

The Messenger

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church www.fiskumc.org
106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

January 2021

Pastor's Note

My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ!

We enter another year, not knowing what the future holds for individuals, families, churches, communities, and the world. But as we enter, may we continue to believe in, and trust the only Almighty One who knows and holds the future.

Last year was a year full with uncertainties, but God brought us this far by faith. So, what is Faith? Well, we are told in Hebrews 11:1 that, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." And if you are like me, last year, was a year full of challenges amid hoping for new things, greater things or just some changes. And if the truth is to be told and heard, I have no doubt that there are many persons, places, and things we would like to forget. But in love and with prayer, there are many more persons, places, and things that we want to remember.

This year, 2021, as we travel the journey of life, don't you think it is time for a new beginning? Hopefully, I could say that we can. But I cannot speak for anyone. However, I will leave that thought with each of you to decide whether it is time for a fresh start and for some realistic resolutions. Now, resolutions are statements that are made at the beginning of a new year by many persons, and Christians are not immune to making statements. But as we do, let us ask ourselves some difficult questions. That is, "Who wants to remain the same" Or who wants everything that was in year, 2020 to remain the same?

For me, I do not. I want to continue to grow in the Lord, as obstacles are removed, barriers taken down and walls destroyed from my path. Now, I also know that we also struggle in our faith and our ability to sometimes move forward because the past is always in the rear-view mirror of life.

But I will encourage each of us to have hope in God's vision for us, our families, our communities, and the world. To this end, I am reminded of a heart-warming

from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4). With this on our minds, let us rise and shine this year to give God all the glory as God does transformations in all our lives, our families, communities, nations, and the world.

Have a Happy New Year to each of you and your families as I remain thrilled with hope that you continue to worship, serve, and give to Fisk UMC, where God is always present.

✕ 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 3	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12
January 10	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
January 17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	
January 24	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20

Worship Team

“Go Tell It on the Mountain

Over the Hills and Everywhere...

That Jesus Christ is Born”

The Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday will be held on January 3, 2021. We think of this Sunday as Three Kings Sunday—the time when the Wise Men arrived at the stable where Jesus was born. These men brought gifts for this special baby – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

January 10th brings us to the *Baptism of our Lord* on which John the Baptist baptized Jesus and God showed Jesus to be his divine Son.

Please join us for ZOOM worship in January as we celebrate these two special times in the church year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Diane French, Worship Chairperson

Ministry of Caring

By the Numbers – Traditions!

Welcome to 2021! Has there been a year in the past that you were sorry to see go? Or, a year that you were thrilled to see go – over-done?

In the Bible, 4th book of the Old Testament, the book of Numbers tells a story about sickness in the community of faith. The Israelite people journeyed toward the Promised Land and along the way, Moses’ sister Miriam becomes sick and is quarantined in order to keep everyone safe. During this time, “the people did not move on until she was brought back in.”, *Numbers 12:15*. Before continuing their journey, the whole community waited for Miriam in an act of kindness. In our own time of pandemic and quarantine, WE ARE FISK. We are people of faith and have found ways to extend patience, love and mercy to one another.

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by news reports on COVID19, the numbers of people who have lost their lives, and stories from their loved ones who cared? In between stories on the coronavirus, cancer – domestic violence – racism – child abuse – politics, and more. Are

there faith traditions that you have in family, or from your church family that you feel supported by?

During this time of pandemic isolation and political division, you can find solace in these traditions or begin a new tradition that will help support you, and one another. Imagination is a gift from God! January is the beginning of a new year, with a new, clean slate or page for your life. We all can fill a jar full of acts of kindness to yourself - to each other – even though we may be apart. Like the Bible story about Miriam, we will not move on alone, leaving others behind, but wait on one another and go forward together. God is ever present in each of us. Do something with God today!

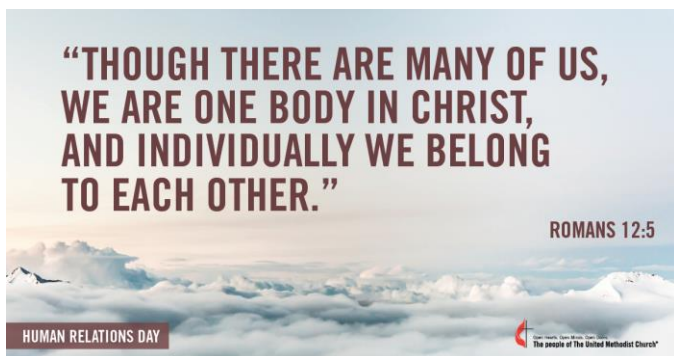
Human Relations Day

Sunday – January 17, 2020

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited

Across the United Methodist connection, we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God’s children are important.

Join Fisk’s celebration of all human beings on January 17th. In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don’t have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens.



Missions

As a Missions Committee of Fisk Church, we try to represent the congregations’ concerns and wishes with our Mission and Outreach projects. As we step into a new year, if you have an interest that you would like us to research and support, please let one of us know.

Currently, our budget supports:

LOCALLY

Natick Service Council
Natick Food Pantry
Family Promise

REGIONALLY

JFON—Justice for our Neighbors
UMEM—we refer to it as Salem Maine

GLOBALLY

Kayle and Mat Pelletier in South Africa
Dr. Belinda Forbes in Nicaragua and
Sustainable Agriculture in Africa

In addition, we have projects that arise during the year that need our support. We continually, wrap Hygiene Kits to be sent to UMCOR—the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMW also participates in this project.

