

The Messenger

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Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
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www.fiskumc.org

May 2021

Beloved sisters and brothers in Christ!

The months in 2021 seem to be passing by quickly. But I wonder if we want to quickly forget the past. You see, Winter is gone, Spring is here and so will Summer quickly be here.

As we strive through a pandemic and celebrate Mother's Day this month, I pray that each of you will live longer in good health to remember, recognize, and celebrate a woman in your life. As you do, take time to look at and smell the flowers that are blooming. This might give us a glimpse or a reminder that even after all the not-so-good things of life, joy comes. But most of all it teaches us a valuable lesson in patience and the power of a mother's love.

As I think about patience, I am reflecting on Isaiah 40:31 that states, *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* (KJV). In this piece of scripture, does not hope comes alive like a plant that has seemed dead all winter? Well, to come alive requires faith, humility, meekness, and other Christian disciplines. But most of all it requires patience.

I am reminding each of us that to wait upon the Lord means planting a seed of faith, nourishing and waiting for a plant to grow. Like many beloved women, mothers do a lot of important jobs in the world as they plant and nurture seeds of faith. This is valuable and they have patience while doing so.

Hence, this month we will be celebrating not just mothers, but all women. Tributes will be to all women who have children, those women who have made countless sacrifices, those who never had children of their own but have been a mother in the lives of many by their presence, caring, loving, teaching, nurturing, and mentoring. Hence, we can give thanks to all women in our families, churches, communities, nations, and the world. As we do, think about many other roles they have taken on and continue to take on to make the world a better place as Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ did.

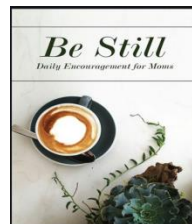
Watch the flowers blooming but also look out for the new generation of children blooming because of a diverse group of mothers' touches.

Have a Blessed Mother's Day and thanks to Women everywhere!

✕ Pastor Alecia

P. S. Thanks

My heart is filled with gratitude for an unexpected but welcomed gift. Thanks to that special and anonymous person for the beautiful plant left on the altar for me. In addition to the three plants left in my office in the name of the 'Father, Son, and Holy Spirit', I give thanks for the mind, heart, and hands that shared. May God richly bless you and fill your life with beautiful flowers. Thanks.



Mother's Day Gift from our Pastor

"Be Still Daily Encouragement for Moms" Daily Devotional will be located outside the Church doors for you to pick up your copy!

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.

May 2	1 John 4: 7-21	John 15: 1-8
May 9	Proverbs 31:10-31	John 15: 9-17
May 16	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	John 17: 6-19
	Psalm 1	
May 23	Acts 2: 1-21	John 15: 26-27 & 16: 4-15
May 30	Romans 8: 12-17	John 3: 1-17

Worship

In the merry, merry month of May...

Highlights for ZOOM worship this month.

May 2: **Communion Sunday.** Don't forget your bread and juice.

May 9: **Festival of the Christian Home (Mother's Day).** Rev. Rolland French will be preaching for Pastor Alecia.

May 16: **Ascension Sunday** (celebration of Christ's ascension into heaven)

May 23: **Pentecost Sunday** (wear red—celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit)

May 30: **Peace and Justice Sunday; as well as Trinity Sunday.** Trinity Sunday represents the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost as the three parts of God.

See you on ZOOM!

Finance & Stewardship

There is power in connection and in our connectional giving. We give to each other, to our families, to our church, to our community and to the global ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church. Therefore, we have a commitment to be responsible for all that God gives, knowing that we are also accountable to God and to each other.

This past year, 2020, we have been grateful for each of you and your families in shared giving. Though it was a difficult year, we took steps to empower many people to step up their giving, encourage others to give for the first time as well as reduce our expenses, and remain the missional church we are called to be. Because of you, we continue to strive and be the best and most faithful stewards that God wants us to be. For this, we are grateful. May God richly bless each of you and the fruits from your minds, hearts, and hands.

NE Conference Annual Meeting

Guiding Scripture: Psalm 137:4
NIV "How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?"



At its February 25th meeting the Annual Conference Sessions Committee solidified elements of the 2021 New England Annual Conference virtual session schedule, including Clergy Session.

- **Clergy Session** will begin at 9 a.m. **Wednesday, June 9.**
- **Annual Conference** will begin on **Thursday, June 10,** and conclude on **Saturday, June 12.**
- **The Service of Ordination and Commissioning** for the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be held on the afternoon of **Saturday, June 12.** The service will be livestreamed.

