

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

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

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

## September 2023

### Pastor's Message

As summer ends, we can still experience the sunshine of life and hold that burning heat of love within us. As we hold the heat of love, may it spark a fire that burns to alert us to love more and be loved. I say this knowing our God is 'LOVE.' Therefore, let us never lose touch of the need to love and be loved. And though seasons come and go, love should never go away. Let us continue to enjoy bright sunny days and cool breeze that give us a glimpse of what is ahead.

As we enter the Fall season, let us continue to enjoy diverse and magnificent colors of leaves on trees around us as flowers were in the summer. Let us look with delight and face all challenges in a world that is diverse and will continue to be because of God the Creator. But most of all, let us look with bright clear eyes and see every person, place and thing as made in God's image.

Now, this is not always easy and might never be. But as the Fall Season starts, take a closer look at what is happening. Open your hearts, minds, and hands as you reflect and rethink what we can do in a changing world to make the changes reflective of God's love. ....Together we can give and receive as we widen the circle of God's love for humanity.

Therefore, if you ever feel unloved, visit us, call us, email us, and believe that we are God's presence of 'LOVE' and we live in a community where love never ends. "We are Fisk."

+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

**Summer Worship Service**  
(now through September 10<sup>th</sup>)  
every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in rooms 8 & 9.

**Starting September 17<sup>th</sup>, Worship Service returns to 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](http://www.Zoom.us) and enter Meeting ID: 994 3325 8889**

**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

**September 3, 2023 TBD**  
**Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28**

**September 10, 2023 Crystal Mayo**  
**Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18:15-20**

**September 17, 2023 Amy Bruns**  
**Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35**

**September 24, 2023 TBD**  
**Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16**

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 rooms 8 & 9. Thank you!

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

Welcome back with love and blessings!  
As we return, may we continue to be faithful to God's ministries at Fisk while reaching out to the least, lost and last in society. And let us never forget those persons that are hidden in rear view mirrors. But most of all, let us joyfully share our time, talent and treasures to the glory of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Thanks for your faithfulness!

Pastor Alecia

**-September 10<sup>th</sup> is 'Remembrance' Sunday**

**- Rev. Nizzi Santos Degan's DS Installation is Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. The celebration will be held at Wilmington UMC, 87 Church Street Wilmington, MA 01887.**

**-September 17<sup>th</sup> is Fisk UMC 'Homecoming' Celebration Sunday - Please note the new date of the 17<sup>th</sup>!**

**-September 17<sup>th</sup> is also the start of Sunday School!**



**-NEAC Memorial Service Honoring Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar is Saturday, October 28, 2023 - 1:00 pm at Wesley UMC, 79 Clinton St., Concord, NH 03301**

**New Ministry at Cedar Gardens, Natick, MA**

In October, Pastor Alecia will start a time of praise & worship once a month at Cedar Gardens. We will be taking church to this group of residents who may or may not be able to attend a church. With your continued support of ministry here at Fisk, we will remain God's presence in, and beyond the walls of Fisk.

I am grateful to God for a church family that continues to be loving and caring to others. But most of all, one that reaches out to those who need us the most. Thank you with gratitude for the Caring Ministry Team.

**Inspirational quote:**

**"If you have joy in your heart, it will be reflected by the look on your face"**

-unknown



United  
Women  
in Faith

### **Pollinator garden is growing! Check out the bee...**

We've been blessed with lots of rain – the flowers in the pollinator garden are quickly becoming established. It turns out that we've fed many bunnies along the way so blossoms for pollinators have been limited but there have been many bee and butterfly sightings! If you haven't visited the garden, please plan a few minutes to stop by. It's a peaceful place for quiet meditation.



Watch your email- rumor has it we may try to schedule a GARDEN PARTY in early September.

### **SAVE the DATE- Sunday October 1 at noon Luncheon UWF Meeting: Prayer and Self-Denial**

Tracy Tarver, Deaconess and Dean for the New England Conference's Mission U, will be the guest speaker for our unit meeting. She will share her path to becoming a deaconess and her work with underserved communities and youth.

### **YARD SALE is coming!**

It's time to start saving items for the yard sale- Saturday, **October 14th**. You know the drill!

And once again, we will have pink bags for you to fill with "soft goods" not suitable for the thrift shop in Maine.



### **Family Promise Update**

Our host weeks continue albeit in a more limited fashion. At the end of July, we provided groceries and a dinner for three families with children ranging in age from 3 months to 4 years. Members of Community UMC in Wayland served the meal. **Our next host opportunity is in the fall.** Thanks to everyone who provided food and groceries. It's truly appreciated.





