

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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(508) 653-1674

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March 2017

Pastor's Note

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which is March 1st. This season is our intentional annual pilgrimage in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. As we travel, it is important for each of us to reflect on our mortality and the challenges we face as humans. Though our human conditions are sometimes different, sometimes challenging, there is always a reward at the end of this journey. The good thing is we do not walk alone. Hence, during this Season of Lent, we can walk together from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday.

We can start with our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm as each person is invited to moments of prayer, fasting, studies, fellowship with soup and bread during Lent and a reenactment of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, April 13th. Also, during this time we are invited to reflect on our relationship with God and all of God's creation.

As we reflect, let us pray without ceasing, hear the cries, feel with empathy, and see the silent tears of others. But most of all let us not just walk these forty days of repentance and renewal but all days ahead.

May we be forgiving as we forgive others!

Pastor Alecia



Ash Wednesday is March 1. At 7pm, in the sanctuary, come and feel that you can be forgiven as we start the season Lent. We will also have worship services and Bible Studies during Lent and all persons are invited on this journey, knowing that you will never walk alone.

Come and worship with us during the season of Lent to hear the word as Pastor Alecia shares her newly created series with us on "The Humanity of Jesus Christ" because, whatever we have experienced, are experiencing, Jesus Christ has. Come and listen in new ways. The series is as follows:

Sunday, March 5

"Jesus experienced disappointment & sadness"

Sunday, March 12

"Jesus experienced tiredness & loneliness"

Sunday, March 19

"Jesus experienced anger & frustration"

Sunday, March 26

"Jesus experienced suffering and pains"

Sunday, April 2

"Jesus experienced love and empathy"

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, please worship with us during the season of Lent. As you come, know that you are not alone and never will be. What we have experienced, are experiencing and will experience, Jesus Christ has experienced. During this season you can read the Bible and be strengthened. The gospel passages for this month are:

March 5

Matthew 4:1-11

March 12

Luke 5:1-16

March 19

John 2:12-17

March 26

Mark 14:32-38

**Saturday, March 4 at Fisk UMC
CMA Resource Day and Youth Event
8:00AM – 3:30PM**

Lenten Study and Soup & Bread Supper

Lenten Study starts Thursday, March 9, with devotion led by Pastor Alecia, and every Thursday (March 16, 23, 30, April 6) until we close on Maundy Thursday, April 13th with a spirit-filled service including a reenactment of the Last Supper.

Note: The first (March 9) and last Thursday (April 13), we begin at 6:30 pm with soup and bread supper before the study. On the remaining Thursdays, we come fasting at 7:00 pm and go out filled with the Holy Spirit.

Evangelism

Mark Your Calendars

**Natick Easter Sunrise Service “on the front lawn”
EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

Join us at Fisk Memorial Methodist Church as we gather together at sunrise on Easter Morning for a moment of sharing and fellowship. Followed by a pancake breakfast for all!

We will gather on the Fisk yard in front of the church for Easter devotion at 6:00 am.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please dress appropriately for outdoor weather. If we are blessed with rain Sunday morning, the service will continue, but will be inside. Closed-toe shoes are recommended. Please also bring along lawn chairs for you and your family to assist with seating.

SUNRISE SERVICE
Sun, April 16, 2017
6:00 AM – 6:20

Pancake breakfast to follow from 6:30-7:30 inside Whipple Hall. Donations welcome.

Be ready to share ... a surprise is in store for all!
(Let's get 100 people to attend ... we can do it!)

NOTE: **Easter Worship Service** will also be open for all to attend from 10:30-11:30 with coffee hour to follow.

Our Prayer Wall is famous! It is there for everyone. We would love you to share any Prayer Wall stories you may have in worship. Did you see the article in the NEUMC Newsletter?

<http://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/a-different-kind-of-wall-at-fisk-memorial-umc-7441055>

Our next step in our “intentional” outreach and sharing of our love for God is building a Prayer BOX, which will be located outside Fisk, on the front lawn. Our hope is that “anyone and everyone”—from church members to passersby—can put their written prayers of thanks, gratitude, sorrows and blessings, or requests to God for “anything they need.” Our Fisk Family will then take the responsibility to pray over these submissions. We have some ideas about what the box should look like, but would love to hear yours...Email or otherwise relay any thoughts, pictures or descriptions to Heather, Eva or Michelle. Thanks for everyone's support!

michelled@towerwall.com

eva.garrouette@bc.edu

HeatherOluwole@hotmail.com

We are small but mighty! Thank you for everything you do in the name of our Father.

