hand. One afternoon they held a Car Wash to raise funds for a non-profit--which they chose as a group. Their service included visiting a Nursing Home and playing Bingo with the residents. On Friday they spent time at the Town Beach and had a cookout!

Most of the youth did not know each other before the week began, but now have a new group of friends and something in common with them...a Wonderful Week of Mission Work! God is good!



This program was the dream of Rev. Rebecca Cho of the Community UMC in Wayland, Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, and Zach Moser, staff at Sudbury UMC. Volunteers included people from Wayland and Natick. I was grateful for the opportunity to be a volunteer. -Marcia Hoyt

What do you think of when you hear the word MISSIONS or MISSIONARIES?

Lots of things pop up! Faraway lands - Starving children - Orphans - Hunger - lack of medical care- Climate justice and our landfills etc. These are just a few of the needs in this world.

We also can study the issues, causes, possible solutions, and certainly PRAY for those in the front lines doing the work for us.

### **FEEDING THE HUNGRY as an example.**

We do have hungry children and families in Natick and all our surrounding towns.

You are encouraged to **volunteer** at the Natick Food Pantry. We are trying to set in place two teams of two to help clients bag their groceries at the Pantry. Just two hours a couple of times a year! There are other Feeding Programs where you can help-just ask.

Where does the food come from that they distribute? **Donations** from us and our neighbors, along with local supermarkets, farms and the Greater Boston Food Bank. You and your family can drop items in the bin at Roche Bros. or bring it to the Pantry. When you are shopping, just buy a few extra non-perishable items to donate.

**Pray** for those in need of food. Food insecurity is a concern across this country and other countries. Pray for the missionaries that we support-The Pelletier's and Dr. Belinda Forbes (she will visit us in the September).

**Financial support**--all agencies helping people deal with floods, fires, hunger, and war can use our monetary gifts. In many cases it is more economical to use funds to purchase goods near the site than to ship and transport items. It is quicker and uses less

fossil fuels. You may write a check to any specific program and put it in the Fisk Offering and it will be directed to the program you designate or to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for their "most immediate need." Just memo your check.

### **WE ARE COLLECTORS**

Susan Carney and the Sunday School Class encouraged us to collect white or clear beverage caps...we brought in 14,000 + in just a few months...these help the process of creating prostheses for veterans. WOW-we are good!

We also collect the flip tab from beverage cans--support equipment and supplies at the Shriners' Burn Hospital and for Macular Eye Research. Container in the church kitchen.

Plastic bottles and aluminum beverage cans! There are barrels in the closet to leave your contributions. They are redeemed and the funds go to the missions of Fisk.

Clothes--our good used clothes go to a UM Thrift Shop in the Western Mountains of Maine serving a low-income population with high unemployment.

### **In the NEWS...**

-FLOODS in Vermont- The New England Conference is asking for funds to help churches and families recover from the severe floods this summer. Can you help? Memo-FLOODS.

-JFON (Justice for our Neighbors) supports families coming to this country with legal assistance and education. They may be fleeing war, devastation or political unrest.

Mark your check memo- JFON.

**-AND--one more month of CHRISTMAS in JULY & AUGUST. The RED BUCKETS are in Rooms 8-9.**

*Missions Committee-Mary Greenwood, Janis Cail, Janis Townsend, Kelli Garrant and Marcia Hoyt*

## Prayer Box and Prayer Wall

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 in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church, on-line on our website. The Wednesday night Prayer Line will not be held for the month of August and will resume in September. 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.

## Evangelism

### Extend a Fisk Hello at Natick Days



Save the date:  
**September 9!**  
(Raindate Sept. 10, 1  
to 4 p.m. only)

**WHAT:** Natick Days is an annual event celebrating our Natick community,

where service organizations, youth organizations, and volunteers share information about their endeavors. **Several thousand people** attend each year, so we want to make sure everyone knows Fisk UMC is a welcoming presence in our community.

**Time:** 10-3 (Setup at 9ish...and cleanup following)

**WHERE:** We need you!

Can you offer one or two hours to greet community members of all ages?! Can you hand someone an invitation or prayer card? Will you be a friendly face and just say, "Hello!"? Can you help setup or cleanup or organize in some way?