## MISSIONS and OUTREACH



**Helping others beyond church walls:  
Churches have provided temporary shelter for  
unhoused migrants.**

Interim Pastor Katie Cole of Hartford Street Presbyterian Church in Natick and Rev. John Hudson of the Pilgrim Church in Sherborn, unload her car holding a bed for a migrant family. **(Courtesy of Hartford Street Presbyterian Church)**

Based on the state's emergency shelter system being, strained, Gov. Maura Healey announced a state of emergency for others to help. With this and based on the "Real Bible" we are told as true believers in Matthew 25: 31-40. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

With this truth and reflecting on what is being said by some who claim to be Christians, I am wondering what else is more biblical than what is in the "Real Bible?"



A photo of one of many bags of donations put together by Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman and her special emergency team at Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick, made and delivered to support immigrant families at the Presbyterian church. **(Courtesy of Katie Cole with thanks to the Hernandez and Stanley families.)**

## Stewardship

**Stewardship is...**

**the opportunity to serve God and serve your church.**

Welcome back! As you re-group from your summer, please remember your stewardship commitment to your Church. The ministries of Fisk continued during the summer, are ramping up in September, and the needs for financial support continue as well. You can mail in your support check to the office, marked "Financial Secretary", or utilize the easy electronic giving option on the Fisk website. Contact Crystal with any questions. See you in... September!

### 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**.

**Join us on the prayer line, Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.**

**Dial: 1- (716) 427-1083, Access code: 580274**

Remember that no one walks alone. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you. You can also find private time to stop at the cross and pray individually or invite family and friends.

### Sunday School

Sunday School will start back up on September 17, 2023 in room 2, next the Nursery at 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. We are so excited to welcome everyone back! ☺ All of God's blessings, Carolyn DiSciullo & Susan Carney

**October Messenger Deadline:  
Please submit information by  
Friday, September 22, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

### Evangelism

**Extend a Fisk Hello at Natick Days**



**Save the date:  
September 9!  
(Raindate Sept. 10, 1  
to 4 p.m. only)**

**WHAT:** Natick Days is an annual event celebrating our Natick community, where service organizations, youth organizations, and volunteers share information about their

endeavors. **Several thousand people** attend each year, so we want to make sure everyone knows Fisk UMC is a welcoming presence in our community.

**Time:** 10-3 (Setup at 9ish...and cleanup following)

**WHERE:** We need you!

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?

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

***Let's show everyone our open hearts...open minds...open doors!***

**Will you help to host Fellowship Time this year?**

Right now, these dates are open for coverage:

Sept. 3rd

Sept. 10th

October 1st

October 8th

October 15th

All is provided: cookies, coffee, tea, juices.

Please email Amy Bruns if you are able to help.

[amybruns35@gmail.com](mailto:amybruns35@gmail.com)

### **Fisk Nominations Committee**

#### **From Fisk Nominations Committee**

Thanks to all those who have served, are currently serving as we reach out to those who have not served but would love to serve with others.

We believe God has given each of us multiple gifts. If, and when we use these gifts in the circle, the wider, the stronger and better the circle is for God's ministry and mission.

Special note:

-If you are serving; need to pause to rest or rather be a mentor to others, please let a member of the nominating know (Dr. Dorothy Phillips, Pastor

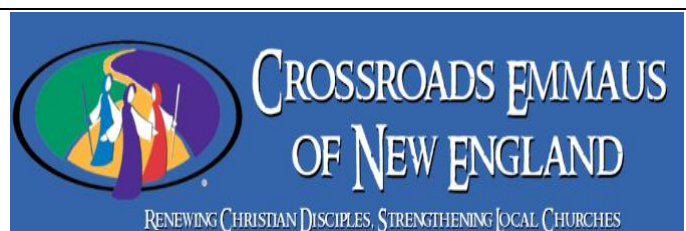
Alecia, Tom Currie, Sherry Culver, or Carolyn DiSciullo.)

-If you want to continue to serve, to serve on another committee or additional committees, please let a member of the nominating committee know.

- If you have a life-giving or life-changing idea; maybe a person whose gift you have observed or experience, share with us as we discern with the working of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks, with continuous blessing on each of you for your faithfulness to God. Also, your devotion to God's ministry and mission at Fisk.

### **Walk to Emmaus**



All persons are invited to the Walk to Emmaus

From October 12-15, 2023 (72 hour)

For Men & Women

Pray that God will speak to you attend and invite others to attend this event. If you have questions, ideas, or comments don't hesitate to email;

[laydirector@crossroadsemmausne.org](mailto:laydirector@crossroadsemmausne.org)

For more information, please visit

<https://www.crossroadsemmausne.org/wp/emmaus/>

### **New England 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. Nizzi

Santos Digan. Her email address: [CEDS@neumc.org](mailto:CEDS@neumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: **Allyson Printz**

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

### **Altar Guild**

#### **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. It is \$50.00 for an altar arrangement and you may take the flowers home after the Service. Thanks