

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

January 2024

Pastor's Message

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee." (Isaiah 60:1)

Every year is a new beginning as we continue to celebrate and worship God together in new and sometimes different ways. Most of all, as we welcome all persons into our ministry and mission plans. As the pastor of this great congregation, I am looking forward to seeing each of you this year as we pray, share, be present, and connect with each other in the presence of God.

In view of being present and 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 and our community of faith. But remember that you have not been forgotten. And we would be pleased if you can join us each Sunday or any Sunday during the year.

We have excitement ringing and moving at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church. As the spirit moves in our midst, we know there is hope in community and connection. Therefore, come and feel the love of God and be blessed. You can start by inviting and bringing new friends. Most of all, you can feel welcome because our hearts, minds, hands, and doors are always open.

We have been blessed into another year, 2024. Please take this opportunity and know that tomorrow may not be promised but we can have the guaranteed promise of eternal life.

And as I anticipate your visit, it is my prayer that you will feel the spirit of excitement that is blowing and moving us to perfection and as we take the excitement into the world for hope, love, joy, and peace for humanity.

COME AND EXPERIENCE for the first time or again and again!

HAPPY NEW YEAR WITH RENEWED HOPE!



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>
January 7, 2024 Acts 19:1-7	- Terry Ames Mark 1:4-11
January 14, 2024 TBD	- Thom Townsend
January 21, 2024 TBD	- TBD
January 28, 2024 TBD	- TBD

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 Dates

Confirmation Class starts this month with HUB pastors. (See the schedule or ask Pastor Alecia for a schedule.)

Wednesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m. United Methodist Men’s Dinner at Shanghai Tokyo Restaurant, Natick

Sunday, January 14, - United Women in Faith Installation

Sunday, January 14, - All women are invited to a luncheon hosted by United Women in Faith after church service!

Sunday, January 14, 2024 is “Human Relations Sunday”.

Monday, January 15, - Natick community MLK event

Feb. 12. 7:00 p.m. - Bishop Johnson’s Pre-Lenten webinar

Feb. 24 –Bishop Peggy Johnson visits Commonwealth East District at – Holy Trinity UMC, 16 Sylvan St., Danvers, MA 01923

Food for Thought

Christmas is over. The work of Christmas begins with us. As Christians, let us continue to reflect on the reason for the season as we read this and share with others.

When the song of the angels is stilled,

when the star in the sky is gone,

when the kings and princes are home,

when the shepherds are back with their flocks,

the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,

to heal the broken,

to feed the hungry,

to release the prisoner,

to rebuild the nations,

to bring peace among the people,

to make music in the heart.

The poem: “The Work of Christmas” is from Howard Thurman’s The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations. (Acknowledged with thanks.)



STEWARDSHIP

We would like to express our thanks and heartfelt appreciation to all of you for this past year!

At Fisk UMC we are God's beloved children and we have been blessed in ministry and missions by your gifts over the years. Our ministry and mission work reach out and touch lives that are transformed daily, monthly and yearly. Hence, directly and indirectly we are God's presence in our local church, our community and beyond. To do all that we do, is through your minds, hearts, hands and your yearly contributions, with all our siblings at Fisk UMC.

Thank you if you have already sent in your 2024 commitment pledge card or if you are still prayerfully considering sending it in. As you make that generous and prayerful decision, know that we have been blessed and will continue to be blessed by your gift. For this, we are grateful as we honor the ways in which we give back to God through our ministry and mission work. Finally, as your gift remains the same, increased, or as you make a first -time gift, know that we are thankful for all God has done and continues to do for us at Fisk UMC.

That is why we believe. "There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place" (UMH 334).

Celebrate the New Year with Fisk!

Celebrate the New Year with Fisk!

There is a Pot Luck New Year's Eve party at Fisk

December 31, 2023

6pm - whenever.

Rooms 8&9



Hosted by the Garrant and Currie families.

It is a true pot luck, i.e. we share food and beverages brought by those who attend.

Bring food, beverages, games and good cheer.

(There will be no alcohol allowed.)

The Curries and Garrants hope to see you there!



Pictures of the UMC Clergy and Choirs were taken at the "Advent Festival of Faithful Voices" HUB Event, held at Fisk UMC on December 2, 2023.

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS led by our Commonwealth East Methodist HUB Pastors- will start Sunday, January 7 until Sunday, May 12 (every other week from 2-3:30pm)- at rotating locations (Fisk, Wayland, & Weston). See Pastor Alecia for a schedule if you want your youth enrolled. Thanks, as God blesses the youth with wisdom for generations to come.



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

United Methodist Men

UMM Dinner, Shanghai Tokyo Restaurant,
 January 10...Wednesday

NOTE: change of night (They are not open for seating on Tuesdays)

Meet there at 6:00pm

Questions: Call Gary Hoyt or Geoff DelSesto

United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

Sunday,
 January 14,
 2023 ~ All
 women are
 invited to a

luncheon hosted by United Women in Faith after Church Service!

Trustees

Cemetery Lots Available

The Fisk Trustees would like you to know that we have been gifted a large cemetery lot (several adjacent burial spaces) in the Glenwood Cemetery in South Natick. We are working with the Glenwood Cemetery Association to understand how we might subdivide the 12 burial graves and make them available for purchase by our Fisk community at a discounted price. If you are interested in buying two or more of these burial sites, please contact Thom Townsend, David Cail, or Geoff Del Sesto for more information.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

While I was trying to think of what to write this morning on 24/7 for 12 months. So here are some general thoughts, directions, new partners, and new emphasis in missions.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS

When the carols
have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree
is taken down,
When family and friends
are gone home,

When we are back on our schedules

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS

To welcome the refugee.
To heal the broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust,
not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace
for all people,
To bring Christ's light
to the world.

*From the Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Janis
Townsend, Mary Greenwood, and Marcia Hoyt*

*Both writings are from the internet and author was
not mentioned.*

Gifts for the Homeless Veterans in Boston/New England



Thank you

The 37 participants in the Advent Party stuffed 90 white socks!

We first stuff the "other sock" into the toe--so they have a pair of new socks. Then we fill the stocking with an assortment of- personal care products, notepads, crosswords books, food items, flashlights, Uno games, decks of cards, gloves, hats and of course some candy. The Cail's make the annual appointment and do the delivery to the center in Boston. Thanks to all who contributed and participated. This is "mission work at a party."

Marcia Hoyt



Prayer Requests for

Lord, in Your mercy and with thanksgiving, hear our prayers;

Fisk Family

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.

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.

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

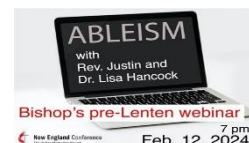
Administrative Assistant: Allyson Printz

Phone: (781) 861-0249

Email address:CEDistrict@neumc.org

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. **No registration required.** [Get the details](#)



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 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.