

The Message



fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
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www.fiskumc.org

May 2022

"May Flowers, Many favored"

There is an African song that says, "Sweet Mother, I never will forget you for the suffering you suffered for me...." And truly these mothers or special women have been wonderful. Some have spent sleepless nights, some have denied themselves, some have stepped up to be mothers for other children, some have prayed without ceasing and still others have made sacrifices that are too many to list. But many are favored and deserve some May Flowers.

This is the month when we intentionally thank God for mothers and all the women in our lives. As we do, I pray that each mother and woman will be honored and know that they will never be forgotten; whether alive or gone ahead to glory. And I say this because to be a mother is to strive to be godly and be the embodiment of Christ's love on earth as it is in heaven.

This month and every month, we will celebrate all women. Especially, those godly women mentioned in Proverbs 31: 10-31 as virtuous or good. And though this final book of Proverbs is an acrostic poetry of praise, it gives a 123 or the ABC of being a godly woman; wife or mother.

My grandfather would say, it may be simple but it does not give any indication that one of these women is easy to find. That would be with a sense of humor. But I believe that in Jesus Christ one can find a treasure and priceless woman. The question will then be, "have you found one or are you looking for one?" Whatever the answer is, we celebrate all the women in our lives. As we celebrate, we can unite and work to enhance their lives, advocate for the challenges they face, and encourage actions to meet these challenges. And as May flowering are blooming, we can remember that many are favored.

Happy Mother's Day with blessing this day and always!

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 1	Psalms 30	John 21:1-19
May 8	Acts 9:36-43	John 10:22-30
May 15	1 Corinthians 13	John 13:31-35
May 22	Revelation 21:10, 22 & 22:1-5	John 14:23-29
May 29	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17: 20-26

Log in information for ZOOM Services

<https://zoom.us/j/93666906008>

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

Connect by telephone use either of these numbers.
+1 253 215 8782 US or +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

Or visit www.zoom.us click "Join Meeting" on top right. Type in **936 6690 6008** in the "Meeting ID"

Worship

COMING SOON

Fisk UM Discipleship/Prospective & New members

class - Join Pastor Alecia for a light, informative, and heartwarming study and discussion on how we belong, what we believe, how we live, and the unlimited possibilities for growth as we travel the journey together as a United Methodist. If you have not yet connected as a full member of Fisk UMC, you may attend the four Saturday sessions (May 7, 14, 21, & 28) from 2-3:00 PM in the Women's Parlor.

If interested, please contact pastor Alecia at:

Email: fiskpastor@fiskumc.org or call her at 617-966-7048.

May Liturgist Schedule

May 1,	Carolyn DiSciullo
May 8,	Debbie Friscino
May 15,	Terry Ames
May 22,	Deborah Hernandez
May 29,	TBD

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!

Evangelism

WARM UP FOR WORSHIP!—Sunday Evangelism

Did you know that there are **7 Key Reasons** that people choose a church? And **YOU and I** are one of those reasons...one of **THE most important!**

These most important reasons people give for choosing a church include:

- * the quality of sermons (83%)
- * **feeling welcomed by leaders & members (79%)**
- * style of services (74%)
- * location (70%)
- * education for kids (56%)
- * having friends /family in the congregation (48%)
- * availability of volunteering opportunities (42%)

WOW! That means that you and I have a role on Sundays. **BEFORE** and **AFTER** the service, we can make guests AND fellow members feel welcome. We can be present in the sanctuary **EARLY** and attend **FELLOWSHIP** after the service, remembering to extend our welcome with smiles and warm greetings. We can extend our hands and tell someone we're glad they worshipped with us this week.

Evangelism encourages us all to **"warm up"** our greetings.

ACTIONS:

- * Please be in the sanctuary early enough to say hello.
- * Offer to be a greeter at 10:15 at the door. (See Amy Bruns)
- * Invite someone to Fellowship Time in rooms 8 & 9.

**People may not remember what you say,
but they WILL remember how you make them feel.**

*** from Evangelism Commission, Amy Bruns

UWF Reading Program

**You're invited to go to the
MOVIES!**



That's right, now you can watch a movie to educate yourself on an important topic AND it will count

toward the *United Women in Fellowship* Reading Program.

Just Mercy, based on the bestselling book by the same name, takes us inside America's broken criminal justice system and compels us to confront inequality and injustice.

The movie presents the unforgettable story of Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) and the case of Walter McMillian (Academy Award winner Jamie Foxx), who was convicted and sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit.

It is a **true story** about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to end mass incarceration in America, written by one of the most inspiring lawyers of our time. Bryan Stevenson was a young lawyer when he founded the *Equal Justice Initiative*, a nonprofit law office in Montgomery, Alabama, dedicated to defending the poor, the incarcerated, and the wrongly condemned.

