

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

November 2023

Pastor's Message

Happy November & a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Beloved Siblings in Christ, we have come this far by faith and there is always much to be thankful for and less to complain about. And are we not alive, living in abundance and sometimes not sharing the abundance? Well, this month of thanksgiving, I am giving God thanks for each of you and all of us as the community of Fisk UMC, where God is and will always be present.

As we give God the glory, continue to serve and reach out to others in our community and beyond, let us not sweat the small stuff of the human condition of life. Let us not complain about things that we cannot control. But rather focus on God, pray intentional prayers and surrender to the Holy Spirit to lead us in new ways. Hence for this month, let us also focus on giving thanks to God because giving thanks is an uplifting and spiritual practice. And let us never forget to reach out and connect with all our siblings at Fisk; active and inactive.

As we give thanks, remember that though the world is filled with chaos, conflicts and confusion, God promised never to leave us. God is always present during the good and not-so good times. All we have to do is to remain faithful in the God of all possibilities.

Thanks for sharing your families and all your gifts to promote, nurture and enhance God's ministry and mission in this faith communities and the world.

In view of this and as "Thanksgiving Day" approaches, I want you all to know that I am thankful to God for each of you.

I am joyful to be serving along-side each of you because I believe that our constant and connectional service will lead to an overflow of blessing for more lives to be touched. For this, let us be thankful and hopeful this Thanksgiving Season and all other seasons.

Until final victory is won, may the grace and peace of our God be with each of you and your families!

Happy Stewardship with Thanksgiving!



+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**

Worship

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual Growth

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following. In addition, may you be strengthened and inspired to continue to go out and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

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

	<u>Liturgist</u>
November 5, 2023 Revelation 7:9-17	- Crystal Mayo Matthew 5:1-2
November 12, 2023 Romans 13:8-14	- Sherry Culver Mark 12: 41-44
November 19, 2023 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	- TBD Matthew 25:14-30
November 26, 2023 Psalms 100	- Terry Ames Matthew 25:31-46

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

November: Stewardship and Thanksgiving Season

-November 1, All Saints Day

- Sunday, November 5, 10:30 Worship Service:
Guest preacher is: Rev. Anthony Phillips (Pastor Tony), Bethany United Methodist Church, Smyrna, GA.

Pastor Tony is the son of Dr. Dorothy Phillips and brother of Crystal Mayo. Plan to stay for fellowship to catch up with him and give thanks for his travels to be with his Fisk family.

-Tuesday, November 7th – 4:00 p.m. United Women in Faith Unit meeting: World Thanks Offering. Barbara Beekman will lead the program.

November 18, Fisk Fall Fair! 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

- Nov. 19, Consecration Sunday - Celebration

-November 23, Thanksgiving Day

-November 26, Christ the King Sunday

December Advent and Christmas

Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. is our United Methodist HUB Christmas Celebration at Fisk UMC

Sunday, December 3 is the first Advent Sunday in December

Advent Book Study will be every Wednesday from 7-8 pm on ZOOM (starting Nov. 29, Dec. 6th, 13th and 20th.) Book: All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas by Prof. Lacey C. Warner (Books are available in the Church Office for a \$10.00 donation.)

Saturday, December 9th United Women in Faith morning holiday meeting, details to follow

Friday, December 15 6:00pm –8:00pm All Church Event! Advent Holiday Party Fun and Games for ALL at Fisk!

SAVE the DATE
December 15th Friday 6-8pm
Holiday Party
Fun and Games
Watch for details
Clues: p____, f__ p____,
p____, t____,
c____,
v____s____



Sunday, December 24 is Christmas Eve at Fisk UMC- time TBD.

Stewardship

Stewardship Update- November Save the Dates!

Nov. 19- Celebration Luncheon after service:

Fellowship and pasta lunch to celebrate our annual stewardship pledge campaign.

Nov. 5- Guest Stewardship Message:

Rev. Anthony Phillips



Hear his energetic perspectives on stewardship and giving.

Plan to stay for fellowship to catch up with Anthony and give thanks for his travels to be with his Fisk family.

Our annual stewardship campaign of reflection and commitment begins on November 5. Keep an eye on your mailbox.

The ministries of Fisk exist due to OUR support. Our collective giving is 12% behind our pledge commitments at September. Please review the **Statements of Giving** you all received in the mail, and consider catching up, or giving a bit extra. You can mail in your support check confidentially to the office, marked "Financial Secretary", or utilize the easy electronic giving option on the Fisk website. Contact Crystal with any questions.

