

# The Messenger

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

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

## May 2024

### Pastor's Message

As we continue to celebrate new life, let us smell the bulbs, see flowers spring up and feel new life popping up everywhere. But most of all, let us be hopeful, prayerful, and thankful for all relationships on earth.

We, at Fisk United Methodist Church appreciate each of you who attend and/or visit us weekly. As we appreciate you, we invite others who have not visited us to come, to listen, to see, to taste, and to walk with us as we continue to encounter and re-encounter God in new ways.

We affirm this because God is always present, is alive and working in our midst through the Holy Spirit in churches and the world.

Therefore, each Sunday in this month, we will recognize and celebrate something vital for the church and the wider world as we connect, reconnect, open our hearts, minds, and hands for God to transform lives for the ultimate transformation of this world.

Come to Fisk UMC, give us your hand, and give God your heart to have a *“one- in -a -life time experience.”* Until then,

**Have a Happy and Blessed month of MAY FLOWERS!**

+ *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. 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**

#### Worship

#### Save the Dates: May Worship Services

*Sunday, May 5 - Mental Health Awareness  
Sunday*

*Sunday, May 12 - Ascension of the Lord  
& Mother's Day*

*Sunday, May 19 - Pentecost  
& Confirmation Sunday*

*Sunday, May 26 - Trinity and Peace  
& Justice Sunday*

**-Please join us for worship each week.**



***Please see the CONFIRMATION CLASS***

schedule below, led by our United Methodist HUB Pastors, at rotating locations (Fisk, Wayland, and Weston). Thanks, as God blesses the youth with wisdom for generations to come.

**Meeting Schedule**

**Sunday, May 5, (2:00 pm-3:30pm) - Weston UMC**

\*\*\*\***Note: There is no class on Mother's Day**

**Sunday, May 12. \*\*\*\***

**Saturday, May 18, (10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.)**

Confirmation Celebration at Community UMC , the confirmands from our Hub churches will be recognized and celebrated at a reception, Community UMC, Wayland in the fellowship Hall.

**HUB Confirmation Class Update:**

On **Sunday, May 19, from 10:30-12:30pm**, Fisk UMC will welcome and celebrate our four confirmands during worship and fellowship time.

**Thanks:** to all parents, grandparents and Fisk UMC family for nurturing and supporting them over the years. Especially our church school under the leadership of Sister Susan Carney and Carolyn DiSciullo.

Sunday School

**Children's Sunday School Classes**



Join us as we learn all about God's Word and His love for us! We meet at **9:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Room 2.** -Susan Carney and Carolyn DiSciullo

United Methodist Men

– Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at **4:00 p.m. (note special time)**

The Fisk United Methodist Men will attend a Natick High School varsity Lacrosse game on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. The Natick Lacrosse team will be playing against the Framingham team. The lacrosse field is located off West St. between the football stadium and the Natick Recycling station (across the street from the Mahan baseball field). Afterwards, we'll head over to Casey's (36 South Ave) for some hotdogs!



United Women in Faith

**DID YOU KNOW** it is illegal to



throw clothes, linens, blankets etc. (any TEXTILES or shoes) in the Recycling Bin or in the landfill?



**Go GREEN**-fill any bag, box or a **PINK BAG**

Bring it to Fisk Church  
106 Walnut St. Natick on



**April 27 between 9 and noon.**



Help us celebrate **EARTH WEEK!**

They will be picked up on that morning only from our parking lot- **RAIN or SHINE.**

The amount UWF receives (per pound) helps support the Natick Food Pantry, Family Promise, EcoNatick etc.

THANKS for your help!

Call church office if you have questions 508-653-1674

## Mother's Day and Blankets

What do these have to do with each other?



### Mother's Day Blankets

Annually, our Missions Committee partners with Church World Service to spread warmth and comfort for Mother's Day. We will have a selection of Gift Cards (cost is \$10 each) for you to give to anyone you consider a Mother, an Aunt, Mother-figure for you, Grandmother, Sister, Daughter etc. ...for Mothers' Day.