You can watch the movie on many different sites or subscription services, including Prime Video, Fios and Xfinity, Direct TV, and YouTube, among others. Watch it yourself or hold a "watch party," have some popcorn, and have a discussion.

When we educate ourselves, we are then ready and able to do the social justice work God calls us to do.



SATURDAY May 7th

8:30-12 noon

BAKE SALE, also!

Cookies, pies, cakes etc.

WANTED: Toys ~ bikes ~ kitchen items ~ all types of books ~ tools ~ games ~ puzzles ~ pots and pans ~ baskets ~ vases ~ small furniture ~ holiday items ~ floral décor ~ glassware ~ pocketbooks ~ tote bags and lots of surprises!

Your donations may be left any morning beginning May 2nd. 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.

Questions: Janis Cail, Terry Ames or Ainslee Wicks

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, JUNE 7 Time-4:30pm

Coordinator: Susan Carney



Imagine seeing thousands of women united again in one place and time where hope is in the air. Women ready to heal, ready to celebrate and ready to act.

Off to Orlando May 22!

At the Community Gatherings women will join in sisterhood to find spiritual healing, hope and renewal through impactful worship experiences, inspiring speakers, integrated performing arts and by lifting our voices in song. Rich, scriptural passages from James and Matthew will guide the celebration of our identity in a new time, a time that calls us to **TURN IT UP!** Sherry Culver will represent us at this gathering. Please pray for an inspiring time and safe travel for her.

Virtual Option

Can't join us in Orlando? Then join us from your living room! Assembly 2022 has both in-person and online experiences allowing even more women to participate and Turn it Up. Virtual attendees get access to all five Community Gatherings, one workshop on Friday and Saturday, exclusive behind-the-scenes speaker interviews, and sisterhood networking.

President Debbie Friscino has made plans to have us join /virtually at Fisk. Watch for details.

We will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world.



United
Women
in Faith

Missions and Outreach

Mother's Day---everywhere!

Single mothers, mothers with illness, mothers experiencing the loss of a child, mothers working outside their home, mothers of newborn babies, mothers with homes and those without a home, those moms living with abuse...all Mothers are to be celebrated and prayed for as they have HOPES and DREAMS for their children. The founder and organizer of making Mother's Day a national event, Ann Jarvis (a Methodist woman), hoped for peace in the world. Peace to protect her children. She and others, are the ones that requested Woodrow Wilson to sign the petition. (D. Miller, UM Archivist)



Every year, here at Fisk we make available Greeting Cards for Mother's Day. These cards support a few different organizations and their support of MOTHERS. As you are wondering how to HONOR your MOM, an Aunt, a Grandmother, a mother figure to you or just a Mom needing recognition - we have the answer. Purchase a card supporting the Natick Service Council, Family Promise or a card which supplies a mother with a new warm blanket. These blankets can be used as a tent, a carry-all, swaddling a baby, warmth of a blanket or even a coat or wrap. These blankets are distributed by Church World Service in partnership with the United Methodist Church aka BLANKET SUNDAY.

All of these cards are \$10.00 each and will Honor a MOM. They will be available May 1 following worship or in the church office M-W and F from 9-12noon, until May 8th.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE-Janis Cail, Janis Townsend, Mary Greenwood, Kelli Garrant, and Marcia Hoyt. We thank you for your support of mission emphases.



How is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) responding to the crisis in UKRAINE?

UMCOR's work in Ukraine is being funded with gifts to Advance #982450, International Disaster Response and Recovery. Grants for immediate relief have been given to United Methodist partners in Ukraine as well as neighboring nations—Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia—to support those who remain in Ukraine as well as those who have fled the violence. In addition, grants are being awarded to partners like ACT Alliance, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and Human Rights League. These grants are providing transportation assistance, humanitarian supplies such as food, water, clothing, shelter and medication, as well as legal services and safe spaces for women, children and those with disabilities. UMCOR is in continuous dialogue with UMC entities and other partners throughout Europe to identify additional ways to assist. The situation in Eastern and Central Europe is evolving and Global Ministries and UMCOR will continue to respond in the months and years ahead.

Will UMCOR be sending kits/supplies?

UMCOR does not ship relief kits or other supplies internationally. While the need is great and it is tempting to assist by shipping clothes, shoes and diapers, the cost is high. **Instead, we encourage you to help us assist our partners in securing supplies in Europe.**

This is less costly than shipping supplies, helps local economies and ensures that materials received are the materials needed at any given time. Your gift will allow us to procure materials and supplies locally.

Mark your check UKRAINE #982450. Fisk has been very supportive. The need continues, will you help?



Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

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. (617) 966-7048.**

If there is an additional need, join the Prayer Line: Every Wednesday, from 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 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.

Look ALIVE!



Did you notice our new look before Easter? Thanks to a grant from the United Methodist Foundation, we are working to have Fisk "Look ALIVE!"

Based on the planning discussion earlier this year, members of Council of Ministries

brainstormed ways to let the community know we are back. What better way than to add some color to the front yard.

