

The Messenger

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

February 2023

Pastor's Message

January has ended, winter is hesitant and we have transitioned into another month the Lord has made and given to us free and unmerited. As we look around, let us continue to move forward, anticipate more snow, as we can share and receive *love*.

This month, February, known as *love* month, we will be celebrating "Ash Wednesday" as we travel the Lenten journey. Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to *Resurrection (Easter) Sunday*. And though it has been a season of self-reflection, self-discipline, and penitence, we can all find a spirit of *love* and springtime in all of life's gloom and sadness.

As the springtime brings flowers, we can all bring some *love* to humanity. As we share love, we might want to reflect on how it looks and feels when light shines into our bedrooms in the morning, when we see fresh flowers and smell and taste a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

When Lent begins, our lives do not end. We will begin the journey with deeper faith and excitement in what the Bible teaches and for what is ahead. We will continue to live out our faith in light of springtime joy, we can experience *love* and let peace prevail in our lives, our churches, our communities, this nation and the world. Especially this month that is recognized as 'Black History Month.' We will also remember lives lost and celebrate lives still present.

Most of all let us be open, be prayerful, and be grateful for the transformation that God will do with and among us. Let us engage in worship, Bible studies, outreach, and service as we travel to Easter Sunday and beyond; especially with all the love we can give and receive.

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

**All persons are invited to Fisk UMC
Worship Service, every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
To connect by telephone use either of these
numbers:**

**+1 646 558 8656 US Enter Meeting ID: 994 3325
8889**

**+1 312 626 6799 US Enter Meeting ID: 994 3325
8889**

**By computer, tablet, or smart phone, use this
link: <https://zoom.us/j/99433258889>**

**Or visit www.Zoom.us and enter
Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889**



Pictured above: The Baptism of Frank Bentley Falconer III. The Baptism was celebrated on January 8, 2023 with thanks to his parents; Frank Falconer II and Jessica

Drolet for bringing this child to Christ and sharing him with the family at Fisk.

away on Good Friday to someone or an organization that might need them.

Worship

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 5, 2023 Liturgist: Crystal Mayo
Psalm 112:1-10 Matthew 5:13-20

February 12, 2023 Liturgist: Terry Ames
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Matthew 15:21-37

February 19, 2023 Liturgist: Dr. Dorothy Phillips
Exodus 24:12-18 Matthew 17:1-9
Psalter: Psalm 99:1-9 (UMH 819)

February 22, (Ash Wednesday)

7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Fisk UMC (In-person only)
Psalm 51: 1-17 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26, 2023 Liturgist: Thom Townsend
Psalm 32 Matthew 4:1-11

“Read as you study, study as you live, and live well!”

+ Pastor Alecia

Please email the Church Office at:

FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org to choose a date to be a Liturgist. There is also a Liturgist Signup sheet located in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

Save the Date -Worship

There will be an Easter Celebration in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 9 at 10:30am. Everyone is invited. Come; bring family and friends to celebrate the dawn of a new day! **“Happy Easter”**

Lent 2023

Lent, a period of 40 days of reflection 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. As we remain present, 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?

As we think about these questions, the first Sunday in Lent is February 26. Bring something you are willing to give up throughout Lent. Leave it on the altar and it will remain in place each week as we give up something on the altar until after the season of Lent. Then, these items will be given

Coming Soon:

- UM Discipleship/ New members class
- Youth Confirmation class

Lenten Bible Study- Every Wednesday for five weeks from 7-8pm, with soup at 6:30 pm.

In these in-person one-hour sessions, Pastor Alecia will initiate, guide the process and/or share as needed to bring stories to life as each person or committee shares their stories and how they live out their faith today, in the congregation and beyond.

See schedule below:

WEEKS	Wednesdays
Scripture Readings (Mark 14 & 15) & Soup at 6:30pm weekly	
One	March 1 Mark 14:1-11
Worship & SPRC	
Two	March 8 Mark 14:12-26
Adm. Board & Christian Ed.	
Three	March 15 Mark 14:27-42
Mission, UMW & UMM	
Four	March 22 Mark 14:42-15:15
Finance & Evangelism	
Five	March 29 Mark 15:16-32
COM & Trustees	

Food for Thought:

Remember that we are all disciples of Jesus Christ and we can be good and do all the good we can. Therefore, if you want to feel like Paul, write letters, send cards or text a sibling to connect and strengthen relationship. Yes! Be the Good Samaritan and do good no matter what.

