

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.fiskumc.org

March 2019

Pastor's Note

My mother was a prayer-warrior who believed that prayers to God could do it all. And yes, she prayed often, and I believed that it kept her children's eyes on God and hands on the plow. As I reflect on those days of old, I read **Ephesians 1:16** which states, "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." So, today and every day, I am thankful for someone who remembered me in their prayers.

The Apostle Paul started the Ephesians 1 passage as a prayer. Well, I am glad, that others believed in prayers. Do you? Over the years, I have always wondered if and when someone said,

"I will pray for you" whether they truly would.

The truth is, whether they did or did not, we have an opportunity. The season of Lent starts this month after Ash Wednesday on March 6. As we start the Lenten Season, we can make this a season of real, true, and sincere prayers; praying for ourselves, our families, our church, our communities, our nation, and the world.

At Fisk UMC, 106 Walnut Street, Natick, we continue to have vibrant and spirit-filled worship services and Bible Studies. During Lent, in addition to worship and studies, we will have a prayer line open for you to call in, ask for a prayer, offer a prayer or just listen to a prayer. In view of these opportunities, all persons are invited on this "Journey thru Prayer" knowing that you will never walk alone. We, at Fisk will be walking with you and praying for you. As we do, be glad that someone prayed for you. Will you pray for someone?

-Pastor Alecia

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. The proclamation stated, "The achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well." In 1987 Congress passed a law designating March as "Women's History Month."

Excerpted from womenshistory.org/events/womens-history-month

Women's History Month

FANNY CROSBY

The favorite hymn "**Blessed Assurance**" is one of more than 8,000 penned by a blind, musical visionary. **Fanny Crosby's** songs are favorites in the *United Methodist Hymnal*.



The **Rev. Alfred Day** of the **General Commission on Archives and History** tells us why the life story of this 19th century poet is as inspiring as the words we sing today.

"Fanny Crosby was not held back at all by her blindness. And probably the words of her poetry and hymns helped more people to see and know and experience Jesus as anybody with two working eyes and 20/20 vision."

Crosby's writings never brought her wealth. She was often paid just a dollar or two per poem with the rights to the songs being retained by the composer or music publishers. At one point, the songstress was destitute, but Crosby wrote in her autobiography that the songs were God's work and not for profit. Any royalties she received were often donated toward the mission work she championed with immigrants and the poor. "Pass Me Not O', Gentle Savior" was penned while Crosby was working in prison ministry.

Crosby's songs spoke to social issues of the day including the temperance movement and the campaign against child labor. Her writing process always started with a prayer, and she sometimes composed six or seven poems a day. Setting a personal goal of winning a million people to Christ through her hymns, Crosby said many times, "Don't waste sympathy on me, I'm the happiest person alive." She passed away in 1915, at the age of 94.

To read more and view video :

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/fanny-crosby-legendary-methodist-hymn-writer>

Worship Team

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, we will host a "Marking for Blessing" service. Come, feel, and believe that you can be forgiven as we start the season of Lent.

Maundy Thursday

On Thursday, April 18th there will be a creative and spiritual filled reenactment of the Last Supper. Come to reflect, remember and be present, to feel the emotions of that last night, with supper. Please come fasting at 7 pm to go out filled with the love of God and spiritual food.

Something New at Fisk

Join us for our first "Time for Spirited Kids" on Sunday March 17th at 4:30 pm. This new monthly worship service will be aimed at creating a welcoming place where people with special needs can worship and develop a meaningful relationship with the Lord. This 30-minute service will include music, movement and active participation while allowing freedom to move around, draw and otherwise "fidget" while listening to scripture, a short message and prayer time. The service will be followed by a casual supper. For our first discussion- can you think of a way we are like turtles? Families with children who have a variety of challenges that make attending a traditional worship service difficult are welcome.

"God bless you
as you come"



Special Prayer Line

During the Season of Lent, a prayer line will be open where you can call in and Pastor Alecia will be ready to pray for or with you. No name or identification is required. All you have to say is, "Please pray for....." We will pray together every Friday starting March 8 until April 12, during the Lenten Season, by calling in from 12:00-12:30 p.m. and 7:00-7:30 p.m. The number to call is (712-775-7270) and the access code number is 580274.

