

# The Messenger

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

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

## February 2022

### Pastoral Note

*"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV).*

As we enter the second month of this year, I keep reflecting on human's foolishness. Especially, these past years when we listened, took on, and lived lies as we expressed our opinions as facts that caused great harm to ourselves and to others. Yes, opinions are great while they last but are they facts or just foolishness?

Well, after living many years in and through human conditions, I always wonder if opinions are top level foolishness or willful ignorance. But the reality is whatever opinions are, they can cause harm to ourselves, families, churches, communities, nations, and the world. And when we claimed that we love God and follow Jesus Christ examples but our thoughts, words, and deeds are still like the foolish, what are we?

I do not know, what but I do know, is that there is a God who is always present and gives us opportunities for knowledge, mutual respect, to be courageous and to face and overcome challenges.

One such challenge was nicely quoted:

*"Our world is not divided by race, color, gender, or religion. Our world is divided into wise people and fools. And fools divide themselves by race, color, gender, or religion." - Unknown*

Hence, the simple and sometimes difficult question is, "Who are we with, the wise or the fools?" It is for each of us to reflect on and answer as we live in a world that makes us choose to be wise or to be fools.

Finally as United Methodists, a part of the universal church, be reminded that in one of John Wesley's notes on Romans, he wrote about righteous living for humanity to avoid **'all unnecessary'** with those persons who cause divisions (Notes, 16:17) .

Therefore, let us avoid evil embedded in foolishness because it injures and causes harm to individuals, families, communities, churches, and the world. But if the truth is ever told and heard, willful ignorance, misinformation of facts and false accusations can cause lasting sufferings and destructions.

***Do no harm and remain under the power of God and not the foolishness of the world!***

+ 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 6:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11      Luke 5:1-11  
**February 13:** Psalm 1      Luke 6:17-26  
**February 20:** 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23      Luke 6:27-38  
Psalter: Psalm 27:1-11 (UMH 772)

**February 27:** Exodus 34:29-35      Luke 9:28-43  
Guest Speaker: Rev. Stephen Sinclair

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

- Pastor Alecia

## Weekly Worship Service



In-person worship continues to be a challenge but the joy of worshipping has never gone away. We continue to have an experience of miracle as each person shares, serves, and remains safe. We continue to worship in-person and on zoom and we give thanks and appreciation to the devoted Worship Tech Team and all they do to keep us connected. The presence of Team members each week has made life at Fisk UMC easier, engaging and worth the worship experience. **Thank You!**

**February 27:** Transfiguration Sunday

**Worship service is every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**  
**In- person and on Zoom.**

### Log in information for ZOOM Services

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

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

Connect by telephone use either of these numbers.

**+1 253 215 8782 US** or **+1 301 715 8592 US**

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

If those links fail to get you into Fisk Service, visit

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) click "Join Meeting" on top right

Type in **936 6690 6008** in the "Meeting ID"

Click Join.

### February Liturgist Schedule

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Sunday, February 6:  | Joanne Billo  |
| Sunday, February 13: | Terry Ames    |
| Sunday, February 20: | Thom Townsend |
| Sunday, February 27: | Crystal Mayo  |



**"We love because  
God first loved us."**

**1 JOHN 4:19**

## Evangelism

*My command is this: Love each other as I have  
loved you.*

—John 15:12

It's cold and the daylight hours seem short—maybe because the hours are short! Many of us are feeling isolated in this time of masking when we go out or when we don't go out, but rather stay in.

How, then, can we **love** each other as the Lord has commanded?

Here are four easy ways:

1. *Reach out* to someone else. Whether by text, email, or handwritten card, choose a person today and send them a line or two of encouragement. An "I'm thinking of you" or "we're praying for you" can mean more than you think.

2. Pick up the phone and *give someone a call*. We have many folks attending worship remotely, and we miss the chance to greet them in person. Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear their voice and for them to be surprised and warmed by your loving call?

