

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
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www.fiskumc.org

November 2024

Pastor's Message

The other day as I took a short walk down the street, I begin to wonder why God has blessed humanity in so many ways. As I thought of all the goodness and all that God does for us, I remained silent in the light wind and cool sunshine. Then, I became more amazed of how many persons, places and things that I needed to be thankful for.

So, with humble adoration to God who loves all of creation, I pause for a moment. In the midst of that moment and all that is going on in the world, it occurred to me that this month, November is the month that we set aside to give thanks. And though we do, this is not the only month or time to give thanks for all God has done and is doing in creation.

Some persons may agree and others might not. But for real Christians, we give thanks every second, minute, hour, day, week, month and year of our lives. But November is a time to highlight, restart and get ready for full participation in our covenantal giving. It is also a time of great anticipation to give because it was God who first gave us. And though we can never match God's giving, we can add, '*Thank You*' as we share our gifts of tithes, talent and time. As we do, we can live believing that each person has been, is and will continue to be blessed in so many ways other than at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Therefore, let us continue to be amazed as we take a good look at ourselves and as we look around us. Let us reflect on our lives, all that we have, and what have been given to us individually and as a community; unmerited and undeserved. When we can honestly do these things, we will be awakened to a new experience of, '*Giving thanks*' not just on Thanksgiving Day but as long as we live. And with grateful hearts we can be challenged to give more.

"When we give our words, we give a little. But when we give gifts of time, talent and tithes, it is then that we truly give"



+ 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 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 Spiritual Growth & Reflection- November 2024

For continuous spiritual growth; read and reflect on the following scripture passages:

	<u>Liturgist</u>
November 3, 2024 Psalm 24	- Crystal Mayo Mark 12: 38-44
November 10, 2024 Psalm 127	- Amy Ciccarelli DeSouza Matthew 6: 19-34
November 17, 2024 Hebrews 10: 11-25	- Mark 13: 1-8
November 24, 2024 Revelation 1: 4-8	- John 18: 33-37

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

Save the Dates!

Wednesday, Nov. 2 - The Installation Service for our Bishop Bickerton is at Sudbury UMC at 1:00PM

Sunday, November 17 - Consecration Sunday Luncheon. We celebrate our "Covenant Giving" with a spirit-filled worship service and a catered luncheon.

Saturday, November 23- Commonwealth East District Day at Carter Memorial UMC, 800 Highland Ave., Needham Heights, MA
10 am to 12 noon- clergy gathering
12 noon to 1 pm-lunch with clergy and laity
All persons are welcome.

November 24 is one of our special Sundays (Student Day). On each of our special Sunday, individuals and congregations are encouraged to share in connection as we support the work of our denomination with a special offering. (Envelopes will be provided.) Thank You!

Advent Bible Study -Coming soon in December! (Dates and times to be announced.)

Advent Bible Study Book: Christmas- The Good, the Bad & The Ugly - by Richard B. Wilke

2024 Annual Fisk Church Conference

The 2024 Annual Fisk Church Conference will be on Thursday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Rev. Leigh Goodrich will preside over the conference.

Annual Reports are due by Thursday, November 7.

Fisk leaders, please submit reports via the web portal at <https://www.neumc.org/welcome-portal> or if your report is not found on the web portal, please email Carolyn at FiskOffice@fiskumc.org

SPRC

Every day, put on your armor of God to take on whatever comes your way. Protect your mind with the **helmet of salvation**, guard your heart with the **breastplate of righteousness**, and keep yourself grounded with the **belt of truth**. Step out with **shoes of peace**, hold up the **shield of faith** to block anything thrown at you, and use the **sword of the Spirit**—God's Word—as your weapon.

"We are Fisk UMC."



Stewardship

Stewardship... what does it mean to our church? More importantly, what does it mean to you? In the next three weeks, we will explore those questions, as we listen to wise words, reflect, pray, and decide how we will use our own resources to renew our commitment to our God with a pledge to our God and church for 2025.