Black History Month:

This month, February is “Black History Month. As we celebrate and remember, we at Fisk UMC continue the work of Jesus Christ for peace, justice, and equality with love for humanity. Most of all, we are trying to do all the good we can, to all persons and at all times.

Help Wanted:

Fisk is looking for someone to take on our (paid) janitorial work. Four hours per week on Fridays. If you or someone you know might be interested - please contact the Trustees or the Office for more

information. Alternatively - if you could recommend a house cleaner that works in our area, please pass that information along, too.

Time for Reflection:

February is "Black History Month". The month 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 Right Act, the 1968 Civil Rights Act, and the bloody Sunday of March 7, 1965 and others that shocked millions of Americans and galvanized Congress. We pray for *all persons* who have struggled, and continue to struggle after violence and disasters.

-This month we remember **some men** like Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglass, George Washington Carver, Thurgood Marshall to name a few. We pray for *all persons* who have struggled, and continue to struggle for the basic things of life; food, clothing, shelter and healthcare.

- This month we remember **some women**; Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Mahalia Jackson, Sojourner Truth, to name a few. We pray for *all women* everywhere who have struggled, and continue to struggle for real love, freedom, respect, and equality.

-This month we remember **some children**; Emmett Till, children of Birmingham, student volunteers who traveled to Mississippi, Phil Hutchings, Joan Traupauer, Clara Luper, Michael Thelwell, Little Rock Nine, to name a few. We pray for *all children* who have struggled, and continue to struggle to be love, accepted, provided for and protected.

Natick Interfaith Clergy Association

Natick Interfaith Clergy Association meets for mutual support and to work on issues of shared interest in the beloved community of Natick. As a group, we strive to promote and live into shared dedication to peace, universal love, and inclusion for all people in the community. We do this by sponsoring and partnering with organizations in Natick for such events as the community annual

"Martin Luther King Jr. program as well as vigils and other forms of public witness when the need arises. This is who we are and we are called to be God's presence and advocates in Natick and beyond.

United Methodist Men



Fisk's United Men's Ministry has made YOUR reservation for Tuesday, February 7 at BJ's Restaurant at 7:00pm. This is a relatively new restaurant in the area...let's give it a try! Reviews are positive! It is located on Route 9 East Bound - 124 Worcester Road, Framingham (across from Walmart and Ken's Restaurant) Meet us there **on the 7th at 7:00pm**. Call Gary Hoyt or Geoff DeSesto for reservations.

Council of Ministries



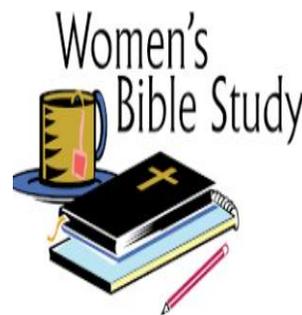
Pancakes & Purple & a Parade?! Tuesday,

February 21 6:00 p.m.

Join together as a church family for a Fat Tuesday pancake feast and celebration! We'll have a pancake dinner and fun and fellowship.

Break out your beads and wear the traditional colors of purple, yellow and green if you like...happy and crazy outfits encouraged.

Bring a friend, your appetite, and your smile!
***Sponsored by Council of Ministries



Education

Women's Bible Study on Zoom meet Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. or Thursdays 7:15 p.m.- 8:15 p.m. Join us —
susanjcarney@gmail.com

(Meeting on ZOOM)

Sunday School



Children's Sunday School Classes

Join us as we learn all about God's Word and His love for us! We meet at 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. on Sunday Mornings in Room 2. -Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney

United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

There's HOLY GRAFFITI on the walls at Fisk!

At our January meeting, women of Fisk celebrated Epiphany with kings cake and graffiti! While most of us are taught not to write on walls, there is an Epiphany practice, celebrated by the Methodist Church as well as other denominations, that invites Christ's blessing through chalking the space.

