

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

www.fiskumc.org

January 2022

Pastoral Note

Happy New Year with love and blessing for ALL!

The **New Year** is always a wonderful time to recommit and have a fresh start. It is my prayer that the holidays went well for each of you and your families. Hence, as we enter 2022, this can be a good time to reflect on where we have been, where we are, and who we are. But most of all, we can prayerfully reflect and move forward to where God wants us to be and do all we can as a divine purpose on this earth.

A New Year also brings new things. As the New Year unfolds, I pray that these new things will include Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace. But no matter what unfolds in 2022, may each of us have comfort of warmth in all our relationships, love more deeply, and share like there is no tomorrow. May we reach out to help others and never forget to have humility and openness to accept help from others.

And if it gets a little difficult for us, we can remember the difference Jesus Christ makes in our lives and continue to live that difference through our faith. We can count our blessings in hope of better, persons, places, and things and believe the great and good things that God will do. We can also continue to work together, find joy in small things, and live in the abundance we already have. Most of all, we can be God's presence in all we do and say.

In view of these sometimes challenging things, it is my consistent prayer that the miracle born in a lowly place will create miracles in our lives, in our families, in our churches, in our communities, and the world. And though it may be different for each of us, I believe that together we can make a difference.

***May we be blessed to be a blessing to others!
Happy New Year!***

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.

January 2: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

January 9: Acts 8: 14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16: 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

John 2:1-11

Psalter: Psalm 36: 5-10

UMH 771

January 23: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31

Luke 4: 14-21

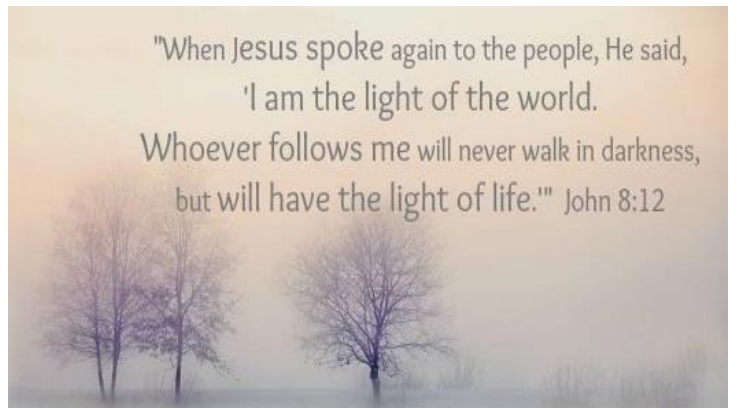
January 30: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Luke 4: 21-30

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

- Pastor Alecia

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said,
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12



Weekly Worship Service



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 click "Join Meeting" on top right

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

Click Join.

Stewardship

Stewardship Update – January 2022

We all love the Christmas story, and the promise that the birth of our Savior brings to us all. The good news at Fisk is that December pledges are running far ahead of prior months. With this support, Fisk has fully paid our Mission Shares for 2021. And, your commitments for 2022 have exceeded the 2021 pledged support. We are truly blessed.

So, let us all say thank you for a wonderful effort and commitments to giving. We do not yet have the final results, especially on the spending side of supporting our ministries. We do not yet know what 2022 will bring. We do know that we will need everyone's prayerful and giving support in 2022. But, let us pause to say thank you, and recognize our blessings, and celebrate the good tidings of the angels. – The Stewardship Team

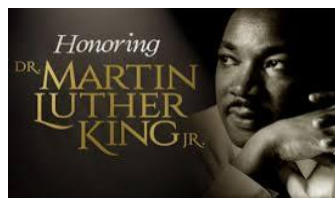
2022 offering envelopes are available for pick up. Envelopes are placed on a table, in the hallway, by the Church Office door.



Fisk United Methodist Church Events

2022-2023 Planning Session

Saturday, January 15, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Come to pray, to share, to dream, and to plan some seeds for the year, 2022. ("To Dream is to Live it!")
More information pending soon.



Natick Community Events

Natick MLK Community Celebration:

Our community event to remember and honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, will be on Monday, Jan. 17, at Kennedy Middle School, 165 Mill St. Natick, MA, 01760 at 10:00 AM. It will also be on zoom if unable to attend in person.
Come to celebrate, feel the presence of new life in Natick followed by a unique gathering where you can gather information for service opportunities and resources in our community.

Racial Justice Series - 3 Night Program

Wednesday Nights from 6:30PM to 8:30PM
January 19, January 26 & February 2 (Online)

Please join Natick Is United for three evenings of racial justice training. Each session will build on the last, as we work together to create shared language, and forge deeper connections by telling our stories and listening to the experiences of others. By the end of the third evening we will have a better understanding of each other, and be able to utilize what we have learned to move awareness into action in our own lives.

This is a FREE virtual event with limited capacity. In order to attend, you must be able to commit to all three nights. **The deadline to register is January 12, 2022.**

Register by visiting the events page at NatickIsUnited.org. or email NatickIsUnited@gmail.com

Education

Thank you Pastor Alicia Velez Stewart, Lay Leader Bonnie-jean Rowe, and Pastor Rebecca Cho!

You all are blessed and have been blessings to me and to all our congregations.

Thanks for facilitating the Advent Bible study and sharing during the season of Advent.

May God richly bless each of you as you continue to live gospel lives.

