

# 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)

## September 2022

### Pastor's Message

"The world needs accurate information for complete transformation."

This past summer, I spent a lot of time outside than the previous two summer seasons. On one of the days, I was reminded of times when some people did not want to see or be near other people. As I reflected, I started to laugh out loud and it was clear to me that God has a strange sense of humor and inaccurate information had forced us into hiding. We were hiding from the unfamiliar and even the familiar; family and friends.

What was amazing, yet annoying to me was that we were all in the same situation but some secular and religious leaders were busy choosing sides. Then, I realized that real leaders we watched and admired were those who stood still, prayed, and reached out to give someone a hand. Yes, especially those who are, or have been blessed to be a blessing to others.

No disrespect intended but secular and religious groups need quality leaders with constructive theories and methods that make, 'Blest be the ties that binds' (UMH 557) meaningful and alive in and among all of God's creation. And as we are bonded, we can cherish staying close to each other by establishing lasting relationships while following the greatest leader, Jesus Christ. I am affirming because real leaders are authentic, are intently following Jesus Christ, and leading in ways that are clear, complete, concise, and connectional.

Therefore, it is my prayer that each of us will not emulate some earthly leader but rather Jesus Christ examples of leadership; like welcoming the stranger, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty, visiting the sick, taking care of the children, widows, and seniors.

Then perhaps, we will place value and consider these qualities and others that matter most.

And as we do, with God's grace, we might be or become leaders who give accurate information, work for truth and reconciliation and work for the transformation of the world. Most of all, we can be real disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of this world.

Continue to feel and be blessed!

+ 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](http://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.

**September 4, Liturgist:** Terry Ames

**Philemon 1-21      Luke 14:25-33**

**September 11, Liturgist:** Carolyn DiSciullo

**1 Timothy 1:12-17      Luke 15:1-10**

**September 18, Liturgist:** Deborah Hernandez

**1 Timothy 2:1-17      Luke 16:1-13**

**September 25, Liturgist:** Jen Garrant

**1 Timothy 6:6-19      Luke 16:19-31**

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

**+ Pastor Alecia**

Please email the Church Office at:

[FiskOffice@FiskUMC.org](mailto: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!

### Worship Plan:

**September 4-** Communion & Labor Celebration Sunday

**September 11-** Home-Coming Celebration, September 11th

Remembrance Sunday, and Blessing of the Backpacks and Bags. (Bring your backpacks, bags, brief cases, handbags, and/or shopping bags on Sunday, September 11, to be blessed.)



### Acolytes and Cross bearers at Fisk

I would like to thank all who helped us worship by carrying the cross and lighting the candles

in the sanctuary. Third grade has historically been the age to start stepping into these roles. It also depends on height. You may have noticed Kateri training Mikey. That worked out great!!!

BUT ....when are you aged out of these jobs. The answer is never. I am asking folks of any age to put their names on the list and we will train you. It is so meaningful to watch the cross and light come down the aisle. 9 or 90 and now we have railings leading up to the altar!!

We have robes if you like but church clothes are fine as well. Is this few minute act of service where God is

leading you? Is the Holy Spirit giving you a nudge? Thank you in advance. -Susan Carney

## Evangelism

### **Greet Our Community at Natick Days**

Save the date: **September 10! (Raindate Sept. 11, 1 to 4 p.m. only)**

**WHAT:** Natick Days is an annual event celebrating our Natick community. Service organizations, youth organizations, and volunteers share information about their endeavors. **Several thousand people** attend each year, and we want our community to know Fisk UMC is here.

**WHERE:** Where could we reach **"several thousand people" in one day?** Let's capitalize on this gathering. We need you! Fisk's booth will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. where we will be greeting folks with love in the name of God and offering support, information, and invitation.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Can you offer one or two hours to greet community members of all ages?! Can you hand someone an invitation or prayer card? Will you be a friendly face and just say, "Hello!"? Can you help setup or cleanup or organize in some way?

**THE PLAN:** *Prayer Cards and Backpacks...* We'll hand out prayer cards with school prayers to lift our students and school staff in prayer each day. We will also invite folks to our Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, Sept. 11 at Fisk. It's easy to say hello and to let people know we are a faith community in their town.

Please email [Amy Bruns](mailto:amybruns35@gmail.com) and say "Yes, I can help!" [amybruns35@gmail.com](mailto:amybruns35@gmail.com). Let me know if you can help with setup, be at our booth for 1 or 2 hours, or clean up when the event ends.