"CHALKING THE DOOR" with the first letters of *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* (Latin for "May Christ Bless this House") is an ancient practice of the church in the New Year. We invite Jesus to be a "guest" in our home, a guide for troubled times, and a blessing in times of thanksgiving. While it is usually written over the front door, it can be used inside or outside as you wish.

You'll see 20+C+M+B+23 in chalk in many places in our church. It represents the year and the Latin phrase above. Some also use the initials to represent the three kings visiting Jesus. Along with the chalking, the following blessing was read:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we be blessed with health, kindness of heart and gentleness. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you. Guide, comfort and strengthen us in peace now and forever, Amen.

We invite you to chalk your home during this season of Epiphany knowing that the women of UWF are praying with you. Pieces of chalk that

have been blessed are available for you to use. Ask Debbie Friscino or Terry Ames if you would like some.



Please join the United Women in Faith

**Black History Month Program,
February 7, 2023,
at 4:00 pm for
appetizers and drinks.**

Black History Month observed in February is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. The story of Black History Month begins in 1915 with the founding of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

United Women in Faith at Fisk UM Church mark Black History Month through programs for its unit meetings. This year the February 7, 2023, UWF meeting will bring to life the story of a historical Afro-American figure who worked as a free woman to make an impact on both the end of slavery and women suffrage. Fisk own Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips will lead the presentation. Join us either in person or virtually to learn about Sojourner Truth, her life as a slave, and then as a free, resilient women of the 19th Century.

MISSIONS

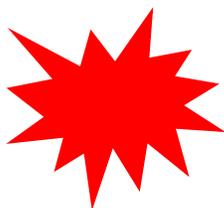
Our Fisk Missions Committee works to support, educate and become partners with groups and organizations working for similar goals while adhering to the GBGM goals...see below.

We feel we accomplished this and have received many Thank You letters for our support. These include: General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, Family Promise, Justice for our Neighbors, Cooper Community Center, our missionary connections, UMEM (Maine) and so many others.

This month I am highlighting **Kayle and Mat Pelletier**. We met them through a UM pastor when they were still Graduate Students at Gordon College. They graduated, married, and made a commitment to begin their ministry in Zimbabwe.

Long story made short...they are still in Africa (16 years later) doing very important ministry. Four children, moving a few times - for various reasons...they are still doing important ministry in their church and at the Seminary School in South Africa.

One of their major supporters has changed directions and they are hoping some of the supporting churches (Fisk being one of those) will pick up the shortfall. So what do you think?



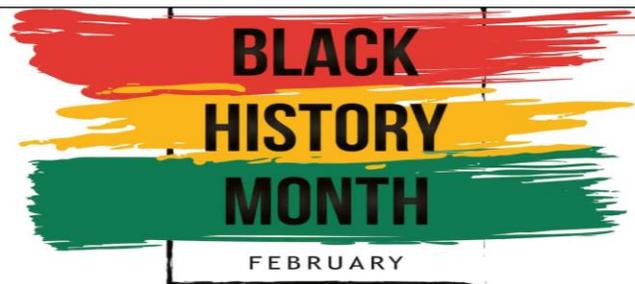
If you would like to support the Pelletiers during 2023 just add any amount to your check and designate how much of that should go to support Kayle and Mat's mission work! Check out

their Newsletter on our Fisk website. It is attached under MISSIONS.

The New England Conference Board of Global Ministries helps churches in our Conference connect and live out four mission goals of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM), which are to:

1. make disciples of Jesus Christ;
2. strengthen, develop, and renew Christian congregations and communities;
3. alleviate human suffering; and
4. seek justice, freedom, and peace.

JUSTICE & OUTREACH



Black History Month is an annual celebration of **achievements** by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

Touch-tone Telephones, Supercomputers, and Netcom

Black inventors made many marks in the fields of computers, telephones, and the Internet. **Mark Dean**, a noted IBM engineer, led the design team for the ISA bus. He also spearheaded the color computer monitor and was a collaborator on the first gigahertz chip. This eventually allowed computers to connect to devices like printers, monitors, etc.