At Fisk we believe God already knows what we need, but we humble ourselves by asking through prayers. All we need to do is to always pray and see what great things God does. You can also leave a prayer request on our website (www.fiskumc.org) by filling out the form or by visiting our church and leaving a prayer on the prayer wall, or just dropping a prayer in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church.

Reflection Readings

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, please worship with us every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. In addition, you may be touched and strengthened when you find time to study and reflect. During this month you can read the following scripture passages from the lectionary.

March 3	Exodus 34:29-35	Luke 9:28-36
March 10	Romans 10:8-13	Luke 4:1-13
March 17	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
March 24	Isaiah 55:1-9	Luke 13:1-9
March 31	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Christian Education

Confirmation Class

We have an on-going class with Community United Methodist Church in Wayland, Ma. There are eight youth: four from our church and four from Community. The class introduces the foundations of the Christian faith through the lens of the Methodist traditions and theology.

This is a heart-warming experience for me to work with Pastor Ted. "Yes Pastor Ted." It is also a blessing to see how our youth are connecting their faith and building relationships.

Please continue to keep the eight youth in your prayers.

Lay Servant Graduates

The Central Massachusetts District of the New England Conference of UMC held another of its many Lay Servant Ministries Classes in early February.



At Fisk, we are blessed to have Lay Servants (Barbara Beekman & Debi Henry) who always attend to increase knowledge and update their skills to serve where God needs work done. And yes, I am amazed what God does

when we continue to open ourselves to ways he blesses us. Hence, with thanks to our district's team and instructors, under the leadership of our District Superintendent, Rev. Rene Perez, believe that we are truly blessed as the best "Movers & Shakers" ever. Thank You, Rene, and Team and Congratulations Barbara (certified in "Conflict Resolution") and Debi, (certified in "Justice in Every Day Life").

Evangelism Team

Reaching out, witnessing and sharing the love of God is what we do through our invitations and presence. We

have open minds, and hearts to meet people where they are. Then, we open our hands to take theirs for us to walk together hand in hand and side by side on the path that leads to Jesus Christ.

As we walk, let us remember that sometimes it will be easy and sometimes difficult. But take our hands, walk with us, feel the love, and truly believe that we are the people that God calls us to be and each person is significant and worthy of God's grace.

Ministry of Caring

We are a caring community of faith, and we do care about you in the good and not-so-good times. During these times, we need all the love and support we can get from God and from others. And because God often manifests His presence in others, we, the Caring Team at Fisk are here for you and your families. Therefore, when and if there is a need of presence, prayer, or other, please let us know. Remember that we are actively serving by being the hands and feet of God. Contact a member of the team, with thanksgiving for what God can and will do.

Team Members: Pat Price, Marilyn Donnelly, Clotilde Hyango, Gerry Billingsley, Joanne Billo, and Pastor Alecia

Family Promise

March 24th-31st : We'll be providing a home to four families the week of March 24th as we host Family Promise guests. With members of Community, First and Wesley United Methodist Churches we will provide meals and overnight accommodations for up to fourteen people as they work to get back on their feet and find permanent housing. Please join us in providing part of a meal, serving dinner, greeting moms, dads and their kids or sleeping overnight at church. Sign up online through the CERVIS Volunteer Portal on Family Promise Metrowest's website or contact Debbie Friscino (fris@rcn.com).

A family update from our December host week: Priscilla found a job closer to home. She and her daughter moved into their own apartment in Framingham at the end of February. Staff report that she is "walking on air".

Not familiar with this program? **Family Promise Metrowest** works to help families get out of the cycle of homelessness by providing professional staff that empowers families by assisting them in establishing goals in areas of health, finances, parenting, and transportation. Congregations throughout the area provide meals and overnight accommodations, allowing families to save 80% of the money they earn as they work to meet their goals.

Did you know that Massachusetts has one of the fastest-growing rates of family homelessness in the country? The lack of affordable housing combined with low earnings has resulted in a doubling of individuals experiencing homelessness over the last 20 years. A minimum wage worker can only afford to spend \$520 a month on rent and they need to work 110 hours a week to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in the greater Boston area! The average age of a homeless person in this state is now 8 years old.

