

The Messenger

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

April 2015

Reflections from Pastor Xia

Dear Family and Friends of Fisk Memorial UMC,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Easter is fast approaching and spring is around the corner. Every year we celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. By doing so we are celebrating our own personal experience of the risen Christ.

In the very long winter of 2015, some of our parishioners or their loved ones literally walked with our Lord in the wilderness. Some of them were sick or hospitalized; some went through difficult times. I was amazed by their faith, courage, love and care for one another, and how deeply they trust God's grace and promise. They carried the cross with Jesus, and responded to God with their faith and love. Their names appear like an honor role on my prayer list, reminding me how they trust God and lean on God's grace and promise. In doing so, they united themselves with the Paschal Mystery of Easter. That is a very old theological concept that says, "When Christians unite their suffering and pain with that of Christ on the Cross, they in a very real spiritual way share in his death and resurrection." The grace that flows from that union is both powerful and Spirit filled. I thank you for letting me walk with you in your life journey, and allowing me to be part of your life. I am so proud that we live, worship, and pray together as a strong community of faith.

In April our Lenten journey will come to an end, and we will be journeying together through Holy Week and

Easter. Please mark your calendar and join us in worshipping and praising God.

Thursday, April 2nd 6:00pm *Maundy Thursday service* with potluck Supper & fellowship (in Room 8 & 9)

Friday, April 3rd 12pm-3pm *Good Friday Prayer Vigil* (in the Sanctuary) *** A time of scripture, meditation and music. You are invited to stop in for a few minutes or for all 3 hours to focus on Jesus' last hours. It is not a service but instead, a time of meditation.

Saturday, April 4th 10am 3rd Annual community-wide *Easter Egg Hunt* (ages 2-7)

Sunday, April 5th 10:30am *Easter Sunday Service*

May God open our eyes in spirit to recognize the signs of resurrection in our Holy Week and Easter journey! A holy and blessed Easter to you all!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev Xia Jiao-Chur
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates

How to reach us:

Phone: (508) 653-1674 **Fax:** (508) 655-0587

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Church/Judy's Email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Fiskyouth@gmail.com

Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net

Cheryl's Email: deacongates@gmail.com

Church Website: Fiskumc.org

Marathon Monday

April 20, 2015

“snow or no snow”

You are invited to the Annual Gathering of Fisk family and friends for the Boston Marathon at Gary and Marcia Hoyt's home. (8 Bacon Street, Natick--508-655-0077) Come and just visit or go “over the tracks” to watch any part of the Marathon. We will provide hot coffee, cold drinks, popcorn and hotdogs—with the fixin's. We do have some parking, but you may consider parking at Lilja School or on Oakridge Ave.

May Messenger Deadline: April 22 @ 8:30am

Worship Service Participants for the month of



Greeters for the month of April:



April 5 - Mike and Amy & Gary and Marcia

April 12 – Nancy Parece & Nancy Swan

April 19 – Leo & Julia Jaco

April 26 - TBA

Liturgists

April 5 - Thom Townsend

April 12 – Barb Beekman

April 19 - Diane French

April 26- Mark Owen



Communion Servers:

April 5 – Thom and Janis Townsend & Debbie Friscino

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday -April 2nd

6:00 pm- *Potluck Supper and fellowship followed by a short Maundy Thursday Service-
in rooms 8 & 9*

Good Friday Prayer Vigil -April 3rd



12:00pm – 3:00pm in the Sanctuary

A time of scripture, meditation and music.

This is an opportunity to focus on Jesus'

last hours. This is not a service. All are invited to stop in

for a few minutes or for all 3 hours!



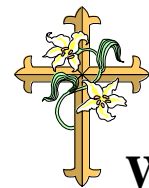
Saturday,
12:00noon



Community Easter Egg Hunt

April 4 -

10:00am –



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th at 10:30am

HALLELUIAH!

Worship

Youth Activities

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12

Youth Council is thrilled to announce that we now have Youth Fellowship Leaders! Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang have volunteered to lead our youth group. This is exciting news for our youth and church as we build a vital and engaged MYF group. 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.

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

What's happening in April?

- ~ April 4 - MYF to help with Easter Egg hunt, 10am
- ~ April 5 - Happy Easter! No youth meeting after worship.
- ~ April 11 - Walk for Family Promise - see the MYF / UMW challenge for how to donate to this vital community outreach.
- ~ April 12 - MYF meeting and lunch after worship 12-2pm
- ~ April 19 - MYF meeting and lunch after worship, 12-2pm
- ~ April 24-26 - Youth to attend weekend retreat at
Camp Aldersgate.

Looking ahead to May ...