This past Sunday, October 27, we heard fresh perspectives on Stewardship and service from our guest speaker, Rev. Garvin Warden, a retired UMC Elder. This Sunday, November 3, our own Pastor Alecia will preach on "In God We Trust." In view of these messages a reflective stewardship letter with a Covenant of Giving card will be mailed. Then on November 17, we will prayerfully consecrate our Pledges, and celebrate after worship with a hot luncheon.

Our fellowship at Fisk is solely dependent upon our time and our giving. Together, we support the many, many ministries of our church. Each one of us cannot do everything that our church does, but together our support multiplies and enables so much more. We depend upon each other. As good stewards of God's blessings, we care for resources, and we give back generously. Look for your stewardship letter and Covenant Card in the mail.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

--2 Corinthians 9: 6

United Methodist Men

United Methodist Men's Dinner!
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.
Agostino's Restaurant Natick



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.

United Women in Faith



All women are invited to join us next **Tuesday, November 5th** for our annual "World Thank Offering" meeting. We will start with a pot-luck dinner at 6p followed by our program. We look forward to seeing you there.

Susanna Circle Meeting – Save the date!

Thursday, Nov. 14 at noon in the church kitchen, to make pies for the UWF fall fair.

SAVE THE DATE:

Fall Fair coming November 16th!



Fall Fair

We are now weeks away from our FALL FAIR at FISK on Nov 16th

How can you help?

- We need donations for our Silent Auction Table-see Sherry Culver
- We need donations for our Baked Goods Table
- We need donations for our Good as New Table
- We need helpers to man our tables, Jewelry, Baked Goods, Fisk Tables (can you cover? Even for an hour or 2? To rotate helpers out to eat and shop?)
- We need helpers for our Luncheon-see Janis Cail

Please let Terry Ames know, or anyone in our Womens Group, if you can help

*** Good as New Table,* Jewelry Table, we need these donations dropped off at the church in room 2 in the first few weeks of November-please**

*** Donations for the Auction—please give to Sherry Culver or Terry Ames, or drop off at the office to Carolyn (do not leave in room 2)**

Baked Goods- we would love donations the night before between 5:30-6:30 or early morning the day of the fair

We are grateful for your involvement

United Women in Faith

Did you know....

PFA's are in some household items like Band-aids? Or dental floss?

Learn more about these “forever chemicals” and their risks at our table at

The United Women in Faith’s FALL FAIR on Saturday, November 16, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pick up some free samples of “PFA-free” items to consider using.

While the water we use from public water supplies is filtered to remove these harmful chemicals, they are pervasive throughout the environment. Just as plastic was viewed as a modern wonder when it was first introduced, PFAs were welcomed in the 1940s as a way to provide stain resistance, water repellency, non-stick pans and grease resistant food packaging. Unfortunately, they’ve now been linked to increased risks of elevated cholesterol, kidney, prostate and testicular cancer, asthma, thyroid disease, liver damage and obesity. And their use likely results in increased risks for pregnancies and young children. And, unlike many other products, these chemicals do not break down when discarded, hence the term “forever” chemicals. Rather they accumulate in the air, land and water around us.

We, as United women in Faith, are working to decrease the chemicals we introduce into the environment by encouraging the use of PFA—free products. Please join us in that effort.

7 Women from Fisk attended the UWF Annual Meeting focused on Gun Violence in our Communities.

Did you know...

- 121 people in America are killed with a gun every day
- our homicide rate is 26 times higher than any other developed country
- 3 million American children are directly exposed to gun violence each year
- it is the leading cause of death in children and teens
- in 2020, 740 women were fatally shot by their intimate partner
- the US averages 1 mass shooting (4 or more people injured excluding the shooter) every day

What can we do?

MISSIONS and OUTREACH

From the youngest...
To those who are hungry...

