

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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March 2018

Pastor's Note

As we continue the journey this year, and through the season of Lent, know that, "This is a year that the Lord has made." REJOICE! As you rejoice, limit your complaints, never give up, never give in or just sit down and live like people without hope.

I am affirming hope because there is a lot to be hopeful for. Hope is important because there are many uncertainties in life, many unanswered questions and many challenges. But, we need to feel in our hearts, clear our minds and open our hands to offer God's grace with healing to a broken world.

A broken world because many times we forget that relationships matter more than the stuff we wanted, stuff we buy and what we accumulate. Yes, life is more than stuff. It is more important for us to be humble, have a compassionate spirit, connect with people, feed the children, take care of the elderly, provide for those without, advocate for the voiceless, stand up and make peace and justice our shield.

As we do these things, we can remember that we will never be alone because God still sits on the throne of grace and will send others to walk and work with us. And though the journey may be challenging at times, joy comes in the morning. Come and walk with us!

"A happy, blessed and safe journey to Easter"

-Pastor Alecia

Pastor's Announcements

LENT 2018

As we travel the journey of Lent, remember that this time offers Christians an opportunity to renew their commitment to being more Christ-like and present with each other. As we travel, some days will be easy and others will be difficult. But, as we are travelling together, we will be walking side by side until victory is won.

W	Wait upon the Lord
O	Offer our lives as a living sacrifice
R	Rest in His presence
S	Sing unto Him
H	Humble ourselves before him
I	Intimacy with God
P	Pleasing Him

EASTER FLOWERS

Your order of beautiful Easter lilies or tulips in honor or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a ministry will help decorate Fisk's sanctuary for our Easter service on April 1. These lovely flowers will be delivered fresh to the church just prior to Easter and will be available for you to take home after the service on Easter Sunday. A special insert of flower dedications will be included in the worship service bulletin on Easter Sunday. Order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins March 11, 18, and 25, or in the church office. Please contact Debi Henry or Lois Potter for more information or to order your flowers.



Order Deadline: Monday, March 26 at 12 noon!

March 2018 – Bible Readings

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following.

3/4:	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
3/11:	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
3/18:	Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 12:20-33
	Psalm 51:1-17	
3/25:	Mark 14:1-15:47 (Passion Story)	

Worship

LENTEN EVENTS leading up to RESURRECTION SUNDAY on April 1:

March 11 is UMCOR Sunday - formerly called, "One Great Hour of Sharing". We are hosting a dinner on Saturday, March 10 and the proceeds will be used for Health kits to UMCOR. Thanks for your giving; millions of lives continue to change. God bless you as you share.



Palm Sunday – March 25 – the distribution of palms and a life-changing service that leads to Easter.

Maundy Thursday – March 29 at 7 PM – a short reenactment devotional of the Last Supper in room 8 and 9 with Communion.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil – March 30 from 12-3 PM. Come during these three hours and listen to readings and holy music, say a prayer, hang a prayer or leave a burden at the cross of Jesus Christ.

Easter Sunday – April 1. Outside Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM followed by a pancake breakfast at 7 AM compliments of the Evangelism Team. Resurrection Service at 10:30 AM with all persons singing the traditional Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. Everyone is invited. Come and bring family and friends to celebrate the dawn of a new day!

Up-Coming Classes

Lenten Bible Study Continues

"He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado

Every Sunday and Thursday in room 9.

Bring your Bible and bring a nail each week.

	<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>
Week Three	March 4	March 8
"He chose to invite us into His presence" (Hebrews 10:19-20)		
Week Four	March 11	March 15
"He chose to love us forever" (1 John 3:16)		
Week Five	March 18	March 22
"He chose to give us victory" (Romans 8:37)		

Adult Sunday Bible Class

There will be no classes on Sunday, March 25 (PALM SUNDAY) and Sunday, April 1 (EASTER SUNDAY). Class resumes on Sunday, April 8 at 9:15AM in room 9 with continued study on "Treasure".

District

Our District Lay-Servant courses are offered for those who participate in worship and serve others. Spring classes are **April 7, 14 & 21 at Quinsigamund UMC, 9 Stebbins St., Worcester, MA, from 1-6 PM.** This course is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. The cost is \$45 per person and covers materials and books. (Fisk UMC can help you with the payment.) Courses to be offered are "**Basic Lay Servant Ministry**," "**Accountable Discipleship**" and "**You Can Preach**". All three sessions are required to complete the course. All classes are available for audit purposes. Registration deadline is March 24. Class information and registration forms are in the church office. For more info and a registration form, see Pastor Alecia, Diane French, Debi Henry, or Barbara Beekman.