- ~ May 17 - Campership Luncheon after worship - We plan to raise some scholarship funds to send youth to summer camp.

How to contact Bingxin and Tian : For youth related activities, they will be using fiskyouth@gmail.com. If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact them or:
Sherry Culver, Youth Council Chair, sherrycd@comcast.net



UMW challenges Fisk MYF to a Fundraising duel for Family Promise!

Did you know that Fisk MYF and UMW are both walking in the 6th Annual Walk Away Homelessness Event on April 11, 2015?

How can you help? During Time for Fellowship, there will be 2 collection jars for Family Promise. One represents our Fisk MYF and the other our Fisk UMW. Every coin placed in one of the collection jars subtracts from that jar's tally, while every bill or check put into a collection jar adds to that jar's challenge tally.

Here is an example of how it works: Say I place a \$5 bill into the Fisk Youth box. This makes the tally for Fisk Youth to be 500. If someone then puts \$2 in coins into the Fisk Youth Jar, these coins subtract for the tally. The tally becomes the original 500 minus 200 for the coins. The challenge tally is now 300.

Money in either jar is a win for Family Promise ... all money in the jars will be given to Family Promise in support of our walkers on April 11th.

Not going to be in Time for Fellowship? Send in your donation to Family Promise attention Sherry Culver with a note indicating which jar it should go in. Look next month for the results – It's a win for Family Promise!

UMW Reading Program
Book Discussion Group
Saturday April 18
11:00am – 12:00pm

HELP, THANKS, WOW:
The Three Essential Prayers
by Anne Lamott

*“And as it turns out, if one person is praying for you,
buckle up. Things can happen.”*

This book selection from the UMW 2015 reading list in the Spiritual Growth section talks about prayer and how we go about asking for guidance, offering gratitude, and expressing wonder. This book continues to explore how individuals can transform their lives – how one moves on from being troubled to feeling whole.

The Confection Connection Concert
(Bake Sale!) Saturday - May 9th
8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.



All are invited to bake something! This bake sale will be at the UMW Yard Sale and will feature the Rolling Scones, the Grateful Bread, James Brownies, Macaroon 5, Elvis Pretzerly, and more! All monies received from the bake sale and yard sale support local, national, and global missions! Please sign-up to bake during April at A Time of Fellowship following worship, or on the sign-up sheet in the church office.

United Methodist Women

We invite all women and teen girls to attend any of our meetings and gatherings.

**Fisk's United Methodist Women are
“walking” the WALK!**

Walk Away Homelessness
Saturday April 11, 2015
Natick Common

Registration at 7:45 AM--Walk Begins at 8:30 AM

**Come join the fun and help raise
funds for Family Promise,
Metrowest's Family Shelter and
Transitional Housing Program.
Bring the whole family!**

**Music, children's crafts, face
painting and much more!**



**This is a FUNDRAISER. Will you sponsor a
United Methodist Woman? Watch at Coffee
Hour for your opportunity. There is a
competition being planned. We appreciate all
donations to this wonderful organization.**

Yard Sale and Bake Sale

May 9 8:30-12 noon

Just in time for Mother's Day!

Help MOM clean out the cellar, a closet, the garage
Come and find a treasure for your MOM

Buy a cake, pie, bread or cookies for MOM

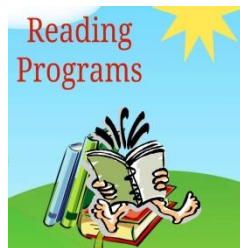
All of this helps our Mission budget! Supports women-mostly MOM's, children and youth



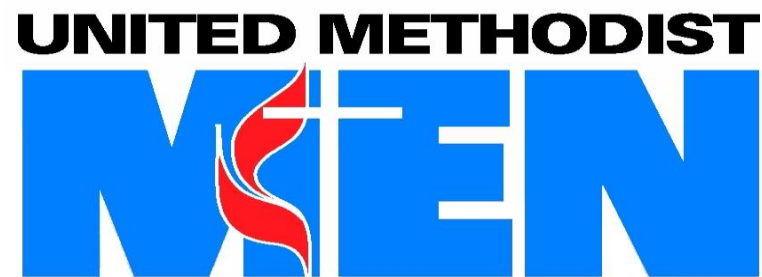
Make time to - Knit or crochet a **Prayer Shawl** for our cabinet. These are given to individuals who may have an illness, a celebration, are grieving or under extreme stress for some reason. A group of us meet on Wednesday mornings at 10am. at the church or you can knit at home! See Joanne or Winnie

Read – Read – Read

The United Methodist Women have a wonderful Reading Program...look at the books in the Parlor. See Debi Henry to see how you can participate in the program...or just read as you choose.



