

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760

March 2014

Reflections from Pastor Rick

When I was a youngster growing up in Medford, ours was one of only two non-Roman Catholic families on our street. Lent, for us, was always an uncomfortable season, because our Catholic chums had the distinction of receiving the mark of ashes on their forehead every Ash Wednesday and their conversation always revolved around what they would “give up” for Lent. We, on the other hand, had none of these marks or conversations and therefore we felt left out. Every Ash Wednesday morning in school, it seemed the entire class had ashes on their forehead from having attended early Mass, but I was the only unmarked kid. At that time, there were still a couple of families on our street who heated their homes with coal furnaces. Wednesday happened to be the day that our rubbish was collected, and those who heated with coal put their ash barrels out early Wednesday morning. On Ash Wednesday when I was in the fourth grade, I wanted so much to fit in with the crowd, that on the way to school, I surreptitiously dipped my finger into one of the ash barrels and smudged my forehead. This was my introduction to Lenten devotions.

I suspect that for many of us who grew up in Protestant churches, the idea of Lent poses something of a puzzle, because we were not nurtured in the tradition of this forty day period of personal growth and penance. As I have matured in the faith, I have found Lent to be perhaps the most meaningful of all the seasons of the Christian year. Lent is the forty days (plus Sundays) before Easter and is meant to mirror the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his ministry. As you

recall, during his forty days, Jesus was tempted by many powerful diversions, but he kept his focus and he kept his faith. Having passed through this trial, he was tempered and strengthened for his life of ministry.

This Lenten season at Fisk, we shall be on a journey together as we seek to deepen our faith and prepare for Holy Week and Easter. We shall begin with an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00PM on March 5. Each Sunday we will continue the journey with readings, reflection, and the opportunity to present our deepest prayers at the foot of the cross. On Wednesday evenings, we shall continue the tradition of soup and bread suppers followed by worship and prayer. Elsewhere in this edition of the Messenger, you will find your ticket for the journey. I invite you to come on board and join us.

-Pastor Rick-



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Rick Black
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Ministers:	Josh & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson
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Soup and Bread... for the Journey

The Council of Ministries is organizing the Soup and Bread Lenten suppers on Wednesday evenings. This is an annual series of suppers together, while we travel on this Lenten Journey



We will meet for supper each Wednesday ... March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 9. Come at 6:00pm for a simple supper followed by an optional Lenten Program. We will conclude by 7:30 for children to get home. Child Care provided.

If you would like to contribute a pot of soup...just give me a call. Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077

Central MA District (CMA)

Winter 2014 Lay Servant Ministries Courses

Each course will meet on three consecutive Saturdays – **March 15, 22 and 29** at 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All classes will be held at the Oakdale UMC - 15 North Main Street - W Boylston, MA 01583. The courses being offered in March are the Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course, and the Advanced Courses are Lay Speakers Tell Stories, Leading Worship, and Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way. Course descriptions and registration forms are located in the church office or in the literature rack outside the nursery. A course can be taken for certification or audit purposes. Each course is \$35 and the registration deadline is March 5th.

CHURCH YARD SALE

One of our major fundraisers for Missions is our Spring Yard Sale. Please start setting aside anything we can re-sell, re-use or re-purpose for our sale in May.

Get Your Game On!

It's Your Turn for Game Night!
Checkers – Chess – Chili – and More!

SATURDAY, MARCH 8th

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

\$0 (free!)

GAME NIGHT AT FISK!

Our Pursuit for Fun is not Trivial.

Get a Clue and come to Fisk
for fun and fellowship!

Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?
Bring card games or board games (children & adults). One member of our congregation says that he is the “reigning Uno champ!” Sign-up your team of 5
for

Fisk's 2nd Annual Spelling Bee!



Chili – Macaroni & Cheese – Salad
Bread/Rolls – Dessert – Beverages

Movement & Music Time

(For Kids Ages 2 To 7)



March 1 ~ March 15 ~ March 29

Come for one, two or all three sessions!



11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Fisk Memorial UMC

Each event is FREE!

