

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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February 2018

Pastor's Note

We have transitioned into another year and a month of 2018 has ended. As I look around, I am concerned about the lack of love; real and true. Therefore, since this month also has Valentine's Day, a day of love, I will be a little bold and challenge us to the task of love.

As we are challenged and moved in new ways, I believe that the eternal grace of God is always with us as a faithful community. We can embody love and continue the same love that Christ has for the church.

Fisk has been, is, and always will be the faithful community of God that reaches out with communal and merciful love to all persons in all places and at all times. We love God, we love ourselves and we love all our neighbors. Our love is not a word but a word turned into action through our worship, Bible studies, by our outreach and caring ministries, our service and mission projects. Most of all, our living illustrates the love community we are.

Hence if you ever feel ill, unloved, isolated and left behind, come, visit us, leave a prayer and God will restore you. You will be in a loving place with people who care about you, talk with and are willing to walk with you until final victory is won!

Being an ardent part of the Creator's community at Fisk, you will experience love; love of God, love of self and love of others. These three are interwoven. If you lack one of these, the others become a house built without a foundation. Therefore, let us strive to keep the three going to make the world a better place.

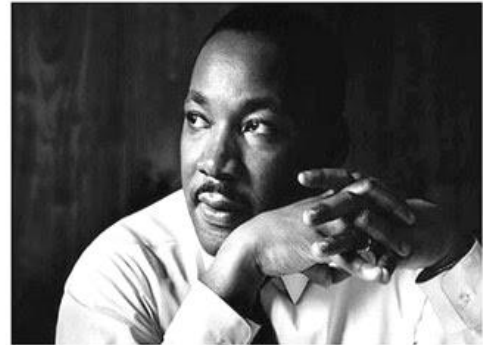
I am affirming this because it only takes a spark. I know the spark has a flame of love within us. Let us keep the flame of the fire burning within each and every human heart. (1 John 4:7-21)

*May you always love and feel loved
beyond Valentine's Day!*

-Pastor Alecia

Pastor's Announcements

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Life's most persistent and urgent question is,
'What are you doing for others?'

He was a pastor and bold shepherd leader. He believed that Jesus Christ overcame hate and division with love and compassion for all. Can we do the same?

This month; Black History month, we remember him but also honor the legacy he left. Therefore, at Fisk UMC, we continue the work of Jesus Christ as we love God, love ourselves and love one another.

February 2018 – Bible Readings

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following.

2/4:	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
2/11:	2 Kings 2:1-12	Mark 9:2-9
2/14:	Ash Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
2/18:	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1: 9-15
	Psalms 25:1-10	
2/25:	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-28

*"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another,
God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.*

1 John 4:12

Worship

***"Isn't it a comfort to
worship a God we cannot exaggerate?"***

quote by Frances Chan

I would like to introduce myself as the new Worship Team chair; following in the footsteps of the very capable Barbara Beekman who held the position for several years. First, I would like to invite anyone who has an interest to join me and the other members of the Team—we are small but we will be mighty!

The Worship Team has responsibility for many aspects of the church life including scheduling acolytes, liturgists, cross bearer, ushers, communion servers, greeters, and church decoration for the various seasons of the church year. These are just a few of its services to the church—more to come in future newsletters.

The Worship Team meets quarterly for one hour after the church service. The first meeting will be held on February 4, 2018, from noon to 1:00 pm (Super Bowl Sunday!).

For February of 2018, in addition to regular worship at 10:30 Sunday mornings, please consider the following times to worship a God we cannot exaggerate:

Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm.

Five Sundays and Thursdays in Lent (see schedule below). In these one-hour sessions (Sun. @ 9:15a.m. and Thurs. 7:00-8:00 p.m.) Pastor Alecia will lead us in a video series called "He Chose the Nails." The short videos will be followed by discussion and comments.

Lenten Bible Study "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado – Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. for five weeks in room 9. Bring your Bible and bring a nail.

	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>
Week One	February 18	February 22
"He chose to be one of us"		
Week Two	February 25	March 1
"He chose to forgive us"		
Week Three	March 4	March 8
"He chose to invite us into His presence"		
Week Four	March 11	March 15
"He chose to love us forever"		
Week Five	March 18	March 22
"He chose to give us victory"		

Diane French, Worship Chairperson

Lent 2018

Lent is a period of 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. This time offers Christians an opportunity to renew their commitment to being more Christ-like and present with each other. This year, the continuous challenge for us, as Christians can be formed in two questions:

**What are we prepared to give up, to remain
closer to God?**

**What are we willing to give to embrace God's love
and love each other?**

Notes ♪ from Fisk Music Ministry

Thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas gift! I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Fisk Minister of Music, and eagerly anticipate with great expectation what wondrous things God will do!

- John T. Bybee II, Minister of Music

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Fisk congregation for the generous Christmas gift! Making music at Fisk has been incredibly gratifying this past year, and I'm looking forward to being a part of worship services in 2018 as well. This is a special community, and I'm grateful to have been welcomed into it.

-Danny Venora, Trumpeter-in-residence

Stewardship

*"When traditional money flow begins to dry up,
we are stewards waiting to help rescue ministries of
this great congregation like the Fisk sisters did."*

"We Are Fisk" This month we say thanks to each of you for your generosity. Your giving always reflects your enthusiasm. For this, we touched many lives and transformation occurs.

We are grateful and hopeful as we enter another year with a more positive attitude. Thank you and may God richly bless all of us.