2021 N.E. Annual Conference June 10-12 ***Laity Address Challenge***

The Conference Board of Laity is pleased to invite all laypersons in the New England Annual Conference to enter the Laity Address Challenge to have an opportunity to give the Laity Address at the 2021 Annual Conference. The Laity Address will be pre-recorded. The specific date/time of the Laity Address broadcast has not been set.



Our Annual Conference theme is "Building Beloved Community." Our guiding scripture Psalm 137:4 NIV: "How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?" 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.

The deadline to submit your proposed address and video is May 7, 2021. For more information on how to submit your entry or to ask any questions about entering the challenge, please email Co-Associate Conference Lay Leader Joan Farrar at cw.dll.acll@gmail.com or call 978.582.4670.

Watch the [Annual Conference sessions page](#) on the website and the e-news for updates.



Greetings,

I can't wait for you to **join me on May 1, 2021 between 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m.** to participate in Family Promise's fundraising "Walk for Change". We have an opportunity to make this our most successful walk ever but I need your help.

An anonymous donor has pledged to contribute \$1 on behalf of Fisk Church for each lap we walk around Fisk. And that's a dollar for each person so bring the kids, your parents, and your spouse/partner! Can you complete 5 laps?

All the walking will get you hungry for sure - help yourself to **hotdogs and chips anytime between 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.** Bring your own chair or picnic blanket! We need to stay socially distanced to eat so we won't be bringing lots of tables outside. Not able to walk? Come CHEER for everyone. The more noise the better!

What can we accomplish?

- **\$50 raised will provide a weekly gas subsidy for two families in the Shelter Program.**
- **\$100 raised will provide a weekly food subsidy for a family in the Shelter Program.**
- **\$500 raised will provide a monthly childcare subsidy for a family in the Shelter Program.**
- **\$600 raised will provide a monthly rent subsidy for a family in the SAIL Program.**
- **\$1,000 raised will provide an educational scholarship for a parent or teen in the Steps to Success Program.**
- **\$1,500 raised will provide funding to prevent a family in the LIFE Program from losing their home.**

Together we can make a difference for families facing homelessness in Metrowest. If you are able to make a donation, make your check out to Fisk UMC with a note in the memo line that it's for Family Promise. Checks can be dropped off at the walk or mailed to Fisk prior to the event.

Rain date - Sunday May 2nd at 1pm.

Until then, be well. And plan to join in the fun with your Fisk family.

Debbie Friscino- Fisk Family Promise Coordinator

FISK FACTS

The five people who have been members the longest:

Helen Hollingworth

Nancy Parece

John MacKeil

Winnie Sinclair

Gary Hoyt

SPRC Announces New Administrative Assistant

SPRC is happy to announce that Carolyn DiSciullo is our new Fisk Admin!! She will be in the office 4 days a week to answer questions, phones and support our church family. We are excited to have her onboard! Her first day is April 19th at 9:00 am. Please join us in welcoming Carolyn!

SPRC would like to send a "BIG" thank you to Joanne who "retired in 2020" but continued to support Fisk remotely for many months! Joanne has been the glue to keep us all connected with our weekly bulletins and monthly Messenger! She will be missed for sure!

Joanne will work alongside Carolyn and show her the "ropes" so Carolyn can hit the ground running. We are all sending a special thanks and well wishes to Joanne in her REAL retirement.

PS. Joanne you will always be part of our Fisk Family.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH is a mandate from the Bible. Matthew 25:35-36 tells us *"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 took me in, I was naked and you clothed me..."*

The United Methodist Church is a strong-hold of mission work in the world. We have talked about UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) often arriving on the front-line of emergency situations in the world. We contribute to this endeavor through our giving, our prayers for those affected and those responding. Fisk has chosen to supply **100 Health/Hygiene Kits** annually to be used in these situations.

These Kits providing basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Hygiene kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes



**Yeah! Congratulations to you!
We just delivered 100 Hygiene
Kits to the district Depot.**

This past year it was more difficult, as many of us did not get into the stores to shop. Now it is a bit easier. All items can be left in the Parlor or the church office.

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
- One washcloth No microfiber cloths
- One comb—sturdy with 6 inches of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper
- Bath-size soap (3-4 oz) No Jergen's or Ivory
- One adult toothbrush
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)

Wrap the items in the towel and put into a one-gallon re-sealable plastic bag.

We are now beginning to collect the 2021 Kits. I see three in the basket...need 97 more! Have your children or grandchildren help. They will learn to care for others.