We received a grant to spruce things up! Our goal is to create a welcoming outdoor space that invites everyone to spend time in reflection by the cross, meet with friends for lunch, shoot some hoops or just hang out. Keep your eyes open to see what we add next! More importantly, join us in using the space – help us "Look ALIVE" to all who pass by.

United Methodist Men

UMM - May event - Catch a NHS Baseball Game

Come join the United Methodist Men as we cheer on the Natick High School Boys Varsity Baseball team on Monday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. as they compete against Newton North HS (Mahan Field, 90 West St., Natick). We sit in the bleachers and you can get a hot dog or snack from the concession stand. It's a great opportunity to bring your son or daughter.

Questions: Contact Geoff Del Sesto or Gary Hoyt.

Celebrations

Congratulations:

To Tyler Del Sesto for the well narrated JPL released video about Perseverance. As Fisk's nurtured child and our star at NASA, blessings on his parents Geoff & Sherry.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION:

Elizabeth Mayo from Grafton High School, Grafton, MA on June 2nd and is heading to Champlain College in Burlington, VT.

William Garrant from Keefe Technical, Framingham, MA and is heading to Paul Smith College.

Addie Trisha Darrah with a Masters in Quality Assurance Management with concentration in Reliability Engineering from California State University at Dominguez Hills.

Education

Women's Bible Study on Zoom Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. or Thursdays 7:15 p.m. Contact the Church Office FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org or Susan Carney at: susanjcarney@gmail.com for the Zoom Link.

Sunday School

Bible Sunday

We are delighted to present our Fisk Children with their very own age appropriate Bibles. This will happen every few years until each of our students are holding the same Bibles we have in the sanctuary.

What an honor to present the word of God to His children!

We have had the honor of teaching these students how to use the Bibles. They have made great progress. The older kids help the younger.

May 15th will be Bible Sunday during the regular service.

Join us as your hands are in this event as well.

In His Service, Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney
Tom Carney and Sarita Hernandez

From the Church Office

FISK CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor

Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

Dr. Americo Motta, Minister of Music

Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com

Susan Carney, Director of Christian Education

SusanjCarney@gmail.com

Carolyn DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant

Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Church Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

Church email: Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Website: www.fiskumc.org

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

JUNE Messenger Deadline

Please submit information by

Friday, May 20, 9:00 a.m.

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 email address: CEDistrict@neumc.org



New England Conference

The United Methodist Church

Dear friends & members of NEAC and of Bishop
Sudarshana Devadhar:

Blessings in Christ's name!

We are preparing to celebrate Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar's retirement and honor his ministry and mission with the New England Conference these past 10 years on the evening of June 10 at our Annual Conference in Manchester, NH. We hope that you will join us for the festivities and help support a gift in his honor that reflects his steadfast care and concern for

our conference, especially in light of his having postponed his retirement twice already due to COVID-19.

Since Bishop Suda's arrival in 2012, he has raised awareness of the need for clergy support and therefore envisioned the creation of the "Pastors Respite Fund." As a gift to Bishop Devadhar upon his retirement, we invite everyone to prayerfully consider making a special donation to this fund.

This fund was formed to help with proper clergy compensation, housing, time off, medical needs, or crisis. Bishop Suda also encouraged congregations to allow their clergy to "take the time and steps necessary to care for themselves and their health," which he said, "would reduce their stress and benefit everyone."

United Methodist clergy in New England do not have short term disability benefits and are at the mercy and discretion of the local church to provide leave beyond their vacation for all health reasons, as well as continuing education, spiritual rebirth through renewal leave, pulpit supply and more.

Members of the Extended Cabinet got this fund started through pledges over a three-year period along with a \$25,000 matching donation from the United Methodist Foundation of New England. By their example and with their encouragement to others, the fund now totals more than \$79,000.

Donations to the "Pastors Respite Fund" will be a wonderful gift to honor Bishop Devadhar as he retires, while at the same time, carrying on his legacy of concern for the welfare of all clergy in our conference. Please complete and include [this form](#) with your gift payable to: UMFNE, Attn: Pastors Respite Fund, and mail it to:

UMFNE

[34 Route 111, Suite 102](#)

[Derry, NH 03038](#)

If you wish to donate online,
visit <https://www.umfne.org/pastors-respite-donation-form>.

Thank you for your generosity in making the Bishop's dream come to fruition!

Committee on Episcopacy
New England Annual Conference

YARD SALE

Saturday, May 7th

8:30 to 12 noon Rain or Shine

Fisk Church 106 Walnut Street Natick

**Bake Sale also!
Buy a treat for Mother's Day**

*Toys ~ bikes ~ kitchen items ~ all types of books ~ tools
games ~ puzzles ~ pots and pans ~ baskets ~ vases ~ small
furniture ~ holiday items ~ floral décor ~ 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 2nd. 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.