The Finance Committee

United Methodist Men

ATTENTION All men and boys of Fisk Church: Let's go cheer on the Natick High School Wrestling team as they take on Framingham in the last league match of the year; Wednesday, 2/7/2018 at 7:30 PM at the Natick High School, 15 West Street, Natick.

[No UMM meeting on 2/13/18]



SOUP SOUP SOUP February is **SOUP Month**! Don't you enjoy a "bowl of soup" on a cold, wintry night? Well, we decided that Fisk would designate SOUP as a collection item for the Natick Food Pantry during February AND.... of course we celebrate the N.E. Patriot's Football Team going to the SUPER Bowl.

Show your ❤️ with soup!

Help the Mission Committee stock the shelves with soups. Chicken Noodle is a favorite, but all types of soups are welcome...hearty soups too. Your favorites are probably also the desired types for our Natick residents needing help with their food supply. Bring cans of soup or make a monetary donation; there will be a container at Coffee Hour to support the Food Pantry.



The Administrative Board voted last year to make more funds available to Missions. The committee is very grateful for these funds to support some of our projects. At our last meeting we voted to send an additional \$300.00 to the Natick Service Council designated for Fuel Assistance; most of us have seen a rise in our heating bills and we know this will help someone in need. Thanks to the congregation for this additional opportunity of "helping our neighbors."

Mission Prayer Focus for February

We are asking that you keep the following mission program in your prayers for the month of February.

The Objectives of the United Methodist
Global Health unit:

- Scale up existing programs on community education, care seeking and utilization of health services.
- Increase coverage of health interventions to the most at risk populations.
- Improve the quality and scale of health care services offered through UMC hospitals and clinics.

Keep this group in your prayers.

Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt-Chairperson.

February 6, 2018 7:30pm
Gather with the United Methodist Women
Learning for a Lifetime: Developing Leaders
Prayer and Self-Denial

What is happening ...

- We have three women planning to attend Assembly in Columbus Ohio in April. I understand there is still an extra bed or two if you think you would like to join them. Speak to Sherry Culver, Janis Cail or Barbara Beekman.
- New CIRCLE? Ask Susan Carney
- Who is a member of UMW? Any woman who agrees with the Purpose and *intentionally* agrees to be a member. See Joanne Billo

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.

- Do you knit or crochet? A small group of us meet on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. Come and visit!
- Looking for a good book to read? UMW selects thought-provoking books for us to read. There are many on the shelves in Ogle Parlor. We have a Reading Program for those women who read five books from different categories and *Response Magazine*. See Terry Ames
- We celebrated our UMW during worship on January 14. Our women participated in the service with Janis Townsend, our Coordinator for Spiritual Growth, giving "Her Story" as the sermon. Well done, Janis.
- Two Special Mission Pins were presented to Susan and Tom Carney, well-deserved for all that they do to support UMW and our church activities. Congratulations!

President - Susan Carney
Submitted by - Marcia Hoyt



Where Faith and Life Connect!

Thank you – to all who stopped by our “card table” following worship on January 21. We will be having cards available for you to sign at Fellowship Time in Whipple Hall following worship on March 11 and May 20.

These cards are going to some of our “Treasures,” the “Fisk Faithful” who have been in our midst but can’t be here at this time. Cards, notes, and telephone calls can brighten up someone’s day! Reach out and touch a life!

Help Wanted! We are looking for hearts and hands to assist us with delivery of fruit bowls to some of our homebound members during the week of February 12. This may involve a short visit (10-15 minutes). We can work around your availability! We would put the bowl together for you and set up a time. If you are able to assist with this Fruit Delivery Ministry, please contact Marilyn Donnelly at (508) 359-4025.

SAVE THE DATES!

- Saturday – March 10 – 5:30 p.m. Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner!
- Sunday -June 10 –Church Picnic
- Saturday – October 20 – Pasta Party

Marilyn Donnelly

Pat Price



Music & Movement Time
For Kids Ages 2 To 7

11:00AM-12:00PM

February 3 - Football

Extravaganza

February 17 – Valentines

The event is FREE! No registration is required.

For more information please contact/email Deborah Hernandez deborahlhernandez@gmail.com

(508) 359-4025

(508) 873-1514

The UMW Hannah Circle will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 13th**, 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. in Ogle Parlor (*please note time change*). All women are invited to bring their lunch. Beverages & dessert will be provided. We will discuss knowing and relying on God’s love, participate



in Round 1 of “The Sermonators,” and share memorable love moments from our lives. Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend.



The **2018 Altar Flower Calendar** is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. If you would like to reserve a particular date, as you did in 2017, or would like to sign up for a new date, please print legibly and write in your name. For more information, please contact Debi Henry at:

(508) 651-0256, or debraleighhenry@yahoo.com

Fisk Youth

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang**

Plans are to hold **Methodist Youth Fellowship** meetings following Sunday services (usually twice a month) and host special activities periodically for all youth. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Reminder: see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html> to view MYF pictures and schedule updates. Regular meetings will be held at the church:

February 4

MYF

February 11

MYF

February 23

"Youth & Family Night" 6:30-8:30 PM at Fisk

** During February and March, You may contact

Elisa Currie at tom.currie@comcast.net,

Rob Rowe at malloir@gmail.com,

Sherry Culver at sherrycd@comcast.net

Pastor Alecia, at fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

In addition, if you have an idea for a youth event or activity, wish to volunteer or have questions /concerns, you may send those also.

Special Thank You from Pastor Alecia to all the younger members of our congregation who continue to serve as Cross Bearer, Acolytes and Psalter Readers each month. I wish you much joy, with blessings, at school in 2018 and beyond.

