

The Messenger

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

May 2023

Pastor's Message

*"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."
(Proverbs 31:31)*

Traditionally in the month of May, we celebrate Mother's Day. It is also the month that we start to see May's flowers after April's rain showers. Hence, at this time I cannot stop thinking about all the showers of blessings and new life that come when we least expect them. As we celebrate what is happening or will be happening in our lives, families, churches, community and the world, do not forget to continue to celebrate the resurrection and the new life brought by Jesus Christ.

As we remember and celebrate new life, let us smell the bulbs, feel the sun, and see the flowers of new life popping up everywhere. But most of all let us recognize them for us to think, do, say and be different. And let us be hopeful, prayerful and thankful for all of our relationships; old, new and soon to be.

We, at Fisk United Methodist Church welcome and appreciate all persons. All persons are invited and each one is also encouraged to invite others as we pay attention to new life, and as we encounter God in new ways. However, as we encounter or re-encounter God, let us never forget that God is always present with us. We are alive and working with each other for God to be glorified in our lives, families, communities, churches, this nation, and the world.

With continuous work and through the Holy Spirit, we are grateful for the hands of all women as we give thanks. In addition, we want to congratulate all graduates and proclaim blessings for the gifts of birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings this month.

Finally, this month as we celebrate Mother's/Women's Day, we will welcome Bishop Peggy Johnson to Fisk UMC where God is always present.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY WITH HONOR & MEMORY!

+ 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 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.

May 7, 2023	Thom Townsend
Psalms 31: 1-5, 15-16	John 14:1-14
May 14, 2023	Crystal Mayo
Proverbs 31:10, 20, 25-30	John 14: 15-21
May 21, 2023	TBD
I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 28, 2023	TBD
Acts 2:1-16	John 7:37-39

“Read as you study, study as you live, and live well!” + Pastor Alecia

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!

Save the Dates:

Thursday, May 4, 2023 is National Day of Prayer. Let us continue to pray for ourselves, our families, our communities, our churches, this nation and the world. As we pray, let us also promote prayer as the master key that can open and close anything. Therefore, please join us this month and every month at Fisk UMC to worship, praise and pray. Most of all let us never forget to pray for the greatest healing that is to come because of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, May 14 is Mother's Day.

We will have our bishop Rev. Peggy Johnson in worship with us to do the preaching/teaching moment. Bishop Peggy A. Johnson is a native of Baltimore, Maryland and is a retired bishop of the United Methodist Church currently serving an interim assignment in the New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She served as the Episcopal leader of the Philadelphia Area which includes the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference and the Peninsula-Delaware

Annual Conference from 2008-2021. Prior to her service as a bishop, she pastored several churches in the Baltimore Washington Conference, including the historic Christ United Methodist Church of the Deaf and taught courses in Deaf and Disability ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Lebanon Valley College, a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. Bishop Johnson is the spouse of Rev. Mary C. Johnson, and the Johnsons have two adult sons and two grandsons.

****Thanks to our bishop with blessing on her family for allowing us this time and sharing her with us at Fisk UMC where God is always present.***

Mother's Day- May 14

Though named, Mother's Day, I affirm Women's Day because women play different roles in the lives of many; some, as mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters, cousins and nieces. May God richly bless each of them this day and always.

Pastor Alecia.

A Special Tribute:

On this Mother's Day, as we honor and remember all women in all places, we would like to honor, **Mother Susanna Wesley**, mother of John and Charles Wesley because she is known as the 'Mother of Methodism'.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE FOR ALL WOMEN:

*Christ has no body now, but yours
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks
compassion into the world.
Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.*

- **Teresa of Ávila**

Pastor's note: Go out this day to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to transform the world.

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD &
SOMETHING BORROWED

(Paying tribute to mothers on Mother's Day)

This year, on Mother's Day, May 14, 2023, we will have our new and interim bishop, Rev. Peggy Johnson and her spouse in worship with us. We say welcome with thanks for their presence.

*Bishop Johnson will deliver our Mother's Day message with blessing on all the faithful here at Fisk UMC where God is always present. Therefore, we will do something else. It is Pastor Alecia's request that each person writes one sentence tribute in honor or memory of their mother (yes, only one line) and sent to the office no later than **Sunday, May 7.** Then the surprise will follow.*

Thanks for your assistance and attention to details.

A WOMAN OF FAITH AND WORKS

**A faithful woman in Jesus Christ
She honors and praises God.
She claims her own authority by using her gifts.**

**She loves her church.
She submits her hands to work with numbers,
to purchase, pick up and plant flowers.**

**In her church she stands up and out as the faithful
and calm presence.
She perceives God. Her God is a God of LOVE.**

-Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman

Save the Date!

You're Invited to a



**on the lawn for
fellowship and**

**Special activities
Ice cream for**

**It's an All Church Barbecue
after Worship on Sunday,
June 4th! Wear your picnic
clothes, bring your outdoor
games, and plan to gather**



**lunch,
games.**

**for all! And
dessert!**

Trustees

Cemetery Lots Available

The Fisk Trustees would like you to know that we have been gifted a large cemetery lot (several adjacent burial spaces) in the Glenwood Cemetery in South Natick. We are working with the Glenwood Cemetery Association to understand how we might subdivide the 12 burial graves and make them available for purchase by our Fisk community at a discounted price. If you are interested in buying two or more of these burial sites, please contact Thom Townsend, David Cail, or Geoff Del Sesto for more information.

