

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.fiskumc.org

March 2020

Pastor's Note

After a cold winter, many of us look forward to being refreshed as we embrace a different season. Some look for new life, some look for old life to be revived and still others just want to be led where the spirit of God is.

Now for people who just want to be led, they can become an ardent witness of their faith with the assurance that Jesus Christ has the final word. Jesus Christ embodies love and illustrates that **Relationship is at the heart** of living. Therefore, connecting, establishing, and nurturing relationships across boundaries; age, race, creed, gender, political and economic status, can enhance our lives and make this world a better place for all of creation.

Because of the good news of Jesus Christ and the importance of relationships, God offers us Jesus Christ as our foundation. God also offers a sustaining part of our work on earth to be done in and with relationships. Therefore, our families, our churches, our communities, and the world matter. We might need to open our minds, hearts, and hands wider and work with one another to embody more of God's love; working together to reach out, touch more lives and enrich lives by our presence and prayers.

I am holding all of us in prayer to never give up on the fact that Jesus Christ is the center of our lives as we travel in the path of Christ's light with all of God's children. Believing this, I have the confidence that God is going to revive us, give us new life and lead us through one season to another until final victory is won.

-Pastor Alecia

Devotionals Provided

You can pick up a devotional; *Upper Room* or *Our Daily Bread* in the back of the church at any time to read and reflect on during the month. It is my prayer that your spiritual life will be enhanced in addition to the worship experience. And if you ever need to meet with Pastor Alecia, call, email or text me; even snail mail will do as God blesses us together this year.

Pastor's Announcements



Lenten Scriptures & Soup Suppers

Everyone is welcome to join us each Thursday during Lent for a time of fellowship preparation. This year will be sharing scriptures and personal stories that have been made possible through these passages. We will begin with soup at 6:30 p.m., followed by Scripture and discussion. Hosting will be by various committees with each committee presenting and/or sharing a Fisk story relating to the scripture passage given. "Each one has a story to tell to the nation". Are you prepared?

Schedule:

Week 1: Mar 5	Mark 14:1-11	Worship & SPRC
Week 2: Mar 12	Mark 14:12-26	Admin. Brd. & Chr. Ed.
Week 3: Mar 19	Mark 14:27-42	Mission, UMW, UMM
Week 4: Mar 26	Mark 14:42-15:15	Finance & Evang.
Week 5: April 2	Mark 15:16-32	COM & Trustees

**Thursday, April 9 is Maundy Thursday
Celebration of the Last Supper at 7:00 p.m.**



For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures that have been selected for our worship this month.

Mar. 1	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
Mar. 8	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17	John 3: 1-17
Mar 15	Romans 5: 1-11	John 4: 5-15
Mar. 22	Ephesians 5: 8-14	John 9: 1-25
Mar. 29	Romans 8:6-11	John 11: 1-27

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Bishop and Cabinet of our New England Conference are pleased to share the new district structure; seven instead of nine as of July 1, 2020. Please take note:

1-Katahdin District–Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Brannen–Maine is divided into two districts; these are the churches in the northern/Downeast half.

2-Many Waters District–Rev. Dr. Karen Munson–Maine is divided into two districts; these are the churches in the southern/western half.

3-Green Mountain District–Rev. Jill Colley Robinson–The churches in Vermont.

4-Granite District–Rev. Taesung Kang–The churches in New Hampshire.

5-Commonwealth District–Rev. Megan Stowe–The churches in Massachusetts west of Interstate 495.

6-Freedom Trail District–Rev. We Hyun Chang–The churches in Massachusetts east of Interstate 495. (***FISK IS HERE***).

7-Seacoast District–Rev. Dr. David Calhoun–Churches in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Southeastern Massachusetts, including Cape Cod and Islands.

Racial Justice Dialogues

When: Saturday, March 7, 2020

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Where: Common Street Spiritual Center

13 Common St., Natick, MA

All persons are welcome!

UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE

Informational workshop for our district: March 14th

Open Spirit Task Force meeting with our district (CMA) from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Carter Memorial UMC, 800 Highland Ave., Needham, MA. All leaders and members of all United Methodist churches are invited to attend for important information about our up-coming General Conference 2020. At these district gatherings, facilitators and delegates will share options that will be presented at the General Conference and provide educational materials that will help facilitate congregational conversations about these options in preparation of major decisions to be made by churches.