This week we sent 35 White Socks-stuffed with personal care items, candy, gloves, and card games. They were delivered to The Center for Homeless Veterans in Boston by the Cails.

Gary Hoyt helped finish “stuffing the socks.”

You can give your support to any of these projects by just adding an amount to your Pledge check and noting in the Memo Space your desired allocation.

Committee members: Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt.

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women, like all groups have had a very different year. Meeting on ZOOM and via Conference Calls to stay in contact with each other.

The Prayer Shawl Group has actually been meeting at Fisk—outside into the cool weather, sitting “socially-distanced” with masks and still knitting shawls for those with a need for comfort and healing-or a special celebration. This week another 20 Shawls were delivered to the Metrowest Medical Center chaplain to be combined with Shawls from many other churches to give comfort to those hospitalized.

Hygiene Kits are to be delivered next week to help in the many situations that UMCOR designate as a need. The last 50 went to a shelter in need of these kits following the first few weeks of COVID.

We were able to have one of our Yard Sales ... outside, socially distanced, masked and it was a great success. We may try it outside again in May.

The Annual Fair was not to be. We tried but just too many obstacles. Planning for 2021.

We will “kick off” another year of Mission work with our Installation in January 2021.

President	Janis Cail
Vice President	Are you interested?
Secretary	Pat Price
Treasurer	Sherry Culver
Education and Interpretation	Marcia Hoyt
Membership, Nurture & Outreach	Janis Townsend
Social Action	Susan Carney

Spiritual Growth Barbara Beekman
Program Resources Terry Ames
Local Church Ainslee Wicks
Nominating Committee Dorothy Phillips, Lois Potter
and _____ (maybe you?)

UMW—Hannah Circle

If the Shoe Fits...Wear It!

The Hannah Circle will meet by telephone on Tuesday, January 12, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Our main topic of discussion will be “Shoes” and our favorite shoes or slippers. You may have a “favorite” gardening shoe, walking shoes, exercise shoes, or a pair of comfy slippers that are falling apart! All women are invited to join in with us for some fun conversation and to hear each voice and connect.

For the telephone connection numbers, please contact Debi Henry, debraleighhenry@yahoo.com or call (508) 651-0256. We hope you will join us as we start a new year of the Hannah Bananas!

From the Church Office

February Messenger Deadline:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

Mailing Date: Weds., 1/27

For all church office business, at this time, please contact Pastor Alecia directly.

fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

phone: 508-653-1674

email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Note - When you call the church, always leave a message. Messages are played and heard daily.

02421

[\(781\) 861-0249](tel:(781)861-0249)Phone

District Superintendent: **Rev. We Hyun Chang**

His email address: CEDS@neumc.org

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

Fisk Memorial United Methodists Church



Job Opening: Administrative Assistant 12 to 15 hours a week

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church in Natick, Massachusetts is currently accepting letters of interest and resumes for the flexible 12 to 15 hours a week position of Administrative Assistant. We are looking for one to support and field the needs of the Pastor and the various ministries at Fisk, to provide communication to the church community and coordination of church activities. This person would serve as a weekday link between Fisk members, UMC and the community through phone, email and office activities. This position reports to the Pastor.

Qualifications

1. Firm understanding of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
2. Use of databases—experience with “Realm” helpful
3. Good communication and organizational skills
4. An understanding of Google apps – able to share documents – create sheets and docs.
5. Minimum of 3 years of Admin experience (preferably with a church)

Location

About Natick: Natick is 15 miles west of Boston. It is easily accessible via the Mass Pike, and Routes 9, 16, and 27.

To Apply

Please mail a letter of interest and resume with references to:

Senior Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut Street Natick, MA 01760
Telephone: 508-653-1674

E-mail: fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

JANUARY 2021

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27	9:30 AM Virtual Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship via Zoom	28	4:00 PM UMW Exec. Board	29	10:00 AM Virtual Women's Bible Study	30	10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group	31	7:00 PM Virtual Women's Bible Study	1	New Year's Day	2	
3	9:30 AM Virtual Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship via Zoom	4	7:30 PM Trustee meeting	5	10:00 AM Virtual Women's Bible Study	6	Epiphany 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group	7	7:00 PM Virtual Women's Bible Study	8		9	
10	9:30 AM Virtual Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship via Zoom	11	7:00 PM FACE Board 7:30 PM Finance Comm.	12	10:00 AM Virtual Women's Bible Study 11:30 AM Hannah Circle	13	10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group	14	12:00 PM Susanna Circle 4:00 PM Worship Team 7:00 PM Virtual Women's Bible Study	15		16	
17	9:30 AM Virtual Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship via Zoom	18	Martin L. King, Jr. Day	19	10:00 AM Virtual Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM COM	20	10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group	21	7:00 PM Virtual Women's Bible Study	22		23	
24	9:30 AM Virtual Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship via Zoom	25	4:00 PM UMW Exec. Board	26	10:00 AM Virtual Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM SPRC	27	10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group	28	7:00 PM Virtual Women's Bible Study	29		30	
31	9:30 AM Virtual Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship via Zoom	1	7:30 PM Trustee meeting	2	10:00 AM Virtual Women's Bible Study	3	10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group	4	7:00 PM Virtual Women's Bible Study	5		6	