

# The Messenger

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

[www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

## October 2021

### Pastoral Note

Recently, I restarted the monthly worship service at Whitney Place in Natick. Though they were closed for over eighteen months, I felt blessed to be there with those who came to worship. It was a blessing to see residents and enjoy the experience together. Most of all, to hear that those who worship were still connected to each other, and remembered that God was still present as Pastor Alecia was praying for them.

When I was leaving, I sat in my car for a while to reflect on this re-entry experience and what I had heard. As I did, I realized that our United Methodist's theological tradition of evangelism is not simply a ministry for a few. Everyone, who is a child of God, has the responsibility to reach out and minister to others. That is, anyone who believes in God's Grace, is willing to follow Jesus Christ and live by spreading social holiness. And though I was not present with them, the past year, they took the responsibility that they are sent to spread the good news. Older and frail, they also believe that our God is a "Sending God" and they, in turn, are a part of the people sent out.

In our United Methodist theological tradition, God sends all people as evangelists. But that alone is not enough because a lifelong process of nurture and persistence is also a necessity. The task belongs to the whole people of God in and out of the church. In view of this, it is my prayer that each of us at Fisk UMC continue to understand that God calls each person to some form of ministry. Therefore, we are counting on each one to be a part of some ministry and/or mission.

Yes! We need your tithe, talent, and time. We need your prayers, presence, and participation. But we also need you to share God's grace. Grace that is undeserved, unmerited, and FREE. With this available for everyone, I pray that we continue to believe that everyone can be reached.

As we continue to reach out, know that grace works to restore and/or establish a person's relationship with God even when we are not present. Those sisters and brothers in Christ at Whitney Place are still reaching out to others even as they are getting older and frail. How about us?

+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

### For Personal Reflection & Spiritual Growth

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures that have been selected for our worship this month.

**October 3** Psalm 26 Mark 10:2-16

**October 10** Psalm 22:1-15 Mark 10:17-31

**October 17** James 3:13-4:3, 7-8 Mark 10:35-45  
Psalter: Psalm 23 – Response #1 (UMH 754)

**October 24** Job 42: 1-6, 10-17 Mark 10:46-52

**October 31** Psalm 146: 1-10 Mark 12: 28-34

**"Read as you study, study as you live, and live well!"**

- Pastor Alecia

### Worship

Fisk UMC worship services are in-person as well as on ZOOM. Masks are required and it is suggested that you keep distance between families. Our services start at 10:30 a.m.



**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**

**+1 301 715 8592 US**

Meeting ID: **936 6690 6008**

If those links fail to get you into Fisk Service, visit

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) click "Join Meeting" on top right

Type in **936 6690 6008** in the "Meeting ID or Personal Link Name" box. Click Join.

**Worship Services Hosted By**  
**Fisk United Methodist Church**



On **Sunday, August 29, at 3:30 p.m.**, we hosted The Natick Interfaith Clergy Association, on our front lawn, for a Covid-19 Service of Remembrance. The service, "Bringing the Pandemic to Prayer" was in memory of, and for continuous prayers for those still struggling with, and the after effect of Covid-19. During the worship service, stones were laid in memory of a loss and paper butterflies embedded with seed to plant were distributed as a sign of hope. Thanks to all clergy and laypersons who attended, participated, and were blessed as we walk this journey in the midst of uncertainty.

**Monthly Worship Service at Whitney Place**

On **Wednesday, September 1, at 1:30 p.m.**, we returned to in-person's worship at Whitney Place in Natick. This was a monthly worship service that was put on hold by this assisted living facility to keep the residents safe. The re-start of this service was renewing as residents shared their joy and celebrated our reunion.

**Note:** Thanks to you, Fisk family, for your gifts that make your pastor present with others.

**Debi Henry's Celebration of Life and Legacy**  
**Memorial Service**

The celebration of life and legacy in memory of Debi L. Henry was held on Saturday, September 25th, at 11:00 a.m. at Cedar Gardens, Natick, MA where she resided.

She passed on to glory on March 24, 2021 and a

memorial bench was placed in the park at Cedar Garden with thanksgiving for her life. The event was hosted by Cedar Garden Tenant Organization and was well attended by her Fisk family who led the service. Thanks to each of you for your presence and gifts of remembrance.

May she rest in eternal peace as her family is comforted.



*Pastor Alecia, taking the first rest on Debi Henry's Memorial bench.*

*Save the Dates!*

**October 3** World Communion Sunday

**October 10** Pastor Appreciation Day!

**October 10** Paul DiSciullo's Baptism- The son of Mike & Carolyn and brother of Mikey, will be baptized on Sunday, October 10, during our morning worship Service. Please keep the family in your prayers and join in the celebration as you are able.

**October 11** Indigenous Peoples Day

**October 12** 7:00 PM United Methodist Men's Meeting at Shanghai Tokyo, Natick.

**October 16** Fisk UMW Yard Sale! 8:30 a.m.-Noon

**October 17** is "Laity Sunday" Reflection in worship will be by: Susan Carney, Director of Christian Education.

**October 23** NEC UMW Conference Meeting on Zoom

**November 11**, Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom SPRC Meeting with District Superintendent: Rev. We Hyun Chang.