Please attend, to hear directly from our conference, and to be an informed participant. Thanks.

CMA & Metro Boston Hope Joint District Day

Is **March 21, 2020**–This year we are hosting jointly with MBH (Metro Boston Hope District). The Guest Speaker is Mike Mather, pastor of Broadway UMC in Indianapolis, will be talking about finding abundance in unexpected places. The event will be held here at Fisk UMC, Natick, MA, with registration at 9:00 a.m. and workshop starting at 9:30. Laity and clergy are encouraged to participate with a donation of \$10 per person, required by March 16. Lunch will be provided.

Conference-Wide Workshop- The Ripple Effect

Hosted by Congregational Development and featuring Jason Moore's *Five Things Your Visitors are Thinking About- But Won't Ask*. The event is:

Saturday, March 28, 2020, 9AM -3:30 PM at
East Greenwich UMC, 1558 South Country Trail,
East Greenwich, RI

The Fisk Prayer Wall and Prayer Box

Prayer is the master key that can open and close all doors. When you find the need to pray with the assurance that others are praying for and with you, leave a prayer on the prayer wall near the sanctuary entrance or in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church, on-line on our website or just call and speak with Pastor Alecia. Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you.

Therefore, if you are looking for a church home, we invite, welcome, and accept all persons. We are a phone call away (508-653-1674). Thanks, and be blessed!

Worship

A Time for Spirited Kids

Adaptive Worship Service

**4:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. followed by a light meal
Sunday – March 15, 2020**



***Are you seeking a more flexible, less structured
worship experience for
youth and those with special needs?***

- ***30-minute service includes snacks, comfy seating, music, and movement***
- ***Freedom to move around, draw and otherwise “fidget”***

- *Light meal and time of fellowship provided*



Lent

The word “Lent” comes from an old English word meaning “springtime”. It may not feel very much like spring out there right now, but Lent can bring a spring-like experience to our daily lives. It can be a time for us to re-focus on what’s really important in life and let go of things that are not central. Most of all, Lent provides an opportunity for the Fisk community to re-focus on God’s grace and God’s call to discipleship and ministry. This is one of the greatest blessings of all.

So often, people observe Lent by “giving up” something. Usually it’s something such as a bad habit, chocolate, or desserts. This can be a helpful practice, but if we’re going to give up something for Lent, let’s make it really count. What if we gave up pushing ourselves just to satisfy peer pressure or our own internal need to be relevant, or “screen time” and looked at others instead, of our insatiable need for material things?

There is no evidence in the Gospels that Jesus was a “workaholic”. Jesus made a difference by setting the proper priorities for his life and ministry - the needs of the poor, oppressed, sick, and marginalized. Jesus worked hard, but also took time for rest, renewal, and prayer. Jesus changed the world by the priorities he established, not by the hours he worked.

During Lent, look at the opportunities, throughout this Messenger, that Fisk has for spiritual growth this season. On Thursday evenings, Scripture and Soup; is there someone you can call and invite, or someone who may need a ride? Invite someone to worship?



March Worship Assistants

Mar	Liturgists	Acolytes
1	Diane French	Sarita H.
8	Mark Owen	Tiffany S.
15	Deborah Hernandez	Sarita H.
22	Amy Bruns	Danny J.
29	Jennifer French	Dwayne S.
1	<u>Communion:</u>	Thom & Janis Townsend
15	<u>Psalter:</u>	Rose C.



Easter Flowers 2020



Easter lilies and tulips will

grace our sanctuary on Easter morning! You will find order forms in the back of the sanctuary, and in the literature rack, outside the nursery beginning March 8. Order forms, with payment, (\$15 lilies, \$10 tulips) must be received in the Church Office by 12 noon on Monday, March 30.

Evangelism

Lent Calls Us to the Cross

The season of Lent,
a time of reflection and renewal of faith,
is a season that calls every Christian
to come to the cross of Christ.

Did you notice the cross on the lawn in front of Fisk? It is a holy invitation. All are invited to have a seat on one of the benches near the cross and spend some time pondering God’s messages to us. The cross has been draped and placed on the front lawn, inviting each of us, and all members in our neighborhoods and community to have a seat near the cross of our Lord.