**Open hearts...open minds...open doors**

## United Methodist MEN

### **Taking Ground': New England Men's Retreat**

New England Men's Ministries invites you to join men from all over the New England area as we dig into God's word and look at what it means to "Take Ground" in your communities. The gathering will be Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24, 2022, at Camp Monadnock in Jaffrey, NH. Cost is \$135 (\$125 for early registration) [Register](#) Questions? Contact

Steve Case at [scase20@juno.com](mailto:scase20@juno.com) 603-842-9794 or  
Tom Leach at [tml7587@gmail.com](mailto:tml7587@gmail.com) 781-799-2062

## Education

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

The Book of JOB

I am very excited to start Women's Bible Study during the week of September 19.

We will be studying the Book of JOB. While attendance is whenever you can make it, I urge you to try and attend the beginning classes as there we will get our bearings straight as God leads us.

So one class will be on Tuesday at 10:00 9/20. We meet for an hour.

Another class will be on Thursday at 7:15 p.m. 9/22.

Both are on ZOOM and I will send the connection directly to members.

Where did Job get his faith? How did he withstand his trials? Who wrote this book anyway?

Can't wait to start studying God's word with you.

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

God is good all the time.

### **Men's Fellowship/ Bible Study**

While I am very excited about this, I am also hoping that everything that I am about to say changes. SEPTEMBER 17 --- Saturday at 9:00 a.m. sharp and for one hour this group for men will have its beginning. If there are just 2 men, we will call that a good start.

Join us for muffins and coffee AND the Book of Ruth.

The women's group has found that there is power in the word of the Lord. We want to share it with our brothers.

What can the book of Ruth have for you? You will be surprised. Bring your own Bible or we will supply one from the church.

Questions? [susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com)

Please prayerfully consider this.

Susan Carney- Education

## Sunday School

September 11th will be the first day of Sunday School. A reminder that we start promptly at 9:15 a.m. and end at 10:15 a.m. This is still a multi-aged class. We find that the students get so much from working with children who have different levels of knowledge of the Bible and of God's directions. So kindergarten through high school attend. If the lesson lends itself to being divided, we can do so, as there are two of us. Jesus loves all of us. We want to remind our kids every chance we get.

See you September 11.

Carolyn DiSciullo and Susan Carney  
Members of God's Squad

## United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

**What "fossil fuel" item do you use every day that negatively impacts our water, air, and land?**

**Join us for dinner on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to tell us what you think it is! I'll share my idea as we discuss our role in using – and abusing- God's creation. As Women in Faith, we will talk about how we can put our LOVE INTO ACTION to improve climate justice for all.**

**This month, commit to do ONE thing to positively impact our environment.** Perhaps you can ask for no plastic utensils when you get take-out for dinner at home. Or perhaps....??

Can't make the meeting? Send me (Debbie Friscino- [dfriscino@gmail.com](mailto:dfriscino@gmail.com)) your answers and suggestions for making a positive impact and we will add them to our list!

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>- 5:30 p.m. UWF Dinner at Fisk**

**October 15<sup>th</sup> – YARD SALE**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> – HOLIDAY FAIR**

**YARD  
SALE**

**Start going through your items  
and saving them to donate to the  
Fisk Yard Sale: October 15<sup>th</sup>!**

**Fisk Church Fall Fair**

**Saturday, November 19, 2022 ,**

**9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

This is the United Women in Faith 's biggest fundraiser of the year, to raise money for missions. We need your help!

**REMINDERS:**

\*We need Vendors-ideally we like to have 8-10 vendors that rent tables from us to sell their goods. If you see vendors this summer that you think could be popular at our fair, please get a card and pass it along to us so we can contact them.

\*We also need Contributions of gift cards and objects for our Silent Auction Table. If you connect with anyone willing to contribute in this way, please pass that info along also, as we need new items each year.

\*We always need help manning tables and kitchen helpers. Please consider being part of this fun day of connection with your fellow church family.

\* For you Crafters and Bakers out there- We would love and appreciate your continued support to fill our tables.

Feel free to contact Deb Friscino, President or Terry Ames, Co-President of UWF or anyone in the UWF in you have an interest and can help.

**The Hannah Circle**

**Hannah's Circle:**

Our saintly seniors of the Hannah Circle met in person at Fisk and enjoyed time together praying, reflecting eating pizza, salad, and leaving prayer requests. They engaged in 'Holy and informational'

conversations with Pastor Alecia and each other. They shared their joys and concerns while relaxing in the presence of God and enjoying the best orange cake ever provided. Thanks to all our senior sisters in the Hannah Circle for their faithfulness with blessing of strength on each of them.



**Family Promise Metrowest**



It's time to host dinners at Family Promise again. Three families are "living" at the Day Center now and we will be joining them for dinners the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>. Teams of two people are needed daily from 6p-8:30p to provide and serve dinner.