"Good will come to him/her who is generous and lends freely..." – Psalm 112:5

Sunday School

Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2

Each Sunday that we have one or more in this age range, we will have a 20 minute class after the Children's Sermon, during Church. After the class, the students can go to the nursery for play and learn the lesson that they are covering in nursery class. We acknowledge that Christian fellowship is very important.

Grades 3 and up have Sunday School before Church, from 9:30 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. All take place in Room 2 and of course, the nursery. If you can help out even once a year— please let Susan Carney or Carolyn DiSciullo know. You will be ministered to by our youngest.



Financial Update:

Financial Update:

We are behind, and we need your help:

- Our pledge giving remains 12% below planned commitments, which is more severe than last year.
- We are carefully managing our spending, currently 8% less than budget, currently saving \$14,000 year to date, but required spending must still be funded, including Mission Shares,
- Our deficit as of September is higher than our Planned Annual Deficit.

The successes of our ministries are funded almost entirely by our stewardship support. Those many ministries touch so many people in so many ways... in our congregation, our community, and our world.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' – Matthew 25:40

United Women in Faith

RESPONDING to GOD'S CALLING



United
Women
in Faith



On Sunday, October 1, we were fortunate to share a meal with both deaconess Tracy Tarver and missionary Belinda Forbes.

In listening to them speak about their response to God's call, we were reminded that each of us can make a difference in the lives of our family, community and the world. Tracy, in working with incarcerated and troubled youth in Massachusetts and Connecticut, learned the importance of listening to people and letting them know that you see and value them.

She encouraged us by sharing stories of people who have made a difference.

If a group of Jewish women can go into a school for troubled youth and teach them to knit and a woman in Hartford can get instruments and start an after-school band program, just think of what WE can do.

- Now here is a little trivia for you: Did you know New England Deaconess hospital was started by Methodist deaconesses in Boston?

- Or that deaconesses lived in communities, wore dresses similar to a nun's habit and were not allowed to marry until the 1950s?

Thanks!

Once again, you supported the fall yard sale through your donations, purchases and help "lugging stuff" in and out. The sale generated over \$1,000 which will go to mission programs. And, WE FILLED THE TRUCK from Simple recycling with pink bags and other unclaimed treasures. We expect to receive an additional several hundred dollars from that AND it markedly decreased items going into landfills or incinerators.

Save the dates:

Tuesday, November 7th- Unit meeting: World Thanks Offering. Light snacks from 4p-4:30. Barbara Beekman will lead the program starting at 4:30.

Saturday, November 18th – Fisk Fall Fair! 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9th- A morning holiday meeting. Details TBD.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Sherry Culver, the newly elected President of the United Women in Faith, New England Conference UMC. We are PROUD of her and are praying for her as the Holy Spirit leads her in this much needed work.

Thanks to her husband, Geoffrey and son, Tyler for sharing her with us.



**President-Elect 2024 - American Chemical Society
Dr. Dorothy J. Phillips, retired, director of strategic marketing, Waters, Milford, Massachusetts.**

***Congratulations to our Lay-Leader at Fisk UMC- Dr. Phillips also serves on our New England Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of our United Methodist Foundation.**

We are PROUD of you and what God continues to do in your life. Be blessed, feel blessed and continue to serve with integrity. May God richly bless you and your family!

NOTE from BELINDA,

*Dr. Belinda Forbes is one of our Missionaries.
She serves in Nicaragua.*

Hello Pastor Alecia, Marcia and all my Friends in Mission at Fisk Memorial UMC,

This is a hearty **MUCHAS GRACIAS** for such a wonderful visit on Sunday Oct 1 for World Communion Sunday!

Thank you for making me feel so welcome and it was my delight to share the story of AMOS Health and Hope and meet so many great people who are interested in and committed to mission and missionaries. The lunch with Deaconess Tracy Tarver was an added blessing!

Here is some follow-up information if it is helpful about:

- Giving to the Advance
- The Covenant Relationship form
- Signing up for my newsletters
- An invitation to support AMOS Projects and Programs with extra mile giving.

Thank you for navigating this important and transparent giving channel and for your ongoing support that keeps me sustained in my placement of service in Nicaragua. Remember that including my Advance number #12109Z is fundamental to ensure that the gift is designated to my support.

Global Ministries encourages churches that are supporting a missionary, also known as Covenant Churches, to periodically fill out a **Covenant Relationship form** using the attached form. Thank you for filling this out as soon as possible and please note that the address of where to send the form is different from where the financial gift to my Advance goes.

For members who would like to receive my newsletter to their email, please notify Marcia or Pastor Alecia.

