

# The Messenger

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

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

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

## January 2023

### Pastor's Message

#### **Happy New Year with love and blessing!**

Each "New Year" can be a wonderful time to reflect on the past, refresh on what is, and commit to a future with a fresh start. As we enter into the year 2023, this can also be a great time to reflect on where we have been, what we have said and what we have done as individuals, families and communities to others. As we reflect, know that a new year brings certainties and uncertainties. No one knows what the future holds and that is why we need to hold on to the only Almighty One who knows and holds the future.

As the "New Year" unfolds, it is my prayer that all things will include Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. But no matter what unfolds in 2023, may we have peace of mind, love at heart and comfort of warmth in all our relationships. May we reach out to help others and never forget to have humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we remain open with grateful hearts, let us remember the difference Jesus Christ makes in our lives and live that difference through our faith. For it is stated that, *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* (James 2:17 NIV) And since we live by faith, let us continue to work by and with faith. Let us start another year with deeper faith in God and all that God, can and will do. We can also count our blessings in hope of the new things God will do. We can experience love as we work together and share joy. We can find joy in small things. Most of all, we can be God's presence of peace in 2023 and beyond.

In view of challenging times, I pray that the miracle born in a lowly place will create miracles in our lives, in our families, in our communities, and the world. And though I know that it may be different for each person, I believe that together

we can make a difference this day, this month, this year and all the years ahead.

***May we be blessed to be a blessing to others!***

**+ 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](http://www.Zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID: **994 3325 8889**



## Worship

### For Personal Spiritual

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures that have been selected for our worship this month.

**January 1, 2023** Liturgist: Deborah Hernandez  
Isaiah 60:1-6 & Isaiah 43:18-21 Matthew 2:1-12

**January 8, 2023** Liturgist: Terry Ames  
Isaiah 42:1-9 Matthew 3:13-17

**January 15, 2023** Liturgist: Carolyn DiSciullo  
Isaiah 49:1-7 John 1:29-42

**January 22, 2023** Liturgist: Deborah Hernandez  
Isaiah 9:1-4 Matthew 4:12-23

**January 29, 2023** Liturgist: Jen Garrant  
Psalm 15 Matthew 5:1-12

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

**+ Pastor Alecia**

Please email the Church Office at:

[FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org](mailto: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!

### Reflection & growth

## Save the Dates

**-Saturday, January 7, 2023, from 10:00 am - 12noon in rooms 8 & 9** we will have a 2023 Fisk Leadership Session. All committee chairpersons are encouraged and empowered to attend. Come to pray, to share, to dream, and to spend time together as we plan for the year, 2023. As we awake to the "The Dawn of a New Year", a *continental breakfast will be provided at 9:30 am. Please arrive on time and be ready to share your committee's ideas and for support.*

### **-Sunday, January 8, 2023**

We will be blessed with the baptism of **Frank Bentley Falconer III**, grandson of Michelle & Larry Drolet and son of Jessica and Frank. Join us in welcoming this beloved child of God.

There will be an installation celebration for the United Women in Faith during our worship service followed by a luncheon. Please be present to support them and offer a gift.

**-Saturday, January 14, 2023, 10:00 a.m.** there will be a memorial service in the sanctuary for Donna Morrell, (member of the Hannah Circle,) followed by a time of celebration of life with the family in rooms 8 & 9. Please attend to offer, sympathy, and support.

**- Sunday, January 15, 2023** is Human Relations Day in the United Methodist Church.

Human Relations Day is one of The UMC's Special Sundays. It is usually the Sunday before the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. This Sunday is focused on strengthening United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and beyond by encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

We would like to thank you for your generosity over the years because we cannot do or fund this ministry without your special offering. But most of all, we are able to help change lives for the transformation of the world.

Thank you, Fisk family and friends!

### **- Monday, Jan 16, 2023**

Natick Community Celebration: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King event will be held at the Kennedy Middle School at 10 AM with community service opportunities and resources in the cafeteria following the event. All persons are invited.

## Caring Ministry Team

In addition to all that the Caring Ministry Team does during the year, before Christmas, Pastor Alecia:

- Visited a few friends at Whitney Place and the Eliot House in Natick, MA.
- Sent out personal notes and cards to all the sick and shut-ins, and those in nursing homes.
- Sent out 'Heavenly notes' to all who experienced a loss this past year.
- Hosted prayer time, "The Blues have no Power over us" for those in doubt, stressed out, depressed, or isolated.
- Hosted a Christmas Festivity luncheon for the Hannah Circle, our senior mothers.

And YES!

We are Fisk UMC, where God is always present. Continue to give God your hearts as you give us your hands knowing that no one walks alone.



## Administrative Board

Fisk United Methodist Church Annual Planning Meeting

Please save the date: Saturday, January 7, 2023;  
10 am

The Administrative Board, all committee, and members of Fisk are invited.

Two topics will be covered:

- Tackle the plans for 2023, what programs to do and what to drop
- Discuss leadership structure: current, plus modifications to identify new talent and lessen load while remaining a strong congregation

Please begin planning your contribution to the discussions.

Contacts: Tom Currie, Administrative Board, Chair,  
Dorothy Phillips, Lay Leader, and Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman

## United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Here's a tip for January as we continue to support UWF's Climate Justice 4 All initiative.**

**Take your OWN mug or cup in for a refill when getting coffee at a local coffee shop.**

**Many companies (Starbucks, Dunkin, Panera) say they will refill your cup...and sometimes give you a small discount. While it may not apply to drive-throughs, try it when you go in to the store.**



FIVE colors are primarily used as liturgical colors, Do you know what they are?

**All women are invited to join us for lunch after worship on SUNDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup> to find out if you are correct!**

Barbara Beekman will talk with us about the colors, symbols, and meaning of items used in the chancel area.

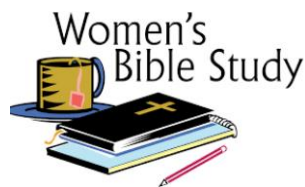
And, there may be bonus prizes if you know what other color can be used during ADVENT!



Also happening on January 8<sup>th</sup>  
**the installation of UWF officers for 2023.**

Please join us for worship as these women renew their commitment to use the gifts God has bestowed on each of them to improve the lives of women and children.

## Education



**Women's Bible Study on**

**Zoom** will resume on  
Tuesday Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> &  
Thursday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> and will  
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)

**Men's Bible Study** will meet Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in-person at Fisk UMC, in Ogle Parlor.

## 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. (There will be no

Sunday School on Sunday, January 1, 2023 and we will resume on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.)

-Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney

### **Prayer Box / Prayer Wall**



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 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.**

Join us on the prayer line,

Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.

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

Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC, are willing and ready to travel the journey with you. You can also find private time to stop at the cross and pray individually or invite family and friends.

### **February Messenger Deadline:**

**Please submit information by  
Friday, January 20, 9:00 a.m.**

#### **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

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.

## New England Conference

### **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