

# The Messenger

[fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

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

[www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

## March 2023

### Pastor's Message

The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday which was February 22. We are grateful for the start of this journey with all our siblings. As we start, let us be very intentional in walking in the footstep of Jesus Christ. And as we travel, it is important for each of us to remain in community, stay connected, and make a commitment to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, at Fisk UMC.

We might also need to reflect on our mortality and the challenges we face as humans. But we can be reminded that though we are humans and face different challenges, conditions, conflicts, and confusion, there is always a reward at the end of this journey. The good news is, we do not walk alone and we are strengthened during the walk from Ash Wednesday through Holy Thursday, Good Friday until Easter Sunday.

For me, I love to walk but as I walk, I love to pause, stop, and look at persons, places, and things. What I have learned from walking over the years is that I appreciate all of these. I have also learned that different persons, places, and things are connected and we cannot have one without the other. These times of walking continue to affirm that I cannot have a resurrection without a journey through lent, and a Good Friday's experience.

Therefore for the reward of a Holy Resurrection, all persons seeking to encounter Jesus Christ in a new way this Lenten Season are invited to travel with us. Give us your hand and Jesus Christ your heart. And never forget that we are all in the community of creation on this earth. We must reach out to connect with all persons and make a commitment to being Christ's presence to establish, build up, and strengthen all relationships.

Finally, as we travel through this Lenten Season, let us pray without ceasing, hear the cries of the needy, 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 as a one-time event but all days of our lives.

***Ask for forgiveness and forgive others!***

+ 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

**All persons are invited to Fisk UMC  
Worship Service, every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
To connect by telephone use either of these  
numbers:**

**+1 646 558 8656 US Enter Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889**

**+1 312 626 6799 US Enter Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889**

**By computer, tablet, or smart phone, use this  
link: <https://zoom.us/j/99433258889>  
Or visit [www.Zoom.us](http://www.Zoom.us) and enter  
Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889**

## Worship

### 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 5, 2023** Liturgist: Carolyn DiSciullo

Psalm 121 John 3:1-17

**March 12, 2023** Liturgist: Crystal Mayo

Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-13

**March 19, 2023** Liturgist: Amy Bruns

John 9:1-17 John 9:18-40

Psalter: Psalm 23 (UMH 754) response #1

**March 26, 2023** Liturgist: Thom Townsend

Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-26

**"Read as you study, study as you live, and live well!"**  
+ Pastor Alecia

Please email the Church Office at:

[FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org](mailto:FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org) to choose a date to be a

Liturgist. There is also a Liturgist Signup sheet

located in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

### **Save the Dates:**

### **Resurrection/Easter-**

### **Sunday Worship Celebration**

is Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

in God's Holy Sanctuary. Join other Christians in this Holy celebration to be blessed and feel blessed.

"Happy Easter!"

### A Lenten Special Appeal

We are a wonderful church family with many amazing persons who are serving and sharing. We have done so much to promote God's ministry and mission. We are grateful for all that has been done and is being done in and beyond the church. But sometimes we fall short in meeting all needs. Hence in the next few weeks of Lent, can we trust God and share an extra gift with gratitude and thanksgiving? I say yes, because I know we can.

We are Fisk! We are God's presence in this community, this nation, and the world. We continue to share all gifts as we work in God's ministry and mission. Most of all, we know that God is always present with and among us.

May God bless each of us as we travel through Lent with prayers, patience, and participation.

**Lenten Bible Study- Every Wednesday for five weeks from 7-8pm, with soup at 6:30 pm.**



In these in-person one-hour sessions, Pastor Alecia will initiate, guide the process and/or share as needed to bring stories to life as each person or committee shares their stories and how they live out their faith today, in the congregation and beyond.

**See schedule below:**

#### **WEEKS Wednesdays**

#### **Scripture Readings (Mark 14 & 15) & Soup at 6:30pm weekly**

One March 1 Mark 14:1-11

#### **Worship & SPRC**

Two March 8 Mark 14:12-26

#### **Adm. Board & Christian Ed.**

Three March 15 Mark 14:27-42

#### **Mission, UMW & UMM**

Four March 22 Mark 14:42-15:15

#### **Finance & Evangelism**

Five March 29 Mark 15:16-32

#### **COM & Trustees**

### **What is Lent and why does it last forty days?**

*Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring". The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.*

*Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.*

*Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. Continue to live with hope.*

#### Coming Soon:

- Baptism Class
  - UM Discipleship/ New members class
  - Youth Confirmation class
- \*Contact Pastor Alecia if interested in any of these classes.