Look for a new prompt on the sign each week, and come alone, or perhaps invite a friend or neighbor to have a seat with you near the cross. Spend a few minutes on a cool day, have a quiet evening respite, or sit near and pray for a longer period; feel God’s presence as you prepare your heart at this blessed season.

An initiative of Fisk’s Evangelism Committee

Fellowship Time

Our Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings is a core feature of our friendly and connected congregation. Our joy in catching up with friends and welcoming visitors is truly a treasured gift of each week. Would you like to participate by helping to host? Here’s how to make it easy...team up with experienced hosts on some Sunday. After all, working together is how we get to know each other.

Here is some basic information on the *HOW*:

1. Paper goods, cookies, crackers, coffee, tea, juice, and sugar are always on hand in the kitchen.
2. The coffee maker is located in Ogle Parlor, and just needs to be moved to Whipple Hall. The “recipe” to make coffee is located on the cart.
3. A reimbursement is available to hosts. It’s easy to submit your request with a form that can be found on the bulletin board in the kitchen.

Questions? See Susan Carney, Sherry Culver, Marcia Hoyt, Pat Price, or Amy Bruns

Ministry of Caring

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

In Lamentations 3:22-23, we read:

"The faithful love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. Great is thy faithfulness; he is new every morning."

Do you know that God hands us a clean slate every morning? Outside, it could be raining or snowing, sunny or cloudy, 71 degrees or 28. It could be after a day of sadness, or a day of joy. It could be winter weather one day, spring weather the next. Do you get out of bed and thank God for a new day? When you confirm these words from Lamentations and apply them to your mind, your will, and your emotions, you know that a revival in **you** can happen!

Through all of the different pieces or transitions in the seasons, God is always longing to minister "still waters" in your life. Winter days and weather can be a challenge. Have you ever woken up on a morning, and did not want to get out of bed? God's un-surpassing peace can be there for you.

During this season of Lent, guide your efforts to Fisk for one of the many opportunities for spiritual growth. Don't let the voice of discontent override you and let you pull those covers back over your head. God lovingly shushes the discontented and tired-at-the-end-of-the-day voices in Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God". In thinking and praying on these words, we can exhale and recognize God's presence within. This actual surrender will help actively work through all the negative talk and voices during this season of Lent. God is here and with us always, and all will be well.

Ministry of Caring Team
"The Congregation"



Save the Date!

Green Initiative Celebration

May 17, 2020, 3pm – 6pm

It's an Open House to celebrate our **Green Initiative**. We'll be dedicating our new solar panels and showcasing our efforts to be good stewards of our planet. There will be cookout foods and treats, games and fun for everyone. Special activities for children and families are

planned. Free to community. Stop by and celebrate with us!

Annual Conference 2020 Laity Address

Calling all Laity! (Laity = People in the pews, not ordained clergy...YOU!) You could give the Laity Address at Annual Conference! Interested? Our AC theme is "Vital Conversations: Building Beloved Community". Our guiding scripture will be announced in March. The address must use those as its theme. The address should be 15-20 minutes long. Entrants must submit a written copy of their entire proposed address along with a video of themselves delivering the first five minutes of the address. Deadline for submissions is May 3, 2020. To submit your proposed address and video, contact Associate Conference Lay Leader Ruby Blake at msrube65@gmail.com and enter the New England Conference Laity Address Challenge!

Lay Servant Ministry Classes

The Spring Lay Servant Ministry courses are set for March 14, 28 and April 4th from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Chestnut Street UMC in Gardner, MA for each day. All 3 days are required to complete the course. We are offering the Basic course, and two Advanced Classes: Leading Public Prayer and Afire with God. Information on the courses and the registration form can be found in the church office. It is also available on the CMA District webpage at neumc.org.

If you have any questions about The Laity Address or the Lay Servant Classes, please don't hesitate to contact Fisk's Lay Member to Annual Conference, Barbara Beekman, (508) 647-4004, ttbjbeekman@gmail.com, or Debi Henry. (508) 651-0256, debraleighhenry@yahoo.com

COMING SOON



April 5, 2020, 12:30-3 pm, Natick High School Join us for the 11th annual Walk to End Homelessness, a family-friendly and dog-welcoming walkathon through Natick Center to raise funds for families with children who are facing homelessness. The event starts and ends at Natick High School where there will be booths, food, music, and fun for the whole family. Registration is now open. We hope to see you there! Register at:

Missions & Outreach

Why do we do Mission?