Your Faithful Evangelism Team, *Heather, Ken, Aljani, Pat, Marilyn, Rob, Eva, Stacy, Tian, Kate and Michelle*

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Palm Sunday April 9 **10:00am** - Palm Processional
All are invited to join in this processional with palms and song.
10:30am - Worship Service

Maundy Thursday April 13 **6:30pm** - Last Soup and Fellowship
Supper followed by a short Service in rooms 8 & 9

Good Friday April 14 **12-3:00pm** - Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary
A time of scripture, meditation and music. This is an opportunity to focus on Jesus' last hours. This is not a service. All are invited to stop in for a few minutes or for as long as you wish.

Easter Sunday April 16 **6:00am** – Sunrise Worship with
pancake breakfast to follow
10:30am – Worship in the sanctuary
with fellowship coffee after the service

"WE ARE FISK"

On the second Sunday of each month we will be featuring on-going ministry in our Fisk community. Last month we heard from Deborah Hernandez about Music and Movement and attempted to watch a short video to highlight how you can get involved (technical difficulties).

This month at the March 12th service we will have Pat Price talking about the **Ministry of Caring** and the outreach they do.

From the Finance Committee

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. We, as a congregation, provide important ministries to individuals and families at Fisk, to our community, to New England, and to the world in need. All of our missions and ministries require support; our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources. Exciting events are happening at our church in the coming months, so please participate!

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." – 2 Corinthians 9:6

Larry Drolet, Finance Chairperson

MISSION POSSIBLE

by Marcia Hoyt

**You are invited to
TASTE OF MISSIONS II**
Saturday, March 11th at 5:30pm
For all Fisk Friends
No cost...see below

The Missions Committee has planned another great evening for you and your friends and family. Last year was a wonderful experience and we are looking forward to another time of fellowship, learning, listening and doing...all in the name of Missions. Plan to join us..."you'll be glad you did." We are serving a Simple Dinner with lots of fun included.

Some of the questions to be answered—

Whose birthday is the same day as yours?

What does JFON mean? What is Daniel's Table?

Questions—Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077

BREAD FOR DANIEL'S TABLE

March 5th at 11:30am

We will be having a BREAD SALE on the first Sunday of the month to support this project in Framingham. All homemade breads...any type... can be donated and /or bought. Our February Sale profited \$150.00. Thank you to the bakers and buyers. Can we top that in March?



Looking for a place to "serve"?

- Fisk staffs the Natick Food Pantry one night each month. Interested? *Speak to Gary or Marcia Hoyt*
- Volunteer some hours at Family Promise. *See Debbie Friscino*
- Are you interested in a Mission Trip /Work project?
Ask a Mission Committee member: *Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Pat Price, Janis Townsend or Marcia Hoyt*

MISSIONARY MAIL

MISSIONARY NAME AND ADDRESS---

Send a card or message from yourself and/or Fisk Church. Offer prayer and emotional support as these men and women are doing God's Work. We will highlight a Missionary each month.



Ricardo Ramos-Diaz
Calle Mexico 1577
Zona Central
La Paz Bolivia

Ricardo's birthday is March 17th
rramos@umcmmission.org

Ask about the work they are doing, what led them to this work, how long have they been in this position, etc. If you receive a response, feel free to post it on the bulletin board in the hallway entitled MISSIONS.

Also March 26 is Dr. Belinda Forbes' birthday.

Belinda Forbes
Apartado C-224
20502 Managua Nicaragua

Family Promise Metrowest 8th Annual Walk to End Homelessness!

I am writing to encourage you to join our team to walk to end homelessness on **April 8th from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Natick Community Senior Center**. The walk is about 3 miles (to the high school and back), and your participation would mean a lot to me and to the families you will be helping.

Did you know?

- The average age of a homeless child served by Family Promise Metrowest is 6 years old.
- Most homeless shelters separate fathers and boys over 12 from the rest of their family. Family Promise Metrowest keeps families together.
- 25% of homeless people are children under the age of 18.
- Children experiencing homelessness are sick 4 times more often than other children.
- A family of 4 grossing more than \$2,114 per month is NOT eligible for state shelter assistance.

Please come to walk and join in the fun. There will be a DJ, drinks and food, games and prizes and other fun activities.



To join our team please go to:

<http://walk.familypromisemetrowest.org> and search for *FiskUMC*, then register. If you need help with registration or any other part of the process, please contact me. Your participation will help families and children who are homeless to have a home of their own. Thank you.

Debbie Friscino



The **UMW Hannah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 14 from noon to 2:00 p.m. We will celebrate National Potato Chip Day with a variety of chip flavors and styles at lunch and our meeting will focus on UMW mission projects. Joanne Billo is our invited speaker and she will share her experience of delivering Elizabeth's Warm-Up to Rosie's Place. The Hannahs meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Bring your lunch! Chips, dessert, and beverages provided.