3. Next time you pop into the corner shop or supermarket, keep an eye out for someone who is struggling with shopping bags and *offer to help* this person to their car or taxi. Taking just a few minutes out of our busy days and helping with a task we take for granted can often be such a great help to others.

4. Take two pieces of paper. On the first, *write a thank you letter to God*. Think about the death and

resurrection of Christ. What did Jesus go through for you? What hope does his resurrection bring you for the situations you face today?

Take the second piece of paper and *write a thank you note to someone* in your life. It might be someone who is near you physically, or someone you haven't seen for a while. Say what's in your heart when you think of this person. They'll be thanking you for many, many days.

Finally, keep praying for each other. We follow the Lord's commandment by putting ***our love into action.***

\* From the Evangelism Committee

### United Methodist Women

Everyone is welcome to join us.

#### Black History Month Observance

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

**4:30 pm Virtually on Zoom**



Speaker: Aljani Stanley, MPA/MHA, LSSGB

Title: "We Are One"

This presentation will cover the history of equity and social justice, why this work is important and how we as United Methodists can support this work.

Brief Bio: Aljani Stanley is an innovative leader with broad expertise in Strategic Leadership, Organization Development, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Change Management, Process Improvement, Program and Project Management. She is the Director of Administration, Office for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Development, Harvard Medical School. Ms. Stanley was one of the recipients of the Harvard Inaugural Equity, Social Justice, and Advocacy Award/2021.

She is an active member in the United Methodist Church. She served on the NE Conference - Committee on Leadership/Nominations, is a member of the Fisk UMW Joanna Circle, Former Evangelism Chair at Fisk, Sunday School Teacher and Certified Lay Servant. Her family includes her husband, Dwayne Stanley, children Tiffany and Dwayne Jr. and parents George and Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman. In her free time, she loves gardening and baking.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 941 8844 7457

Find your local

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

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As a group of women concerning themselves with "growing in their faith, concentrating on missions for women, children and youth".

We do this in so many ways---

- the Reading Program
- knitting Prayer Shawls
- hold two Yard Sales for missions
- assembling Hygiene Kits
- Bible study groups
- Hold Retreats
- "Circles" for fellowship and work
- attend Mission u
- gather as a District and a Conference
- plan an Annual Fair-for mission giving
- support many agencies with our pledges
- Pray—use the Annual Prayer Guide
- contact missionaries (cards and emails)
- attend Assembly
- 



## TURN IT UP!

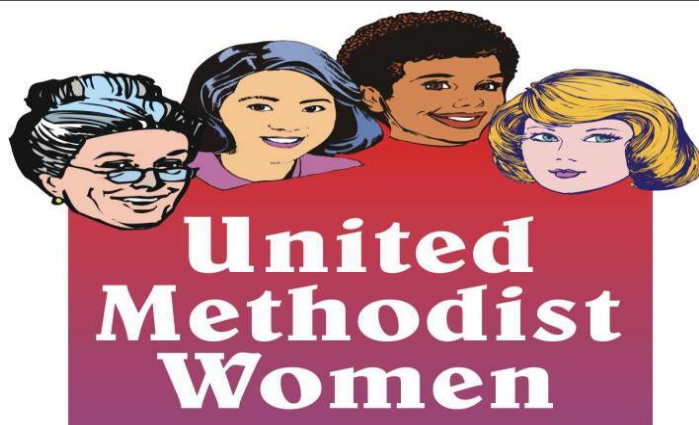
**ASSEMBLY 2022- Orlando, Florida.**

**May 20-22, 2022**

We will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in their communities and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this we will TURN IT UP!

Are you interested yet? Join us at any one or more of these important fellowship and mission opportunities.

See the article on this page about our speaker/program on February 1.



We are excited to announce the proposed UMW officers for 2022.