**For more information and
optional pre-registration, please visit:**

www.fiskumc.org

Adult Sunday School

March 9 through April 20
9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

On the Road Again!

Each year as we move towards Easter, we make a road trip. We join Jesus on the road as he moves to and through the cross. Some of Jesus' most powerful and poignant experiences happened on the road. In this Lenten Study and Faith Journey written by James W. Moore, we will explore the significance of Jesus' experiences on the road, and we will take a close look at some of the people he met along the way.

All adults are invited to this six-week Lenten Sunday School class!

March 9

On the Road with Some Would-Be Disciples
Luke 9:57-62

March 16

On the Road with the Rich Young Ruler
Luke 18:18-25

March 23

On the Road with Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

March 30

On the Road with the Little Children
Luke 18:15-17

Lectionary readings for March:

March 2: Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

March 9: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Roman 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

March 16: Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5; 13-17 John 3:1-17

March 23: Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

March 30: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41



Teach God's Word to Your Children

As Christians, we believe that God speaks to us in many ways. The Bible is the main form of communication that we have.

Opening our Bible in front of our children shows them that we are hungry for a relationship with God.

Sharing the Lord's words with your children opens their relationship with him more and more.

Empower your children

Here are some verses for March –

Matthew 22:39 You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Explain what neighbor means.

Matthew 28:20 I am with you always.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

(Education Committee)

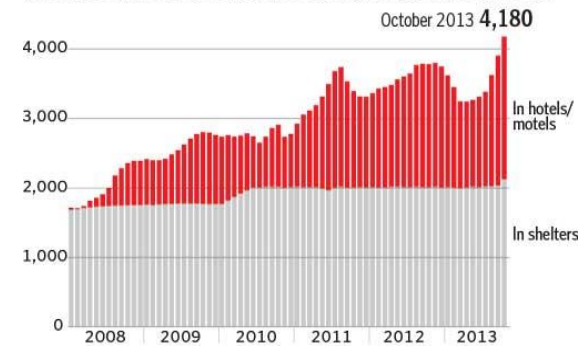
LENT! The Season of Lent is a forty-day period before Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter. Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. Lent at Fisk begins with an Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7 p.m. There are many opportunities at Fisk during Lent for you to share and grow spiritually with others along with your own personal times with Jesus. What wondrous love is awaiting you? Are you "giving up" something for Lent? Are you "adding" something to your life for Lent? Define the word "surrender?" How would you like to touch 40 lives with God's love during Lent? Make a list of 40 people who have touched your life in one way or another! Each day – write a letter or card, call, or email a note of thanks to them!

Updates from Family Promise:

Family homelessness has reached record levels in Mass. due to the continued economic recession for low-income families, federal budget cuts, and the shortage of low-income housing. Over 2000 families are in shelters and 2100 more families are in motels each night, with great risk to health and development of children.

HOMELESS FAMILIES

Average daily caseload reported monthly in Massachusetts



SOURCE: Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

GLOBE STAFF

We can help make a difference:

Join the Fisk UMC team for the **5th Annual Walk Away Homelessness Walkathon** on Saturday APRIL 12th from 8:30a-10:30a. The walk will start on Natick Common and loop through downtown Natick. See or contact Debbie Friscino (fris@rcn.com) for more details on registering to walk or sponsoring the team for this fundraising event.

And- SAVE THE DATES:

Our host weeks this year are **July 13-July 27th**. Up to 4 families will call Fisk home during this time and we'll need your help with meals, serving as hosts during the evening or sleeping overnight at church. Weeks at Fisk are favorites for our guests, thanks to your compassionate and welcoming involvement.



The Worship Team of Fisk is designing some new and inspiring opportunities for you to journey through Lent, beginning on March 5 with our Ash Wednesday service. Each Wednesday evening following, until Holy Week, Fisk will host a simple supper of soup followed by a thirty minute worship service in the style of Taizé'. What is Taizé'? First, it is a community in southern France that has become a place of pilgrimage for youth and the young at heart from all over the world. Here, a style of worship now called 'Taizé' has evolved. It is a simple service of scripture, prayer and silence, beginning and ending with rhythmic singing that draws us closer to the love and peace of God's Holy Spirit. It is an invitation to a deeper listening for God.