The funds are used to provide Blankets to those in need. Blankets can do so many things.

- Provide warmth and comfort. Show LOVE
- Make a sleeping pad
- Hang as a hammock
- Carry your belongings
- Form a tent
- Wrap yourself in cold weather
- Provide a safe place for a baby or young child to rest and play

**April 28 and May 5 at Fellowship Time**

**Purchase your cards there  
or call the church office**

“And don't forget to do good and share with those in need.” — HEBREWS 13:16

Marcia Hoyt, Janis Cail, Janis Townsend and Mary Greenwood

### Looking ahead...we have not forgotten

Sustainability is a real concern for the EARTH. Instead of buying something DAD doesn't need, or does not fit ... (and all the plastic packaging for so many items) give a Gift Card for **Tools with Love** another CWS program--to purchase TOOLS for a dad needing the basics for his family or to start a small business. He may be able to help dig a well, build a better shelter for the family, build a BEE HIVE to produce honey to help support his family or ...



Maybe you would rather give him a Gift Card to support the ...

- Natick Food Pantry
- UMEM - supporting underserved in Maine
- UMCOR / Health Kits

### Were you there? Where?

#### Fellowship Time on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>

The Missions Committee displayed many of the ongoing projects we support on an ongoing basis.



Bring your beverage tabs-to the kitchen  
Recycle beverage cans/plastic bottles in closet

Bring non-perishable foods for the Pantry

Volunteer to serve at the pantry

Make a Health Kit

Folded clothes in paper bags for Maine



**What are YOU doing to help SAVE the EARTH?** At Fisk we try not to buy disposable plastic. Recycle as much as possible and **DO NOT ALLOW THE USE OF STYROFOAM to serve food.**

(Belinda works for the AMOS Health Care Agency in providing the basic health care for many villages.) She is our General Board of Global Ministries missionary.

### AMOS Health and Hope and WATER

2024 is off to a busy start at AMOS as the organization continues with multiple activities in health and mission partnerships.



**AMOS Mission Teams** – AMOS hosted 4 mission teams this year and has plans for more! Belinda was privileged to accompany two teams in February:

First was the **McGregor Team to La Pimienta, Chinandega**. The La Pimienta community was built after Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and most of its older residents remember clearly the damage caused by rain and floods that occasioned their resettlement to higher ground. This was my second time\* joining this team of (mostly) upstate New Yorkers whose skill and generosity provided sustainable energy through a solar panel installation in the community clinic. Lights are on for the first time in La Pimienta, praise God!



In addition, and for the first time, AMOS's WASH Program carried out **water testing** in the field (usually samples are taken back to Managua) using portable testing kits. Samples were taken from home filters – **old and new, and from wells and streams where families collect their water**. The results showed the spring water in a small creek to be the most contaminated and demonstrated the water filters to be effective in providing **safe drinking water** for families. AMOS continues to **distribute home water filters**, prioritizing pregnant women and children under

five years of age. Water promoters organized and trained by AMOS are actively installing filters and providing follow-up to their use and maintenance.

Other activities included cabinetry and benches for the community clinic giving patients somewhere to sit while waiting for care, a first-aid training to members of the community health committee and a **Vacation Bible School for children with a focus on clean water and hygiene**. We struggled to stay cool in the round-the-clock 100-degree weather and avoid local scorpions but could celebrate AMOS's integrated mission approach and fellowship with the local leaders and churches who made us feel welcome.

Next came **St. John's Episcopal Church from Jackson, Wyoming to San Jose de la Mula, Matagalpa**. Team members came with health, education and business backgrounds to participate in a community health fair and support Norlan Flores, the local health promoter trained by AMOS in his ongoing work to promote

health and wellbeing in this remote, mountainous, historical community of Nicaragua. The fair included services to monitor the weight and height of children under 5 years of age, provide vitamins and nutritional counseling for pregnant women and new mothers, talks on oral health with schoolchildren, and information sharing with women. Children were delighted with a Vacation Bible School in the afternoons with plenty of crafts and coloring.