Please **email Amy Bruns** and say **"Yes, I can help!"** ([amybruns35@gmail.com](mailto:amybruns35@gmail.com)). Let me know what you'd like to help with: setup, be at our booth for 1 or 2 hours, or clean up when the event ends.

**Let's show everyone our open hearts...open minds...open doors!**

## Fisk Nominations Committee

### From Fisk Nominations Committee

Thanks to all those who have served, are currently serving as we reach out to those who have not served but would love to serve with others. We believe God has given each of us multiple gifts. If, and when we use these gifts in the circle, the wider, the stronger and better circle is for God's ministry and mission.

Special note:

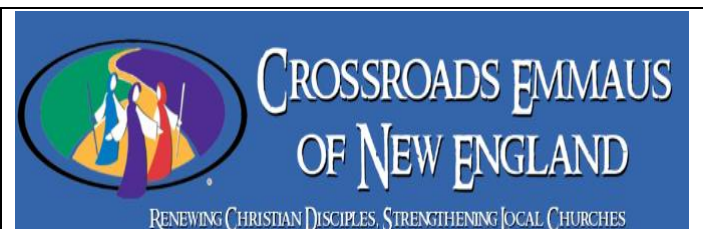
-If you are serving; need to pause to rest or rather be a mentor to others, please let a member of the nominating know (Dr. Dorothy Phillips, Pastor Alecia, Tom Currie, Sherry Culver, or Carolyn DiSciullo.)

-if you want to continue to serve, to serve on another committee or additional committees, please let a member of the nominating committee know

- if you have a life-giving or life-changing idea; maybe a person whose gift you have observed or experience, share with us as we discern with the working of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks, with continuous blessing on each of you for your faithfulness to God. Also, your devotion to God's ministry and mission at Fisk.

## Walk to Emmaus



All persons are invited to the Walk to Emmaus  
From October 12-15, 2023 (72 hour)

For Men & Women

Pray that God will speak to you attend and invite others to attend this event. If you have questions, ideas, or comments don't hesitate to email;

[laydirector@crossroadsemmausne.org](mailto:laydirector@crossroadsemmausne.org)

For more information, please visit

<https://www.crossroadsemmausne.org/wp/emmaus/>

## New England Conference Information



**FYI -- Important & urgent**  
**Learn about the new processes**  
**for Church Conference forms-**  
**paper reports will no longer be**  
**accepted:**

As we prepare for our Fall Church Conferences, our Annual conference is excited to

announce changes that will make annual reporting more efficient so we can focus more on ministry and less on paperwork.

The 2023 Church Conference forms will be submitted digitally via the [People Portal/Church Dashboard](#) online reporting database for clergy and church leaders. There will be no paper forms accepted. Church Conference forms will be available on the Church Dashboard the week of Aug. 21, 2023.

Very Important - To walk you through the new processes and answer your questions, the conference is hosting two online training sessions on completing Church Conference forms. All pastors and church leaders in the following positions are encouraged to attend one of the sessions. (Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Chair, Finance Chair, Trustees Chair, Treasurer, Church/Admin Council Chair, Lay Leader, Church Office Administrator). Please share these training opportunities, take note and attend one session to assist in completing your report for our Church conference this Fall.

### Church Conference Form Training

- 7-8 pm Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023
- 9-10 am Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023

Both sessions are the same; choose the one that works best for you. We will record the sessions. **Visit**

<https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/17511411>  
**to learn more and register.**

**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](tel:7818610249) District Superintendent: Rev. Nizzi

Santos Digan. Her email address: [CEDS@neumc.org](mailto:CEDS@neumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her email address: [CEDistrict@neumc.org](mailto:CEDistrict@neumc.org)

### Altar Guild

#### **Altar Flowers:**

If you would like to order flowers in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, the sign-up 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.

### From 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**

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

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

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



***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which***

***transcends all understanding, will guard  
your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”***

-Philippians 4:6-7 (New International Version)

**September Messenger Deadline:  
Please submit information by  
Friday, August 18, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**