We hope you will plan to join us for Sunday morning worship as well as for the special worship opportunities during Lent and Holy Week, March 5 – April 20, 2014.

Are you getting our monthly newsletter,
"The Messenger" emailed to you?

If not, please check out our website and sign-up on the
Newsletter and Sermon page and we'll begin emailing
The Messengers to you. Our website is: Fiskumc.org

United Methodist Women

Our group has several opportunities for you, your friends and family. We hope you will join us in any or all of these activities.

March 8

ONE DAY MISSION u What a great way to spend part of your Saturday. Fisk is hosting this event ! Everyone is invited to come and join the presentations and conversations around the two subjects. Stay for lunch and enjoy other United Methodists. INVITE a friend.

Flyer is in this Messenger.

March 15

We will travel to the Wayland UMC for lunch and to hear an interesting speaker. Pryia Samant will present **She's a Woman, Just Like You.** Fashion is an economic tool for poverty alleviation and job creation. We make jobs available to talented artisans (men, women and youth) in urban impoverished areas of India. By offering them jobs, we give them a means to provide for their families and the power to lift themselves out of poverty. Call Debbie Friscino 508-653-7657 for a reservation by March 12.

Looking ahead...

April 5 is our Central MA District UMW meeting in Wilmington (just 40 minutes and we will call pool) **"Out of the Box"** is just what it is. We tried to think out of the box and plan a variety of activities—something to please each of you! See flyer elsewhere in Messenger. We are aiming to have 20 women attend...are you interested? Call Marcia Hoyt 655-0077

United Methodist Women con't



EVERY WEDNESDAY

A group of us meet in the Parlor for conversation, knitting, crocheting and prayer etc. This **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is a wonderful program offered by our church. Sometimes we have 7 or 8 women...other days it may be just

3. Come when you can! Beginners welcome! A few of us (me being one) have learned to knit during this group. We have made more than 80 Prayer Shawls, had them blessed in worship and many of those have comforted someone in need of a warm hug...illness, bereavement, celebrations or whatever the need. Joanne and Winnie are leaders.



ANY DAY or EVERYDAY

Are you a reader? Did you know that the United Methodist Women have a **Reading Program**? If you complete one of the program areas a Gift to Mission is given in your name. The books selected come from a wide variety of subjects and many are available on the bookcase in Ogle Parlor. You just borrow it, read it, keeping a list of your books and in December, Barbara Beekman will ask for your completed list. Congratulations! Look at the books and the areas of reading are on a take-home sheet. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

All women are invited to Relax, Relate, Recommit,
Reinvigorate and Renew your Body and Spirit!

UMW Spring Gathering Join us Saturday, April 5, 9:15am at the Wilmington United Methodist Church

*87 Church Street Wilmington, MA 01887
Take Route 93 to Route 62 west. The church is on Route 62 about 2
miles from the 93 and 62 intersection.*

“OUTSIDE THE BOX”

We have planned a great day! Come and enjoy a day of **fellowship**. If you are knitting a **Prayer Shawl**, bring it with you and share how your Prayer Shawl Ministry works. Relax with a **hand waxing**. If you have not done this it is awesome. **Create** or use our cards to **write a note to a missionary**. Visit the **Prayer Garden** at the host church. Make a **Pocket Prayer Quilt** to take home...it only takes a few minutes...really! Discuss types of **Prayer**. **Browse** and purchase resources, **books, Prayer Calendars** and Gift Books. **Read** a selected article from **response magazine**...to yourself. Also this is one of the last chances to buy a **green polo shirt** ordered by the Conference UMW team (limited supply). Be ready for a few **surprises!** This is intentionally a free-flowing meeting, you choose what to do and when. Samples of many things you can bring back to your group, class or circle. Reinvigorate yourself with a **wonderful lunch**. Closing **devotions** at 1:30pm.

Register on a form on the UMW bulletin Board (near the Nursery) or speak to Sherry Culver, Susan Carney or Marcia Hoyt

Spring Gathering registration and lunch is **\$9.00 each**.

