

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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February 2019

## Pastor's Note

### "REACHING OUT WITH LOVE & CARE"

**W**e have arrived at the second month of 2019. February is a month that is devoted to LOVE. But what does love have to do with anything? Well, there seems to be love everywhere; when we smell blossoms and the trees are bare, when we hear music but there is no one present, and when we seem to walk on air when there is nowhere to stand. Most of the time, this happens in February, the love month. We buy all the chocolate we can afford, the most expensive gifts, beautiful cards, and those once in a lifetime roses. This has been a routine tradition over the years, but this year, can we try something different?

What? Some persons may ask. Well, if love has to do with anything and that love is genuine and lasting, how about something simple and meaningful like, giving to the ministry at Fisk: A ministry that gives a life-giving gift of LOVE to all persons in all places and at all times.

As we think about these simple words, can we be challenged to pursue the sometimes difficult actions? I think we can. There is enough love in each person to combat the hatred that arises, surrounds us, and wants to destroy us. Therefore in view of this challenge, also go out and do something loving for someone you have never met. And if they ask why, tell them because the love in each of us is greater than the hate in the world.

As we celebrate those still living and remember those who have gone ahead, let us never forget that the foundation of a well-lived life is LOVE.

### "WHAT DOES LOVE HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?"

*-Pastor Alecia*

A NEW BOOK CLUB is coming soon. If interested, please contact Joanne Billo. We will be reading a variety of books. Our reflection will be enhanced, time of fellowship strengthened, and our reading even supports the UMW reading program.

## SUSAN ANGELINE COLLINS

### AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN'S INCREDIBLE LIFE AS A METHODIST MISSIONARY



Collins was a remarkable woman before she ever entered the mission field. Born in Illinois in 1851, the daughter of an indentured servant, she was the first African American student to attend Upper Iowa University.

She went on to own her own laundry business in Huron, Dakota. Carolyn Johnson (Director of Diversity for Purdue University): "Someone brings their laundry in, then it wasn't uncommon for people to use old newspaper to wrap their things in. She unfolds this newspaper scrap and in there is an advertisement, a notice about the Chicago Training School."

Collins sold the laundry to follow a call to attend that school for home and foreign missions. Johnson: "How can the message of Jesus that she wants to help bring witness to, how can she do that?"

That desire drove Collins to leave for Africa in 1887, at the age of 36. She worked 13 years for no pay under what was known as a self-supporting mission. Despite hardships, Collins established a boarding school which housed over 50 girls.

In 1900, Collins returned to Iowa and was told, at age 50, she was too old to continue as a missionary. She immediately began raising funds for a return passage to Africa. The Pacific branch of the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society helped Collins resume her work in Angola, this time with pay. She served 18 more years.

To read in more detail with photos in video format, visit: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/african-american-womans-incredible-life-as-a-methodist-missionary>

## Worship Team

### Do You Know??

Pssst! Do you know where the Narthex is?

How about the Vestibule?

Or Ogle Parlor or Whipple Hall?

Or other parts of the church?

The VESTIBULE is the small entryway you are in when you enter Fisk from the front door, a welcoming area containing the Prayer Wall, the box of nametags, some literature displays, and comfortable chairs.

The NARTHEX is the area at the rear of the sanctuary containing worship materials, bulletins, and offering plates, as well as the area where the choir congregates before the service on those Sundays when they process during the first hymn.

The NAVE is the central part of a church, stretching from the (normally western) main entrance or rear wall, to the chancel. The pews are located in this space.

The CHANCEL is the space around the altar, including the choir and the sanctuary at the liturgical east end of a traditional Christian church building. It is generally the area used by the clergy and choir during worship.

**STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**—The term “stained glass” applies to colored glass made with metallic oxides as well as glass on which colors have been painted and then fused in a kiln. The two-fold purpose was to create a “heavenly light” that symbolized the presence of God in the church and to serve as a “Poor man’s Bible,” to teach Biblical stories to those who were illiterate.

**OGLE PARLOR** is the lovely room at the end of the Sunday School hall on the right side. It is named after Rev. William Ogle, the pastor who was instrumental in moving the location of Fisk UMC to Walnut Street from downtown Natick. It is used as a meeting room for the Prayer Shawl ministry and many other functions.

**WHIPPLE HALL** is named for Lewis Whipple. Mr. Whipple was a “pillar of the church” (as we say) and one of the major contributors to our church...and still is through the Whipple Fund (held by the Fisk Trustees). He also was the owner of The Whipple Company, known to many of us as Grandmother’s Mincemeat. He was instrumental in the planning and building of the Walnut St. church in the 1950’s. Lewis and Emma Whipple were the maternal grandparents of Dight Crain.

**So, now you know!**

Any questions?