Similarly to other black women in history, **Shirley Jackson**, contributed multiple advances in her fields. Her work led to fiber optics, touch-tone telephones, caller id, call waiting, and even solar cells.

Otis Boykin invented the pacemaker and also worked with IBM computers. He invented more than 25 electronic devices including chemical air filters, burglar-proof cash registers, and electronic resistors that control missiles.

Lauded as telecommunications entrepreneur and pioneer, **Emmit McHenry** founded **Netcom Solutions**. Black inventors also gave us technological building blocks and devices we still use today. We are grateful for these contributions to our world.

Marcia Hoyt for the Missions Committee

YOUTH MISSION WEEK

Join other youth in
service projects to
benefit our local
community!

July 24-28, 2023
10AM-3PM
Grades 7-12

Base Location:
80 Main Street, Wayland, MA

Contact Pastor Rebecca Cho with questions
or to register for this free program.
rebeccalyn.cho@gmail.com / (617) 429-5909



Co-sponsored by:

Fisk Memorial UMC (Natick) • Sudbury UMC (Sudbury) • Community UMC (Wayland)



YOUTH MISSION TRIP

PHILADELPHIA, PA

July 9-14, 2023

Projects may include:

- helping at local food pantries
- planting and weeding an urban garden

For youth grades 9-12

Contact Pastor Rebecca Cho
 rebeccalyn.cho@gmail.com/ (617) 429-5909




Finance Committee

Fisk - 2022 Financial Results

We are pleased to report that our general fund financial results are as follows, and better than we planned. Our deficit is \$5,100, which is only one third of the original Plan. We were blessed with our own strong giving support. We collectively spent \$3,000 less than budgeted. We paid 100% of our conference Mission Shares. In summary, we were able to fully fund the many ministries of Fisk that touch so many people in so many ways.

	2022 Final	Budget 2022	Vs. Budget:	%
Support/Income	\$209,227	\$202,973	\$6,254	3%
Expenses	214,290	217,211	2,921	1%
Net (Deficit)	(5,064)	(14,238)	9,174	64%

Pledge support was off 3%, but was made up for with both unpledged and offering improvements. One gift for \$5,000 was the positive difference in our support in 2022. Our \$5,100 deficit reduced our \$41,000 of General Fund cash reserves down to \$36,000 as of December 31, 2022.

Our fall Stewardship Campaign was well supported, successfully increasing our pledge base by 4% over 2022 pledged, and 7% over 2022 actual. We plan to finish our 2023 Budget process in early February.

Now and always, we are grateful for God's blessings and your stewardship giving.

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), Geoff DelSesto (Trustees), Michelle Drolet (SPRC), Dave Cail, and Thom Townsend.

New England Conference News

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson announced the appointments of:

- Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan as Commonwealth East District Superintendent (Our district) effective July 1, 2023. Rev. Digan currently serves as pastor of Good Shepherd UMC in Malden, MA, where she was appointed in 2011.
- Rev. Rick McKinley as Katahdin District Superintendent effective July 1, 2023. Rev. McKinley has served as the Conference Director of Congregational Development since 2011.

* Fisk UMC congratulates with blessings on these two faithful servants.

Save the date: From Commonwealth East District
Our District Anti Racism (CORR) Training

When: Saturday, March 4, 2023 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut St, Natick, MA 01760

Email Contact: Allyson Printz (cedistrict@neumc.org)

Participants are asked to watch these two videos in advance of the training session:

1. The urgency of Intersectionality by Kimberle Crenshaw
2. Intersectionality 101

Snacks and lunch will be provided. If you have any dietary restrictions please specify when you register. And yes, all persons are invited. Childcare provided with advanced notice. Please register by **February 18** and indicate names and ages of children. Registration link <https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/17255825>.

NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East

Website: 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

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her email address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

From the Church Office

FISK CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor

Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

Dr. Americo Motta, Minister of Music

Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com

Susan Carney, Director of Christian Education

SusanjCarney@gmail.com

Carolyn DiScullo, Administrative Assistant

Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Website: www.fiskumc.org

Church email: Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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