Checks payable to: **CMA UMW**

Child care available

One Day Mission U

Saturday March 8, 2014

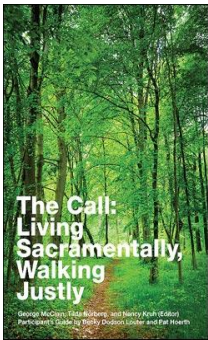
Fisk Memorial United Methodist

This is open to all (men, women and youth) interested in a day of fellowship and learning ...with lunch included. All for \$20.00!
(some scholarship money is available)

OPTION #1 **The Roma of Europe** with Bobbi Bragan

OPTION #2 **The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly** with Wanda Santos-Perez

You will have the opportunity to choose one class for the two sessions or choose one session of each of the two offered courses.



9:30 am	Registration and coffee
9:55	Devotions
10:00	Introductions to the classes
10:15	1 st session of class (closing with a lunch Blessing)
12:15	Lunch served
1:00	2 nd session of class
2:45	Closing

Questions: Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077
marciahoyt@aol.com

Registration forms on the Bulletin Board near the Nursery

Missions Commission

Heather Oluwole and Michelle Drolet are Co-Chairing the 2014-2015 Fundraising Committee and we need you to be part of the team. Thinking outside the box is a must and the sky is the limit for new and old ideas! Our first meeting will be after church on the 2nd week of March. More to come... Even if you can't join us, your ideas are still needed. Please write them down and pass them in.

Missions would like to thank everyone for their generous food pantry donation in February! Fisk really knows how to "Love thy Neighbor"! And as always we want to send a special thanks Susan and Tom Carney for delivering all the goods!

Heather and I had the privilege with many other Fisk Faces to attend the Annual Conference on Feb 22nd. We learned from keynote Rebekah Simon-Peter that we are all "blessed to be a blessing" and if we hold that thought each one of us has "power" in impact change.



We also attended a Prayer and Spirituality seminar and wanted to share the Five Finger Prayer:

When you fold your hands, the thumb is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you – your loved ones.

The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who Teach – Sunday school teachers, pastors and those who teach children

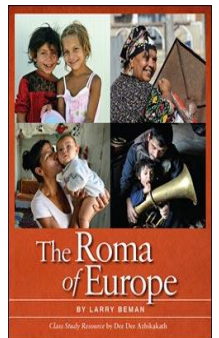
The next finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority – national and local leaders, our troops and your supervisors at work.

The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering.

Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relations to God's greatness. Ask him to supply your needs. And say thank you for the abundance in your life (even the smallest things).

Whatever method you use, just talk with your Father. He wants to hear what's on our hearts.

It's not the words we pray that matter, it's the condition of our heart.



Habitat for Humanity Build Day



Location: Stonebridge Road, Wayland

Saturday, April 12th

8am – 4pm

Volunteer shifts are 8a – 12p or 1p – 4p

You do not have to be skilled in a trade, also no heavy lifting!

More details will follow!

See Michelle or Heather for more information

Collecting Toiletries for the Veterans

Missions will be assembling toiletry kits for the Veterans. We will be delivering the kits to Veteran's Inc. at the end of March. Our goal is 50 kits! Can you help us reach our goal?

Veterans Inc. is a national leader in ending homelessness among veterans. They have one of the highest rates in the nation – 85% – for transitioning veterans out of homelessness. They are headquartered in Massachusetts (Worcester), and are the largest provider of services to veterans and their families in New England. Since 1991, they have helped more than 50,000 veterans and their families. Operations are expanding further into New England and beyond in their goal of eradicating homelessness among veterans.

The kits will include:

1. Quart Ziploc bag
2. Washcloth
3. Bar of soap
4. Small Bottle of Shampoo
5. Razor
6. Comb
7. Toothbrush
8. Toothpaste Nail file (emery board)
9. 6 alcohol wipes (both 9 and 10 in a small snack baggy)
10. 6 cough drops



There is a container in the Church office for you to drop your donations! Thank you in advance!