Family Promise Metrowest Seeks Volunteers

Day Center volunteers are a vital part of our mission: they staff the offices on Saturdays and Sundays, interact with our families, and assist with special projects.

If you would like to become a Day Center volunteer or if you are a Day Center volunteer already, but have never served at our new home at 6 Mulligan Street, Natick, please let me know and we will arrange a time for a brief orientation.

With many thanks, Judy Mongiardo, Network Coordinator judy@familypromisemetrowest.org

10th Annual Walk to End Homelessness

April is just around the corner so mark your calendar on **April 6, 2019 for the "10th Annual Walk to End Homelessness"**. Once again, members of the Fisk community will participate in this fund raising walk to benefit **Family Promise Metrowest**. The walk starts at 8:30 a.m. at a NEW LOCATION (Natick High School). Proceeds support programming for families facing homelessness. To join the walk or sponsor the Fisk team, please contact Debbie Friscino (fris@rcn.com) or sign up during coffee hour. Online donations are also possible—search for the Fisk Church Walkers in the section that lists "Find a Team" of the walkathon's webpage.



March 17.

2019 Easter Flowers

Orders for Easter lilies and tulips will be taken on Sunday's following worship on March 24 and 31, and on April 7. Details will be provided on Sunday,

Food for Thought

Prayer's Ability

Prayer in the time of trouble brings peace
to the weary soul,
Prayer in the time of triumph acknowledges
God's in control.
Prayer is never irrelevant; it is essential to our life,
It's not a crutch which to lean on,
or to use in times of strife.
Prayer is a type of thanksgiving, a greeting to God
for His grace,
Prayer is the essence of morning,
the fragrance of life to embrace.
Prayer is a holy connection, a quiet time at God's feet,
In prayer we acknowledge dependence,
a place where God and man meet.
Prayer is the means of sustaining a faith that at times
can grow weak,
The power of prayer is enriching, uplifting
to hear our God speak.
It's not an audible message,
no finger to write out His plan,
But a still small voice known as conscience is
God's way of speaking to man.
When all other avenues falter, and man's ingenuity fails,
God, in His infinite wisdom,
is the source who always prevails.
Nothing can bring such contentment as spending
an hour in prayer,
God is a most willing listener and He is eternally there.

Poet: Greta Zwaan –with thanks

*Note: Stay in connection with God. Keep Praying.
"Prayer is the master key."*

Pastor Alecia

Local & Global Missions

NICKELS and DICES...and QUARTERS, too.

1. Save your NICKELS and DICES...and QUARTERS
2. Bring them to church
3. Deposit them into one of the labeled soda bottles.

Some of our friends are waiting for services offered by JFON. What is JFON? **J**ustice **F**or **O**ur **N**eighbors. Our connectional church supports two locations in New England (Woburn and Springfield) that offer FREE legal assistance and advice to those struggling through the Immigration process.



This is a HUMAN RIGHTS issue. An incredible group of dedicated people and lawyers volunteer their time to do

this ministry. They need our prayers and support. So...please bring your NICKELS and DICES...and QUARTERS! Can we fill a bottle by the end of March?

MARCH is Nicaragua Month, also!

We will host a **Chili Lunch** on March 10 (replacing Coffee Hour). Free will offering will be collected to support the teachers and schools that were built by our United Methodist Churches in New England, and also help support Dr. Belinda Forbes, a dentist with local roots. She brings the Word of God to this troubled country through her dental/medical ministry.

March 26 is Belinda's Birthday. Consider sending her a Birthday Wish--card or email. Her address is:

bforbes@umcmmission.org

or

Belinda Forbes

Apartado C-224 20502

Managua Nicaragua



Marcia Hoyt-Chairperson, Janis Cail, Susan Carney,
Mary Greenwood and Janis Townsend

United Methodist Women



*OUR PURPOSE
United Methodist
Women shall be a
community of
women whose
purpose is to know*

*God and to experience freedom as whole persons
through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive
fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through
participation in the global ministries of the church.*

CELEBRATE!