Fisk UM Discipleship/Prospective & New Members

Class. Join Pastor Alecia for a light, informative and heartwarming study & discussion on how we belong, what we believe, how we live, and the unlimited possibilities for growth as we travel the journey together as a United Methodist. Therefore, if you have not yet connected as a full member of Fisk, you may attend the four Saturday sessions on March 31, April 7, 14 & 21 from 10-11 AM in the Women's parlor. If you have already joined Fisk, you may also attend to renew, remember or reflect on your membership at Fisk.



Preparing for Baptism –There will be two classes; one with the parents on Saturday, March 17 from 11-12 noon and another for parents and sponsors on March 31 from 11-12 noon. Both classes are required. Please contact Pastor Alecia at any time if you are interested in connecting your young child or children into a nurturing body of believers.

Youth Confirmation class coming soon

FISK SANCTUARY REVITALIZATION

Six decades ago, the Fisk Methodist congregation made the bold decision to move from downtown Natick to a new home on Walnut Hill. Our existing Sacred Sanctuary and adjoining classrooms, gymnasium and offices have served us well. It is now time that we evaluate our sanctuary and revitalize the space to better serve the Church of today and tomorrow.

At the direction of our Administrative Board, a team of church members has been formed and we have begun collecting ideas, visiting other churches, doing on-line research, and exchanging opinions of how we might reconstruct our sacred space. Discussions have included making the narthex more welcoming, improving lighting, improving flexibility, enhancing video, modifying the seating and altar space, while improving handicap accessibility, safe sanctuary guidelines and maintaining it as a Sacred Sanctuary.

Our objective is to be totally transparent in our process, and open to all ideas and opinions, while at the same time implementing real change as quickly as feasible.

If you wish to participate, or just chat with one of the team members, our next meeting is scheduled for March 18, and the current members are:

Thom Townsend (chair), Heather Oluwole, Diane French, Marcia Hoyt, Sherry Culver, Tom Currie, Amy Bruns, Geoff Del Sesto, Susan Carney, and Debbie Friscino.



The UMW Hannah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, March 13th**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Ogle Parlor (*please note new time*). Our hostesses for this meeting are Judy Maloney & Barbara Miller; Marilyn Donnelly will share devotions.

All women are invited to bring their lunch. Beverages & dessert will be provided. Survey Says! "Church People" all across the country were surveyed on a variety of topics – both serious and silly. We will have lively discussions on certain parts of this survey. Do you have opinions? Like to talk? Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend. Join us!

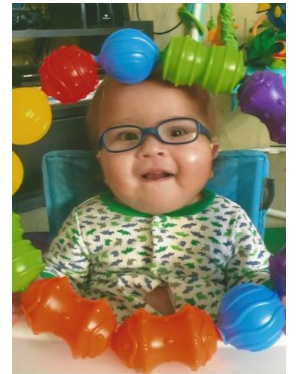
Church Spring Cleaning Day is Saturday, March 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Please help in any way you can for one hour to clean up the grounds and building in preparation for Holy Week. Healthy morning snacks and beverages provided.



Help us brighten up someone's day by stopping by our Card Table on Sunday, March 11 following worship at Fellowship Time to sign your name to a card or two, or to write a note.

We welcome Pat Price home! OK – so it is just for one weekend before she heads back to her mom in Buffalo. See Pat in worship on March 4th!

We hear about United Methodist being a part of a "connectional system," with other churches, a District, our New England Conference, etc. Another connection we have is with each other. Say hello to Jovanni! We have been praying for him for the past year. Jovanni is the 7th great-grandson of Nancy Swan. To connect the "heart dots," Nancy's son, David, has a daughter named Ellie, and Ellie is Jovanni's mom. We have prayed for this family and Jovanni through the insertion of feeding tubes, eye surgeries (he is wearing his new glasses!), heart surgeries – and he is now able to sit up! He still has health issues and a long journey ahead. Our love and prayers continue for this 1 ½ year old bundle of joy!



Marilyn Donnelly, Co-Chair

United Methodist Men

The UMM March meeting will be breakfast at Station 5 Grille (17 Watson St. next to Roche Bros.) on Saturday, March 17 at 8:00 a.m. All men, teenagers, and boys are invited. Bring your appetite and maybe we'll see some green eggs and ham!