If you are able to help, it's important that you complete two updated training sessions prior to serving. The first module is online and can be accessed from the Family Promise Metrowest website. [Volunteer Orientation Guide | Family Promise Metrowest](#)

The second module is available via ZOOM on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 7p-8p OR in-person as a live training at Good Shepherd Parish in Wayland on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7p

Not able to get the training done in time for this host week? We also need help with providing groceries for delivery to the Day Center on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please let Debbie Friscino know if you can help.





### What is JFON?

#### **New England Justice for Our Neighbors**

provides free, high-quality immigration legal services for eligible individuals and families, advocates for immigrants' rights and educates communities of faith and the public about ministries of hospitality with immigrants in our communities. We connect with persons seeking information and counsel through our clinic locations and website.

Our volunteers offer hospitality and support our attorneys who provide free immigration legal services to individuals and families earning 200% or less of the federal poverty guidelines.

We are part of a national network of Justice for Our Neighbors sites across the country operating over 50 clinics, many located in United Methodist Churches. We connect with persons seeking information and counsel through our clinic locations and website.

In honor of 10 years of service to our immigrant neighbors, New England Justice For Our Neighbors is proud to announce our "10 for 10" Campaign. We are seeking supporters willing to become monthly donors at a level of at least \$10 each month. To encourage our affiliate, Our match each your participation, National Justice for Neighbors, will eligible donation for the rest of this year, up to a total of \$10,000.



It is easy! Just write a check to Fisk and on the memo line put JFON. Fisk sends it on to JFON and it will be matched.

Can we count on you? Let's all do what we can for our neighbors.

### Our Partners in Mission Work

As a United Methodist Church we are partners with several Mission Programs throughout the year. We have budgeted funds for these connections and also accept your gifts to be added to the support from the church budget.



There are so many ways to "do mission work."

- Funds and monetary gifts are always needed Write checks to Fisk and memo-Missions or designate
- Prayers for those in the Mission Fields through UMCOR
- Sometimes material goods...Hygiene Kits or other UMCOR Kits, school supplies for Cooper, Christmas gifts of toys and NEW packages of underwear-(All sizes) for UMEM-United Methodist Economic Ministries in Salem, Maine
- Volunteer at the Natick Food Pantry-Gary Hoyt
- Prayers for the staff of all of these agencies
- Help with the Teen Mission Week-2023
- Support our Missionaries Dr. Belinda Forbes in Nicaragua (for UMCOR) and the Pelletiers in South Africa
- Contribute to the Veterans Sock Project in December
- Volunteer @ Family Promise/Natick-Deb Friscino
- Gift Cards-we can print you a gift card indicating that you made a donation of Health Kits, funds for a specific program, or for Blankets—for any special day that you may need a gift...*that keeps on giving.*
- CURRENTLY, Fisk is looking for people to help with Natick Days, September 10. Represent our church at a booth downtown for a designated time slot. Spread the Word. Call Amy Bruns or the Church Office.

### What is Mission work?

"the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith" All of the examples above accomplish this...along with many other activities.

*MISSIONS COMMITTEE-Janis Cail, Mary Greenwood, Jan Townsend, Kelli Garrant and Marcia Hoyt*

## Altar Flowers

If you would like to order flowers in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, the signup sheet and order forms are on the Office bulletin board.

**October Messenger Deadline:**  
**Please submit information by**  
**Friday, September 23, 9:00 a.m.**

## 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)

**Carolyn DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant**

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

Church Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

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.

## New England Conference

### Retreat for Leaders:

The Fall Leadership Retreat led by the Connectional Table provides an orientation to Conference leadership. This online session, 9 am to 2 pm on Sept. 24, 2022, is mandatory for each committee/board/agency chair or a designee. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with other leaders, become reacquainted with the Conference's goals and mission, and learn about important dates, forms, and resources. For more information, contact Director of Connectional Ministries Ashley Johnson at [dcn@neumc.org](mailto:dcn@neumc.org)  
**[Register](#) by Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2022**

### McLaren courses resume this fall

We want to remind New England clergy and laity that our courses with Dr. Brian D. McLaren and the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis will continue this fall. These self-paced online courses can be completed at any time, and you

can participate even if you did not take the courses offered earlier this year. Each topic includes a live session with Dr. McLaren:  
7 pm Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022 — Curating Change  
7 pm Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 — Your Congregation as a School of Love. To get the most out of the live conversations, you are encouraged to complete as much of the course material as possible beforehand. Supported by the Conference, the courses are free to participants. [Learn more and register](#)

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

### SPRC meeting and Church Conference 2022

#### Save the date:

Saturday, November 19, 2022 with Rev. We Chang, our Commonwealth East DS on Zoom only.

**SPRC meeting: 6:15 p.m.**

**Church Conference: 7:00 p.m.**

**All Annual Reports Due:**

**Friday, October 28, 2022 (No later)**

Special Note: Thanks for your work this year.