#### United Methodist Men



Your Home Town Diner!

Join with the Fisk Men's group!

We are going to have BREAKFAST  
March 18 at 8:00am

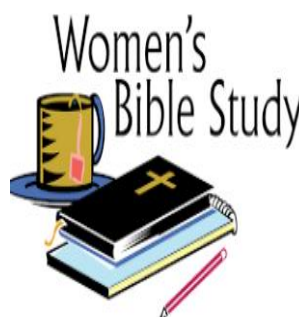
Just call Geoffrey Del Sesto  
or Gary Hoyt  
so we can plan for you.  
*Located in the strip mall next to  
Roche Bros.*

Well — there is no real uproar unless you are one of the folks from Egypt who spent forty years in the desert walking to Israel. Bible Studies for women meets either every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. and finishes after one hour of sharing and listening. There are between 9 and 12 in regular attendance. Thursday Night at 7:15 p.m. another group of women meet for one hour and this is a smaller group.

**The men** meet twice a month on Saturdays when posted at 9:00 a.m. in Ogle Parlor. 5 are in attendance.

**The women** meet on ZOOM and you can contact me at [susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com) to get an invite.

The more the merrier.



We are discussing Deuteronomy and whatever tidbit I have come up with for general info. for that day.

Thank you God for your words and help us to understand what you want us to learn. You are an awesome teacher and parent and Lord.

#### Sunday School

##### Children's Sunday School Classes

Join us as we learn all about God's Word and His love for us!

We meet at **9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. on Sunday Mornings in Room 2.**

-Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney



#### Education

Bible Study Uproar

#### United

Women in Faith



## United Women in Faith

Plan to join us on  
**SATURDAY, March 18<sup>th</sup>,**  
**at noon AT**  
**COMMUNITY UMC;** 80  
Main Street, Wayland,  
MA 01778 for lunch  
and a program led by  
Paula Doherty on

"Strengthening Community to Prevent Elder Abuse". It's the annual combined meeting between both units and it is always a great time to connect with women you might not get to see often. Please contact Terry Ames or Debbie Friscino by March 10th if you plan to attend.

### *Hannah Circle*

We met on a "Holy Conference Call" as we always do on the second Tuesday of every month. What a joy it is to be in community with "Women of Faith" who have worshipped and served God.

Our sharing ended with favorite words that continue to uphold each of us, keep us together, and strengthen us in the midst of all human conditions.

#### **Words to ponder:**

The Lord is my Shepherd.

Let us do God's Will.

Holy & Living God!

For the Beauty of the Earth!

I look to the hills.

Holy, Holy God Almighty!

Most of all let us remember that all the Psalms are prayers of blessing. Read one.

The next **Hannah Circle meeting** will be an **in-person lunch** at Fisk UMC, in rooms 8 & 9 on **Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

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 in the prayer box on the front lawn of the church, on-line on our website, or just call and speak with **Pastor Alecia at (617) 966-7048.**

#### **Join us on the prayer line, Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.**

Dial: 1- (716) 427-1083, Access code:  
580274

Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC, are willing and ready to travel the journey with you. You can also find private time to stop at the cross and pray individually or invite family and friends.

**April Messenger Deadline:  
Please submit information by  
Friday, March 17, 9:00 a.m.**

### **Prayer Box / Prayer Wall**



**UMCOR Sunday is March 19, 2023**

## WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY?

Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to provide hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. UMCOR Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. The special offering on this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance.

It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative costs.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

specific site/missionary.  
three annual conferences.

We were there to share God's love with those effected. There were many deaths and more than 1000 homes destroyed, we were able to help with UMCOR. \*Health/Hygiene Kits (see another page of this Messenger)

## HEALTH / HYGIENE KITS

Our annual goal is 100 Kits!

Can we do it again in 2023?

These are used by UMCOR to help in the many situations where they go in to help re-establish homes and families following disasters, tornados, floods etc.

When you are out shopping...pick up one or more of these 7 items. Soon you will have all 7 requested items...but do follow the list very closely. Items must be consistent and as described. Leave items or kits in the tall basket in Ogle Parlor.