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| President      | Deborah Friscino |
| Vice President | Terry Ames       |
| Secretary      | Pat Price        |
| Treasurer      | Sherry Culver    |
| Local Church   | Ainslee Wicks    |

Program Resources

Prayer Shawl coordinator Janis Cail

Education/Interpretation Marcia Hoyt

Membership, Nurture/Outreach Jan

Townsend

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Social Action | Susan Carney |
|---------------|--------------|

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Spiritual Growth | Barbara Beekman |
|------------------|-----------------|

Nominating Committee:

Dorothy Phillips and Lois Potter

***Speak to any of these leaders to learn more about United Methodist Women***

## *Council on Ministries*

## *Council of Ministries*

At our January meeting we continued the Visioning work that began at the Jan 15th planning session, focusing on how the Fisk goal for 2022 relates to our Mission Statement. No idea was too small or too big to mention. No issue was off limits. All was shared with the goal of enhancing **Connection** and increasing **Participation** during 2022.

The general conclusions:

We love our church and the congregation here in Natick  
We know that we cannot sit back and do nothing during COVID

Things are different and we have to change

We are a faithful community

Church facility needs to feel more welcoming to visitors and congregation

Hybrid service needs some adjustments to improve the worship experience for all

So we have some work ahead of us. This committee meets every month to ensure that our ministries continue and thrive. As Pastor Alecia reminded all of us – "If we can DREAM, - we can live it!"

So we need your ideas, wishes and dreams for Fisk - is there something that you wish Fisk did in the community? Or had available to enhance our building and grounds? Or an event or activity that you have wanted to try? One idea that came up is adding picnic tables to our front lawn to make it more inviting. They could be used for Fellowship time outside or conversations over a bagged lunch. Perhaps this is an idea that you could support? Or is there something else you have thought about? We want to hear from

[United Methodist Women's 2022 Prayer Guide!](#)

Our beloved Prayer Calendar has a **new name** to reflect



everyone - let your voice be heard and together we can make it happen.

My dreams for Fisk include meeting the needs in our congregation, enhancing our worship experience and expanding our outreach into the community and congregation - working to meet needs wherever and whatever they might be. It's not a job that I or the Council on Ministries Committee can do alone - we need all of you to take a piece of this in 2022

## Missions



Yes, this is a "play on words". This program happens in February—in line with the Super Bowl weekend...as in FOOTBALL. The day is February 13! We are focusing on this for the month of February.

**SUPERBOWL of CARING** is a nationwide effort to bring deeper meaning to the day of the football game.

Churches, Youth Groups, Companies, Organizations and Professional Offices who are willing to help tackle hunger on our field, and at the same time take on an activity that will build a stronger team, then take a look at our *play by play* to examine your options. Here are ways to help us reach the goal post.

### FIRST DOWN



Done

**Make the decision to organize your team** around SOUPER-BOWL to help in "Nourishing Our Community...Supporting the Natick Food Pantry!

and make **Connection** and **Participation** a personal priority.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, Feb 15, 7pm. We meet via zoom - if you'd like to attend, email me and I'll include you on the Zoom information.

Will you join me on the journey that will be 2022?

Sherry Culver, Chair Council on Ministries  
sherrycd@comcast.net

### SECOND DOWN



Make your play!

Food donations? Cash donations? Both? Yes, BOTH.

Bring your donations to Fisk and leave them in the office Sunday through Wednesday. Sunday and Wednesday mornings are the most convenient. Red Doors are unlocked 10-12noon. Otherwise ring the bell and Carolyn will let you in. Your checks may be sent to Fisk or put in the offering on Sunday. Memo—Souper Bowl

A non-perishable **Food Drive** collecting canned food (SOUP) and other non-perishable food packages. It is important as stewards of good health that we source and distribute a maximum of healthy foods to our clients so that they can be given the best foundation for health and success.

### THIRD DOWN



Done

Register Your Campaign with the National Organization.

### FOURTH DOWN



We count and deliver the gifts to the Natick Food Pantry. We all WIN!

In a typical year we might have had a Soup Lunch, sold homemade soup, had a chili cook-off...but with COVID this is not advisable in February 2022. BUT we can still support this

effort, enjoy the football game, and help those in need of good, nutritious food.