Negativity is a choice.

Resentment is a choice.

Anger is a choice.

Optimism is a choice.

Forgiveness is a choice.

Empathy is a choice.

Compassion is a choice.

How we live our one life is a choice.

Choose wisely

As Methodists we often choose optimism, empathy, and compassion for those under-served in this world. We THANK YOU for your support.

Last month we offered a Fellowship Time of Heart Healthy snacks and information to keep ourselves healthy and ready to serve.

Fisk also collected about 8 grocery bags of vacation week snacks for the children of Natick where there may be "food insecurity". These were collected and distributed by the MLK Planning Team and United in Natick.

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Fisk has set a goal of 100 Health Kits! Can you help? These kits must include the exact items listed below. Please follow carefully. Maybe you and your friends, family or neighbors want to assemble kits; make it a great opportunity to get together.

1 Hand Towel 15x 25 inches

(no kitchen towels or microfiber)

1 Wash cloth (no dish cloths or microfiber)

1 Comb; sturdy with minimum of 6" of teeth

1 Nail or Toe nail clippers

1 Bar of soap 3 oz. or larger, wrapped

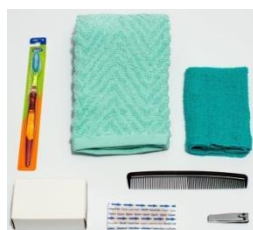
(no Jergens or Ivory-due to moisture content)

1 Toothbrush Adult size in Single package wrapper

10 Band-aids ¾ inch x 3 inches

Wrap all items in the towel and seal in a one gallon zip lock bag.

Kits or items may be left in the Narthex or Ogle Parlor.



Chili and Mac'n Cheese Lunch

MARCH 22, 2020

Following worship

We will celebrate

SPRING!

(Spring begins

March 19)

We will highlight some environmental issues surrounding Climate Change



United Methodist Women

All women are invited to join with the Wayland UMW for our Annual Combined Luncheon

Saturday, March 14

Community UMC in Wayland

12 noon

Program: Neighborhood Brigade

Join us as we fellowship

and learn together.

Reservations to Janis Cail by March 9th

Cost is usually under \$5.00



Prayer Shawl Group meets Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
Reading Program is on-going. Books can be found in the Parlor.

We have three "circle" groups that meet monthly.

Hannah's 2nd Tuesdays at noon (Debi H.)

Susanna's 2nd Thursdays at noon (Janis C.)

Joanna's as scheduled (Amy B.)

President—Susan Carney

Submitted by Marcia Hoyt

UMW Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10 in Ogle Parlor. Please bring your lunch (sandwich/salad), and if you are able, one hygiene-kit (health kit) item. Beverages and dessert will be provided by our hostesses for this meeting, Judy Maloney and Barbara Miller.

We will be discussing the storms of life that have come or might come our way, and we will have a high-level strategy meeting that plans our future creative hygiene-kit assembly. Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend. All women are invited!

United Methodist Men

Calling **ALL** United Methodist Men

We will gather for
fellowship and dinner at
The Villa
Route 30 in Wayland
Tuesday, March 10
at 7:00 p.m.



Reservations to Gary Hoyt 508-655-0077
or the church office 508-653-1674

Youth News

For Fisk youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

MYF directors Tian Zhang and Bingxin Xu

Youth & Family Night will return after Lent and Easter,
on Friday, May 1st at 6:30 PM. At this event
you can enjoy games, fellowship, food, and fun
with members of the Fisk family.

Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend.
zhangtian96@gmail.com, (734) 883-0093.
You may also email Pastor Alecia at Fisk.

Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church

Sunday, March 15, 12:00 PM

Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and
events. Please use this link to view pictures and schedule

updates.

<http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>

March Celebrations!

Honored

Dorothy Phillips' late husband, James, was presented
posthumously with the Fortieth Henry Hill Memorial
Award for his outstanding contributions to the
Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society
(NESACS). James was recognized as a longtime
contributor to NESACS and chair of the Board of
Publications. He also served NESACS as a Director-at-
Large.

Congratulations to Dorothy and her children, Anthony,
Vickie and Crystal as we remember James with love.

APRIL Messenger deadline:

Friday, March 20

Mailing Date: Thursday, March 25