

The Messenger

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

September 2021

Pastoral Note

This summer, I preached on the Ten Commandments, a summer series of God's laws that are still vital for humanity. It is my hope that we will continue to reflect on, and live out these commandments on our faith journey.

As we enter the fall season, we give praises to the Almighty One, the King of Creation. In addition, as the heat of summer gives way to cooler days ahead, while leaves are falling and flowers are fading away, we are asking for your prayers, presence, and participation in one of the greatest season of our church life; ongoing and faithful stewardship.

Though seasons come and seasons go, we are reminded of what remains and is constant throughout life's journey. **Matthew 28:20** states, "Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This is a guaranteed promise. With that promise and in the midst of a change in season, I give thanks to all God's beloved at Fisk, our visitors, families and friends, who find the time to visit us, serve and continue to support us in ministry and mission.

We have accomplished a lot in the past year in spite of an on-going pandemic with appreciation for all of you and your shared gifts of tithe, talent, and time. God is indeed using faithful servants at Fisk UMC! Therefore, as we continue to travel this journey together with the Holy Spirit actively working in our lives, let us continue to serve God and all of God's children in all places and at all times. Most of all, let us strive to live out the Ten Commandments to make life on earth better as we lighten burdens.

Be blessed as we anticipate the Fall Season and as we stand up to use our gifts and widen our circle!



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.

September 5	James 2:1-17	Mark 7:24-37
September 12	Psalm 19	Mark 8:27-38
September 19	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8	Mark 9: 30-37
	Psalm 1-(Psalter response 2)	
September 26	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
"Read as you study, study as you live, and live well!"		
- Pastor Alecia		

Save the Dates!

September 5 - Fisk UMC Homecoming Sunday

September 7 - Jeopardy Pot Luck Dinner- all Church event! At Fisk UMC.

September 11- The annual Natick Day celebration in Natick Commons. More information coming soon. Be ready to help out.

September 12 - "Remembrance & Celebration" Sunday

September 25- "Celebration of Life and Legacy" in memory of Debi L. Henry at Cedar Gardens.

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:

<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 click "Join Meeting" on top right

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

Residents' worship service

Worship service for the residents of Whitney Place, Natick resumes this month, Wednesday, September 2. It will be the first Wednesday of each month conducted by Pastor Alecia.

Thank you for your gifts that make it possible for Pastor Alecia to be present with us and all of our neighbors; those who are homebound, those in nursing homes, those who are ill, those who grieve, and those who are in need.

there will be video presentations as we focus on Matthew 14:22-36.

September 26 "What's Water-Walking?"

October 3 "The Tragedy of the Unopened Gift"

October 10 "Find Your Calling and Get Your Feet Wet"

October 17 "Facing Our Challenges and Fears"

October 24 "Good News for the Cave Dwellers"

October 31 "Learning to Wait on Our Big God"

Women's Bible Study on ZOOM with Susan Carney

Morning and Evening

Women's Bible Study Resumes

September 14 and 16

I have missed all of you. There is something very special about studying the Bible with believers or searchers who are women.

Tuesdays starting on September 14 @10:00 a.m.

And

Thursdays starting on September 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

We will begin a study of Romans.

SO MUCH TO LEARN and SHARE.

Let me know if you are coming ...if I do not hear from you I may send you a ZOOM invitation anyway.

One thing I do know for sure — the group will not be the same without you.

susanjcarney@gmail.com (Servant of God)

Bible Studies

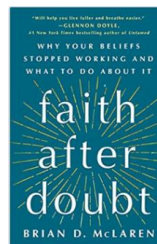
All Church In-Person Bible Study with Pastor

After reading the book about, "Faith After Doubt", going through a pandemic, we all are called to a GREATER and STRONGER faith. But the simple, yet sometimes difficult question is, "Can we really trust in the midst of fear?"

Well, come, travel, and study with us as we discern what we have been called to do as individuals and as a community of faith.