United Methodist Women are celebrating this month. In 1869 (on March 23), in Boston at the Tremont Street Methodist Church, six women met with a missionary's wife to address issues she witnessed in India. There was not any medical care for girls and women! They were not being educated either! So, as the story goes, "on a dark and stormy night..." these women organized for Mission, resulting in the Women's Foreign Aid Society. This group grew, and they eventually sent two women Missionaries—a female doctor and a teacher. And the "rest of the story"... is 150 years of Mission for women, children, and youth. We have witnessed a

couple of name changes and are now UNITED METHODIST WOMEN.

There is a 150th Celebration at Boston University, with guests from around the country, on March 23 to commemorate this history. Fisk has four women registered to attend. Please pray for the success of this program and the continued mission work of UMW.

You can celebrate too...

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Celebrate with Wayland UMW



March 16 at Fisk
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Program ~ Activity ~ Lunch
We will be making Birthday Bags!

SISTERHOOD OF GRACE
Celebrating 150 Years in Mission

SAVE THE DATE

Women's Retreat is in the planning stages.

The dates chosen are August 9-11

Are you interested in helping plan and organize this weekend? See Janis Cail

This has been a wonderful weekend to relax, swim, shop, enjoy fellowship, share meals and grow together. Plan now to attend and you will have a wonderful time with other Fisk women at the lake in Maine.

What would you like to see happen at this retreat?
Share your ideas?

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group meets on Wednesdays at 10am. Some weeks we number 2 and some weeks 6-7. We come when it fits our schedule and have fellowship, prayer, and a relaxed time together, while we are making Prayer Shawls for those in need.

Reading Program UMW selects a variety of books each year and our unit purchases a few of these...others are available on Amazon or at the local library. This list is on the bookshelf in the Parlor.

Do you want a CHALLENGE? We have a reading plan to read 5 books in a calendar year in 5 different categories, and you will be recognized at the District meeting, and a Gift to Mission is made in your name. Ask Terry Ames for more details.



Music & Movement Time

For Kids Ages 1 to 7

Saturday – March 16—Glow SPRING!

For more information:
please contact/email Deborah Hernandez
deborahlhernandez@gmail.com

Youth News

For youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

Youth Fellowship Leaders:

Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang

fiskyouth@gmail.com

Youth Group meets for Youth and Family night on the first Friday every month, and they get together with Bingxin & Tian on the third Sunday following service. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please check out

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

Youth & Family Night ~ Everyone is invited!

Friday, March 1, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Who : Youth and Families of Fisk - all ages.

Food : Simple dinner provided – we ask for volunteers to bring dessert, salad or vegetables.

Activity : Games, fellowship, and informal fun with members of the Fisk family.

Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend.

Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church

Sunday, March 17, 12:00 PM

If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact Tian, Bingxin or Sherry Culver at
sherrycd@comcast.net



Fisk Church

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019
5:30 P.M.

FUNDRAISER FOR MINISTRIES



IRISH SING- ALONG SONGS



TICKETS

Seniors/Adults/Teens = \$10

Children (Ages 6 to 12) = \$5

Children (Ages 5 and Under) = Free

Online Tickets:

<https://www.townplanner.com/natick/ma/event/charity-fundraiser-fundraiser-corned-beef-ministry/corned-beef-cabbage-dinner/20190323/439333/>

Fisk Church – 106 Walnut Street – Natick, MA

Lenten Bible Study
"Lenten Journey thru Prayer"
by Pastor Alecia Reeves- Freeman

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m. - Room 9

Note: Bring your Bible, pen and a notebook

See schedule below:

In these one hour sessions, Pastor Alecia will facilitate to initiate, revive,
and/or enrich a prayer life during the season of Lent.

<u>WEEKS</u>	<u>SUNDAYS</u>		<u>WEDNESDAYS</u>
One	March 10	Journey thru Prayer (introduction)	March 13
Two	March 17	What is Prayer?	March 20
Three	March 24	Dimensions of Prayer	March 27
Four	March 31	Power of Prayer	April 3
Five	April 7	Deepening of Prayer	April 10
Six	April 14	Prayerfully – "Rethinking Church"	April 17



Handouts will be printed and ready if you need one. Thanks.