MAPLE SYRUP

Pancakes and maple syrup...what is better for a full breakfast!

We have a new supply of Maple Syrup from the UM Economic Ministries in Maine. A few of the residents in the Western Mountains of Maine tap their trees and barter their syrup for Food Pantry items. We benefit...by enjoying the delicious syrup. These make great gifts.



½ pints--\$5.00 Pints --\$10.00 Quarts --\$20.00

See Gary Hoyt or Geoff Del Sesto (UMM)

Missions



Our Missions Committee met this week to discuss Fisk's Mission emphases for the next few months.

MARCH LUNCHEON— What is new? We have planned a Mission Luncheon following worship on **March 18** (replacing Coffee Hour). This is just an opportunity to learn of the many mission sites and programs that we at Fisk support. Decide where you want to help, sign up for a Mission Trip in June, give us your suggestions and ideas and ACT on something to address the gun violence in our country. Plan to stay for lunch! and see what we are doing to fulfill our goal—Matthew 25:40. *Letting our light shine.*

HEALTH KITS -- Our ongoing mission collection for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is Health/Hygiene Kits. This is an ongoing project—to keep the UMCOR Depots supplied for the next relief site in need. Thousands of these packages were sent to Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas. Now we need to help re-stock the warehouses. Information about these is in the literature rack by the Nursery Door. It is a great family project, book group project, work place event or neighborhood collection. Talk it up. These kits service all people in many global situations as well as the U.S. We appreciate our United Methodist Connection as a way to distribute them to those in need.



SOUPper BOWL OF CARING -- **Thank you** for your support of the Soup Collection during February. We were challenged to collect 100 cans of soup...in addition to cash donations...for the Natick Food Pantry. We met our goal and almost doubled it! We have over 200 cans and some cash to buy additional soups. You did Good! It will keep lots of tummy's full and warm for the remainder of the winter.

- ✓ Remember that we have an on-going collection of non-perishable foods for the Natick Food Pantry. Bring a few items each week to help feed our neighbors in Natick. They may be put in the wooden box outside the office.

Mission Committee – Susan Carney, Janis Cail, Marcia Hoyt (Chair), and Janis Townsend
Articles submitted by - Marcia Hoyt

ONE WAY TO DO HANDS-ON MISSION WORK

Would you like to serve at the Natick Food Pantry? It is easy. No preparation. No clean-up. No set-up. Just assisting our neighbors in Natick to choose their food and bagging it for them. The time commitment is from 4:50pm to 8:00pm on the second Tuesday. We have three or four teams and could use one or two more to substitute. Fisk has been doing this for more than 20 years, help us continue to do our share. Call The Hoyt's.

FISK CHURCH

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner



SATURDAY - MARCH 10

5:30 P.M.



FUNDRAISER FOR HEALTH KITS!

Karaoke YOU Irish Songs



Health Kit Items

- 1 clear gallon Ziploc bag to put all items in
- 1 washcloth
- 1 hand towel (no kitchen towels) 15" x 25" up to 17" x 27"
- 1 bath size bar of soap in wrapper (3 oz. and up)
- 1 comb (large and sturdy – not pocket sized)
- 1 fingernail clippers (no toenail clippers or emery boards)
- 6 adhesive plastic strips (Johnson & Johnson Band-Aids)
- 1 adult toothbrush (single brush in original wrapper)

TICKETS

Adults - \$12

Seniors and Teens (Ages 13 to 18) - \$10

Kids (Ages 6 to 12) - \$7

Kids (Ages 5 and Under) - Free

Contact Michelle Drolet, Heather Oluwole, Michael Bruns, Marilyn Donnelly, or Debi Henry, to help with the dinner, purchase tickets, or for more information.



United
Methodist
Women

The following programs are open to all women who may be interested in supporting the mission work for women, children and youth.

MARCH 10

We are invited to this Annual Luncheon
March 10 at 12 noon, Community UMC, Wayland
Program: Spread the Bread—come to hear what this
is all about! Just \$5.00

This is always an enjoyable time of fellowship with our
UMW Sisters in Wayland and Framingham.

*Reservations to Janis Cail or the church office.



APRIL 8 Luncheon following worship at Fisk

More details next month. SAVE THE DATE

APRI 21 Central Mass. District UMW

Empowering Young Women

Wilmington UMC

9:00-2:00pm with Lunch

SAVE THE DATE

**NOTE: Begin saving your items for
the May 12 Yard Sale**

TWO WOODEN BOXES??

