

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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February 2020

Pastor's Note

As we enter another month in 2020, it seems that we did not have much of a winter and we will soon be entering spring and planning for the season of Lent. But as we start to think about Lent, remember that February is the month devoted to love. Everywhere will be filled with flowers, boxes of candies, and cards.

As we reflect on all of these things, know that they are available so that we can express love and devotion to loved ones. It is great and good, but if we wait for just one month to express love, it becomes an empty expression and is done only as a secular ritual.

There is another side. Our relationship to God can be similar. When we wait until a certain season to express our love and devotion, gifts and words can be empty. I say this because Isaiah 29:13 states, "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me". And if the truth is to be told and heard, we do not want to be like those people.

Now this may or may not be difficult to accept, but love is the basis for all things good and great. Without love, our words and deeds are without merit. Hence, as we approach the Lenten Season, a period of forty days to Easter and beginning on Ash Wednesday, let us reflect and prepare for the celebration ahead. As we prepare, read the Bible verse of John 3:16 daily. Then, do great deeds of stewardship; give generously to God's ministry and mission, follow Christ's examples, share with those in need, and embody love and hospitality. Most of all, work with your heart, mind, and hands for the Lord. As you do, give everyday rather than waiting for the month of February to show love in the secular world or Christmas in the religious world.

I pray for another wonderful year of ministry at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church. May God richly bless us together to be a blessing to others. Happy "Love Month"!

May the love we feel be shared with others!

-Pastor Alecia

Pastor's Announcements

Prayer Wall & Prayer Box

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 near the sanctuary entrance or in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church, on-line on our website, or just call and speak with Pastor Alecia. Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you.

Therefore, if you are looking for a church home, we invite and welcome all persons. We are a phone call away. Thanks, and be blessed!

Free Community Screening of the Film

"I'm Not a Racist.....Am I?"

Will be held at Natick High School on February 4th from 6:30-8:30PM. This film is about, how over the course of a school year, a diverse group of remarkable youth and their families plunge into a yearlong journey to get at the heart of racism. And by the end of their time together, they develop stronger bonds, greater resolve and a more significant definition of racism than any of us can ever imagine. This is a life awakening experience.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our adult bible study continues with the Book of Leviticus, at 9:15 a.m. all Sundays in February.

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures that have been selected for our worship this month.

Feb. 2	Micah 6:1-8	Matthew 5:1-12
Feb. 9	1 Corinthians 2:1-2	Matthew 5:13-20
Feb 16	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Feb. 23	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17: 1-9
<u>For Ash Wednesday</u>		
Feb. 26	<i>Psalm 51: 1-17</i>	<i>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</i>

Devotional Provided

You can pick up a devotional booklet, Upper Room or Our Daily Bread, in the back of the church at any time to read and reflect on during the month. It is my prayer that your spiritual life will be enhanced in addition to the worship experience. And if you ever need to meet with Pastor Alecia, call, email or text me; even snail mail will do as God blesses us together this year.

Welcome

Fisk UMC welcomes Rev. Dr Jonathan New to Natick and as a part of Natick Interfaith community. He will start in March 2020 as the Interim Minister at the First Congregational Church of Natick, MA. Welcome and feel at home!

Visioning Plans for 2020

We welcome all members to the Administrative Board with thanks for your service. The next meeting for 2020 will be held on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 pm. All leaders are strongly encouraged to be present. This session will include a short reflection on where we have been, review where we are, with a vision of our future of where God is calling us to "Grow our Faithful Community through Evangelism and Stewardship". Thanks to the Administrative Board Chairperson, Tom Currie and Lay Leader, Dorothy Phillips.

New Local Church Events Calendar From Our N.E. Conference

Now available at the conference. We can share *special events and happenings at our church* with folks around the Conference. They have added a new page to the Conference website where we can post events happening at our local church.

These should be **special events** we think might be of interest to those beyond our local community. And the conference has also created a short video (find the link on the calendar page) to walk us through the process of posting our event. Once some events have been posted, there will be a link to the calendar in each week's E-News.

Take a look: www.neumc.org/local-church-events

Black History Month

This month is **Black History Month**. We recognize and remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther Jr. for his work and belief that Jesus Christ came to save and serve. Christ's examples illustrate how we can overcome hate and division with love and compassion for all of creation. This month we also celebrate the legacy of all peacemakers as we, at Fisk, continue the work of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

COMING SOON

Vital Conversations on race: training and resources for conversation—At the 2017 Annual Conference, each church was given copies of the General Commission on Religion and Race's Vital Conversations resources. Members of the Conference Commission on Religion and Race (CCORR) are traveling to the districts conducting training on how to use these materials to have "vital conversations" in our local churches.

CMA & Metro Boston Hope Joint District Day

Is **March 21, 2020**—This year we are hosting jointly with MBH (Metro Boston Hope District). The Guest Speaker is Mike Mather, who has transformed his large church building into a revenue source for the congregation in Indianapolis. The location and time are pending. We are looking for clergy to bring laity from their congregation to further gain insights.

