

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

March 2024

Pastor's Message

The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday which was February 14. This season is our annual pilgrimage in the footstep of Jesus Christ. As we continue through the season of Lent, remember that, "This is another season that the Lord has made!" It is given to each of us; undeserved and unmerited! Let us rejoice, limit our complaints, never give up or give in to persons, places, and things of this world.

Let us feel alive and continue to live as people with hope for something new and greater. Especially amid all human conditions and challenges we face. Hence, I am affirming hope because there is a lot to be hopeful for. Hope is vital because there are many uncertainties in life, many unanswered questions and many challenges. When we feel with our hearts, clear our minds, and open our hands to offer God's grace with healing to a broken world, we become the 'Real Resurrected Christians.' When we do, the **Good News** becomes our lived experiences even after the experience of Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Come and walk with us at Fisk UMC to create vital and life-giving experiences. As we walk together, we can reflect on our relationship with God and all of God's creation. As we reflect, 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 to return to the 'OLD' but to create the 'NEW' for all the days, months, and years ahead until the final victory is won, in Jesus Christ.

"A happy, blessed, and safe journey to Easter"

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. in the Sanctuary.

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 and enter

Meeting ID: **994 3325 8889**



**Please join us for Easter Service
on Sunday, March 31st
at 10:30 a.m.**

Worship

For Personal & Spiritual Growth & Reflection- March 2024

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, please worship with us during the Season of Lent. As you come, know that you are not alone and will never be alone. What we have experienced, are experiencing, and will experience, Jesus Christ has experienced. But we can read the Bible and be strengthened. The readings for this month are:

Date:	Liturgist:
March 3	Deborah Hernandez
Psalm 37: 7-9	John 2:12-17
March 10	Debbie Friscino
1 Peter 5:6-10	Mark 14:32-28
March 17	Thom Townsend
Psalm 103: 8-14	John 15:9-17
March 24	Kelli Garrant (Palm Sunday)
Mark 11:1-11 & Isaiah 50:4-9	Mark 14:1-15:47
March 31	Aljani Stanley (Easter Sunday)
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11	John 20:1-18

Note: Please email the Church Office at: 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!

Lent and Easter Schedule

Lenten Study with Soup Supper started Wednesday, February 21 and will continue every Wednesday until March 20: (Come fasting and go out filled physically and spiritually.)

6:30- 7 pm - Soup and bread supper time

7:00 – 8 pm - Study and Sharing time



Then we will continue to travel through Holy Week with **Maundy Thursday** 'spirit filled service' (March 28) in rooms 8 & 9 with a reenactment of the Last Supper.

Good Friday, March 29 (Prayer vigil at individual homes,) every three hours from 6am-6pm - Our Fisk's prayer line will be open at 6am, 12noon, and 6 pm for 15 minutes each.

Dial: 1-712-775-7270, Access code: 580274#



Easter Sunday musical and meditation Celebration with instruments, sounds, and songs on Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. Please join us!



Sermon Series for Lent

Come and worship with us during the Season of Lent to hear the word as Pastor Alecia shares her thoughtful and prayerful created series on: "The Humanity of Jesus Christ"

because whatever we have experienced, are experiencing or will experience Jesus Christ already has. Come and listen in new ways. The series are as follows:

Sunday, March 3 "Jesus experienced anger and frustration"

Sunday, March 10 "Jesus experienced suffering and pains"

Sunday, March 17 "Jesus experienced love and empathy"

Finance

Finance Update – March 2024

The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be the foundation of our many ministries here at Fisk. We have several updates to share:

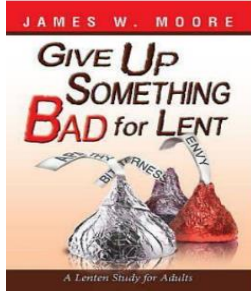
- With your generosity, our overall pledge support was strong in December, and we finished the year very close to our planned results... thank you!
- We paid 100% of our conference Mission Shares again in 2023... supporting our connectional ministries in the areas of pastoral support, New England missions, and international missions,
- Our 2024 Stewardship campaign was a success, providing the continuing foundation for our 2024 ministries,
- Our 2024 expenses are impacted by a major insurance increase due to economic and environmental impacts, but we received support from our Conference leadership, including the Bishop, and received approval for their Mission Share relief program.
- Our 2024 Budget Plan has been prepared by leadership, reviewed and recommended by Finance, and just approved by the Administrative Board for 2024.