Missions Committee-Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt (chair)



New England Justice for Our Neighbors provides free, high-quality immigration legal services for eligible individuals and families, advocates for immigrants' rights and educates communities of faith and the public about ministries of hospitality with immigrants in our communities. We connect with persons seeking information and counsel through our clinic locations and website

The Story of "Y" Special Juvenile Immigrant Status

"Y" is a young woman from Guatemala who was abandoned by her father when she was very young. The mother of Y registered "Y's" uncle as "Y's" father on her birth certificate, because it was improper for a child to not have a father in her culture. "Y" never knew her real father and grew up living in extreme poverty with a mother who barely made enough to survive. As "Y" became older, gang members started threatening her so that she would become "their woman", telling her that she would lack nothing if they became the girlfriend of gang members. "Y" did not want to do this because of her Christian values and because she knew that young women who become romantic partners of gang members were often forced to sell drugs, and are often raped and murdered. "Y" fled to the United States, to escape this violence and extreme poverty and to be able to continue studying. With the help of her JFON affiliated Justice Center attorney, "Y" was able to work with the Probate and Family Court to untangle her complex family history and obtain the necessary finding that "Y" had been abandoned by her true father, so that she could become eligible for a Special Immigrant Juvenile Visa. Now "Y" has obtained a Special Immigrant Juvenile status and is awaiting the availability of the corresponding visa that will allow her to adjust her status, become a permanent resident of the United States and have the security and educational opportunity she has always dreamed of.

Do you want to help another child like "Y"? Contribute to JFON through our church. Just memo your check for JFON and it can be payable to Fisk. We just pass that amount on to JFON through the Conference.

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO FACE CHILDREN'S CENTER

FACE, a mission of Fisk UMC, opened its doors to children on August 3, 1971. The FACE Board of Directors would like to celebrate this Golden Anniversary with a party after church on Oct 17th, so save the date. Over the next couple of months I would like to share FACE's history with the congregation. The acronym FACE stands for **Fisk Area Community Endeavor**.

When a committee of Fisk members started FACE in 1970 there were no day care centers in the Metrowest Area. The closest centers were in Boston and Worcester. The committee members felt that Fisk should be fulfilling at least one community need and identified four areas of concern in 1970: housing, day care, youth, and the elderly. The committee "decided that a day care center would be the most practical to START WITH." It took over a year and many meetings to establish the center and obtain Town approval. Twenty-one people attended the zoning board hearing **to protest FACE's opening**.

FACE Board members had to demonstrate that welfare mothers needed childcare before the state would fund the program. To do that, articles were put in the newspapers asking all welfare families in Ashland, Framingham, and Natick to contact their local welfare office.

The "Marcias" Hoyt and Nault repeatedly piled their seven preschool children into their station wagon and headed to Boston to obtain licenses for the daycare center. Rumor has it that one Marcia would double park with the kids, while the other would handle the governmental bureaucracy. Special recognition goes to Marcia Hoyt who has served on FACE's Board of Directors from its conception.

The original committee had to take out a loan to cover the first three months of operating expenses. Now that's a show of faith for you.

In 1981 the State of Massachusetts experienced a financial crisis and didn't pay their bills. The Men's club at Fisk provided money so teachers could be paid. The UMW has been a major supporter providing money, parties, supplies, and guest entertainers.

Many Fisk members have contributed their time and energy to ensure the success of FACE. According to the bylaws more than half of each year's Board of Directors members must be comprised of people from Fisk.

We would love to have you volunteer to be on the FACE Board of Directors. At the present time Marcia Hoyt, Debbie Friscino, Barbara Beekman, myself, and three members from the Natick community (which includes

one FACE parent) serve on the Board. We meet six times a year or more as needed.

We should all be very proud of FACE and the success it has had caring for the children of our community over the last 50 years.

Janis Cail, President of FACE Board of Directors

United Methodist Women



**BAKE TABLE
LUNCH-TO-GO**

Saturday, MAY 8th 8:30-12 noon

As United Methodist Women we pledge to MISSIONS ... in addition to our church tithe. There are many ways we can accumulate the needed funds for our UMW Mission work—

1. Our individual pledges
2. Circle activities and
3. UMW fund-raisers aka-Yard Sales and Fairs

As you know, during the recent year fund-raising was more difficult. BUT we are having our usual May Yard Sale and need your treasures and items that you are ready to RECYCLE.

You may bring your donations to the church beginning May 4th during the hours of 10-12noon. If it is necessary to leave things other than at that time...please just leave them on the porch by the red doors. They will be moved later in the day.

BAKE TABLE-come and buy a treat for MOM!

We also need items to sell, cookies, pies, jelly, cakes etc.

LUNCH-TO-GO We are adding something new! Bagged lunches—a sub roll, bag of chips, a brownie, and the option of a bottle of water. Varieties of subs are being planned and it is a first-come first-served option.



