

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760

September 2015

Reflections from Pastor Xia

I hope that all is well and everyone has had a delightful summer. It is always good to have some Sabbath, rest and spiritual renewal.

We had a casual and intimate worship experience during the summer in rooms 8&9. At the beginning of September, we move our worship back to the sanctuary, welcome people who are back from vacation, and celebrate that good news of the Good Shepherd standing at the gate and ushering His beloved children. Worship starts at 10:30am.

Blessing of the backpacks was well received last year. It is an event open to the community. This year, blessing of the backpacks will take place on Sunday, September 13th, 9:30-10am. Children please remember to bring your backpacks; adults are encouraged to bring your briefcase or bag that you would like to have blessed.

From the 3rd week of September, "Coffee With The Pastor" will be focusing on lectionary based Bible study. We will be meeting in the Pastor's study from 9:20 to 10am.

UMC is a connectional church. At local church level, we are busy doing many church ministries and missions. Do you know that we also have many training events and gatherings at district and conference levels?

This year, our District Superintendent will be leading a District-wide Bible study on the Book of James in five (5) different locations:

- * CHAPTER 1 - October 22, 9:30am, Oxford UMC, MA
- * CHAPTER 2 - October 29, 9:30am, Milford UMC, MA
- * CHAPTER 3 - November 5, 9:30am, Christ UMC, Wellesley

* CHAPTER 4 - November 12, 9:30am, Aldersgate UMC, Worcester MA

* CHAPTER 5 - December 3, 9:30am, Centralville UMC in Lowell
WORKSHOP ON VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

* Saturday, September 12 @ 9:00am-11:30am, St. Matthew's UMC in Acton, MA

* Saturday, December 12 @ 9:00am-11:30am, Oakdale UMC W. Boylston. MA

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT LISTENING SESSIONS

* November 3 @ 7:00pm, First United Methodist Church of Framingham

* December 1 @ 7:00pm, Epworth United Methodist Church in Worcester

February 27, 2016, the Central Mass District Congregational Development Team will be sponsoring Church Leadership Workshops in Sudbury United Methodist Church. The 18 workshops are designed to equip congregations to learn new ways of doing effective ministry in all areas of church ministry, such as outreach, spiritual formation, transforming missions, children's ministry, small groups, roles of lay servant, SPRC, trustees, church council, finances and stewardship, and so forth. You may find the detailed information here at

http://cmdresourceday.com/?epl_event=spiritual-leadership

Please continue to pray for our church as well as the UM Connectional ministry. We all need prayers. Prayer strengthens us, brings renewal and hope. In His service together, we pray constantly and learn more about discipleship. In Christianity, "disciple" means student of Jesus Christ. With September upon us, a new academic year is around the corner, I pray that God creates in us a new heart and new spirit, and makes us A-plus students of Jesus Christ, who always opens minds to learn and opens hearts to serve.

Together in Christ,

Rev. Xia Jiao-Chur



September 2015

Welcome back to a fall season of excitement here at Fisk! It is good to see everyone and to re-dedicate ourselves to our faith and our efforts to serve.

The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be a blessing, but the summer months of vacations and family times have slowed the pledge and giving which is vital to our finances. We are behind our Financial Plan after seven months. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources:

- Our financial support is 15% below Plan through July,
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses, saving 15%,
- We continue to pray for continued growth, and improvements in our financial position.

We would urge you to review your quarterly Statement of Giving, mailed in July, as well as your summer giving, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk's ministries.

Many great things are happening! Those ministries, and new ideas, depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us. With prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing our church, and HIS grace, we will succeed in HIS ministries.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:
Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Xia, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC), Larry Drolet, Frank Foss, Jen Garrant, Crystal Mayo.

Wors hip

Ever seen the iconic poster stating UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU? Well, the Worship Team NEEDS YOU.



1. A few of the reasons for changing the venue for summer Worship have been:
 - It's cooler
 - A relaxed, laid back summer feel
 - An opportunity to be in closer fellowship.

Let's hear feedback on the summer worship in Rooms 8&9. We are looking for supportive input. If there were issues of concern, please put your thinking caps on, and share ways of addressing them. Positive feedback is much appreciated too. Whipple Hall is a whole other issue. We are well aware of the draw backs. Creative suggestions are welcomed. Its use was needed to accommodate our guests from Family Promise. What a wonderful opportunity for us to be in mission for God.

