

The Messenger

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

March 2021

Pastor's Note

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ!

As we continue to travel and arrive at the end of the Lenten journey, it is my prayer that we experience a life-changing transformation. I say this because we are also still in a pandemic and hope that it too will pass away.

Though this year many of us will not be visiting stores, malls, or seeing Easter baskets and a variety of candies, hopefully we can keep our focus to the end of the journey and anticipate celebrating the glory of Jesus Christ's resurrection.

As I think about Easter and Resurrection Sunday, it is one of few days that has not been completely commercialized. Now, just because we are not having Easter like we normally do, it does not mean we cannot celebrate extravagantly at church and give generously to the church. Easter is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar and the foundation of our faith. But I sometimes wonder if we are truly living as the resurrected people that Christ gave his life for?

Though resurrection is tied to our hope in the future (John 11:25-26) it does not just have long-term implications for our lives, but it also has immediate implications now. We have been taught to celebrate one day but as resurrected people we are offered the possibility to live on and practice the examples of Jesus Christ's living in our personal and communal lives.

Therefore, as we live on and reflect on what it means to be the "Resurrected People" of Christ, think about the song, "Because He Lives (I can face tomorrow)" (UMH-364). As you reflect on this song, live with hope and be a living example of hope that others can see, share, and live!

Blessings on the final days of the Lenten Journey as the weight of the world on our shoulders, gets lighter!

x Pastor Alecia

We **WELCOME** All

Fisk United Methodist Church is a loving community of believers and servants with open hearts. We extend our welcome to all people, celebrating differences in age, economic reality, nationality, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, and limitations.

- We invite all to find a spiritual home with us and to share in the fellowship, worship, sacraments, ministry, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation.
 - We affirm the gifts and graces of all persons.
 - We are committed to be a fellowship in which all persons feel a part of our family.
 - And, we invite you to work for justice with us.
- Statement of the Administrative Board, Fisk UMC, 2019

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

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

March 7	Exodus 20:1-17	John 2:13-22
March 14	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3: 14-21
March 21	Jeremiah 31:31-34	John 12: 20-33
	Psalm 51: 1-12	
March 28	Isaiah 50: 4-9	Mark 11: 1-11



**Set your clocks
forward
one hour on
Saturday night
March 13, 2021**

Worship



March comes in like a lion...and goes out like a lamb.

The season of Lent began last week on Ash Wednesday.

Palm Sunday - March 28 will be a ZOOM service. Four readers will read the Gospel of Mark Passion story in place of the sermon.

Maundy Thursday – April 1 will be a ZOOM service at 6:00 PM to share the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples before he prayed in the garden.

Good Friday – April 2. Please use the Prayer Line from 10-10:30 AM as well as 7:00-7:30 in the evening. From 12:00-3:00 PM, the hours that Jesus was on the Cross, we ask you to pray at home or wherever you happen to be. The church can provide reading materials for your use.

Easter Sunday – April 4 we are considering meeting at church for a short service outside in the parking area from 10:30 – 11:00 or possibly inside with masks and social distancing. These plans are indefinite and subject to change in the weeks ahead.

Have a blessed Lent.

Diane French, Worship Chairperson

Worship Note from Pastor Alecia

We continue to give praises to God with thanks to each of you for worshipping with us during this time of physical distancing.

To enhance our worship experience, a gift of an I-Pad was made in memory of Blanche Ciccarelli through the Trustees' Memorial Funds. Thanks to the family and friends.

Until we return to the sanctuary, we need all the assistance we can get with Zoom and sanctuary set-up. Please Contact Amy Bruns, Sherry Culver or Tom Currie for Zoom and Barbara Beekman for Sanctuary. Thanks to each of them for their support over the last year.

Also, there is a need for liturgists and soloists. If you want to exalt God with words or song, please let Diane French

or Americo Motto know. Thanks to all of you for serving.

Lenten Bible Study

Our ongoing study is **“Words of Life”** by Adam Hamilton during this year’s journey of Lent. It is a **ten-week** study and continues every **Tuesday, at 7 pm**. As we travel the Lenten journey, this study looks at the Ten Commandments and how it applies to our current world, with a video by Rev. Hamilton to start the conversation each week. Please find time and plan to join us for this combined study with the United Methodist Church of Weston, MA under the leadership of Rev. Pat McHugh.