To those who served our country!

During **October** we have been collecting Disposable Diapers/Wipes for A Place to Turn. These are used to help families with young children and babies have clean and dry diapers. What a gift! Thank you! Imagine have a wet baby and no clean diapers—a dilemma that most of us did not have to experience.

In addition, you contributed \$400.00 to UMCOR for Hurricane Relief. AND Heather Oluwole brought another option to us to support her friend driving to SC with relief items for the people effected by the Hurricanes. We are *caring people!*

November is traditionally a time of Harvest and Abundance of food. However, we know that some of us have neighbors who are struggling to have enough. We will stock the Natick Food Pantry with a few specific items.

Suggested items: cereal, crackers, soups and juices (all sizes) Bring a bag each week in November and place them on the bin across from the office.

Looking ahead to **December!** All the toys and gifts for the United Methodist Economic Ministry will be delivered to their Christmas Shoppe. And WHITE SOCKS for HOMELESS VETERANS is happening again.

Help us serve and follow the words in 1 Corinthians 16:24—Declare his marvelous deeds among all the people.

Following worship on December 8th we will be “stuffing the long white socks” with lots of goodies and necessities for delivery to the Homeless Veterans of Boston. This is always a special time for our children, families and individuals to fill a few “stockings” and tie it off for a Holiday Gift of Appreciation. We like the long, knee length stockings and lots of personal care items, gloves, hats, candy,



deck of cards, small games etc. More information in the next Newsletter.

Few words from one of our Missionaries:



Dr. Belinda Forbes in Nicaragua- Belinda serves at AMOS Health and Hope Medical Facility in Nicaragua. Belinda is a dentist and also an organizer and leader for this nonprofit organization working with the underserved people of Nicaragua. In recent weeks there were several special moments: Baby layettes were provided to new or expecting mothers, water filters were installed so many families can drink clean water, dental x-rays were available with new clinic equipment...all serving families with LOVE and HOPE.

Missions Committee- Marcia Hoyt, Mary Greenwood, Janis Cail and Janis Townsend.

- Guard.

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: Wednesdays 6:00-6:30 p.m.**

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

Remember that no one walks alone. At Fisk UMC, we are willing and ready to travel the journey with you.

Sunday School



Children's Sunday School Classes

Join us Sundays 9:30 a.m.-10:15

a.m. Grades 1-7. Bring your child for

some time with the Lord and give

them the gift of Christian Community. – Susan Carney

Women's Bible Study on ZOOM

Women's Bible Study on ZOOM: Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Please let me know if you are interested and I will send you information. God bless you all. We serve an awesome God and His word lights our path. -Susan Carney

susanjcarney@gmail.com

Coffee Hour/ Fellowship Time Schedule

If you would like to **host coffee hour**, there is a sign-up sheet located in the back of the Sanctuary or you can email the Office. Thank you!

The December Messenger Deadline

December Messenger Deadline:

Please submit information by

Friday, November 22, 9:00 a.m.

UMC Commonwealth East District News

Bishop Bickerton's installation Service

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, as the New England Conference gathers for a worship service to install Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton as our episcopal leader. The service will be held at **1 pm at Sudbury UMC, 251 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury, MA.** A reception will follow. We are encouraging clergy and laity to attend in person, both to welcome the Bickertons and connect with God and one another as we begin this new chapter of shared ministry. We hope to see you there!

New District information: District 6-Hub #5 Commonwealth East and Commonwealth West District Offices have combined and there is a new email address: ce-cwoffice@neumc.org (NEW Email address!)

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

(978) 682-7676 ext. 270 Email : CEDistrict@neumc.org

Special Fellowship Time Invite



WINNIE IS TURNING 99!

Please join us for a very special celebration on Sunday, November 3rd.

The Sinclair family invites you for lunch and cake at fellowship time following

**church. Please RSVP with a text or call to
Lynette at 617-610-1099**