Education



**Women's
Bible Study**

Bible Studies for women

meet either every
Tuesday morning at 10:00
a.m. and finishes after

one hour of sharing and listening. Thursday Night at 7:00 p.m. another group of women meet for one hour. The women meet on ZOOM and you can contact me at susanjcarney@gmail.com to get an invite. The more the merrier.

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School Classes

Join us **9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. on Sunday Mornings in Room 2.**

This month we have been learning all about the Apostle Paul and the start of the early Church. We are so proud of all the children in class. The children have been excelling at finding verses in their Bibles and learning the books of the Bible! Great job! ☺

The last day of Sunday school before summer break will be June 4, 2023. We will then celebrate the great year with Fisk's Church wide BBQ during fellowship time on June 4, 2023. God bless each of you!

-Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney

Stewardship

Coming up Saturday, May 6!

How do we as Christians:

- create a legacy of faith, gratitude, and giving?
- structure our estate planning and wills to achieve our giving goals?
- plan with our children and loved ones for our final journeys?

Several professionals are coming to Fisk on Saturday morning May 6 for a workshop:

Gratitude, Legacy, and Stewardship

Three 1-hour interactive segments presented by the United Methodist Foundation of NE (UMFNE) and Fisk will include reflection, estate planning tools, a family attorney, clergy, and a funeral director, with time for questions.

Time: 8:45-12 noon; May 6; right here at Fisk
Coffee and light breakfast provided.

Come for fellowship! Get important information to lessen the burden for your family and let your request be heard as you leave behind a legacy of gratitude. See you there!

See the Flyer attached. More information, professional speaker bios, and PLEASE register online: <https://www.umfne.org/> and scroll down to the event.

United Women in Faith

Please join the **UWF on Tuesday May 2nd @ 4pm** rooms 8/9 for light appetizers and program. Our Topic -Gun Control & School Safety-with our speaker- Officer Beth Hefler from the Natick Police Dept, who also is the Safety Officer for Wilson Middle School.

The Hannah Circle will meet over the phone on May 9, 2023 at 11: 30 a.m. Dial: 1- (716) 427-1083 and enter the access code: 580274#

The Susanna Circle will meet Thursday, June 1st at 3 PM at Margaret Lowe's home for a "Coronation Tea". (We will not meet in the month of May.)

Spring YARD SALE

May 13th from 8:30-Noon

PLEASE START SAVING YOUR DONATIONS for us now as you do your spring cleaning. We will be accepting those donations the Tuesday-Friday preceding the sale, at the Red Doors.

Please let Terry Ames know if you can help with setting up tables, pricing, we need helpers.

And PINK BAG collection



New this year- in addition to donating yard sale items, we are ALSO asking you to fill a PINK BAG with fabric items (clothes, towels, blankets etc) that you are ready to throw out.

Think about the things that are too worn or soiled to go to Maine that you normally toss in the trash. In our effort to recycle and decrease what gets thrown away, Simple Recycling (the pink bag company the town of Natick uses) will pick up items left after the yard sale as well as our filled pink bags.

We will be paid for whats in the bags (per pound) – the money raised will go to UMEM in Maine.

Pollinator garden is in the works!



Keep your eyes on Gammons Park this spring. Members of UWF and others in the Fisk community are rejuvenating

Gammons Park with plants that pollinators (think bees, butterflies) are attracted to.

As we learned on Earth Day, successful pollination is required for more than 1/3 of our food supply. Climate change as well as insecticide/pesticide use is negatively impacting pollinators. Its important for all of us to create environments that support healthy bees, bugs and butterflies.

Providing more flowers for local pollinators to visit is our way of caring for God's creation at Fisk! Interested in helping with plant donation, watering or planting? Contact Debbie Friscino for more information.

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**.

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.

MISSIONS

"Love never fails." - 1 Corinthians 13:8

When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That's why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations (including the UMC) and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with a comfortable warm blanket for sleeping ...and many other uses depending on their situation and location.

When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a very long way.

This is an annual Mother's Day event, giving and honoring your mother, grandmother, auntie, mother-to-be or anyone who has been a mother-figure in your life. BLANKETS as a Mother's Day Gift is so meaningful.

We have cards for you to give—acknowledging that Blankets were donated in their name. See us at Fellowship Time May 7 and 14th. Also have cards for other organizations.



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

United Methodist Economic Ministry

Cleaning out your closets? Do you have clothes that you are ready to "pass along?" We have resumed our trips to UMEM in Salem Maine for the spring and summer. The clothes that they are requesting need to be clean, wearable and ready for a Thrift Shop. Thrifting is very popular and many people are looking to Thrift Shops for good, clean clothing. Maine has a list of Thrift Shops and often vacationers travel that route...just as they do for Antiques.