Note: One book is still available in the Pastor’s mailbox in the Church office.

Log in: Join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/295613660?pwd=dVkyV2h1QVZza1JVWkllOFIhS0dNdz09>

Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 295 613 660 and Passcode: 056902

Confronting Racial Injustice

Massachusetts is often heralded as the home of the abolition movement and one of the first states to abolish slavery. Yet the Commonwealth’s economy developed in collaboration with states that claimed people as property. This 5-part series explores how enslavement and white supremacy shaped the history of Massachusetts and how they continue to shape its present.

The March 11, 2021 program is
Redlining: From Slavery to \$8 in 400 Years

Massachusetts
Historical Society
Founded 1791



N
Northeastern University
School of Law

Developed by the Northeastern University School of Law Criminal Justice Task Force, Confronting Racial Injustice is a free, five-part series hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society and sponsored by a number of Boston-area organizations. Coming up—

April 15: Boston School Desegregation through the Rearview Mirror

May 19: The War on Drugs in MA, the Racial Impact of the School Zone Law and other Mandatory Minimum Sentences

June 9: The Charles Stuart Story: White Lies and Black Lives

For the full list of panel discussions and sponsors or to register, visit:

www.masshist.org/confronting-racial-injustice

Missions



DO YOU KNOW UMCOR?

UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief. This connection is celebrated one Sunday each year. This year it is **March 14**.

When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help, but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help. UMCOR Sunday is a day for congregations around the globe to help.

UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma we responded.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.

And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond. On this Special Sunday our generosity as a church funds the **operating budget of UMCOR**. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations received throughout the year directly to relief efforts. UMCOR Sunday is where we come together. If you want to learn more about UMCOR visit: www.umcsgiving.org/UMCOR.

Fisk's connection has been through our support of Dr. Belinda Forbes in Nicaragua, supporting this Special Sunday offering, and the collection of 100 Hygiene/Health Kits annually.

Please consider supporting this connectional program by adding an amount to your check (note in the memo line-UMCOR) or send a separate gift marked UMCOR. Remember to shop for the Hygiene Kit supplies and add them to the basket in Ogle

Parlor or bring them to my house. (please leave on porch).

Marcia Hoyt
8 Bacon St. Natick MA

Hygiene Kit Shopping List

- One hand towel (15 x 25 or 17 x 27 inches)
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth No microfiber
- One comb
Sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
No pocket combs or picks
- One toenail or fingernail clipper
No emery boards or metal nail files
- One bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
No Ivory or Jergen's soap
- One adult toothbrush
Do not remove from packaging
Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)
Common household bandaids acceptable
- Put items in a one-gallon size re-sealable bag

Mission & Outreach during this Pandemic

It has been difficult to do our traditional and usual mission collections and outreach. This does not mean that the need does not exist. Actually, most programs are needing more support. We just have to do it differently!

Any time you feel the need to help financially ...any organization or program that is supporting people during these stressful times—just add any amount to your usual check to Fisk and designate it for Missions or a particular project i.e. Cooper Community Center, Family Promise, Nicaragua Covenant, UMEM in Maine, Natick Food Pantry etc.

[Matthew 25:35](#)

[For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in...](#)

The Mission Committee hopes to be able to have a plan for action by late spring...something we can do together "in His name." Do you have an idea?



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

United Methodist Women



PRESS RELEASE from
UMW

**Women of Faith:
We Cannot Fight
Climate Change
as Individuals; A
Communal
Response is**

Necessary

Participants at the United Methodist Women Just Energy for All training in Springfield, Illinois.

“United Methodist Women recognizes that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts women, children and marginalized communities in the U.S. and around the world.” said Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, executive for Economic and Environmental Justice and Climate Justice lead for United Methodist Women.

Because the U.S. is only four percent of the world’s population but has emitted a quarter of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, the U.S. must make stronger commitments that meet and exceed the recommendations of the UN. How we can ensure women and children’s future in the U.S., and around the world, is to act NOW.