Our challenges are significant, but our support from you the congregation is inspiring, and we continue to provide the important ministries of Fisk. Every contribution matters. We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

Members of Finance Committee, includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Mike Bruns (Chair), Pastor Alecia, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Tom Currie (Chair-Admin Board), Jen Garrant (Treasurer), Crystal Mayo (Financial Secretary), Geoffrey Del Sesto (Trustees), Michelle Drolet (SPRC), David Cail, and Thom Townsend.

Wednesday Nights Lenten Book Study



Wednesday Night

Lenten Soup & Book Study!

Soup served at 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 8 & 9

(Lenten Book Study will start at 7:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.)

Book: “Give Up Something Bad Lent” by James Moore

Book studies will be facilitated by Pastor Alecia & Susan Carney, our Christian Education Director.

See schedule below:

Wednesday Topics

- March 6 - Give Up the Enemies Within for Lent
- March 13 - Give Up Running Away for Lent
- March 20 - Give Up a Bad Habit and Pettiness for Lent



Note: We are told that during the season of Lent, Christians say that they will give up something they love. But this author draws our attention to a more sacrificial act; to give up

something bad. So, join us to study, read scriptures and focus more on God to assist us to eliminate words, deeds, habits or attitudes that are destroying us or those around us. Then leave and strive to perfection to do and be better.

‘This is the challenge!’

By Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman



Lenten Soup and Book Study- need a ride?

Let us know. The United Methodist Men are providing rides to anyone who needs a nighttime ride to and from the church. Pick-up around 6pm. Call the office to get on the list. (508) 653-1674.



Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP

The love of our Savior manifests itself in our families, our community, our health and well-being. As Christians, we are called upon to be good stewards of those blessings, and we are called upon to give back generously to our Lord.

“the righteous give generously; those the Lord blesses will inherit the land” – Psalm 37:21-22.

Again and always, we thank you for your generosity.

United Methodist Youth

Please see the CONFIRMATION CLASS schedule below, led by our United Methodist HUB Pastors, at rotating locations (Fisk, Wayland, and Weston). Thanks, as God blesses the youth with wisdom for generations to come.

Meeting Schedule

Sun. March 3, 12:30PM We will meet at 12:30PM at the Islamic Center of Boston (Wayland) 126 Boston Post Road, Wayland MA for an information tour of the mosque. Then, we will travel from the mosque to Community UMC for the 2:00-3:30PM Confirmation Class. A pizza lunch will be provided at the church.

Sunday, March 17, (2:00 pm-3:30pm) at Fisk Memorial UMC

Sunday, March 24, (2:00 pm-3:30pm) Weston UMC

Sat. April 6, (3:45 p.m.) We will meet at 3:45PM for the 4:00PM Mass at St. Ann Church (Good Shepherd Parish) 124 Cochituate Rd., Wayland, MA for a worship service that will be about 1 hour.

Sunday, April 7, (2:00 pm-3:30pm) - Community UMC

Sunday, April 28, (2:00 pm-3:30pm) - Fisk Memorial UMC

Sunday, May 5, (2:00 pm-3:30pm) - Weston UMC

Sunday, May 12, (2:00 pm-3:30pm) - Fisk Memorial UMC

Saturday, May 18, (10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.)

Confirmation Celebration at Community UMC



Black History Month Celebration

Troy Smith from the Town of Natick, Director of Equity, Inclusion and Outreach, spoke to us about his support of inclusion and equity in the town, along with his perspectives from his personal life growing up, drawing him to this new position. He was formerly a teacher.

Kristen Pope, Selectwoman, also participated in discussions and made us aware of Precinct 1 and the inequities that occur in that precinct, with many transients in that area of town, along with her goal to bring attention to this area. Thanks to both of them for joining us.

Water Water everywhere but not a drop to drink?

Throughout 2024, we will be focusing on our role in caring for the water in God's creation. Last year brought concerns about PFAs in drinking water and toxic blooms in Lake Cochituate. Local waterways have fish with high mercury levels and measurable levels of PFAs. Is there anything we can do to improve the situation?

All women are invited to join us for brunch at 10:30a.m. on Saturday, March 16th to learn more about challenges facing our rivers and watersheds. Guest speakers from OARS* will update us on what's happening in the region and talk with us about things we can do to positively impact local water. It's our annual "get-together" with women from Wayland – we look forward to having you to join us.



*OARS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to protect, improve, and preserve the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers, their tributaries and watersheds, for public recreation, water supply, and wildlife habitat.

* Their mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural and recreational features of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers, their tributaries, and watersheds.