## Christian Education

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:15 a.m. in Ogle Parlor

We have started a journey of reading and studying the book of Genesis. Please join us knowing that without spiritual growth, all other growth is in vain

#### Genesis Bible Study

- Feb. 3 The Flood  
10 Noah and His Descendants—Chapters 9-11  
17 Abraham Settles in Canaan—Chapters 12-15  
24 Abraham Speaks With God—Chapters 16-19  
Mar 3 Abraham and His Descendants—Chs. 20-24

#### Reflection Readings

For continuous spiritual growth, you can read the selected scripture passages in addition to your daily readings:

<b>Feb. 3</b>	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
<b>Feb. 10</b>	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
<b>Feb. 17</b>	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
<b>Feb. 24</b>	Psalm 37:1-11	Luke 6:27-38

## Something New at Fisk

Diagnoses of autism and ADHD are all on the rise. People with these diagnoses have a variety of challenges that make attending a traditional worship service difficult.

Many different organizations such as theaters and amusement parks are creating adapted experiences that are more accessible for people with these challenges.

Once a month, starting March 17 at 4:30 p.m., Fisk will offer a second worship service that has been adapted with these diagnoses in mind. Serving this portion of the community can be complicated as needs vary greatly so we will be starting with a few modifications and then... .... adapt.

Everyone is invited to attend as we give glory to the Lord.



## Evangelism Team

As an expression of the welcoming nature of the gospel, the Evangelism Team have specific roles in inviting and

welcoming all people to experience the love of God and the joy of the people at Fisk UMC.

Though we invite and welcome, we tend to go the extra step to connect and be present with those who take the time to visit and/or attend our worship services and events.

In view of this, we are inviting all persons to our Annual **"Corned Beef and Cabbage"** dinner scheduled for Saturday, March 23 at 5:30 p.m. Please save the date, invite, and bring as many persons as you can. More details to come!

### Ministry of Caring

This month we give thanks to those who continue to serve in this ministry and those joining us in 2019. Your selfless love over the years has reached out to many in different ways. Most of all, your presence of embodied love through your cards, phone calls, and visits has been connectional.

As we continue our work this year and beyond, please let us know when and if there is a need in the congregation or beyond. Thanks for your continuous support and gifts to make this ministry possible.

### Finance & Stewardship

There is power in connection and in our connectional giving. We give to each other, to our church, to our community and to the global ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church. That is, we have a commitment to be responsible for all that God gives knowing that we are also accountable to God and to each other.

This past year, we have been grateful for each of you and your families in shared giving. We took steps to empower many persons to step up their giving and encourage others to give for the first time, as well as reduce our expenses and still remain the missional church we are called to be.

Therefore, because of you, we continue to strive and be the best and most faithful stewards that God wants us to be. There is complete oversight of all church funds, church property, and equipment. For these, we are also grateful for those who are still committed to tithes, time, and talent as a part of the on-going covenant. Thank you!

### Black History Month

This month, February is dedicated as Black History Month in the United States. This began as a grassroots effort of African-American historian Carter G. Woodson and it has

grown into a national time to honor the triumphs and struggles of African Americans.

This month, we remember

Incidents: the 1919 Chicago race riot, the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, the 1963 March on Washington, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the 1968 Civil Rights Act, and the bloody Sunday of March 7, 1965, and others that shocked millions of Americans and galvanized Congress.

Men: like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglass, George Washington Carver, Thurgood Marshall to name a few.

Women: like Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Shirley Chisholm, Angela Davis, Dorothy Height, and Sojourner Truth, to name a few.

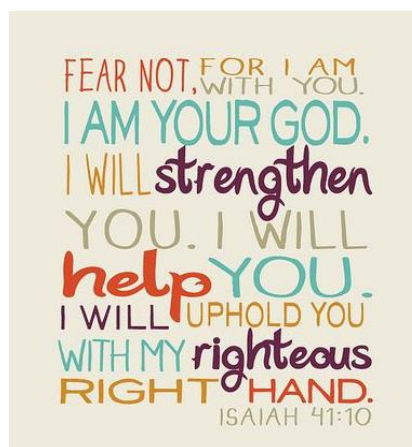
As we remember all of these, we pray for all persons who have struggled and continue to struggle for the basic things of life; food, clothing, shelter and healthcare.

### Bishop Pre-Lenten Gathering for Clergy

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar invites all New England Conference clergy to join him at a Pre-Lenten Gathering; a daylong spiritual retreat, to help in the clergy center and prepare for the Lenten season. These gatherings are sponsored by the Episcopal office and the Board of Ordained Ministry. This year's gatherings will be from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

February 11 – At Aldersgate UMC, North Reading, MA  
February 12 – At Lake Sunapee UMC, Sunapee, NH

### Food for Thought



### Local & Global Missions

Go Patriots! As we know the Super Bowl—as in football—is February 3. Well, we are having our own **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** following worship on February 3. Yes, SOUPER BOWL as in “soup.”

The Missions Committee will be serving soup, breads etc. for lunch (replacing Coffee Hour). There is no set charge--just 2 or more cans of soup or your cash donation—all to go to the Natick Food Pantry. This is a nationwide effort to help alleviate hunger and bring awareness of the hungry people in Natick, in this country and around the world.



