

The Messenger

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

February 2021

Pastor's Note

God's beloved sisters and brothers in Christ!

As we enter the second month of this year, 2021, February is the only month of the year that has twenty-eight days or twenty-nine days in a leap year. Some call it a strange month. Some call it a short month. But whatever it is, this month is also the celebration of "Black History", and "Love month".

This is an incredibly special month with great significance for humankind as we take the journey through a new year and have a new administration in the United States government. But as we start this month, I want to encourage each of us to focus on the LOVE that we can give and share.

This month also has the love day of February 14, Valentine's Day. As we send cards, give candies and flowers, I want to remind us that the greatest and deepest expression of love is more than these. But as we give and share, let us never forget what Jesus Christ did for humankind by being a living sacrifice for our salvation. In the Bible, we are told, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16- KJV)

As we think about this great, underserved, and unmerited love that God gives, can we share that same love with others; even those that we sometimes think are undeserving and unlovable? Well, I think we can and will if we continue to have open minds and hearts. When we do, God will transform lives that are ordinary into extraordinary for the common good of humanity.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day as we remain hopeful that love will and can prevail. Especially as we continue to worship, serve, and give to Fisk UMC, where God is always present.

x 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.

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| February 7 | 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 | Mark 1:29-39 |
| February 14 | 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 | Mark 9:2-9 |
| February 17 | Matthew 6:1-6 | Matthew 6:16-21 |
| February 21 | 1 Peter 3:18-22 | Mark 1:9-15 |
| | Psalm 25: 1-10 | |
| February 28 | Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | Mark 8:31-38 |



February 17, 2021 is Ash Wednesday

"Mark of Ashes" at 10:00am at Bell Tower

Worship Team

You are invited to join us for Ash Wednesday worship on Zoom, February 17 at 6:00pm.

By computer, tablet, or smartphone, use this link:

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

Connect by telephone use either of these numbers.

+1 253 215 8782 US *If the first number you
try doesn't connect, try
the other number.*
+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

My niece posted this on Facebook last week:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." –Abraham Lincoln

A timely look at President Lincoln whose birthday we celebrate this month on Presidents' Day along with another great statesman George Washington.

Diane French, Worship Chairperson

Trustees

Church Readiness for Physical Reopening

We are longing for the day when we can all safely return to our physical church home. While our doors have been closed, your trustees have not been on vacation! The trustees make regular walk-throughs of the church and address any issues as they appear. We are continuing to maintain our church with routine maintenance such as fire alarm testing, replacing batteries in equipment as needed, renewing licenses, but have also used this time to make some improvements and to equip the church for our congregation and the community to safely return.

We have:

- Upgraded the insulation in the boiler room to be more energy efficient
- Made repairs to plumbing in Ogle Parlor and bathrooms
- Replaced another section of the roof
- Begun the process of adding gutters to protect our FACE families and staff from rain when entering the rear of the building
- Purchased a portable sneeze guard for use in the church to protect speakers and vocalists

- Purchased two hand sanitizer stands and conference has provided 5 Gallons of sanitizer!

When we are allowed to return, Fisk is ready to welcome you physically back into our church!

Lenten Bible Study

Our study will be **"Words of Life" by Adam Hamilton** during this year's journey of Lent. It will be a **ten-week** study and continues on **Tuesdays at 7 pm**.

Study books can be purchased from Cokesbury or where books are sold. You can also sign up before next week and pick one up from the church's office, leaving a donation.

As we travel the Lenten journey, this study looks at the Ten Commandments and how it applies to our current world, with a video by Rev. Hamilton to start the conversation.

Please find time and plan to join us for this combined study with the United Methodist Church of Weston, MA under the leadership of Rev. Pat McHugh.

Log in: Join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295613660?pwd=dVkyV2h1QVZza1JlVWk1OFIzS0dNdz09>

Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 295 613 660 and Passcode: 056902

Note: Since we will be studying for ten weeks and looking at the **Ten Commandments**, you can join in at any time.