*Let us pray--Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."*

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

## Finance

Good tidings as we closed 2021 and begin 2022. We are blessed with increased December giving, and we are ending the year with a small SURPLUS, versus our original budgeted plan of a deficit of \$23,000! We are blessed many times over.

Major giving support came in to us in the last two weeks:

1. Pledged giving was \$22,111 in December, to bring us to virtually 100% of our Pledged Budget, after being behind 9% in November.
2. Other giving from inside and outside of the congregation exceeded our historical projections by almost \$13,000, surpassing any recent year's blessings.

On the expense side, Mission Shares were paid 100%, totaling \$32,000, as apportioned by our Conference. Other expenses were \$9,300 below Budget, due primarily to Covid-reduced activities by the Committees and Commissions, no Nursery Care, and lower spending before we found our new Admin. Assistant. We end the year with \$41,000 in cash, virtually the same as 2020.

The summary for 2021:

| Final | Budget<br>2021 | versus<br>Budget |
|-------|----------------|------------------|
|-------|----------------|------------------|

### Summary:

|                              |            |             |       |
|------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| Total Budget Support/Income  | 204,306.20 | 189,925.50  | 7.6%  |
| Total Budget Expenses        | 203,171.51 | 212,489.86  | -5.6% |
| Net Budget Surplus (Deficit) | 1,134.69   | (22,564.36) |       |

We will face challenges in 2022, but we are grateful for God's work as we supported the many ministries of Fisk in 2021.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Mike Bruns (Chair), Pastor Alecia, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Tom Currie (Chair-Admin Board), Jen Garrant (Treasurer), Crystal Mayo (Financial Secretary), Deborah Hernandez (Trustees), Michelle Drolet (SPRC), Dave Cail, and Thom Townsend.

## 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, share, and serve. Jesus 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 UMC continue the work of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## United Methodist men

**Gathering at Mel's Commonwealth Cafe in Wayland**  
Breakfast at 8:00 am Tuesday, February 8, 2022.  
Meet us there!

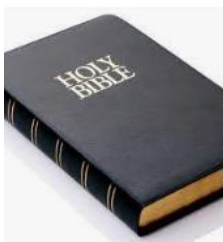
## Thank you

From New England Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON). They wish to recognize members and friends of Fisk Memorial UMC for their generous support in 2021. In addition, they are grateful for our assistance during a year when gathering was limited and fundraising was difficult. May we all feel blessed to have been blessings to others.

Family Promise Metrowest is grateful for the recent donation from the United Methodist Women of Fisk Memorial as our organization relies on the support of congregations like yours to help vulnerable families throughout the region. Through our LIFE program families facing eviction are diverted from entering shelter and thereby avoid the trauma of homelessness. Those who already are experiencing

homelessness receive services through our Shelter program. In the past, your congregation opened its doors and turned your classrooms into bedrooms, where our families would stay overnight for several weeks throughout the year. That model is changing, however, and in a few months renovations to our Day Center in Natick will be completed allowing families to stay in one place until they secure permanent housing. It's a big change for us. But one thing will remain the same: the support from congregations like yours that help us keep pace with the increasing demand for our services. We are so very grateful.

### *Education*



Women's Bible Study Truths  
There are 2 groups.  
Last week we had 11 in the morning on Tuesday.  
We had 9 at night on Thursday.  
Susan Carney is the facilitator.  
We are studying Genesis.

We had Deb from Washington, D.C.

We had a guest from Texas.

We have our hearts and minds open.

God has blessed our discussions many times.

**Join the Tuesday morning group, at 10:00 a.m.**

**Or the Thursday night group, at 7:15 p.m.**

Contact: [susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com) with

Questions or to receive a ZOOM invite.

### *Sunday school*

We are small but mighty. There are blessings for teachers and students. We are studying the fruits of the spirit.

Join us Sundays: 9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m.

Questions -- see Carolyn DiSciullo or Susan Carney.



### *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**

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

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

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

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

#### **NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

**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

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

His email address: [CEDS@neumc.org](mailto:CEDS@neumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

March Messenger Deadline

Please submit information by  
Friday, February 18, 9:00 a.m.