Starting September 26, we will gather in the sanctuary and/or zoom from 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m. to discuss, answer questions, reflect on, and think about life's lessons learned and experienced as we live in stormy and risky times. We will use the book, "If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of the Boat" by Rev. John Ortberg. In addition,

Registration is now open for 'Faith After Doubt' book discussion with the author



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar's recommended reading for 2021-2022 is "[Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to do About It](#)" by Brian D. McLaren. The bishop has invited Dr. McLaren to lead a series of four weekly discussions of

his book Mondays at 8-9 pm Sept. 13 to Oct. 4, 2021.

- **Sept. 13, 2021 – Session One: An overview of Faith After Doubt**
- **Sept. 20, 2021 – Session Two: Spiritual life, a personal perspective**
- **Sept. 27, 2021 – Session Three: Liturgy and spiritual formation, a congregational perspective**

• **Oct. 4, 2021 – Session Four: Outreach and evangelism for congregations**

Clergy and laity are encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and to read a book the bishop called “important and insightful”. Registration is open now and space is limited, so you are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

The deadline to register is Thursday, Sept. 9.

[Register Now →](#)

To register visit:

<https://neumc-reg.brtapp.com/faithafterdoubt>

Sunday School

Sunday School Callback

September 12 — 9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m.

Room 2 — Next to Nursery

Zoom was a great way to keep in touch with other Christians Under Construction.

Thank you so much for attending.

Now we will be back to Sunday School Live and we will be masked. Please check the website for updates.

There will be no nursery during Sunday School time. We are working on nursery for church time. For the first week, we will all meet together. I am hoping that within a month we will divide into two groups and then three.

Please let me know if you will be starting on the 12th or if you will be waiting for a later date.

God is good.

susanjcarney@gmail.com



Fisk is Hiring

Sunday School Teachers

Qualifications: Must love Jesus.
Must want to get to know our Sunday school kids.

Signing Bonus: Immeasurable rewards

Pay: Walk Closer to God and learn about Him through the eyes of a child

Commitment: 4 Sundays from 9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m.
/ Materials supplied

Ask God if this is what you should be doing.

Meanwhile pray for these little vessels who are being filled with the Holy Spirit.

(Questions to Susan Carney)

Trivia from the Education Committee

1. How many books are in the Bible?
 2. True or False: David wrote the entire Book of Psalms.
 3. How many stones did David need to strike down Goliath?
 4. Who was David's son, who became king?
 5. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew. What language was most of the New Testament written in?
- Answers: 1. 66 books 2. False. He wrote most of it but not all. 3. One. 4. Solomon. 5. Greek. **How did you do?**

STEWARDSHIP: 2021-2022

The family at Fisk United Methodist Church, recognizes that all we are and all we have, are gifts from God. Therefore, we live with gratitude and as faithful stewards by giving of our time, talent, and tithes for God's ministry and mission.

We continue to ask God to help us rethink what we are called to do and be as we offer our gifts. As we rethink, may we be encouraged to give as we look past the offering plate and increase our gifts for God's ministry and mission on earth. In addition, may we also be inspired to give more willingly that others will be touched and share with generosity as we experience God's provision and grace together now and all the years ahead.

“Freely you have received, freely give (Matthew 10:8 NIV)

Stewardship Committee

According to an open letter from our New England Bishop, Rev. Sudarshana Devadhar there is a need for donations. Especially for the earthquake victims in Haiti and the Afghans' refugee crisis. Therefore as you are able, please make out a check to: Fisk United Methodist Church.

You can put in the memo section:

1. **Advance 982450** (for International Disaster Response & Recovery)

Or

2. **Advance 901670** (for Domestic Disaster Response & Recovery)

Note: All will be forwarded as a unified gift. But remember, I mentioned, this is one of the ways

that we touch the lives of others; through our mission work and Global Ministry's plan.
Thank you as you give!