### Hygiene Kit Materials

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)  
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth  
No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb  
Must be 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
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)  
No Ivory or Jergen's soap  
Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush individually packaged
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)  
Common household bandages acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

### Assembly Directions

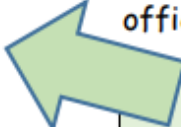
- Lay hand towel flat on a table.
- Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
- Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
- Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
- Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
- Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

## Earthquakes-Turkey and Syria

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey at 4:17 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, the most powerful earthquake recorded since 1939. In the hours that followed, at least 78 aftershocks were reported, followed by a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude. Tens of thousands of people have been killed, and responders are still recovering victims.

The earthquake also heavily impacted northwest Syria, where 4.1 million people depend on humanitarian assistance. The majority are women and children. At this time, Syrian communities are simultaneously facing an ongoing cholera outbreak and extreme winter weather events, including heavy rain and snow. The humanitarian response is overstretched due to the devastation and cold weather.

UMCOR has released initial solidarity grants to longstanding partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC) and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue (working in Syria) to help provide tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, ready to eat meals and first aid kits to those who have been displaced. IBC has offices in Turkey.



It seems Hygiene Kits are in use in Turkey, Syria and Ukraine as people are re-settled. As we collect 100 we deliver them to the local DEPOT and they are then transported to a major UMCOR distribution center. How can you help?

Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Janis Townsend, Mary Greenwood and Marcia Hoyt-Chair





# YOUTH MISSION TRIP

PHILADELPHIA, PA

**July 9-14, 2023**

**Projects may include:**

- helping at local food pantries
- planting and weeding an urban garden

For youth grades 9-12

Contact Pastor Rebecca Cho  
rebeccalyn.cho@gmail.com/ (617) 429-5909



# YOUTH MISSION WEEK

Join other youth in  
service projects to  
benefit our local  
community!

**July 24-28, 2023**

**10AM-3PM**

**Grades 7-12**

Base Location:  
80 Main Street, Wayland, MA

Contact Pastor Rebecca Cho with questions  
or to register for this free program.  
rebeccalyn.cho@gmail.com/ (617) 429-5909



**Co-sponsored by:**

Fisk Memorial UMC (Natick) • Sudbury UMC (Sudbury) • Community UMC (Wayland)

# Aldersgate '23 Youth Retreat



## "An Aldersgate Experience"

- A 24-hour retreat at Camp Aldersgate in Rhode Island aimed at strengthening the Wesleyan identity of our youth and Methodist Connection in New England.
- Fellowship, worship, music, and small groups with other youth from Eastern Massachusetts.
- Small groups will include games, discussion, and Camp Aldersgate's ropes/challenge course

**May 6-7 11am-11am**

**Camp Aldersgate, 1043 Snake Hill Rd, North Scituate, RI 02857**

For questions about the retreat, email Zack Moser  
[zack.sumc@gmail.com](mailto:zack.sumc@gmail.com)

## Altar Guild



**Altar Flowers:** If you would like to order flowers in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, the signup sheet and order forms are on the

Office bulletin board. It is \$50.00 for an altar arrangement and you may take the flowers home after the Service. Thanks for being a part of honoring and remembrance celebration.

## New England Conference News

From Commonwealth East District

**Our District Anti Racism (CORR) Training is: -**

**Saturday, March 4, 2023 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

106 Walnut St, Natick, MA 01760

**Email Contact:** Allyson Printz

(cedistrict@neumc.org)

Participants are asked to watch these two videos in advance of the training session:

1. The urgency of Intersectionality by Kimberle Crenshaw

2. Intersectionality 101

Snacks and lunch will be provided. If you have any dietary restrictions please specify when you register. And yes, all persons are invited.

### NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

**District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East**

Website: [www.neumc.org/CE](http://www.neumc.org/CE) Address: 2600

Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02421 Phone: (781)

861-0249 District Superintendent: **Rev. We Hyun Chang**

His email address: [CEDS@neumc.org](mailto:CEDS@neumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her email address: [CEDistrict@neumc.org](mailto:CEDistrict@neumc.org)

## From the Church Office

### FISK CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor**

[Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org)

**Dr. Americo Motta, Minister of Music**

[Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com](mailto:Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com)

**Susan Carney, Director of Christian Education**

[SusanjCarney@gmail.com](mailto:SusanjCarney@gmail.com)

**Carolyn DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant**

[Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Website: [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

Church email: [Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

Church Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.