Ministry of Caring Where Faith and Life Connect!



Well the snow got us all, and the February Potluck was cancelled. Now we are trying to get back on track and back together for a warm and cozy dinner, some games and fun. The first 2017 Potluck has been rescheduled, March 25th at 5:30pm. The heart gifts that you contributed are being added to the bags and delivered soon, with the invitation to the potluck dinner. Please plan to attend and stay tuned for details.

Other happenings this month –

- Honoring a request for prayer bears for six people in Tennessee and Georgia, who wrote for prayers for people with health issues.
- Visits and prayers as needed in recent weeks.

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs
508-359-4025 508-873-1514

Celebration

We congratulate and celebrate the achievement of our lay leader, **Dr. Dorothy Phillips**. In 1967 she became the first African-American woman to receive an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt.



Vanderbilt created a new chair in her honor in 2016 to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). She has been a member of the American Chemical Society's Board of Directors since 2013.

Education

Sunday School Substitutes and Nursery Coverage Needed

Please consider serving once or twice in the worship time Nursery. Children from birth to kindergarten can be found playing and learning there. We have a professional leader who teaches the children and is in charge. We also have awesome middle school students who step in. There are between 2 and 8 children who would love to meet you. Thank you in advance for serving the youngest.

We also are in need of Sunday School subs (9:15-10:15). All materials are provided. Our teachers have great attendance but there are times, when traveling is scheduled, that we need your help. It is a gift to teach these students. Please consider subbing just once, and I predict that you will do it again. If interested, please speak to Susan Carney, and may God Bless your service.

Nurturing a Grateful Heart

As most of you who have raised or taught children know, at young ages they are egocentric. It is just the way they are. As Christians and just good adult role models, we work to build the habit of gratefulness. Children often focus on the gift without saying a thank you or recognizing the giver.

1. Talk to your child about being grateful.
2. Give them examples of how to acknowledge a giver.
3. Be a good role model.
4. Set expectations.
5. Have a system of cueing. Younger children may need a verbal cue.
6. As your child grows, a look from a parent or teacher will do. (I well recall the look from my parents from across the room.)

Congratulate yourself for letting your child know that being grateful is a good trait and makes others, and the receiver as well, feel good.

March Tip from the Sunday School Superintendent

Mark your calendar!

Lenten Workshop

Sunday afternoon, March 19. 3:30 p.m.

Celebrate this Holy Season with Lenten learning, fellowship, snacks and a craft to take home.

Sponsored by the Education Committee

DORCAS

(In Honor of Women's History Month)

The Biblical record of Dorcas is limited to a few verses in Acts. Her name calls to mind even today the benevolent use of the needle. There are many organizations today that serve through sewing.

Dorcas lived in Joppa and was associated with a small group of poor Christians. She was a woman of greater means and had a calling to serve. She sewed clothes for all in need and provided goods for others to help her. All over the world there are Dorcas Societies doing the same in Christ's name even today. *Read Acts 9:36-42.*



(Dorcas is also referred to as Tabitha)

From the Sunday School Folks



Brunch

for all women interested in
Missions for women, children and youth

Saturday, March 18 at 10:00am

We are hosting this annual gathering and have invited our sisters from nearby churches.



Think SPRING...

- Family Promise **Walk Away Homelessness** is scheduled for April 8
- **YARD SALE** on Saturday, May 13. Begin to save your donations!
- **Seminar in NYC**-April 25-27 Men, women and older teens. "Economic Justice: Ministry with the Poor." See Sherry Culver for details. Some scholarship funds available.
- Our **postponed meeting** in February, Ask the Pastor, will be re-scheduled.

CMA Lay Servant Academy

Classes are being held on Saturdays, 1-6:00pm, on March 18, April 1, and April 8 at the First UMC, 34 Felton Street in Hudson, MA. Registration is \$45 and the deadline to sign up is March 4. Classes may be taken for certification or audit purposes. The classes are Basic Lay Servant, Basic Lay Servant Class for Youth (Grades 8-12), Go Preach!, and Aging and the Ministry in the 21st Century.

Details about these classes and registration forms can be found in the literature rack outside the nursery or in the church office. For more details, please contact Barbara Beekman (508) 647-4004, tjbeekan@gmail.com or Debi Henry (508) 651-0256, debraleighhenry@yahoo.com

Fisk Youth

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang

Plans are to hold regular MYF meetings after Sunday services and host special activities periodically for all youth. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Reminder: to view MYF pictures and schedule updates, see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>

What's happening in March?