Community Connections

Fisk under the leadership of faithful servants continues to reach out to those who need us the most. And yes, it is amazing what God does through our minds, hearts, and hands as we move our feet.

"We Are Fisk"

Events

September 5th is Homecoming Sunday at Fisk UMC

We welcome all our families and friends who have been on vacation, those separated by the pandemic, and those who were present during the summer months with the joy that only God can give. Welcome Home and know that we missed each of you and as always, God answers prayers. YOU ARE BACK AND WE ARE HOME!

Special note: *Let each person make a call, text, email or send a note to at least one person in your church family this month to show and share love.*

As you do, know that it comes back three folds; In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!



Your turn!

We will have a game of JEOPARDY
following a

Pot Luck Dinner

September 7 at 7:00pm

This is an all church event!

Time to re-connect, share dinner,
and have fun!

What does HTTP stand for?

What is a female donkey called?

Paul was shipwrecked on what island?

Questions? Call Janis Cail

September 12th is Remembrance & Celebration

Sunday at Fisk UMC

Our worship will be to God's glory as we remember and celebrate all of our sisters, brothers, relatives, and friends we have lost this past year. If you have a name(s) to be lifted up in praise and thanksgiving, please email (fiskoffice@fiskumc.org) or call (508-653-1674) to have them recorded for worship, no later than Sunday, September 5th at midnight. May God richly bless and comfort us knowing that our loved ones are only a memory away.

"Celebration of Life and Legacy" naming ceremony

In memory of Debi L. Henry,

Will be held at:

Cedar Gardens, 14 Cedar Ave, Natick, MA 01760

On Saturday, September 25th, at 11:00 a.m.

A memorial bench will be placed at Cedar Gardens. If you would like to donate towards Debi Henry's Memorial, please make check out to Fisk UMC and write "Debi Henry's Memorial" in the subject line, before September 17. Thanks.

If you would like to volunteer to help set up chairs an hour prior to the service please contact:

Fisk Office (1-508 653-1674)

Or email FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org

Coming in October

Discipleship (Membership) and Baptism preparatory classes are coming in October. Please email, or call (617-966-7048) and speak with Pastor Alecia privately and with prayerful thoughts before September 30. May we all be blessed as we start or continue to travel the journey of faith together.

District Event

Bishop's Day on the Commonwealth East District Thursday, September 16, 2021; 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Aldersgate UMC, 235 Park St, North Reading, MA 01864. This will be a hybrid gathering with an in-person gathering and live streaming.

October 16 – Fisk UMW Yard Sale

October 23 - Trip to Brunswick Maine for the Conference UMW meeting



Here are a few ways you can respond to the call of Missions.

United Methodist Economic Ministry Christmas Giving. We will be taking the wonderful collection of Christmas Gifts to Maine in a month. If you have not contributed and still would like to I will leave the RED BUCKET in the hallway for another three weeks. Toys, new packages of socks and underwear ...and Gift Cards are very welcome gifts. (Wal-Mart, Hannaford's or anywhere that has online ordering,) Gift Cards should be left in the office. Thanks to the generous people who contributed during the last 6 weeks.



Natick Food Pantry is opening up again for volunteers to assist with the distribution of food to our



neighbors. This is a meaningful and helpful way to be part of "Neighbor helping Neighbor". Fisk is

assigned the **second Thursday of each month**. It is a 3+ hour commitment. Clients have appointments and you just guide them through the shopping and help bag groceries.

They are not yet accepting food donations. You are encouraged to give food items and paper goods in the container inside Roche Bros. Interested? You will be blessed.

Call Marcia or Gary Hoyt

Haiti UMCOR is in communication with partners in Haiti and working closely with them to support emergency relief and early response efforts.

UMCOR has awarded a grant to the **Methodist Church of Haiti (Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti)**. In coordination with local doctors and nurses, the funds will supply two medical clinics in Gebeau and Les Cayes with emergency supplies including PPE, bandages, gauze, IV fluids and antibiotics. UMCOR has awarded a grant to **Service Chretien d'Haiti (SCH)**. The funds will supply the Les Cayes General Hospital with emergency supplies including PPE, bandages, gauze, IV fluids and antibiotics.