All of this mixed with fellowship (masked and social distanced) makes for a GREAT DAY for Missions.

Questions? Call Janis Cail 1-(781) 894-1730

What else is happening in United Methodist Women?

All three **CIRCLES** have met this month and made plans for the coming weeks. They discussed ways to stay connected and support our organization. The connection part is getting a little easier...small steps for us to see each other.

The Susanna Circle met outside for lunch and had a "plant-swap" to celebrate EARTH WEEK. We had everything from Tulips to Aloe plants.

The **PRAYER SHAWL** Group has continued all fall, winter and into the spring with 7-8 women meeting at Fisk...outside as long as we could and then we moved to Room 2 and followed the "masked and distancing" rules. Join us some week. We are knitting or crocheting the many prayer shawls that are given to those in need of hope, love and/or a warm touch. When the weather warms up enough we plan to move outside again. (Joanne Billo-chairperson)

Attention **BOOK READERS!** There are so many great books to read in the UMW bookcase in Ogle Parlor. Terry Ames, the chairperson, has done a wonderful job of keeping us current with new selections and has even offered to deliver books to you.



A **WOMAN'S RETREAT** is being planned. Date is still undecided, but hopefully sometime this summer. It will be a "one day" gathering of women in fellowship and "getting to know God" as our purpose tells us.

UMC Hannah Circle- Tribute

In March, we said good-bye to the leader of this circle; yet another sister in Christ, gone to glory. Our sister and friend, Debi Henry, was a certified Lay servant and a devoted leader of this group. She spent time with us and stayed in connection with all our seniors. And yes! She was an ardent prayer partner and she prayed faithfully as she shared her gifts with them and our church.

At her final meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, Debi shared with us that, "Love knows no boundaries" as the theme. Hence with the same love, we said good-bye until we meet again.

May she have eternal rest with all Fisk UMC faithful disciples that have gone ahead. Thanks to her siblings and family for sharing her with us.

From the Church Office

NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East

Website: 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

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

JUNE Messenger Deadline
Please submit info by
FRIDAY, May 21 at 9:00 AM

A message from Bishop Devadhar: Chauvin verdict

Beloved in Christ, Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have been collectively holding our breath for many long months as we've suffered through the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and unrelenting racism.

In the past few months, we have begun to see a ray of hope with the distribution of effective vaccines. Today, the conviction of Derek Chauvin on all charges provides a measure of justice for George Floyd and that ray of hope for all who've been waiting for accountability.

Even as we recall with anguish George Floyd's dying cry, "I can't breathe," perhaps we can now begin to exhale fear and inhale hope. George Floyd's murder prompted a worldwide movement of people of all ages and races, coming together in solidarity to address and denounce systems built on inequality and hatred. Today's verdict was a step forward in bringing justice, but there is still so much work to do.



Justice is not complete until all children of God can live together in community, with mutual respect and dignity and equity.

As proud citizens and residents of the United States, let us work to bring to reality the final words of our pledge "with liberty and justice for all."

As people of God, followers of Jesus Christ, let us join in prayer for the Floyd family as well as the Chauvin family. Let us pray for victims of violence and racism and for those who commit such acts. And may all — protestors and protectors alike — heed the call to peace and non-violence.

When we hear the voices of those crying out for justice, may we respond with the heart of Christ, so that no one has to suffer such heartbreak again.

Tonight, we exhale, though we continue to mourn the loss that brought us to this day and the thousands of others who did not receive justice.

And tomorrow let us wake up and inhale hope, with a renewed call to action and accountability for ourselves and for one another as we continue to work for God's Beloved Community.

In Christ's Love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

YARD SALE

Saturday, May 8th

8:30 to 12 noon Rain or Shine

masks and social distancing

Fisk Church 106 Walnut Street Natick

Bake Sale also!

GRAB n' Go Lunch...just \$7.00

Variety of Sub rolls, chips, brownie and a bottle of water
First come first served on choices

WANTED: *Toys ~ bikes ~ kitchen items ~ all types of books ~ tools
games ~ puzzles ~ pots and pans ~ baskets ~ vases ~ small furniture
holiday items ~ totes ~ glassware ~ pocketbooks ~ tote bags and lots
of surprises! You might find something for a Mother's Day gift.*

ALL PROCEEDS FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

Your donations may be left any morning beginning May 4th. If no one is at the church, just leave things on the "porch" by the red doors and it will be moved inside at noon. Bake Table items should be packaged to sell and can be delivered Friday evening or Saturday morning by 9am.