2. Did you attend worship services at another church during your summer travels? Would be interested to hear how other churches celebrate the Lord's Day.
3. There is a need for Liturgists, Communion Servers, Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, and Cross Bearers each Sunday. A schedule for three - six months is in the process of being filled. Which of these look doable? They require little time commitments and are such an important part of our Fisk ministries.

Ways to get in touch with the Worship Team:

- Leave a note in the Worship Comm. slot on the wall in the office
- Leave a message on the office phone
- Email the office

- Email the chair of Worship ~ Barb Beekman at bjbeekman@yahoo.com. Be sure your name shows in your address or "Subject" line. I open only emails I recognize.

Annual Church Conference



We will gather Wednesday,
November 18, 2015,
7:00PM, in the Sanctuary.

All reports are due to the church office by Monday, October 26.

Summer Worship could not have happened without those special behind the scenes people. THANK YOU, Joanne and Joe Billo for the set up each Sunday, Gini Lyster for the beautiful Altar flowers, the sisters and brothers in Christ who after the services reset the rooms for the week's activities.



Nursery : Covered during Sunday School and Worship Service by paid staff.

This year we will be doing mini lessons for our littlest members.

Newborn to Age 2 will find their place here.

Preschool – Grade 1: Sarah and Zachary Gates joyfully share their love for the Lord in this class. You may hear some singing and see some dancing from this crew.

Elementary – Grades 2-5: Kelly Garrant will be the teacher in this group. She will be joined by an in and out Susan Carney ...who is also Sunday School Supt. This is a small but mighty class and Kelly's love for

the Lord will come shining through the Cokesbury Curriculum that she will be using.

Middlers and High Schoolers- We will have two teachers here and we are checking out a new curriculum . Deborah Hernandez will be sharing her faith here and we are praying for a second teacher. If you could commit to a month or two we have some growing Christians who would appreciate it !!!! Please pray about this.

Adult: Pastor Xia will be teaching a class based on the lectionary...bring your coffee and get ready to discuss the scripture that we will hear about in church. Also watch for special studies throughout the year!!!!!!

Can you substitute a few times a year?

FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 @ 9:15

Questions to Susan Carney susanjcarney@gmail.com



Blessing
of the Backpacks

September 13, 2015

9:45am

Out in Front of the Church

Weather permitting....

Otherwise in the sanctuary

This is something that we did last year and my heart was warmed by seeing the tags that we gave the kids still on some of the backpacks this spring. We will sing a song and pray together and then Pastor Xia will bless the backpacks individually.

The children will also receive some small school supplies.

The community is invited to this brief but meaningful event.

Please ask your friends to bring their children and grandchildren and neighbors to have their backpacks blessed.

Questions to Susan Carney or if you would like to help out or have suggestions my ears are open.



Special Requests for Prayer:

Please continue to pray for these people dealing with health issues

Debi Henry, Heather Oluwole, and Pat Price, recovering at home; for Barbara Webb, and Tian Zhang both recovering from surgery; and continue to pray also for Stephanie Lindsey.

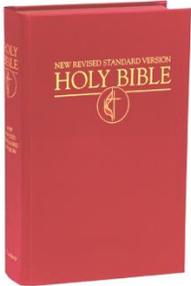


Please pray for Barbara Johnson, Elizabeth Coates, Betsy Lindsey, Deborah Hernandez, and for Margaret A. Smith, sister of Dorothy Phillips. Also pray for strength and guidance for Diane O'Loughin and her daughter, Cally Egan.



- Military** Paul Kim, Alex Sinclair, Michael Igo
- Missionaries** Dr. Belinda Forbes, serving Christ in Nicaragua, & Mat & Kayle Pelletier, serving in South Africa

INTERESTED IN AN EVENING BIBLE STUDY?



participants.

A Bible Study class is being formed, to start in September and be hosted in a home setting. You're invited! Dates times based best and TBA, on the time for



If you would like to join, or just want to learn more information, please contact Zachary Gates at zrg100@hotmail.com.



Missions - September:

Cooper Community Center - work day 830-130 Saturday Sept. 26th

Projects will be arranged based on the group we bring - cleaning, organizing and small repairs

Look for the sign up sheet at fellowship time after church and outside Whipple Hall

Starbucks Donations

Twice a week members of the church knock on the backdoor of the Starbucks on Rte.9 and receive day old pastry donations. They are brought to the church and bagged in freezer bags. They are picked up on Weds. morning and delivered to a shelter where people enjoy the bagels etc. that they receive.