Monetary Gifts may be sent or left at Fisk Church with the Memo-Haiti and this will be forwarded to UMCOR.

Afghanistan

Please pray for the people of this unsettled country. The lives of women and children are particularly in danger.

Pray for:

Those who are fleeing—sanctuary
For those who are staying---safety
For those who are fighting---peace
For those broken hearts---comfort
For those who see no future---HOPE.

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

FACE Children's Center

FACE Children's Center Board of Directors

Needs You

We are looking for Fisk Church members to volunteer to serve on the Board.

The FACE Children's Center by Laws requires that more than 50% of the Board must be comprised of Fisk Church Members.

At the present time we have four members of Fisk Church on the Board and 3 members from the community. We would love to enlarge the board to include more community members but that starts with adding volunteers from Fisk.

Marcia Hoyt is one of the founding members of FACE and has served in many capacities.

Janis Cail is the current President of the Board.

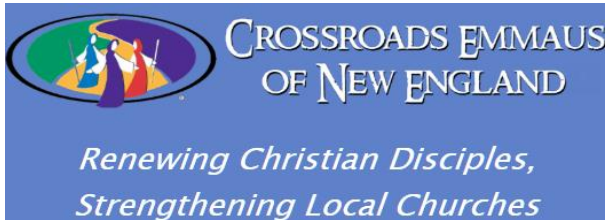
Debbie Friscino is the current Secretary and has also served in many capacities.

Barbara Beekman has been a faithful member of the board for many years and is on the scholarship committee.

FACE Children's Center is a licensed center and highly thought of in the community. It is also a mission outreach of the church. If you feel called to serve or have additional questions please seek out one of the Board members from Fisk or call the church office.

The Board meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM. We average 6-9 meetings a year.

Janis Cail



Will you sponsor a pilgrim?

The board has worked night and day for the past several weeks to assemble teams for the Men's and Women's Walks. The response from you, our Emmaus community, has been overwhelming and beautiful. We continue to pray for God's guidance as we prepare. And we are praying for you.

Amazing news about registration!

Men's Walk - 4 pilgrims so far
Women's Walk - 5 pilgrims so far
There's still room for more pilgrims. Now it is time for your first act of agape; to sponsor a pilgrim. Please consider making this life-changing experience possible for someone in your church or community.

Registration details

Men's Walk October 14 -17

Women's Walk October 21-24

Please visit our [2021 Fall Walks website](#) for all the details about the Walks, sponsor, pilgrim, and team forms, registration, contact information, and much more.

Registration is available by online form or downloadable form to mail in. Deposits for the Walks will be **accepted by check only** at this time. The mailing address can be found on the Walks website and on the registration forms.

- Deadline to register for either Walk is September 24
- A sponsor refresher video is available on the website. Once you register as a sponsor you will have access to the video.

Please take time to view it.

Your act of agape love as a sponsor is the final step toward making these Walks happen. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

God bless you,

Daniel Jones

Community Lay Director

Walk to Emmaus #15 (2001)

Table of Mark

If you have questions, ideas, or comments don't hesitate to email me:

laydirector@crossroadsemmausne.org

From the Church Office

Pastor's Vacation

Our Pastor will be away from September 19-24 for rest and renewal. If there are any emergencies, contact our Lay Leaders, Dr. Dorothy Phillips or our SPRC chairperson, Michelle Drolet, and they will contact the covering clergy if needed. You may also leave a message on the Church's telephone line at: (508) 653-1674 and it will be forwarded.

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 address: CEDistrict@neumc.org

FISK CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor

Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

Dr. Americo Motta, Minister of Music

Fiskmusicministry@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: Open

Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri.

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

October Messenger Deadline

Please submit information by

Friday, September 24, 9:00 AM