Church Conference with a District Elder on a date and time TBD.

## Indigenous Peoples Day

Our New England Annual Conference (NEAC) Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) would like to draw your attention to the upcoming celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day on **Oct. 11, 2021**. At the New England Annual Conference session in June 2021, a resolution was passed titled Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. This is to encourage local churches, the NEAC, and District offices to use the term Indigenous Peoples Day in lieu of Columbus Day in their communications, worship services, and event planning.

Thank you for your compassion.

*Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) offered this prayer. Written by Dianne Climenhage:*

**Creator God,**

**We look at your world and praise you for the diversity all around us.**

**Thank you for the gift of relationships; our connection with people, animals, and the land.**

**Help us, Lord, to see differences and diversity as strengths.**

**Help us to listen and understand; to meet one another with wonder and anticipation.**

**Help us to love as you love, without expectation.**

**Reveal to us your way of reconciliation and guide on us into right relationships with all living things.**

**Lead us to understand how Indigenous peoples have been and continue to be profoundly harmed by settler people and institutions.**

**Lead us to repent when we as settlers deny Indigenous peoples respect, dignity, and fullness of life.**

**Help us to listen compassionately, to speak humbly, and to act justly.**

**Help us to seek the peace, justice and reconciliation you desire among all your children.**

**Thank you for your mercy and grace.**

**Amen**

## **STEWARDSHIP: 2021-2022**

At Fisk UMC we are God's beloved and there are many benefits of being a part of our Fisk family. Our ministries and mission work reach out and touch lives that remain present to transform the world. Hence, directly and indirectly we are God's presence in our local church and beyond. To do all that we do, is through the minds, hearts, hands and the movements of feet of all our siblings at Fisk UMC.

We have been blessed and continue to be blessed by your gifts of tithe, time, and talent. For these, each year we honor the ways in which we give back to God through our ministry and mission work. We are thankful for all God has

done and continues to do for us. That is why we believe. "There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place" (UMH 334).

### ***The Presence of God at Fisk UMC***

Starting this month, October 31st, will be a highlight of our annual stewardship to celebrate our on-going gifts. More details are coming soon. But we can be praying about and rethinking all our gifts to enhance God's ministries and mission by making a covenant pledge. Can we start praying now? **YES!** I know we can. As we pray, let us think about all the goodness that has happened over the years. Especially this past year with more intention about giving as we take a leap of faith and sing, "And are we yet alive: (UMH 553)

***Thank you as God richly blesses you!***

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### **The Essence of the late John Bybee**

#### **Recent organist of Fisk UMC**

"John touched all our hearts with his music. He was an extremely talented organist and gave his life to God through that venue.

He was an upstanding man of God and his thoughts and actions were governed by the quote, 'It is the right thing to do!' ". **Joanne Billo**, Choir member

"John was such a gentle, humble man. He loved music and being with his church choir. His music showed his love for God and Jesus. May he now be resting in peace. " **Lois Potter**, Choir member.

"John changed and truly developed the position of organist / choir director at Fisk.

He was our first Minister of Music. He showed us that we were not merely putting on a performance for the congregation. Our job was to help the congregation move forward in their faith journeys. He will be missed. " **Jen Garrant**, Choir member.

"I have only good thoughts about John. He was so talented. I miss him every day.

He was a wonderful musician. We were fortunate to have him for the length of time that we did. " **Patricia Whitaker**, Choir member and former Fisk organist.

"I was very impressed with his willingness to help me have a good start with church. He spent many hours with me graciously and patiently sharing both his knowledge as an excellent and experienced musician as well as his love for music ministry and Jesus. I felt I have met a good man and, above all a good Christian. "

**Dr. Americo Motta**, present Minister of Music.

May John continue to play the organ for angels, and rest in peace with all the faithful departed!

# YARD SALE



Saturday  
October 16

8:30 to 12 noon    Outdoors

(unless rainy-we will move inside)

Masks/social distancing suggested

**Fisk Church   106 Walnut Street   Natick**

*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!*

**ALL PROCEEDS FOR LOCAL MISSIONS**

Your donations may be left any morning beginning Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. 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. Questions? Call the office or Janis Cail.



### Helping our NATICK Neighbors

**#1 OPPORTUNITY**-The Natick Food Pantry is open again to serve those facing food insecurity. This is one of the traditional ways Fisk serves our community. For many years we have staffed the Pantry on the second Tuesday of each month. This year the hours have changed from evening to late afternoon—3:00 to 6:00pm.

The residents have appointments to come and shop for their family. We just guide them through the process and help bag their groceries. Would you like to help? Speak to Gary or Marcia Hoyt (508-655-0077)

We would like to add you to the rotating schedule of Fisk volunteers. We work in pairs and there is a staff person present also.