**Thirty-eight water filters were installed by members of the team and AMOS water promoters.**

*If you wish to help support this and the many Health-related Programs, you may do so through our church. Just give or mail a check and "memo" Belinda and it will go to her and these programs. Advance 12109Z*

*One of the emphases for United Women in Faith and our church is WATER...providing safe water for all... forever.*

## 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. We at Fisk UMC are willing and ready to travel the journey with you.

### INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE FOR ALL WOMEN:

*Christ has no body now, but yours  
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which Christ  
looks compassion into the world.  
Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do  
good.  
Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the  
world.*

- **Teresa of**

**Ávila**

**-Pastor's note:** *Go out this day to make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world.*

## Trustees

### Improving wheelchair access to Fisk Sanctuary

Fisk will soon be able to celebrate a milestone. We will be increasing the number of wheelchair accessible spaces in our Sanctuary. Hallelujah!

The Fisk Trustees sought out and listened to multiple congregation members about how best to accomplish this. We considered two alternatives: cut away the end section of several pews to fit a wheelchair at the end of those pews, or remove the entire pew to allow easy and flexible access for those in wheelchairs, walkers, and those people accompanying them. At the February 26 Administrative Board meeting, it was voted 9-0-4 to approve the removal of two pews on the pulpit side of the Sanctuary.

To help you visualize this new look, below is a fabricated picture of what the pulpit side of the Sanctuary will look like after the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> pews are removed.

To make the opening welcoming for all, we will place a few comfortable congregation chairs (see below) so that families and friends can sit together as desired.

The congregation chairs will be donated by the Sinclair Fund that was repurposed "to enhance the worship experience for the entire congregation" as requested by Winnie Sinclair and her family. We thank Winnie for her generosity and celebrate her loving and upbeat spirit. We also thank all those members who have contributed to the Sinclair Youth Fund over the years.

The Trustees and their helpers will begin work on removing the sixth and seventh pews and the congregation chairs will be ordered. In the meantime, temporary chairs will occupy the opening.

May God's peace and grace be yours,

The Trustees of Fisk UMC

Congregation Chair



## Coffee Hour/ Fellowship Time Schedule

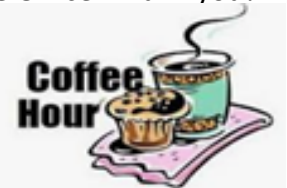
If you would like to **volunteer to host coffee hour** there is a sign-up sheet located in the back of the Sanctuary or you can email the Office. Thank you!

Sunday, May 5

Sunday, May 12

Sunday, May 19 – Trustees

Sunday, May 26



## 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)

Office Phone: (508) 653-1674

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

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

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

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

## New England Conference Information

**Our 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](mailto:ce-cwoffice@neumc.org) (NEW Email address!)

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

District Superintendent: Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan

Address: 2600 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA 02421

Email address: [CEDS@neumc.org](mailto:CEDS@neumc.org)

Administrative Assistant: Allyson Printz

# YARD SALE

**Saturday-May 11**

**8:30 to 12 noon**

**Rain or Shine**

**Fisk Church 106 Walnut Street Natick**

*Toys ~ bikes ~ kitchen items ~ all types of books  
tools ~ games ~ puzzles ~ pots and pans ~ baskets ~  
vases holiday items ~ totes ~ pocketbooks ~ totes*

*You might find something for a Mother's Day gift.*

More information 508-653-1674 or [www.FiskUMC.org](http://www.FiskUMC.org)

## **Donations for the Yard Sale**

**may be dropped off at the double red doors  
by the ramp and off the parking lot starting  
Monday, May 6 through Friday morning, May 10. Thank you!**