February 21, 2021 is the First Sunday in Lent

Ministry of Caring

*Don't Give Up on This Year
Keep Fighting for the Good
Keep Showing Up*



*Keep Loving
Keep Giving Back
Keep Being Kind*



*Keep Being Brave
Keep Caring
Keep Trying New Things*



*Keep Showing Grace
Keep On*

This World Needs You to Believe in the Good

Finance & Stewardship

We have finalized our 2020 results, and we are working diligently on the 2021 Budget Plan. Despite the pandemic challenges, we are blessed with an improved financial position, which we will need to support our challenges in 2021. We were blessed with two unique gifts in 2020: an anonymous donation of \$14,000, and a federal PPP forgivable loan of \$20,000. We also spent less than we planned due primarily to a warm winter. In summary, our surplus totaled \$30,000, and we have a \$36,000 cash balance to begin 2021...PTL! We were able to pay 100% of our Mission shares to our connectional Conference. However, in 2021, our projected deficit will be over \$20,000, which will require us to use much of the blessing of our 2020 surplus.

| <u>Summary :</u> | Actual - 2020 | Budget 2020 |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Total Support | 225,340 | 207,750 |
| Total Expenses | 195,322 | 217,602 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | 30,018 | (9,852) |

We do not yet know what 2021 will bring. We do not yet know all of our challenges. We DO know that we will need everyone's continued prayerful and giving support in 2021. But, let us pause to give thanks, and recognize our blessings. —The Finance Committee.

UMW—Reading Program



Calling All Readers —Start a Book now!
to share with us at our March UMW meeting

On March 2nd at 4:30pm we are hosting a Book Review via ZOOM at our UMW meeting and **would love you to share** a paragraph with us of a book you've read from our Reading Program; **or if not from our program**, another book you have read recently which inspired you, comforted you, or you Just enjoyed and would like to recommend. There is a sampling of 12 of the new books in our Library in Ogle Parlor. Also, attached to the email, that delivered The Messenger, is a list of all the 2021 books* you can choose from if you wish to purchase them or borrow them from your local library.

*If you don't have a computer and wish a printed list please call me 508-653-1462 and I'm happy to mail one to you. Terry Ames-Reading Program Coordinator

Missions

One of **Fisk's Mission Partners** is the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine.

See what is happening there!



Stronger

Together

Capital Campaign

Providing a Stronghold for Those in Need

This is the focus of the Capital Campaign for the **United Methodist Economic Ministry** in cooperation with the United Methodist Foundation of New England. This is our "connectional church" at work.

The VISION—is to provide a safer and sustainable place to provide food, clothing, shelter, and economic opportunities for the poor of the Western Mountains in Maine. During this pandemic the requests for help increased 170%.

The PURPOSE-- to replace the roof over the thrift shop, create a sorting center, and upgrade the bunkhouse in Salem (for emergency temporary housing), as well as to provide a weather-tight, transportable storage unit for the Howland site.



The GOAL—the financial goal is \$70,000 to better provide for those underserved brothers and sisters in Maine.

How to help!

PRAY for the people served, the staff, our projects and the ministries of UMEM ---Food Pantry, Thrift Shop, fuel assistance, and help with emergency housing, unemployment and finding resources.

CONTRIBUTE with a check payable to Fisk (memo for UMEM), mail a check directly or electronically at www.umeconomicministry.com (for Capital Campaign)

UMEM 1458 Salem Rd. Salem Twp, Maine 04983

Marcia Hoyt for the Missions Committee—Janis Cail,
Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood and Janis Townsend

United Methodist Women



TO OUR NEW OFFICERS and President Janis Cail

Our next unit meeting of **all women who support our purpose and wish to join us... by ZOOM or on your phone.** It is easy...and an opportunity to connect with our sisters in UMW.

Finding Peace in an Anxious World **February 2 at 4:30pm**



This is the title of the study for MISSION u 2021.