What can you do? What should we do as a church? How to make a difference. Spend some time this month thinking about this subject and we will address some of the items in April at UMW. More to come...



May 8--**Yard Sale** for Missions

Every Wednesday-**Prayer Shawl** group at 10am.

March 2--UMW **Book Review** 4:30pm on ZOOM

April 6--UMW discusses **Climate Justice**

Circles are meeting monthly...check with an officer for times and days.

UMW—Reading Program

TRADITION?

Yes, the Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings us together as we **explore, share and discuss the books.**

CALLING ALL READERS aka BOOK WORMS!

Tuesday, March 2, 4:30pm

Zoom in or call on your phone
Share and/or discuss ANY book
and would recommend to others

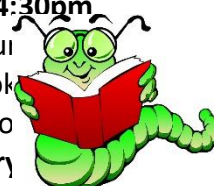
Questions? **Call Terry**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://umcom.zoom.us/j/94188447457>

Meeting ID: 941 8844 7457

Dial in by phone 1 929 205 6099



To participate, make selections from the accepted list and start reading! From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change and mass incarceration, there’s something for everyone.

Reading Program books are divided into five categories and are available for people of all ages and reading levels. As you read, track your progress using the last page in our UMW Booklet or any type of list you may prefer. **At the end of the calendar year, this list should be given to Terry Ames, so that you will receive a Certificate of Recognition.** If interested, Terry will email you the list of this year’s book titles. Write her at amesterry61@gmail.com

How we can help each other:

- We have a great many of the suggested books in the UMW Library (in Ogle Parlor). Just help yourself and return for others.
- Books may also be available from the local library, Amazon or most book stores.
- Offer to deliver books to those unable to get to the church. Terry is willing to have them delivered to you also.
- Some can be read on your tablet.

- Pray. Books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time.
- Advocate for tangible change.
God bless you as you pray, study, act and organize in Christ's name.

United Methodist Men

The Fisk men were invited to gather on ZOOM for a meeting in February. We enjoyed a session of Super Bowl Trivia. We also elected officers for 2021.

President	Geoff Del Sesto
Vice President	Tom Carney
Secretary/Communications	Gary Hoyt
Treasurer	David Cail

If you are interested or have questions for the United Methodist Men, feel free to contact any of these officers.

The next ZOOM meeting will be **March 9 at 6pm.**

Looking ahead—the UMW has planned a YARD SALE for May 8—we usually assist them in moving tables and sale items. SAVE THE DATE.

For everyone--We are inserting in this Messenger a Prayer Calendar written for Lent. Please use it and guide your Prayer Time with these suggestions.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tyler DelSesto for being a member of the NASA Perseverance Team for a successful landing of the Mars Rover. Tyler is the son of Geoff Del Sesto and Sherry Culver.



Gary Hoyt mainelymercs@aol.com 508-655-0077



Feb. 16, 2021

A daily prayer during this COVID-19 crisis

During these difficult days, members of the New England Conference Board of Ordained Ministry are sharing a daily prayer based on the Revised Common Lectionary for the week. You are welcome to use these in worship or in your own devotions. [Click here](#) to subscribe to receive each day's prayer via email.

The period of Lent: walking with Jesus in the wilderness and to the cross; Genesis 9: 8-17, Mark 1:9-15. In chapter 9 of Genesis God the creator becomes God the protector. He makes the covenant to not destroy His world again. The

rainbow is the symbol of that covenant and God's shift to a protector God. He wants to assure us that He will honor this covenant. As we move into the period of Lent, we embrace the thought that Jesus came as the rainbow personified. He was the sign that God is present; from his baptism throughout his ministry, Jesus held that role of God with us.

Even in the mist of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can be sure that God is with us. On a vacation in Maui my late husband and I saw a rainbow that went completely across the horizon, as far as we could see in both directions across the ocean. I often recall that rainbow during these last few months and know that God is my protector.

Today's prayer is based on a daily devotion from Max Lucado's "Grace for the Moment" and the assurance that Jesus, the rainbow, is with us especially during this pandemic.