In addition to a financial gift to my missionary Advance 12109Z,

I am attaching **three proposals for projects that AMOS Health and Hope** for which AMOS is hoping to raise support and implement next year:

- Community Clinic Roof Repair
- Dental Health Pilot Project
- Home Water Filters

Global Ministries asks that supporting or covenant churches first fulfil their pledge to my missionary Advance #12109Z, but if you have plans for any extra mile giving either end-of-year or into the future an invitation is extended to consider the worthy projects and programs of AMOS Health and Hope. You will see in the proposals that AMOS has its own donation channel (not UMC) that I can assure you is transparent and efficient, and 100% of your gift will go to AMOS's work. Please tag the gift with the name of the proposal and not my name.

Thank you again for a wonderful visit and every blessing from God as we approach the Advent Season.

Dr. Belinda Forbes
United Methodist Missionary
General Board of Global Ministries
Advance #12109Z

NOTE from the Missions Committee-

You may contribute to Belinda's ministry ANYTIME during the year. Just add her name or Advance # to your check. #12109Z



OFF to Maine—

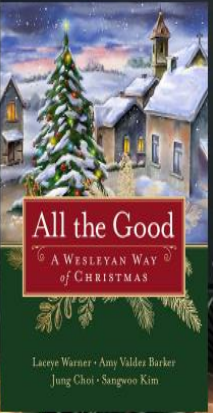
The last trip for bringing clothes to Maine is probably November 20. At that time, we will bring the remainder of the Christmas toys and gifts.

On the last trip we returned with a new supply of **Maine Maple Syrup...For Sale at the Fair-November 18**. Thanks, from Janis Cail, Janis Townsend, Mary Greenwood and Marcia Hoyt.

ADVENT book study

Wednesday | November 29th
nights | December 6th, 13th, and
7:00 PM | 20th

Zoom link:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726377212?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726377212?pwd=cDJad2hBT3dpcVNDbjJnWXJOSGJudz09)
[pwd=cDJad2hBT3dpcVNDbjJnWXJOSGJudz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726377212?pwd=cDJad2hBT3dpcVNDbjJnWXJOSGJudz09)



Each week led by a
pastor from our UM
Community:

COMMUNITY UMC, WAYLAND
FISK MEMORIAL UMC, NATICK
NEWTONVILLE UMC, NEWTON
WESTON UMC, WESTON

We have the Advent Study books available in the Church Office for a donation of \$10.00.

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

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.

November Celebrations Happy Birthday!

Susan Carney	11/2	Lenore Schreier	11/21
Robby Rowe	11/2	Robert Cadigan	11/22
Winnie Sinclair	11/5	William Garrant	11/22
Michelle Drolet	11/6	Cheryl Gates	11/23
Elizabeth Forte	11/9	Dwayne Billingsley	11/26
George Freeman	11/9	Doris Cadigan	11/27
DJ Stanley	11/9	Keith Garrant	11/29
Dwayne Stanley	11/9	Ethel Longworth	11/29
Kenneth Robertson	11/12	Tiffany Stanley	11/29
Beth Dininio	11/17	Alton Webb	11/29
Michael Bruns	11/18	Carole Becker	11/30
Rachel Johnston	11/19		

2023 Christmas Poinsettia Order



Please PRINT legibly

Name: _____

Phone: _____

of Plants _____

☐ Red

☐ White

My plant honors: _____

My plant is in memory of: _____

Please take your plant home on Christmas Eve 12/24.

Orders with payment must be in by November 30. You can mail or leave your order form in the Church Office door basket.

Please make checks payable to Fisk Memorial UMC & note Altar Guild or Poinsettia 2023 on the memo line.

Red and White 6" Poinsettias are \$25.00 each.

=====

Altar Guild - Total Amount Received: \$ _____

☐ Check

☐ Cash

Fisk Fall Fair

November 18-Saturday

9:00am – 2:00pm

Fisk United Methodist Church
106 Walnut St. Natick



Luncheon including Lobster Rolls, homemade soups

Holiday items and Ornaments

Bake Table ~~ Craft Table (including knit goods)

Homemade Pies for your Thanksgiving Dinner

Free Popcorn ~~ Maple Syrup ~~ Pickles

Silent Auction—many Gifts and Gift Certificates

Good-as-New Table

A few special antiques/collectibles.

AND---Outside Vendors !

Vendors welcome to call the church 508-653-1674



Profits distributed to local mission partners.

We need your donations to our:

Jewelry Table, Good as New Table,
Our Christmas collectibles table/ New or Unique,
Christmas items, and to our Bake Table!
We need breads, cookies, fudge, pies, etc.

**Thank you all for your help
with making this fundraiser a success!**