We will be sharing a short video and thoughts on this important topic. Get yourself a simple snack, sit back and either listen on the phone or connect through ZOOM. We look

forward to “seeing or hearing” you.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://umcom.zoom.us/j/94188447457>

Meeting ID: 941 8844 7457

Phone-in 1 929 205 6099 or
1 301 715 8592

Prayer Shawl Group

Are you a knitter or crochet-er? Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10...masked and distanced. We share, knit, pray and enjoy the connection with other women. We are producing warmth and hope for those in need.

Hygiene Kits—Health Kits

Another year...another 100 Hygiene Kits! Can we do it again? Keep the list in your wallet and when you see one of the items...buy a few of them and eventually you have 5 kits—more or less. If you choose to buy certain items and leave them in the Parlor...others will supplement those things. Our goal each year is 100!

Reading —UMW has a Reading Program and we will highlight some of these books in March. What have you read? Check in with Terry Ames.

UMW—Hannah Circle

UMW Hannah Circle ***Love Knows No Boundaries***

Matthew 22:38

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

The Hannah Circle will meet by telephone on Tuesday, February 9, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Our main topic of discussion will be “Love”. We are going to discuss types of love in our lives and the things that we love and what we are passionate about. Questions to guide our discussion are in the February Hannah Banana Peel. Nancy Swan will lead us in devotions, and Donna Morrell and Debi Henry are our hostesses. *All women are invited to join in with us for some fun conversation and to hear each voice and connect.* For the telephone connection numbers, please contact Debi Henry, (508) 651-0256, debraleighhenry@yahoo.com or Donna Morrell at (978) 212-5160.

Thank You!

Family Promise Metrowest (FPM) offers its deepest gratitude to the members of The United Methodist Women of Fisk Memorial UMC for your generous donation in December 2020. This type of financial support has become even more important to FPM in the time of COVID-19.

Normally relying on our network of congregations and volunteers to provide safe housing for our families, we instead moved families into individual hotel rooms where they could safely isolate, thereby protecting themselves and our network of volunteers from potential disease transmission. Within the first few weeks of the pandemic, 72% of our families lost their jobs or had work hours reduced. This loss of income severely impacted household budgets for food and healthcare expenses.

Your donations have helped us offset the increased costs of housing our shelter families and to supplement their SNAP benefits and food pantry donations with grocery gift cards and medical and cleaning supplies. Our member congregations are the foundation of Family Promise, and you contribute to our success year after year in countless ways. We are ever grateful.

Warmly,

Paula Brown, Outreach & Network Coordinator

Family Promise Metrowest, 6 Mulligan St., Natick, MA 01760
508-231-4159 x105

From the Church Office

March Messenger Deadline:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Mailing Date: Weds., 2/24

**For all church office business, at this time,
please contact Pastor Alecia directly.**

fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

phone: 508-653-1674

email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

***Note - When you call the church, always leave a
message. Messages are played and heard daily.***

NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East

Website: www.neumc.org/CE

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington,
MA 02421

[\(781\) 861-0249](tel:(781)861-0249) Phone

District Superintendent: **Rev. We Hyun Chang**

His email address: CEDS@neumc.org

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

Fisk Memorial United Methodists Church



Job Opening: Administrative Assistant 12 to 15 hours a week

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church in Natick, Massachusetts is currently accepting letters of interest and resumes for the flexible 12 to 15 hours a week position of Administrative Assistant. We are looking for one to support and field the needs of the Pastor and the various ministries at Fisk, to provide communication to the church community and coordination of church activities. This person would serve as a weekday link between Fisk members, UMC and the community through phone, email and office activities. This position reports to the Pastor.

Qualifications

1. Firm understanding of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
2. Use of databases—experience with “Realm” helpful
3. Good communication and organizational skills
4. An understanding of Google apps – able to share documents – create sheets and docs.
5. Minimum of 3 years of Admin experience (preferably with a church)

Location

About Natick: Natick is 15 miles west of Boston. It is easily accessible via the Mass Pike, and Routes 9, 16, and 27.

To Apply

Please mail a letter of interest and resume with references to:

Senior Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut Street Natick, MA 01760
Telephone: 508-653-1674

E-mail: fiskpastor@fiskumc.org