Jesus, we know you feel the limp of the crippled; we pray that you will carry them to make their walks smoother.

Jesus, we know you feel the hurt of the diseased; we pray that you will heal those suffering from COVID-19 directly or its side effects.

Jesus, we know you feel the loneliness of those that have been isolated for their safety and health; we pray that the warmth of your spirit will be their companion.

Jesus, we know that you feel the embarrassment of the sinful; we pray that we can be the rainbow that brings them into your kingdom.

In His name we pray. Amen.

By Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips, Lay Leader, Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church, Natick, MA

From the Church Office

April Messenger Deadline
Please submit info by
FRIDAY, MARCH 19 at 9:00 AM

For all church office business, at this time, please contact Pastor Alecia directly.

fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

phone: 508-653-1674

email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Note - When you call the church, always leave a message. Messages are played and heard daily.

NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East

Website: www.neumc.org/CE

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington,
MA 02421

[\(781\) 861-0249](tel:(781)861-0249) Phone

District Superintendent: **Rev. We Hyun Chang**

His email address: CEDS@neumc.org

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her address: CEDistrict@neumc.org



Job Opening: Administrative Assistant

12 to 15 hours a week

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church in Natick, Massachusetts is currently accepting letters of interest and resumes for the flexible 12 to 15 hours a week position of Administrative Assistant. We are looking for one to support and field the needs of the Pastor and the various ministries at Fisk, to provide communication to the church community and coordination of church activities. This person would serve as a weekday link between Fisk members, UMC and the community through phone, email and office activities. This position reports to the Pastor.

Qualifications

1. Firm understanding of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
2. Use of databases—experience with “Realm” helpful
3. Good communication and organizational skills
4. An understanding of Google apps – able to share documents – create sheets and docs.
5. Minimum of 3 years of Admin experience (preferably with a church)

Location

About Natick: Natick is 15 miles west of Boston. It is easily accessible via the Mass Pike, and Routes 9, 16, and 27.

To Apply

Please mail a letter of interest and resume with references to:

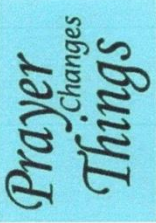
Senior Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut Street Natick, MA 01760
Telephone: 508-653-1674

E-mail: fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

40 Day Lenten Prayer Calendar

Provided by the Fisk UMM for all People—Developed by the NEJ UMM

40 Days of Lent Prayer Calendar 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prepared by the NEJ-UMM Prayer Advocates We encourage you to join us in prayer daily!						
21 Worship and Give Glory to God!	22 Pray for teachers	23 Give thanks for your mentors	24 Pray for first responders	25 Pray for your community	26 Give thanks for food on your table	27 Pray for someone who is lonely
28 Worship and Give Glory to God!	1 Pray for all essential workers	2 Pray for our nation's leaders	3 Pray for self-control	4 Pray for your neighbors	5 Give thanks for your home	6 Pray for the unemployed
7 Worship and Give Glory to God!	8 Pray for those suffering from mental illness	9 Pray for those who have lost someone close	10 Pray for those affected by domestic violence	11 Pray for our immigrant/refugee communities	12 Pray for those who work for social justice	13 Pray for teenagers facing peer pressure
14 Worship and Give Glory to God!	15 Pray for your Pastoral leaders	16 Pray for your friends	17 Pray for child-care workers	18 Pray for those living in poverty	19 Pray for Hope!	20 Pray for the World's Leaders
21 Worship and Give Glory to God!	22 Pray for veterans and those in the service	23 Pray for those facing addiction	24 Pray for someone who needs forgiveness	25 Pray for All Men's Ministries	26 Pray for the end of racism in all forms	27 Pray for Missionaries
28 Worship and Give Glory to God! Palm Sunday	29 Pray for families in crisis	30 Pray for someone who has helped you	31 Pray for all servant leaders	1 Pray for those who have fallen short	2 Give Thanks for the sacrifice that Jesus did for you!	3 Pray for those who struggle with their faith
4 Worship and Give Glory to God! Easter Sunday	 <p>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philipians 4: 6-7</p>					