Sponsored by United Methodist Women
President-Janis Cail



Tuesday, April 14, 2015

7:00pm

We will meet at



for dinner.

All men invited to join us!
If you would like to carpool from Fisk, please speak to Geoff or Gary.

Geoff DelSesto-President
Call Gary Hoyt with more questions.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT CLASS

Young children are invited to our FREE Music and Movement class! We have musical instruments, guitar music, parades, singing with active movements. Everyone has a great time! The children and the parents love this time together on Saturday mornings. This is geared for toddlers through grade two.

Saturday's April 11 & 25
11:00am -12:00pm

Finance Update - 2015 Financial Plan

Our mission is to “draw others to Christ, growing in our faith...sharing God’s light... and serving others through mission and outreach.” We have committed to evangelism as our primary goal in every aspect of our programming and ministries in 2015. Our financial goal is to place Fisk in the best possible position to financially maintain and support all of our valuable ministries: outreach, spiritual growth, education, missions for others, and the stewardship of congregation assets.

In 2015, we have worked together to formulate a plan to fund our ministries and grow our church:

- Pledge support commitments have increased in 2015,
- Growth initiatives are being actively planned by Evangelism and all the Leadership Groups.
- Growth initiatives are being generously supported by Revitalization and Growth provided by the Whipple Fund,
- The 2015 proposed deficit has been increased to \$15,174 in an effort to avoid grants or loans from our endowment funds, which enabled us to complete 2014 with a small surplus after a \$10,000 grant.
- All-church fundraising efforts are again planned to generate \$9,900, including \$6,900 from Rotary breakfasts.
- Most expenses, including our dedicated staff, must be level-funded again this year,
- The Trustees must again fund maintenance and improvements without the traditional support of the Ministries Fund, and are working to plan for these challenges,
- With prayerful optimism, and your help, we plan to reduce this deficit as the year 2015 progresses. While we have adequate cash reserves at present, we must grow our church to improve our abilities to fund ministries.

We will continue to plan and strive for growth. The Finance Committee has recommended, and the Administrative Board has approved this Budget, which is summarized below. As always, complete copies of the 8 page detailed budget are available at any time in the Church Office.

Ministries Budget Support (income) Expenses Surplus (Deficit)	2013 Final	2014 Final	2015 Bud	Change v. 2014	
	\$230,029	\$253,557	\$238,429	\$(15,128)	6.0%
	235,865	250,042	253,603	3,561	1.4%
	(5,836)	3,515	(15,174)	(18,689)	

We urge everyone to support our ministries with your time, your talents, and your on-going financial support. Evangelism is every single person’s responsibility.
-The Finance Committee-



April 4 at 10am 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Community

The time is here!

Tell your neighbors, family and friends!

It is a great day at Fisk!

Come for the fun! What is it all about?

Easter Egg Hunt with your age group
(ages 2-7)

Make an Easter related craft.

Enjoy a snack.

Can YOU help? This is a day of “all hands on deck.” We need you to help---just help with one aspect of the morning. Oversee snacks, be available for a craft (all provided), visit with our guests or just answer questions.



Deborah Hernandez, Susan Carney or Marcia Hoyt
Sponsored by Council of Ministries

Evangelism Ministry

Health Kits!

During April, we are collecting items to make health kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). ***An ingathering & blessing of all items will be on Sunday, May 26th.***

Item donations can be left in the baskets or boxes marked "Health Kits." On Saturday – May 2nd, we will be on the Natick Common for the 1st day of the Natick Farmers Market assembling the Health Kits!

Health Kit Items

- 1 clear gallon Ziploc bag to put all items in
- 1 washcloth
- 1 hand towel (no kitchen towels) 15" x 25" up to 17" x 27"
- 1 bath size bar of soap in wrapper (3 oz. and up)
- 1 comb (large and sturdy – not pocket sized)
- 1 fingernail clippers (no toenail clippers or emery boards)
- 6 adhesive plastic strips (band-aids)
- 1 adult toothbrush (single brush in original wrapper)*

*No toothpaste needed as UMCOR distribution facility buys and adds date sensitive toothpaste to these health kits.

For more information, please contact a member of the Evangelism Commission.

Zachary Gates, Chairperson

Michelle Drolet, Eva Garrouette, Debi Henry,

Mark Owen, Ken Reynolds, Bingxin Xu, Tian Zhang

UMW Hannah Circle

*The Hannah Circle will meet on
Tuesday, April 14 - 12 noon to 2 p.m.*

This meeting will be hosted by the Susanna Circle and they will provide lunch, dessert and beverages. We will have a short business meeting with devotions. Contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can come!