Conference-Wide Workshop- The Ripple Effect

Hosted by Congregational Development and featuring Jason Moore's *Five Things Your Visitors are Thinking About- But Won't Ask*. The event is:

Saturday, March 28, 2020, 9AM -3:30 PM at
East Greenwich UMC, 1558 South Country Trail, East Greenwich, RI

UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE

A unique workshop for our district: - March 14th

Open Spirit Task Force meeting with our district (CMA) from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Carter Memorial UMC, 800 Highland Ave., Needham, MA. All leaders and members of all United Methodist church are invited to attend for important information about our up-coming General Conference 2020. At these district gatherings, facilitators and delegates will share options that will be presented at the General Conference and provide educational materials that will help facilitate congregational conversations about these options in preparation of major decisions to be made by churches. **Please attend, to hear directly from our conference, and to be an informed participant. Thanks.**

Worship Team

During this month, we will observe **Black History Month** with 🎵 hymns 🎵 reflecting this theme.

Pre-Lenten Gathering—February 24th

This year's gathering, lead by Bishop Devadhar, is about Prayer, helping us to center ourselves going into the Lenten Season, and the lead up to **General Conference 2020**. We are meeting at Leominster UMC from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, February 26 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, we will host a “Marking for Blessing” service. Come, feel, and believe that you can be forgiven as we start the season of Lent.

Looking forward during March, Fisk will be hosting “Soup and Scriptures”.

Lenten Scriptures & Soup Suppers

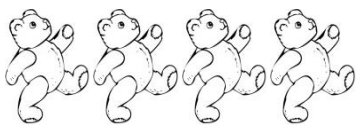
Everyone is welcome to join us each Thursday during Lent for a time of fellowship preparation. This year will be sharing scriptures and personal stories that have been made possible through these passages. We will begin with soup at 6:30 p.m., followed by Scripture and discussion. Hosting will be by various committees with each committee presenting and/or sharing a Fisk story relating to the scripture passage given. “Each one has a story to tell to the nation”. Are you prepared?

Adaptive Worship Service – February 16 at 4:30 p.m.

February Worship Assistants

<u>Feb</u>	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
2	Diane French	Sarita H.
9	Thom Townsend	Dwayne S.
16	Amy Bruns	Tiffany S.
23	Sherry Culver	Kateri G.
2	<u>Communion:</u>	Michelle & Larry Drolet
16	<u>Psalter:</u>	Elizabeth M.

Diane French, Worship Chair



Prayer Bears on the Move!

Where do our Fisk Prayer Bears go?

Where are they needed?

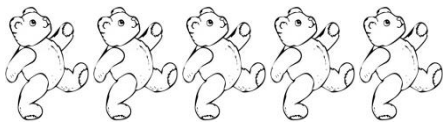
Take a picture of a Prayer Bear at a hospital, or at school.

Is one being held by someone? At work?

At the food pantry? Traveling?

Be creative!

Email photos to Debi Henry by February 20th at debraleighhenry@yahoo.com and look for pictures in the March Messenger.



Reserve Your Date for Altar Flowers

If you would like to remember or honor someone special with altar flowers during the coming year please sign-up on the order chart posted on the wall next to the office entrance. If you have any questions, please contact Debi Henry, at (508) 651-0256 or debraleighhenry@yahoo.com.



Ministry of Caring

Presence

The ministry of caring can also have a lot of sub-titles and the ministry of presence is one of them. What does the word “presence” mean to you? Is it “showing up” when called to be with someone? Is it your presence at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday in worship? The most important gift that we have, that we can give – is our time, and being present with our presence. When we are loving, and emotionally present with others in the now of life, this is one of God’s calling gifts to us.

Being with someone or being there for someone requires emotional intentionality. Do your intentions call you to be somewhere? Does God call you to be present with someone? Presence with family, friends, or your church family means everything. As we pray for our world outside of the doors at 106 Walnut Street, we know that suffering is inseparable for the life of humanity – but, together we can do all things through Christ, who strengthens all of us.

Team Members: Gerry Billingsley, Joanne Billo, Marilyn Donnelly, Clotilde Hyango, Pat Price, and Pastor Alecia

Families of Young Children...

You're invited to a Fellowship Luncheon!

We celebrate you as Christian parents, and we offer our support. We are thankful that you choose to raise your children within our Christian community as you bring your children to Sunday School, to worship, and to other events. Please join together, enjoy a warm meal and warm fellowship right after church on Feb. 9th.



Who: Fisk families with young children (elementary & younger)

What: lunch of lasagna and kid-friendly cheese pasta, salad, garlic bread, and dessert

When: 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 9

Where: Rooms 8 & 9

Kindly RSVP to Amy Bruns (Chair of Evangelism) at amybruns35@gmail.com

Missions & Outreach

Why do Mission Work?

There are so many reasons and so many needs.