Earth Day Activities are coming – Saturday, April 27th

We are pleased to be participating in town-wide events scheduled on Saturday April 27th. UWF is partnering with SimpleRecycling to collect textiles and other household items (shoes, pocketbooks etc) that you're ready to get out of your house. Their truck will be at Fisk from 9a.m.-noon for drop-offs. Pink bags are available but any bags can be used!

Stay tuned for more information.



Note: There will be no Susanna Circle meeting this month.

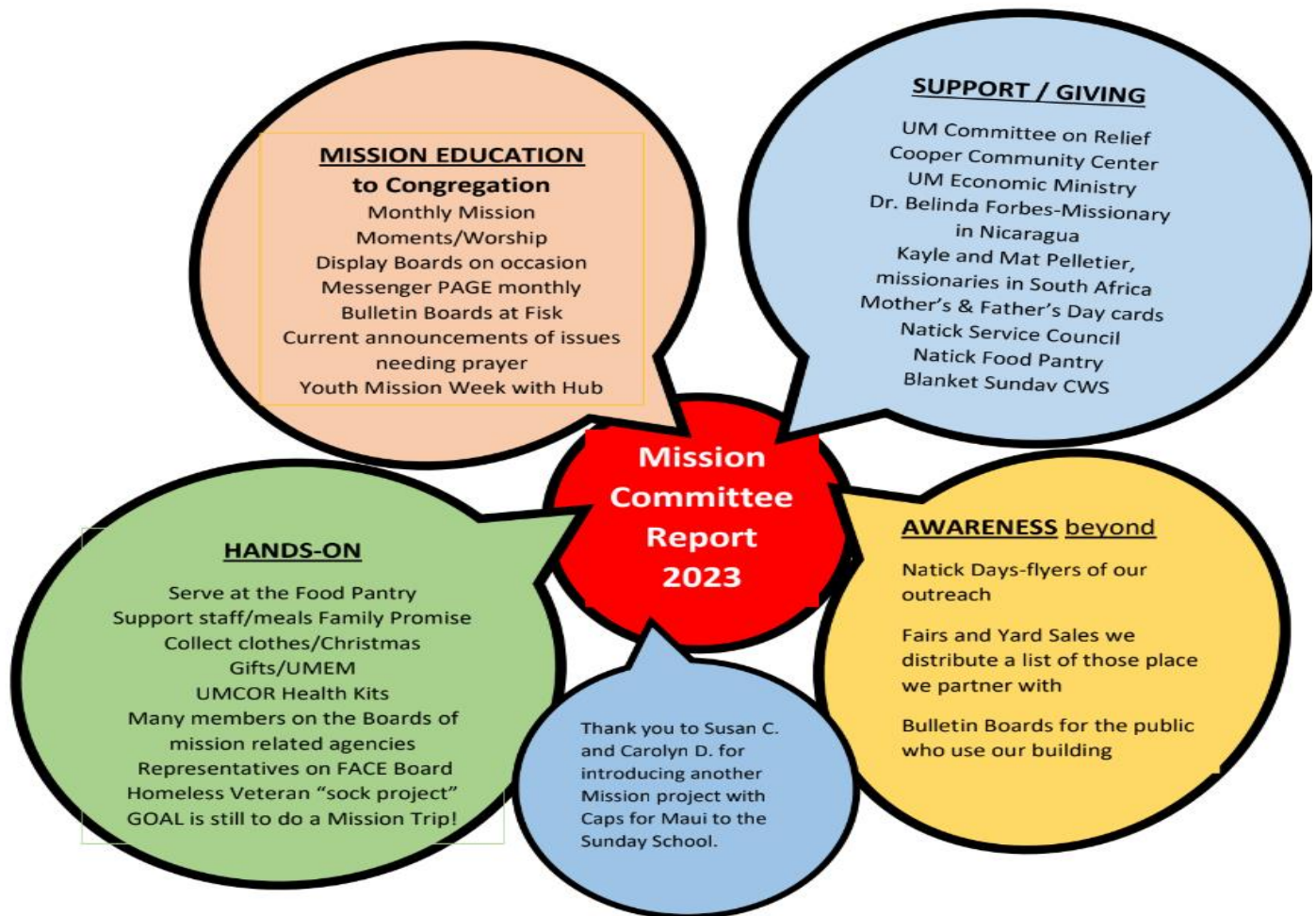
Family Promise Update



It's time for us to host once again. In conjunction with Community UMC, we are supporting families the **week of MARCH 11th**. As such, we need volunteers to purchase the groceries and supplies on their list and deliver them to the Day Center on Monday, March 11th. We are also preparing dinner the same day. At this point, no evening hosts are needed due to family schedules so it's just dinner drop-off!