Ever wonder about the two wooden boxes in the hallway. One is for food donations for the Natick Food Pantry and the other is for your donated good, clean used clothing. All sizes and seasons of clothing are collected and brought to Salem in the Western Mountains of Maine to help the under-served. Clothing is sorted and distributed to three Thrift Shops operated by our United Methodist Connection under the direction of UMEM (United Methodist Economic Ministries). Put your folded clothes into paper grocery bags (preferably) and place them in the wooden box. April is the beginning of the spring collection. For more information ask Gary or Marcia Hoyt.

Easter Frock and Easter Faith Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips, Lay Leader

The weekend before Easter Sunday was a busy time in my family when I was growing up. There was shopping for new outfits. Often our neighbor, Mrs. Jones, made new dresses for my two sisters and me. We got new black slippers that would be our Sunday shoes through at least the summer. Then we would go to one of Mom's friends, Mrs. Blanche or Mrs. Hewlett, to get our special hairdo, pony tails and bangs. We, the three oldest girls and our brothers in their suits with fresh haircuts made quite a statement on Easter morning.

Today the week leading to Easter is still busy. I look for that special Easter bonnet to make a fashion statement. However, the focus now is not on the outfit and hairdo but on the state of the heart. There are Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; each service or day reminds me of why I must be ready on Easter Sunday. It is my faith not my frock. Jesus wore a crown of thorns as he went to the cross where he died for my sins. Then on Easter morning He arose so that I may have life eternal as I live within His kingdom.



Do you like to sing or play a musical instrument?

Come join Fisk Music Ministry!

Please contact John Bybee, Minister of Music:

fiskmusicministry@gmail.com



**Friendly
Reminder**

The monthly deadline for submissions for

The Messenger is the

Thursday after COM meeting, by 9AM.

For the April issue, March 22nd

Deadline for *weekly* bulletins is

9 AM on Tuesdays.



Music & Movement Time For Kids Ages 2 To 7

11:00AM-12:00PM

March 3 March into Spring!
March 17 Lepraucan Leapers!
(wear green!)

The event is FREE! No registration is required.
For more information please contact/email Deborah
Hernandez deborahlhernandez@gmail.com

Fisk Youth

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang**

Plans are to hold Methodist Youth Fellowship meetings following Sunday services (usually twice a month) and host special activities periodically for all youth. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Reminder: see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html> to view MYF pictures and schedule updates. Regular meetings will be held at the church:

March 11
MYF

March 25
MYF

In addition, if you have an idea for a youth event or activity, wish to volunteer or have questions /concerns, you may send those also.

** During March and April, You may contact
Pastor Alecia, at fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

Baby News!

"With joy, we welcome Anton with congratulation to his parents; Bingxin & Tian. He arrived on Sunday, February 18, 2018, weighing 9 lbs. You are welcome to say a prayer or send a card, but allow space for mom and baby to rest."

Fisk youth and their families and friends gathered here at Fisk Church on Friday, February 23rd from 6:30-8:30PM for fun with games and lots of ice cream sundaes and love everywhere.

The event was well planned and coordinated by Sherry Culver, Geoff Del Sesto and Elisa Currie and we thank them for their time and talent. Special thanks to the parents who share their children with us.



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

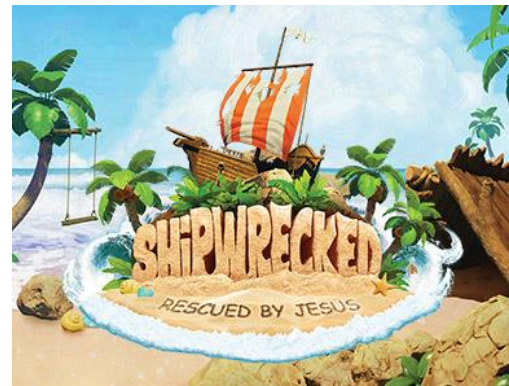
Ages 4-11

Free of Charge

June 25 - 29, 2018

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration Open Online at <http://www.fiskumc.org>



Get Ready to Be *Shipwrecked* at our *Vacation Bible School 2018*! Venture onto an uncharted island where kids are rescued by Jesus! Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through every storm in life. They'll learn to hold onto God's promises when they are lonely, they worry, they struggle, do wrong, and feel "left out."



*"Through every storm of life I know you're by my side so
I am holding on to your promises!"
(from "Never Let Go of Me", VBS theme song)*

March Celebrations!

Youth and Family Night ~ A Success!