

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

February 2024

Pastor's Message

God's Peace with blessing in the name of Jesus Christ!

Welcome to Fisk UMC. Every Sunday we celebrate and worship as we continue to welcome all persons. As pastor of this great congregation, I am always looking forward to seeing each of you, to share, to serve, to be present, and prayerful as we connect and reconnect with those at Fisk UMC and beyond.

In view of all that God gives and offers, I am reaching out to you with the love of God; the one who placed you in our lives at one time or the other. We have not forgotten you and would be pleased if you can join us at least one Sunday in a month or any other Sunday during the year on zoom or in-person.

We have excitement ringing and moving at Fisk United Methodist Church, where God is always present. As the spirit moves with us, among us, and in our midst, we know there is a sweet, sweet spirit in this place for lasting connections.

Many of us have been present over the years, some for decades, others for a short time and for these ties that bind, we appreciate your pledges, prayers and participation. For those who have relocated, we still feel connected to each of you and would love to hear from you as we pray for eternal rest for those gone ahead to glory. Most of all, we feel the love of God, are blessed and proclaim that our hearts, minds, hands and doors are always open.



Therefore, as we continue to travel this year, please take the opportunity to visit, to email, to call, send a text or a card to someone. Most of all to invite family and friends to 'Come, See and Taste.' And to surprise us with your presents and/or presence.

In view of this, I anticipate your visit and continuous gifts. It is my prayer that you will feel the spirit of excitement that is blowing and moving us to perfection as we take the excitement into the world for the transformation of all of creation.

COME AND EXPERIENCE the love and joy at Fisk UMC for the first time or again and again!

+ 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. in the Sanctuary.

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**

Worship

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual Growth

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following. In addition, may you be strengthened and inspired to continue to go out and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Read as you study, study as you live, and live well!"
+ Pastor Alecia

	<u>Liturgist</u>
February 4, 2024	- Terry Ames
Isaiah 40:21-31	Mark 1:29-39
February 11, 2024	- Debbie Friscino
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Mark 9: 2-9
February 14, 2024	(Ash Wednesday)
Psalms 51:1-17	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 18, 2024	- Amy Bruns
TBD	Matthew 4:1-11
February 25, 2024	- Crystal Mayo
TBD	Luke 5:1-16

Note: 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!

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY:

We will get together in **rooms 8 & 9 every Wednesday from 6:00p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Feb. 21 through March 27,)** to study and reflect on the book- "Give Up Something Bad for Lent" by James Moore. Note: We are told that during the season of Lent, Christians say that they will give up something they love. But this author draws our attention to a more sacrificial act; to give up something bad. So, join us to study, read scriptures and focus more on God to assist us to eliminate words, deeds, habits or attitudes that are destroying us or those around us. Then leave and strive to perfection to do and be better. **'This is the challenge!'**

Copies of the book "Give Up Something Bad for Lent" by James Moore are available in the Church Office for a suggested donation of \$10.00.

Save the Dates

Tuesday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. – COM meeting on Zoom. We will start planning the first few months of the year. Bring your plans and ideas!

Sunday, February 4 (5th Sunday after Epiphany) – "Disability Awareness Sunday"/Communion Sunday
Theme for the week: Jesus wants us to be whole. Do we have the faith to be made whole and create wholeness?

Sermon: *"The Master's Touch"*

Note: We as United Methodist share our gifts to be used to improve our outreach and inclusion of people with disabilities. Share as you are able and in the memo section of your check, write Disability **Advance #3021045**. "Thanks for our mercy & Justice ministries together."

Tuesday, February 6 at 4:00 p.m. – United Women in Faith meeting at Fisk in rooms 8 & 9 Black History Month. Light snacks & speaker @ 4:30 Troy Smith, Town of Natick Director Equity, Inclusion, & Outreach

Sunday, February 11 (Transfiguration Sunday) – Theme for the week: Jesus want us to have mountaintop experiences. Want one?
Sermon: *"Mystery on the Mountain"*

Monday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. - Bishop Johnson's Pre-Lenten **webinar on Zoom**.

Tuesday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m. – Hannah Circle Meeting on the phone To call into the Hannah Circle phone meeting: **Dial: 1- (716) 427-1083 and enter the access code: 580274#**
Note: Someone is urgently needed to lead the Hannah Circle into the next phase of life and living with and among us.

**Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 p.m. - Pancakes
& Purple & Fellowship!**



Please join our church family for a Fat Tuesday pancake feast and celebration! We'll have a pancake dinner, fun, and fellowship. Wonder who will find the baby in the King Cake?

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



Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service at Fisk UMC in the Sanctuary. ("Marking of Ashes")

Thursday, February 15 at 12 noon Susanna Circle meeting at Fisk Church

February 18 to March 17 will be a *Lenten Sermon Series* – 'The Humanity of Jesus Christ'

February 21 – March 27 (every Wednesday from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.) Lenten Bible Study in-person at Fisk in rooms 8 & 9.

Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00pm United Methodist Men's dinner at Agostino's in Natick

Saturday, Feb. 24 –Bishop Peggy Johnson visits our Commonwealth East District. Hosting is Holy Trinity UMC, 16 Sylvan St., Danvers, MA 01923. Please attend to represent our community of faith.

Food for Thought

A Blessed Sharing – Food for Thought

Remember: Life is like a journey on a train... with many stations... with changes of routes... and with accidents! Life is the train we board when we are born, and our parents are the ones who get our tickets. We believe they will always travel on this train with us. However, at some stations, our parents will get off the train, leaving us alone on this journey. As time goes by, other passengers will board the train, many of whom will be significant - our siblings, relatives, friends, children, and even the love of our lives. Many will get off during the journey, and leave permanent vacuums in our lives. Many will go so unnoticed that we won't even know when they vacated their seats and got off the train! This train ride will be full of joys, sorrows, fantasies, expectations, hellos, good-byes, and farewells. A good journey is helping, loving, having good relationships with all co passengers... and making sure that we give our best to make their journeys comfortable. The mystery of this fabulous journey is: We do not know at which station we ourselves are going to get off. So, we must live in the best way - adjust, forget, forgive and offer the best of what we have. It is important to do this, because when the time comes for us to leave our seats, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life."

Author: Unknown but thoughtful

Special note from Pastor Alecia:

Thank you for being one of the important passengers on FISK UMC train. I don't know when each of us will reach the station but I want to say "Thank you" for being on this train by supporting God's ministries and missions.

Events



Pancakes & Purple & Fellowship!

Tuesday, February 13 6:00 p.m.

Please join our church family for a **Fat Tuesday pancake feast and celebration!** We'll have a pancake dinner, fun, and fellowship. Wonder who will find the baby in the King Cake?



Break out your Mardi Gras beads, come in a silly hat, and wear the traditional colors of purple, yellow, and green if you like. A little fun is encouraged!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Bring your family, a friend, your appetite, and your smile!

***Sponsored by Council of Ministries

United Methodist Men



Fisk's group of **United Methodist Men** invites all men to join them on **Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00 p.m. for dinner.**

Agostino's Italian Restaurant
22 Washington St. Natick

Reservations--Geoff Del Sesto or Gary Hoyt

United Methodist Youth

CONFIRMATION CLASS led by our United Methodist HUB Pastors- is from January 7 until Sunday, May 12 (every other week from 2-3:30pm)- at rotating locations (Fisk, Wayland, & Weston). Thanks, as God blesses the youth with wisdom for generations to come. **Next meeting is Sunday, February 4 at Fisk UMC.**



Confirmation Class

Sunday Afternoons, 2:00-3:30PM



Sessions

January 7, 2024- Weston UMC
January 21- Community UMC
February 4- Fisk Memorial UMC
February 11- Weston UMC
March 3- Community UMC
March 17- Fisk Memorial UMC
March 24- Weston UMC
April 7- Community UMC
April 28- Fisk Memorial UMC
May 5- Weston UMC
May 12- Fisk Memorial UMC

Visits to Other Worship Sites:

Temple Israel of Natick-
Sat. Jan. 13 from 10AM-12PM

Islamic Center of Boston
(Wayland)- TBD

St. Ann Catholic Church in
Wayland- TBD

Confirmation Celebration

Sat. May 18
10AM-12PM

Community UMC

Church Addresses:

Community UMC Wayland
80 Main Street, Wayland, MA 01778

Fisk Memorial UMC
106 Walnut Street, Natick, MA 01760

Weston UMC
377 North Avenue, Weston, MA 02493



United
Women
in Faith

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

United Women in Faith invite you to join us on **Tuesday, February 6th at 4:00 p.m.** for light snacks as we celebrate Black History Month. We are pleased to have **Troy Smith, Director of Equity, Inclusion, and Outreach for the Town of Natick, join us at 4:30 p.m.** to talk about his work in the community. Also joining us will be Kristin Pope, Natick Select Board member.

Mr. Smith is responsible for the development of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs for the Town. He is a passionate advocate for building inclusive communities and empowering individuals through the celebration of diversity. His professional commitment is making diversity a source of value rather than an issue. He believes that "Together, we can build a community where diversity thrives, and every voice is heard."

We look forward to having you share in our discussion of this important topic. As UWF, what can WE do to celebrate diversity and make sure everyone feels seen and heard?

If you are not able to join us in person but would like to participate via ZOOM, please let Debbie Friscino or Terry Ames know so we can provide you with the link prior to the meeting.

The Susanna Circle meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th at 12 noon at Fisk UMC.

Children's Sunday School Classes



Join us as we learn all about God's Word and His love for us! We meet at 9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Room 2.

-Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney

Tribute with remembrance:

In Memory of Mother

Patricia Whitaker

Your life with us was amazing. Your music with us was awesome. Your calm presence lifted us and you shared a gift that kept giving **(MUSIC)**. On this day and the days ahead, we will remember you as we share our gifts of time, talent and tithes. And we will hold memories of you closer as you will always be a heartbeat and a memory away from us. Most of all, we will miss you dearly but we look forward to joining you and rejoicing with all the saints in glory.

** Continuous comfort and blessing on the family from Pastor Alecia & Fisk UMC family**

Easter Lilies and Tulip Order Form



**Easter Lilies
& Tulips
Order Form**



Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
(Please print legibly)

Your Name(s): _____

Telephone #: _____

☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of ☐ In celebration of...

Specify quantity for each

___ Tulips

___ Easter Lily

Prices: **\$20.00** each **Lily** (White)

\$15.00 each **Tulip** (Colors of Tulips will vary.)

Amount Enclosed: \$___ ☐ Cash ☐ Check

Please take flowers home after Easter Service.

Write check to Fisk UMC and please note "Easter flowers" on the memo line. You can drop off your flower order and check in the basket on the Office door. Thank you.

Order Deadline: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

When disaster strikes within the New England Conference and elsewhere, trained Early Response Teams (ERTs) together with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) stand ready to provide relief, resources and caring Christian support.

How can we in New England help?

- Prayers
- Donate to UMCOR Disaster Response
 - U.S. Advance #901670
 - International Advance #982450
- Create relief supply kits (see below)

About UMCOR

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding — that disaster response is local — forms the foundation for UMCOR's U.S. disaster training and response.

When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. UMCOR receives no mission share dollars.

Our New England Coordinator:

Pastor David Arruda, Disaster Response
Coordinator CDRC-NE@neumc.org



WHAT ARE WE AT FISK DOING TO HELP?

Relief Supply Kits

Annually, we challenge ourselves, as a Fisk congregation, to gather 100 Health/Hygiene Kits. Some years we are more successful than others. In the most recent 5 years we have delivered 394 Kits. We deliver them to either a local church depot or to the Annual Conference in June. **In 2024 we CHALLENGE our congregation to again collect 100 Health Kits** to assist in relief and recovery when and where they are needed by UMCOR-United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Hygiene Kit Materials

One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)

No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

One washcloth

No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

One comb

Must be sturdy & at least 5-7 inches of teeth

No pocket combs or picks

One toenail or fingernail clipper

No emery boards or metal nail files

Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)

No Ivory or Jergen's soap

One adult toothbrush

Do not remove from packaging

Personal advertising not acceptable

10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)

Common household bandages acceptable

1 One-gallon size re-sealable bag

Wrap all items in the towel and roll tightly and put into plastic bag. Completed kits and /or parts may be left in the Parlor in the basket. All items must be NEW.

Mission Committee: Mary Greenwood, Janis Cail, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt

Prayer Box / Prayer Wall/ Prayer line



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, in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church, on-line on our website, or just call and speak with **Pastor Alecia at (617) 966-7048.**

The Wednesday night prayer line will be on hiatus for the months of February and March, as we hold our Lenten Bible Study every Wednesday (Feb. 21-March 27) 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you.

New England Conference Information

Our New District information: District 6-Hub #5

Name: Commonwealth East

Website: www.neumc.org/CE

District Superintendent: Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA

02421 Email address:CEDs@neumc.org

Administrative Assistant: Allyson Printz

Phone: (781) 861-0249

Email address:CEDistrict@neumc.org

Virtual Meeting Link

<https://zoom.us/j/99126438890?pwd=b1Z6cGJLWThlNENFNUIzTWNkTlF0dz09> Passcode is 660793

From the Church Office

Be alert to email text/phone scams

We are encouraging everyone to be alert to email, text message/phone scams.

We have received reports of scam emails and texts that request gift cards be purchased.

Coming from the email listed below:

pastor6932@gmail.com

Note: Do not buy any gift cards and disregard the email. And as always call the person whose name is being used. Thanks.

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 DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant

Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

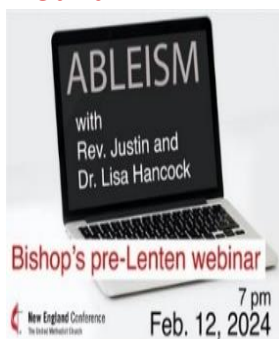
Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Website: www.fiskumc.org

Church email: Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

Plan to attend Bishop Johnson's Pre-Lenten webinar



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson invites the laity and clergy of the New England Conference to a Pre-Lenten webinar focused on "ableism." There is much we in the church can do to improve our outreach and inclusion of people with

disabilities. The evening, which is sponsored by the Conference Commission on Religion and Race and Conference Disabilities Committee, will begin with a short devotional followed by a presentation by Rev. Justin and Dr. Lisa Hancock.

WHEN Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Eastern Standard Time [Add to my calendar](#)

**The March Messenger Deadline:
Please submit information by
Friday, February 16, 2024 9:00 a.m.**