**NICKELS and DIMES**—Save your NICKELS and DIMES, bring them to church and deposit them into one of the two labeled soda bottles. The label indicates that these funds will be sent to JFON. What is JFON? Justice For Our Neighbors is

our United Methodist Immigration Ministry. They support Legal Clinics for those needing help and assistance through the immigration process.

Our New England JFON offices are in Springfield and Woburn. This is an incredible group of dedicated people working for human rights. They need our prayers and support. So...please bring your NICKELS and DIMES!



**NOAH'S ARK** Clues from the January Messenger:

- Clue #1 Faith, perseverance and promise
- Clue #2 300 cubits long
- Clue #3 Passing on the Gift
- Clue #4 Genesis 6:8-22

Noah's faith and perseverance guided him to build an ark. It was 300 cubits long. Today we *Pass the Gift*. More next month.

Marcia Hoyt-Chairperson, Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood and Janis Townsend



### United Methodist Women

#### OUR PURPOSE

*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.*

## Human Flourishing

### United Methodist Women

**Tuesday Feb.5, 2019—7:00 p.m., Room 9**

#### Unit Meeting

**All Women Welcome!**

Come and join us as we spend time in fellowship, business, and to hear the conspiratory biblical sisterhood of Puah and Shiprah who came together to resist genocide.

We will explore how United Methodist foremothers birthed movements across race, class, culture, age, religion, and language barriers.

*Conspiracy for the sake of Shalom.*

Join us.



*Come and be part of the plan!*

*Three Circles meet monthly...just ask us.*

*Prayer Shawl Group every Wednesday at 10 a.m.*

*Reading Program-individually. LOOK at our library.*

#### Did you know?

Our Fisk UMW is well-represented on the District and Conference level of UMW.

Sherry Culver is the Vice President of the New England Conference UMW

District Officers include:

Susan Carney-Spiritual Growth

Amy Bruns-Secretary

Terry Ames –Treasurer

Barbara Beekman-Program Committee

*Please pray for these leaders and the work they do for all of us.*



## Music & Movement Time

**For Kids Ages 1 to 7**

**Saturday – February 16**



### Valentines & Friendship

Young children and their parents and/or grandparents are invited to our **FREE** Music and Movement class.

**Saturday – March 16**  
**Glow Spring!**

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

### Youth News

For youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

#### Youth Fellowship Leaders:

Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang  
[fiskyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fiskyouth@gmail.com)

**Youth Group** meets for Youth and Family night on the first Friday every month, and they get together with Bingxin & Tian on the third Sunday following service. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please check out <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html> to view pictures and schedule updates.

### Youth & Family Night

**Everyone is invited!**

**Friday, February 1, 2019**

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Who :** Youth and Families of Fisk - all ages.

**Food :** Simple dinner provided – we ask for volunteers to bring dessert, salad or vegetables.

**Activity :** Games, fellowship, and informal fun with members of the Fisk family.

Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend.

Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church  
**Sunday, February 17, 12:00 PM**

If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact Tian, Bingxin or Sherry Culver at [sherrycd@comcast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)

### UMW Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle will "attempt" to meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 12, in Ogle Parlor. Please bring your lunch (sandwich), and beverages and dessert will be provided. All women are invited! Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you will attend.

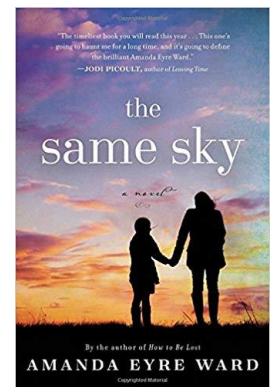
### UMW Book Review

by Terry Ames

"The Same Sky", written by Amanda Eyre Ward, is on our list of books for 2019. I would like to recommend it highly as a good read. It is two stories in one book that end up intersecting toward the end of the book. It toggles back and forth between Alice in Texas who is in a loving marriage, but desperately feels something is missing; she wants a baby and it has not been an easy road. She and her husband own a barbecue restaurant, and it's so very interesting to hear how the whole barbecue process works, along with Alice's story.

On the other side of the pages is a young girl, Carla, in Honduras, whose mother has left her and her brother for America. Their grandmother is bringing them up, and then she dies, which puts young Carla in charge of her six-year-old brother. I was not able to put the book down as I was concerned constantly about how, and if, Carla was going to get out of Honduras as things were becoming more and more violent and dangerous. Her story was heartbreaking as she tries to make her way to her mother in the States. But she is a survivor.

If you want a book that will keep you interested to see what the next page brings, this is your book. Alice and Carla really have compelling stories to tell us.



Our Sunday nursery care-giver, Leslie Harvey, is running in the Boston Marathon again this year. It's her fourth time! Please help her compete and raise funds for Boy & Girls Club of MetroWest by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/bgcmetrowest/lesliewhiteharvey>