**#2 OPPORTUNITY**-something NEW! The Food Pantry runs a Farmer's Market to provide fresh produce, eggs, and milk. They are looking for an Assistant.

- Volunteers will assist with setting up and distribution
- Weekly commitment on Monday from 10:30-2:00
- Must be able to stand for long periods of time and lift 40-50 pounds

Contact Kelsey at

[khampton@natickservicecouncil.org](mailto:khampton@natickservicecouncil.org)

### From Afghanistan to the United States

What can we do? How to help!

The United Methodist Foundation of New England and New England **Justice for Our Neighbors** (NE JFON) have established a matching fund to help support our new Afghan neighbors in New England. In the wake of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan tens of thousands of families were evacuated. They are men, women, and children whose lives were endangered by the new regime; many had assisted U.S. military.

Among the first evacuees and refugees here in New England will be 150-200 persons to be settled in Lowell, MA, with additional arrivals anticipated in Boston and Manchester, NH. Most of these people will arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

The International Institute of New England (IINE) has long been used by the U.S. State Department as a primary nonprofit for the resettlement of refugees in New England and has experienced staff to assist these new arrivals. IINE **relies on donors to provide financial assistance.**



Churches and individuals are invited to support the Afghan Fund by sending checks to the address below, transferring funds to the Foundation or donating online at [www.umfne.org](http://www.umfne.org) or **through Fisk. Memo-Afghan**

Methodists across New England.  
United Methodist Foundation of New England  
34 Route 111, Suite 102  
Derry, NH 03038  
Attn: AFGHAN NEIGHBOR FUND

**All gifts received at the Foundation by Oct. 5 will be matched up to a total of \$20,000.**





The Mission Committee says “thank you” for your generosity in purchasing and delivering the NEW Christmas Gifts for the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Maine. This Methodist mission site sets up a Christmas Shop for their clients to come and shop for their families for the holidays. Their goal is that each person gets a package of new socks, new underwear, and a couple of toys, books, games, and maybe a special outfit.

Fisk has always been so responsive to this endeavor. THANK YOU for your caring and giving. Some of you gave Gift Cards...they are especially helpful for these families to buy groceries or order online.

We will be delivering these items to Maine on October 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have not contributed, and want to—just leave your items at Fisk in the Hallway marked for Maine. (Gift cards should be left in the office)

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

### *United Methodist Men*

United Methodist Men will be meeting **Tuesday, October 12,** 7:00 PM, at Shanghai Tokyo, 54 E Central Street, in Natick.



### *Christian Education*

#### **Women's Bible Study on Zoom**

The Book of Romans  
Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. and Thursday at 7:15 p.m.  
find our Women's Bible Studies looking at the Book of Romans. Paul has a lot to say to us. I thank God for the women who attend who keep me on my toes and together we dive into the word of God. What a blessing!  
If you have any questions about joining in please email me at [susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com)  
We think you will be glad you did.

#### **Sunday School**

We meet at 9:30 sharp and end right before church starts. Right now our students are Grade 2 through Grade 7 but we

are ready for any ages kindergarten and above. We have a lot of fun learning about our loving Lord. These kids are comfortable with each other. They bless Carolyn DiSciullo and me weekly. Seeing God through the eyes of a child is awesome. One of the girls said last week --- " Sunday School is over already? It was so much fun." Thanks Shauna. You made our day! God is good.

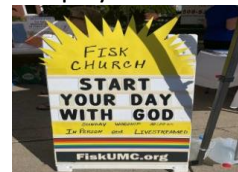
#### **Nursery**

Thanks to Tom Carney and Sarita Hernandez for being in the nursery after the Children's Sermon.

The children sing, play games, enjoy free play, and have a snack. They have a lesson that is based on the lesson that the older children did earlier. This class is for kindergarten age and below. We love our kids!!!

### *Fisk Memorial UMC at Natick Days!*

Thank you to all who participated in Natick days! Fisk Memorial UMC was well represented and we had our Missions projects on display!



### *From the Church Office*

#### **FISK CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor**

[Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org)

**Dr. Americo Motta, Minister of Music**

[Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com](mailto:Fiskmusicministry@gmail.com)

**Susan Carney, Director of Christian Education**

[SusanjCarney@gmail.com](mailto:SusanjCarney@gmail.com)

**Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang, Youth Leaders**

[Fiskyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Fiskyouth@gmail.com)

**Carolyn DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant**

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Church email: [Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

Website: [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

Church Office Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### **NEUMC CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

**District: 6 - Name: Commonwealth East**

Website: [www.neumc.org/CE](http://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](mailto:CEDS@neumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

Her address: [CEDistrict@neumc.org](mailto:CEDistrict@neumc.org)

# Fisk Fall Fair

## Saturday November 20

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 ~~ Cheese ~~ Pickles

Silent Auction—many Gifts and Gift Certificates

Good-as-New Table

A few special antiques/collectibles.



Outside Vendors welcome  
(call the church 508-653-1674)

*Profits go to missions-locally and world wide*