Last year, Gary and I were awarded the Volunteers of the Year by the Natick Service Council. In our "acceptance words" I spoke of WHY we do this and quoted John Wesley's Rules of Life-

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

Following the night of recognition held at Walnut Hill School, I received a call from the Director of the Natick Service Council about the quote. Two people in the audience had called him to find out the origin of the quote. It resonated with others!

They wanted to use it in their work or groups. That is one reason we do the mission work we do, to inspire others and to address the needs of people near and far.

Fisk has many options for you—Natick Food Pantry, UMCOR, UMEM, JFON, Veterans just to name a few.

Marcia and Gary Hoyt

Fisk's Missions Committee met and planned some emphases for 2020. You will hear about those plans monthly in this space. However, if you have ideas that you feel we could address, just let us know. We'd like to hear your stories and interests and why they are of interest to you.

Let's begin the year with a THANK YOU for your quick and overwhelming response to the MLK Snack Food Collection. The organizers of that event sent this note (edited) to the participants.

We had an absolutely phenomenal day at the Martin Luther King Jr Day celebration and service event. Due to your efforts, we filled a U Haul full of food and had enough to assemble more than 1,280 snack bag packages for families facing "food insecurity". We also had enough snacks leftover to pull together more than 2,600 additional individually packaged snacks to replenish each school's stash for kids who are in need of snack at school. This is absolutely unbelievable and we could not have done this without your support and your efforts.

Coming Up

February 9, Sunday at Fellowship Hour

Mini Healthy Heart Fair

Coffee Hour will feature

Heart Healthy snacks!

Have your Blood Pressure checked!



Take a Walk!

Walk from Fisk...1/4 mile, half mile or one mile. Maybe sign up for a monthly walk following worship? It's an additional Fellowship Time! This is not for everyone, we realize, but a great option for some. We will have mapped out routes for different walks. Bring or wear your sneakers!

HEALTH / HYGIENE KITS for UMCOR

Have you ever lived through a natural disaster? Lost everything you had accumulated? Didn't even have a toothbrush! This is the situation for many! Our church, through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is ready to bring the needed items to those effected. Recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico is a great example. UMCOR sends Hygiene Kits assembled by local churches like Fisk UMC.

We are highlighting these Hygiene Kits for 2020...all of Fisk can be involved.



Unfortunately, this is an ongoing need. When disaster strikes 1000's of kits may be needed and then replenished. UMW also highlights this activity. This is a great family project to teach children to "help others".

We will have the list available to you to keep in your wallet and refer to when you are out shopping. The items do need to follow the guidelines carefully. If you collect any of these items or a full kit they can be left in Ogle Parlor in the basket.

How many can we send onto the UMCOR Depot by June? Or by December?

Mission Committee-Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, Janis Townsend, and Marcia Hoyt (Chair)

United Methodist Women

We are off and running! Running to support women, children and youth through FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE in Action.

With our purpose leading us, we planned a year of programs to inspire, educate, inform and to bring us into fellowship. We print a Program Book annually and will make them available to ALL WOMEN in hopes that you might find something that interest you. All women (including older teens) are always welcomed and encouraged to attend our meetings or special events.

After having our Leaders installed during worship on January 26...we are ready to "make a difference".

FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES

February 2 (Sunday) Women's Luncheon.

(including older youth who may be interested)

We have found that staying after worship for food, fellowship and learning is a great time for many to attend. We have planned a light lunch with dessert. No cost, just come along.

We will CELEBRATE Black History Month with a program by Dorothy and Crystal.



February 14 (Saturday)—another Luncheon

The Wayland UMW have invited us to their Annual Luncheon for *Gals of ALL Ages* at 12pm. Reservations to Marcia H. by 2/9. Cost is \$6.00 Program is- "Eleanor Roosevelt"

A Live Historical Performance



"No one can make you inferior without your consent"

Eleanor Roosevelt
An Empowered Woman



Fisk currently has three "circles". These are opportunities for United Methodist Women to meet in a smaller group to do the work of UMW. Some members prefer to just be a Member-at-Large.



One Circle meets on the second Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. and one meets on the second Thursdays at noon. The third circle meets in the evening on second Thursdays.

What do you know about the following topics?

- *The UMW's Reading Program*
- *Our Prayer Shawl Ministry*
- *Mission u*
- *A meeting in April in Baltimore NEJ UMW*

The answers are in your UMW Booklet that you should receive February 2 or later that week. If you don't receive one and are interested call Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077



UMW Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11 in Ogle Parlor. Please bring your lunch (sandwich/salad), and beverages and dessert will be

provided. *All women are invited!* We thank Janis Cail, our UMW Vice-President for joining us in January and adding heart to our mission giving. February will see the Hannah's creating Love Cards for women and children in shelters, and "revealing" our Valentine selves. Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend.

Youth News

For Fisk youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

YOUTH & FAMILY NIGHT

February 7, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Whipple Hall

Enjoy dinner games, fellowship, food, and fun with members of the Fisk family. Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend.

zhangtian96@gmail.com (734) 883-0093.

Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church

Sunday, February 16, 12:00 PM

Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please use this link to view pictures and schedule updates.

<http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>