The primary purpose of this Thrift Shop is to make available clothing etc. for those families that must rely on UMEM to clothe their family. Fisk has been very generous over the years. The staff say THANK YOU again and again.



We do request that clothes be folded and put into paper grocery or shopping bags. This is easier to manage, transport and deliver.

They need all sizes and types of clothes. They also will take shoes (good condition), boots...especially children's sneakers, boots etc.

These may be left at the church in the bin outside the office or brought to the Hoyt's—call first to make sure we are around. They may be left on our porch...this may be easier for you and it is great for us.

Questions? Gary and Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077

MAPLE SYRUP is here again!



Quarts-just \$20.00

Pints- \$10.00

This supports the ministries of
Salem Maine, serving the under-
served of the Western Mountains of Maine.

Call the Hoyts 508-655-0077 or the church office

June Messenger Deadline:
Please submit information by
Friday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.

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

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.

Altar Guild



Altar Flowers: If you would like to order flowers in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, the sign-up 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

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

YARD SALE

Saturday, May 13

8:30 to 12 noon

Rain or Shine

Fisk Church 106 Walnut St. Natick



*Toys ~ bikes ~ kitchen items
all types of books ~ tools
games ~ puzzles ~ pots and
pans ~ baskets ~ vases ~ small
furniture ~ holiday items
floral décor ~ dishes
glassware ~ pocketbooks*

You might find something for a Mother's Day gift.

ALL PROCEEDS FOR LOCAL MISSIONS

Your donations may be left any morning beginning May 9th. 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 each day.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:15am Sunday School in-person 10:30am Worship: in-person at Fisk UMC and on zoom Fellowship Time after Service 1:00pm FAMILY PROMISE METROWEST WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS	1 7:00pm The A Cappella Singers Practice Choir Room 7:00pm Trustee meeting	2 10:00am Women's Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00pm United Women in Faith (UWF) Meeting in Rooms 8 & 9 Discussion: "Gun Violence"	3 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor	4 National Day of Prayer 7:00pm Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	5 Pastor's Sabbath 7:00pm The A Cappella Singers Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary	6 8:30am Stewardship Workshop with the United Methodist Foundation of New England 7:30pm The A Cappella Singers Concert
7 Communion Sunday 9:15am Sunday School in-person 10:30am Worship: in-person at Fisk UMC and on zoom Fellowship Time after Service 1:00pm Girl Scout Troop in Rooms 8 & 9	8 7:00pm FACE Board 7:30pm Finance Comm.	9 DROP OFF ITEMS FOR YARDSALE@ Red doors United Methodist Men 10:00am Women's Bible Study on ZOOM 11:30am Hannah Circle Phone meeting on prayer Line Dial: 1- (716) 427-1083 and enter the access code: 580274#	10 DROP OFF ITEMS FOR YARDSALE@ Red doors 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 10:30am HUB Meeting in Ogle Parlor 6:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor	11 DROP OFF ITEMS FOR YARDSALE@ Red doors 3:00pm Natick Food Pantry, Fisk volunteers Time to Help 7:00pm Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	12 DROP OFF ITEMS FOR YARDSALE@ Red doors Pastor's Sabbath	13 8:30am UWF SPRING YARD SALE!
14 Mother's Day 9:15am Sunday School in-person 10:30am Worship: Bishop Peggy A. Johnson to give sermon in-person at Fisk UMC and on zoom Fellowship Time after Service	15 7:00pm Administrative Board meeting	16 10:00am Women's Bible Study on ZOOM 7:00pm COM	17 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor	18 7:00pm Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	19 Messenger Deadline! 9:00 a.m. Pastor's Sabbath	20
21 9:15am Sunday School in-person 10:30am Worship: in-person at Fisk UMC and on zoom Fellowship Time after Service	22 4:30pm United Women in Faith (UWF) Exec. Board	23 10:00am Women's Bible Study on ZOOM 6:00pm SPRC	24 Senior Ctr. bus trip using Fisk UMC parking lot 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 6:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor	25 7:00pm Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27
28 9:15am Sunday School in-person 10:30am Worship: in-person at Fisk UMC and on zoom Fellowship Time after Service	29	30 10:00am Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	31 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 3:00pm Digi Explorer Coding Class in Rooms 8-9 6:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor	1 3:00pm Susanna Circle Meeting at Margaret Lowe's home for a "Coronation Tea" 7:00pm Women's Bible Study on ZOOM	2 Pastor's Sabbath	3

GRATITUDE, LEGACY & STEWARDSHIP

Tending to your personal & spiritual mission by exploring how your deepest values can be set in motion to make a tangible impact.

SATURDAY / MAY 6th

8:45am Welcome & Registration

9:00am - Noon

FISK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
106 Walnut Street / Natick MA 01760

The program contains three separate, one hour segments where we will explore:

- *Individual gratitude, personal & spiritual mission*
- *How your legacy can make an impact*
- *The benefits of advance funeral planning*

This special invitation has been widely extended to local UMC's and the surrounding community.

It is free and open to all.

Visit www.umfne.org for more information.

Please RSVP by MONDAY / MAY 1st
Roxie Pin
413.575.2196 / rpin@umfne.org

Presented in partnership by Fisk UMC & the United Methodist Foundation of New England