Please let Debbie Friscino know if you can assist. (dfriscino@gmail.com or text 508-404-4967)

MISSION AND OUTREACH



Hopefully, this looks familiar to you? It was our Annual Report for 2023. It was mentioned in worship a few weeks ago. Thanks Thom. Our committee is small in numbers but we do accomplish many different activities focused on MISSIONS and Outreach.

NOW—where do you see yourself volunteering? It could be a one-time activity, or a regular scheduled time, a trip to Maine, helping to serve the Food Pantry, do a bulletin board, present a Mission Moment in worship or something else you have a desire to do. Just contact one of us and we'll "make it happen."

We thank the congregation for their support and interest in these various projects. It is definitely a case of "it takes a village." We try to have all of our activities focus on Matt. 25:31-40

Janis Cail, Mary Greenwood, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt (Chair)



Not until APRIL...

We will again collect good, used clothes for Salem Maine. They go to the United Methodist Economic Ministry and are used to stock a Thrift Shop for the people of the Western Mountains in Maine. Clothes must be in wearable, clean and folded, and put into paper grocery/shopping bags. Beginning April 1 they can be brought to the porch of the Hoyt's (8 Bacon St.) or to the box in the hallway at Fisk. NEXT MONTH...



The Missions Committee

Good Friday Portrayal

From our Missionary Kayle Pelletier



Last year during Lent, Kayle sent this out in their Newsletter from South Africa-where they are serving as Missionaries. Kayle wrote the script and it is a one woman (Kayle) portrayal of the passion as seen through the eyes of Mary, Jesus' mother on Good Friday. Hope you find it moving as I did. It is about 30 minutes, and was done as a Narrative Sermon.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/MUyZ33m2lt4?feature=shared&t=2151>

Marcia Hoyt, Chair of Missions

Easter Lilies and Tulip Order Form



Easter Lilies & Tulips Order Form



Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

(Please print legibly)

Your Name(s):

Telephone #:

☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of ☐ In celebration of...

Specify quantity for each

__ Tulips

__ Easter Lily

Prices: **\$20.00** each **Lily** (White)

\$15.00 each **Tulip** (Colors of Tulips will vary.)

Amount Enclosed: \$__ ☐ Cash ☐ Check

Please take flowers home after Easter Service.

Write check to Fisk UMC and please note "Easter flowers" on the memo line. You can mail in or drop off your flower order and check in the basket on the Office door. Thank you.

Order Deadline: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

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 9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Room 2.

-Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney

Prayer

As we travel this season of Lent. A prayer to pray and share:

THE FAST LIFE PRAYER ...author unknown

- **Fast** from judging others;
- **Feast** on Christ dwelling in them.
- **Fast** from fear of illness;
- **Feast** on the healing power of God.
- **Fast** from words that pollute;
- **Feast** on speech that purifies.
- **Fast** from discontent;
- **Feast** on gratitude.
- **Fast** from anger;
- **Feast** on patience.
- **Fast** from negatives;
- **Feast** on encouragement.
- **Fast** from bitterness
- **Feast** on forgiveness.
- **Fast** from self-concern;
- **Feast** on compassion.
- **Fast** from suspicion;
- **Feast** on truth.
- **Fast** from gossip;
- **Feast** on purposeful silence.
- **Fast** from problems that overwhelm;
- **Feast** on prayer that sustains.
- **Fast** from anxiety;
- **Feast** on Faith.

Submitted by Pastor Bob Stewart – St. Paul's United Methodist Church – Manchester NH - 2/14/24

Prayer Box / Prayer Wall/ Prayer line



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, 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.

The Wednesday night prayer line will be on hiatus for the month of March, as we hold our Lenten Bible Study every Wednesday (Feb. 21-March 27) 6:30p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you.

New England Conference Information

Our New District information: District 6-Hub #5

Name: Commonwealth East

Website: www.neumc.org/CE

District Superintendent: Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA 02421

Email address:CEDS@neumc.org

Administrative Assistant: Allyson Printz

Phone: (781) 861-0249 Email address:CEDistrict@neumc.org

Fisk Church Staff

Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor

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Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com

Susan Carney, Director of Christian Education

SusanjCarney@gmail.com

Carolyn DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant

Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Website: www.fiskumc.org

Church email: Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Church Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Judy Maloney on the birth of her 11th and 12th Great Grandchildren!

Colton Jeffrey Doherty was born on Thursday, February 15.

Olin Henry Maloney was born on Sunday, February 18. May God bless them always!

**The April Messenger Deadline:
Please submit information by
Friday, March 22, 2024 9:00 a.m.**