Thanks to Janis Cail for keeping this going over the summer months and to everyone who helped out. This is a wonderful outreach that we would like to continue. It costs us only time. If you would like to help out with this endeavor , please watch for the sign up sheet.



Many hands make for light work. May God bless our efforts.

Susan Carney

Thank you, Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church!



For two weeks this July you opened your church home to the guests of Family Promise Metrowest offering them safe shelter, nourishing meals, and gracious hospitality. These gifts

freed them from worry about sustenance as they engaged in education or job training, employment searches, and worked diligently to return to sustainable

independence. The loving care FPM Congregations provide is the foundation of our program to homeless families with

children. For all who shared your space, prepared a meal, hosted a dinner, stayed overnight, read to a child, set up rooms, did laundry and more, we are ever grateful.



Methodist Women

September 8 - Participate in the Pot Luck Dinner at 7pm Speaker to address-Human Trafficking

October 3 - District UMW meeting in Charlton at the UMC. CareGiving from all perspectives. It is probable that you at sometime will be a CareGiver or need a CareGiver. Come and hear the latest information.

October 17 YARD SALE Begin putting things aside for the Yard Sale. This is one of three major fundraisers for UMW and missions.

October 24 - Conference UMW Annual Gathering...What a treat!! We are meeting at the Korean Church in ANDOVER. They are the most gracious hostesses ...and cooks. Harriett Jane Olson is the speaker—she is the Deputy Secretary of the National UMW.

READING PROGRAM--Continue to READ...books from the UMW Reading Program. They are in the bookcase in the Parlor.

PRAYER SHAWL--Each Wednesday---knitting and crocheting is a-happenin' A group meets at 10am to knit Prayer Shawls for those in need.



**YOU are invited!
Questions and Answers**

Question: What is UMEM?

Answer: United Methodist Economic Ministries

Question: Where is it located?

Answer: Western mountains of Maine (5 hour drive from Natick)

Question: What is our connection?

Answer: First of all, as United Methodists, we are a connectional church and this is one of many “connections.”

Secondly, this is where we deliver our good used clothing from March through October. You bring them to Fisk and put them in the appropriate box near the office and we deliver them to this ministry. They are used to stock three Thrift Shops in this area of high unemployment and under-served people.

For many years we have sold Balsam wreaths made by local families to supplement their income. Well, they are no longer participating in the Wreath-making project... BUT they now have a supplier of Maple Syrup! We had some at the Fair last November and it was very popular. This product is a home industry of a few families...earning funds for their winter heating expenses and/or taxes.



We went to UMEM last week and brought back some MAPLE SYRUP...we have plenty and it is available when you need it...for breakfast or a gift. We will have it for sale at the Fair in November, but if you would like some sooner just let me know. We have ½ pints, pints and quarts.

Gary and Marcia Hoyt



September 8 at 7:00pm All men and women Dinner and speaker

A great opportunity for the Fisk men and women to gather on September 8 All are welcome to come and join us for a POT LUCK dinner and guest speaker.



We will gather at 7:00pm and share a meal—bring a casserole, salad or dessert to serve 6-8.

Dinner and fellowship will be followed by a speaker coming from UNICEF, Isabel Fathy, who will address the subject of Human Trafficking. She has an important message for all of us as we walk the road of life in today’s world. Come and share food and conversation with your Fisk friends and family.



Questions? See Janis Cail or Marcia Hoyt

Youth Activities

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 - 12
Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang

What's happening in September?

Plans are to hold regular MYF meetings after Sunday services and host special activities periodically for all youth. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

We will resume our Sunday school and MYF meeting on Sep 13th.

Sep 13th: MYF meeting Sep 20th: MYF meeting

Special Event: September 12

Watch football game at Framingham State University.

Bingxin and Tian will be out of the country from Sep 24th-Oct 18th. They will be able to resume MYF meetings on Oct 25th when they return home.



Reminder: see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html> to view MYF pictures and schedule updates.

If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact Bingxin and Tian at fiskyouth@gmail.com OR Email Sherry Culver, Youth Council Chair sherrycd@comcast.net

Music & Movement Time (For Kids Ages 2 To 7)

**August 29 ~ September 19 ~
September 26**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m, at Fisk



**The event is FREE!
No registration is required.**

**For more information and pictures of
past classes, visit:**

www.fiskumc.org/music-and-movement.html