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| March 4 | CMA resource day |
| March 12 | MYF meeting |
| March 19 | Rose's Musical |
| March 26 | MYF meeting |

How to contact Bingxin and Tian : For youth-related activities, they will be using fiskyouth@gmail.com. If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact them or Sherry Culver, Youth Council Chair, sherrycd@comcast.net

A Special Request



Do you remove the "flip tabs" from cans of soda, pet food, soups, etc.? That one small tab combined with many, many other donated tabs is the major fund raiser for the Shriner's Children's Hospital. The hospital uses the proceeds from the tabs to upgrade and replace their equipment.

My granddaughter, Alana, will have had the first of three scheduled surgeries at Shriner's on February 24th. This is the only hospital in the Boston area that has the necessary equipment that the surgeon needs for these special operations.

The UMW has been part of this collection program for a long time, but we often need reminders, so please bring in your tabs. There is a container in the church office where you can deposit the tabs.

Our family is very thankful and blessed that an area hospital is able to do this specialized procedure for my granddaughter. --Winnie Sinclair

MA 01701



Music & Movement Time For Kids Ages 2 To 7

March 18, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The event is FREE! No registration is required.
For more information and pictures of past classes, visit:
www.fiskumc.org/music-and-movement.html



**Submit your
newsletter items
to the church office
by 8:30AM
March 24th**



**Set your clocks
ahead 1 hour
on Saturday night,
March 11th
40 Days of Lent: Find**

your own spiritual path

Excepted from A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino*

During **Ash Wednesday services** on the first day of Lent, many United Methodist pastors will invite their congregations "to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word" (from the **United Methodist Book of Worship**). While you may be aware of this season leading up to Easter, you may wonder how you might "observe a holy Lent." There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Fasting: One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping, or something else through the season. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Bible reading: Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide and Alive Now will help guide you in this pursuit. Each day they provide a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about.

Prayer: In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding more time in your life for prayer. You can experiment with different ways to pray during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying.

Service: Another way to observe a holy Lent is to take on a new way of serving. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations, singing in the choir, or participating in a small group.

Rest: An important practice with which many of us struggle is the spiritual discipline of rest or Sabbath. We don't have to rest on Saturday, the traditional Sabbath day, or even Sunday. You can instead find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God's presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch with a desktop meditation, listen to sermons on your commute, or read a poem that feeds your spirit.



Read more from **Joe Iovino** at:

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/40-days-of-lent-find-your-own-spiritual-path>

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Calendar of
Meetings
Activities
Special Events

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 26 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE- followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Youth Group | 27 7:00 PM UMW Exec. Board | 28 7:30 PM SPRC | 1  10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group 5:00 PM Girl Scouts - Adams 7:00 PM Ash Weds Service | 2 7:15 AM Rotary Club Breakfast | 3 12:00 PM Natick Women's Club 4:00 PM Girl Scouts-Hymes 8:00 PM AA meeting | 4 CMA Resource Day (youth) |
| 5 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE- followed by Time of Fellowship | 6 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh. 7:00 PM Trustee meeting | 7 | 8 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group 7:00 PM Susanna Circle | 9 7:15 AM Rotary Club Breakfast 6:30 PM Soup & Bread Supper 7:00 PM Evangelism meeting 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study | 10 8:00 PM AA meeting | 11  Taste of Missions (evening) |
| 12 Baptism: Clark Haranis 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE- followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Youth Group | 13 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh. Finance Committee | 14 12:00 PM Hannah Circle 7:00 PM UMM | 15 10:00 AM NWC Exec. Board 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 PM WV Mission (NHS) | 16 7:15 AM Rotary Club Breakfast 10:00 AM Missions 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study | 17 3:30 PM Girl Scouts-Arthur 8:00 PM AA meeting | 18 10:00 AM UMW Brunch 11:00 AM Music & Movement |
| 19 9:00 AM Worship Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE- followed by Time of Fellowship 11:30 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Worship Team 3:30 PM Lenten Workshop | 20 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh. Board | 21 7:30 PM COM | 22 8:30 AM Messenger Deadline 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group 7:30 PM Fisk Admin Board | 23 7:15 AM Rotary Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study | 24 8:00 PM AA meeting | 25 10:00 AM A Cappella Reh. 5:30 PM Pot Luck Supper |
| 26 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE- followed by Time of Fellowship 12:00 PM Youth Group | 27 7:00 PM A Cappella Reh. | 28 7:30 PM SPRC | 29 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group 5:30 PM Girl Scouts-Aber | 30 7:15 AM Rotary Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study | 31 8:00 PM AA meeting | 1 10:00 AM A Cappella Reh. |