Women's Bible Study on Zoom with Susan Carney:



Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m.

Thursdays: 7:15 p.m.

(On winter break Dec. 28th -

Jan. 6th. Bible study will resume on Jan. 11th.)

Sunday school

Join us on Sundays,

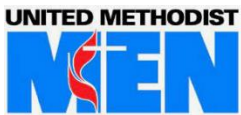
9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m.

in Room 2, next to the nursery. We sing songs, make crafts, read the

Bible, and learn all about our amazing God and Jesus! (Sunday School is on winter break January 2nd and will resume January 9th.) a



United Methodist men



United Methodist Men will be meeting on January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

United Methodist Women

Our Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Fisk is blessed to have an active unit of United Methodist Women. They meet monthly for a short business meeting and program. There are 3 circles of women who meet in addition to the monthly



unit meeting for fellowship and focused mission projects. We are an active group, focused on Missions and we invite all women to come to a unit meeting and meet us all.

Membership in United Methodist Women

Membership is open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the church through United Methodist Women. As a member each woman joins forces with other women to embrace and work on the four mission emphases reflected in the PURPOSE. Though every church is to have a unit of United Methodist Women, membership in the United Methodist Church does not automatically make a woman a member. Women actively choose to become involved in the organization's mission and support the PURPOSE. Come and visit any meeting of our unit. All women are welcome.

The official emblem for United Methodist Women as well as for The United Methodist Church combines the cross and a flame. The cross and flame are ancient symbols of Christ and Pentecost. The shape of the emblem is fluid and free flowing, suggesting change, and mobility." ...I now remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you." (II Timothy 1:6a NEB). Our heritage is one of sacrifice, witness, and service. The emblem serves as a continuing reminder of both opportunity and obligation.

Uplifting thoughts

Want to feel closer to God throughout your day?



Try listening to Christian music. Having a reminder in the background of who our God is and how powerful our God is, refreshes, and renews our spirit. Christian radio stations are filled with love. They are encouraging, uplifting, and help to create a sense of peace in these trying times. Listening to your favorite gospel CD or

searching your favorite hymns on YouTube are great options as well.

As we listen to the lyrics in some of these worship songs, let us remember, how much we are truly loved and how God has us in the palm of his hand!

Missions

Recycling Review – 2022

Each January I remind us all of the opportunities Fisk offers to RECYCLE “with a purpose”. Actually, all recycling is purposeful...caring for God’s earth.

Fisk collects **redeemable plastic beverage bottles and aluminum cans**. There are two barrels in the Custodian closet for your donations. Keep a bag handy at home and when you are headed to Fisk...grab it and recycle it—these funds go into the General Budget.

From May 1 to October 1 we collect your **GOOD USED CLOTHING** for a United Methodist Mission

Site in Salem Maine. They have a Thrift Shop available to the underserved people of the Western Mountains of Maine. Our recycled clothes help make available affordable clothes and also is an income to keep “the lights on and

staff paid”.

The **“pull-tabs” or “pop-tops”** from beverage cans are recycled as pure aluminum for the Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston. This has been an ongoing program since 1989 and the money generated goes toward programs that **directly benefit children**. Since its inception, about a half-million pounds of aluminum tabs have been collected and recycled.

Did you know: The tabs are the only pure aluminum part of the can, and the cans may still be returned for deposit even after the tabs are removed.

Here are just some of the items that the Shriners Hospital has purchased over the years:

- **A Baxter Infusion Pump**, used to dispense pain medication.
- **Bullard Laryngoscope** used by an anesthesiologist to place a breathing tube in a patient who has a complex airway.
- **A 10-foot trailer** for the hospital van, used to transport medical equipment and records to

outreach clinics throughout New England and New York State.

- **Computerized Pressure Mapping**, a force sensing array used in evaluating pressure distribution for patients requiring customized wheelchair seating systems.
- **Art supplies and iPads for the children**
- Replace **board games / televisions**

Collect can tabs all year from family, friends, neighbors, and work. Put a container in a visible place. Collecting can tabs is easy. Getting people to remember to save their tabs can be challenging.

Where to collect? Your home, work, classroom, campground, work place, assisted living or apartment buildings, container in a convenience store, near a swimming pool, clubs, sporting events etc. Put out a container with instructions to just “drop their tabs here!” **We found that plastic baggies or plastic bowls** work well. If you are collecting tabs in a high traffic area, then possibly even a pail would work well. Let one of the Missions Committee know and we can pick up a container from you or when you are coming to Fisk bring them in the kitchen.



NOW...something new! We are promoting a paper recycling within the building. Goal is to have BOTH a recycling wastebasket (blue) and a regular trash-basket in most rooms. PLEASE do as you are doing at home...if it is “clean paper” (no food that can’t be rinsed off) it is clean. Let’s see if we can do a better job at making this happen. Just sort and use the proper container.

You might think this is not NEW at Fisk, but actually we have not been very diligent stewards of this project...so the goal is to have this actually happen with great success. We need your help!

Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Janis Townsend,
Mary Greenwood, Kelli Garrant, and Marcia Hoyt

Prayer Time with Pastor on the Phone Prayer Line



When: Every Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Over the Phone

Dial: 1-(716) 427-1083, Access code: 580274#

February Messenger Deadline
Please submit information by
Friday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.

The Church Office

FISK CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor

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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

Church Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Church email: Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Website: 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

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