

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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## December 2019

### Pastor's Note

#### Happy Holidays!

Let us rejoice and believe that God is good all the time. As we rejoice and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, remember that Advent is a time to reflect on God's merciful love as we extend that same love to all of creation. Advent starts December 1<sup>st</sup>

At Fisk UMC where God is always present, it is also a safe, loving and welcoming place for all persons at all times. As the season starts, we are anticipating a time of celebration as we experience hope, love, joy, and peace together.

Join us weekly at our 10:30 am Sunday worship to be and feel blessed by a new experience because God has given us a warm and comfortable place in God's heart. Come as you are but be mindful of those who are in need. As we do, we can also make room in our hearts and give greater gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace. And through these priceless gifts, we can strive to bring Christ to others as you join us for Christmas Eve Candle light service of carols at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24, here at Fisk. And do not forget to bring family, friends, and others to share this Life-Giving experience.

Until then, leave as many prayers as you want on our prayer wall, in our prayer box on the front lawn or on our website. We will be praying for all of you during this season of Advent, Christmas and beyond. As we pray for each other, you can also share a gift with us; online, drop-off, or through the mail to assist, enhance and continue ministry and mission here at Fisk UMC and beyond.

With thanksgiving to the Almighty and Amazing God who gave us Jesus Christ, the most gracious and awesome gift of all times; past, present and future.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Pastor Alecia

### WORSHIP

#### WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Worship service is every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Please join us every Sunday with joyful hearts during this season of Advent.

#### December 1<sup>st</sup>

As we hang all the greenery for Advent, and in preparation of the Christ Child, can you make room in your hearts for hope love, joy, and peace? I believe we can as we strive to make this world a better place because of Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will also be celebrated on this Sunday.



Can there be **Hope**? Hope is what we need to continue to live on this earth. Hope keeps us alive.

Can there be **Love**? Bring some love and take more to share with family and others.

Can there be **Joy**? Rejoice always and never cease to rejoice with others.

Can there be **Peace**? Let peace live in our hearts as we encourage others to live peacefully in the world.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

There will a Candlelight Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. All persons; with family and friends are invited to come, sing carols as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Come to enjoy this "Life-Giving" service of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace on earth.



#### NECESSARY CLOSING

In the event of a snow emergency and there is a need for church closing due to weather conditions, please tune in to channel 5, or check the church's website [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

## **We Bring Worship to Our Neighbors**

On the first Wednesday of each month, we host a worship service for residents at Whitney Place. This outreach has been supported by the Caring Ministry and the Evangelism Team. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others; especially our older saints in nursing facilities.

Thank you for your commitment to on-going stewardship that makes it possible for Pastor Alecia to be present with you and our neighbors; those who are homebound, those in nursing homes, those who are ill, those who grieve and those who are in need.

## **Pastor's Advent Bible Study**

### **"Almost Christmas"**

(Bible Study with DVD by Magrey Devega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson and Matt Rawle)

"In the preparing to receive the gift God offers in Jesus Christ, we are encouraged to follow Jesus Christ, and experience Advent in a new way. We can explore how we can make a commitment and connect more with our Wesleyan heritage" by highlighting the themes of **Peace, Hope, Love and Joy**.

We will meet in Rooms 8 & 9:

**Sundays—December 1, 8, 15, 22, from 6-7:00 p.m.  
with Pastor Alecia.**

**"O Come All Ye Faithful"**

**Sessions are:**

**Altogether Peace**

**Altogether Love**

**Altogether Hope**

**Altogether Joy**

## **Live on the Lawn ... The Christmas Story**

**Saturday, December 14, 4:30 p.m.**

Come, and experience the meaning of this blessed season the original Christmas story with narration,



music, and actors. Then move indoors for hot chocolate & cookies, an old-fashioned carol sing, and fellowship with family and friends.

Share your love as well.

Bring a donation of baby diapers for the Natick Service Council.

For more information, please contact Amy Bruns, Event Coordinator.

## **December 2019 – Bible Readings**

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following.

12/1:	Psalm 122	Matthew 24:36-44
12/8	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Matthew 3:1-12
12/15:	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
	Psalter Reading:	Psalm 80:1-19
12/22:	Isaiah 7:10-16	Matthew 1:18-25
12/24:	Isaiah 9:2-7	Luke 2:1-20
12/29:	Isaiah 63:7-9	Matthew 2:13-23

## **An Evangelism Opportunity**

As we look ahead to be an ardent part of the Annual Christmas Story on the Lawn, we are also looking for volunteers.

Your prayers, participation and/or presence in the play, in setting up, by inviting others, in greeting our guests, helping out in the kitchen, in the fellowship hall, and donating Christmas cookies to share with hot chocolate is always appreciated.

Please let a member of the Evangelism Team know if you can help. As always, thanks for your generous gift of presence and reaching out to others in 2019.

Aljani Stanley-Evangelism Chairperson

## **2019 Poinsettia Orders**



It is that time of year again! If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia, please complete an order form and give it with payment to Debi Henry, Lois Potter, or during the week - Joanne Fitzgerald in the church office. 6" Plants are \$15 each and order forms will be in the Sunday bulletins on December 8 and 15, and will be available in the church office or in the literature rack outside the nursery.

***Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> is the last day to order plants.***

## **Ministry of Caring**

How was your gratitude attitude in November? That was the first question in this column in November's Messenger – and, on some member's social media pages. Now – it is December and complaints of the weather are heard in the halls. Can you name the Thanksgiving Alphabet? Now – Here is the Christmas Alphabet! Pop quiz in January on both of them! Alphabet: **A** = Angels, **B** = Bells, **C** = Candles, **D** = Doorway, **E** = Evergreens, **F** = Fun, **G** = Greetings, **H** = Holly, **I** = Ice, **J** = Jesus, **K** = Kings, **L** = Lanterns, **M** = Mary, **N** = Noel, **O** = Ornaments, **P** = Packages, **Q** – Quiet, **R** = Reindeer, **S** = Shepherds, **T** = Trees, **U** = Universe, **V** = Visiting, **W** = Wise Men, **X** = XMass, **Y** = Yule Logs, **Z** = Zeal. (Author Unknown) To all of our family and friends - May this season be a season of joy, and peace for you.

*"Somehow, not only for Christmas,  
but all the long year through,  
the joy that you give to others,  
is the joy that comes back to you!"*

## Finance/Stewardship Update

Our ministries at Fisk continue to reach out and touch lives in so many ways. As we enter this joyful advent season we want to say thank you for your gifts in 2019. As we say thanks, we want to remind those who have not made a commitment to support ministries and mission to consider sharing a small portion of the abundance God has given you. As you do, pray and know that we are also praying with you and your family.

As we move forward into 2020 with hope, we still have a challenge in meeting our goal of paying 100% of our mission shares this year. Can you give an extra gift of \$3 a day or \$3 a week? We believe you can. We encourage each of you to not just send in your "Pledge Covenant Card" for 2020 but to send Fisk a life-giving gift, because every person's gift is significant and we are asking that you do not hold back. Give because you have a relationship with God and you are blessed.

*"And do not forget to do good and to share with others,  
for with such sacrifices God is pleased." – Hebrews 13:16*

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION FOR THE  
JANUARY ISSUE OF THE MESSENGER BY**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, AT 9AM**

**MAILING DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 23**

## Missions

## Making Christmas a Celebration for others

The Missions Committee has planned a couple of options for your giving to help others.

**December 1** Begin bringing gift items for Homeless Veterans i.e. shampoo, deodorant, candy, cards, small games, knit hats, note cards, stamps and whatever you can think of that fits into a sock. We also need white socks to "stuff." Collection boxes in the hall by the church office.

**December 8** Bring in more gift items and white socks and we will have the **Annual Stuffing Party** following worship. We will stuff the socks and tie them for Gifts. They will be delivered to the Homeless Veterans in Boston.



**December 15 Alternative Christmas** Following worship you will have the opportunity to purchase "gift cards" to support one of many Mission Organizations. You make a donation (\$10 minimum for each gift) and you receive a card to give the recipient, describing your gift to them. Some options: UMEM, JFON, Natick Service Council, or Heifer International.

We THANK YOU for all the mission support you have given during this year. You have made a difference to many, many people throughout the year.

Missions Committee

Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, Marcia Hoyt and Janis Townsend

## United Methodist Men

All Men and teen boys are invited to attend the



Fisk **United Methodist Men (UMM)**  
Breakfast at Eli's Restaurant at 12  
Washington St. in downtown Natick  
(next to the Dolphin restaurant).

Please join us Sunday morning  
December 15, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. sharp.

## United Methodist Women

**The United Methodist Women wish each one of you a new spiritual adventure during this Advent Season.**

- ✓ Join the new Sunday evening Bible Study
- ✓ Contact a new missionary wishing them HOPE
- ✓ Experience JOY at the "Live on the Lawn"
- ✓ Pray for PEACE throughout the world and
- ✓ Remember to LOVE all of your neighbors...all the time.



#### **UMW Reading Program Reminder**

Please turn in the list of books read to me by December 22, 2019. Reminder: books read this past year can be books from the 2014-2019 reading program lists.

Here are a few highlights of the 2020 books from the UMW Reading Program, below:

1. When Others Shuddered: 8 Women Who Refused to Give Up!
2. Which Way Lord? Exploring Your Life's Purpose in the Journeys of Paul
3. The End of the Island
4. Glory Happening : Finding the Divine in Everyday Places
5. The Fig Tree Revolution
6. Midnight Teacher
7. Six by Ten: Stories from Solitary
8. If I should Die Before I Live



I will have the full list ready In January 2020

Terry Ames-Program Resources

#### **Cookie Walk – Thank You!**

Fisk's UMW Hannah Circle would like to thank all of those who baked cookies, bought cookies, ate cookies, and helped us with all "things cookie"! Thank You! Now – take a couple of weeks off, enjoy, then – bake some more! The Christmas Story....Live on the Lawn on December 14 needs cookies of all kinds for this special event! Please see Sherry Culver or Aljani Stanley.



## **Fisk Youth**

**For Fisk youth and their friends in Grades 6—12**

### **Special Youth & Families Holiday Gathering**



**December 13, 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Whipple Hall**

A light meal will be provided and we will bake and decorate cookies to be sent to Whitney Place (nursing home). We'll have board games, Christmas card decorating and more!

Activity: Gift exchange. One gift per family, but please feel free to bring more gifts if you wish.

Please contact Tian Zhang by December 8<sup>th</sup> to know if you can attend, and bring a friend, or a few!

[zhangtian96@gmail.com](mailto:zhangtian96@gmail.com) (734) 883-0093.

#### **Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church**

**Sunday, December 15, 12:00 PM**

Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please use this link to view pictures and schedule updates.

<http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>

#### **Youth Fellowship Leaders:**

If you wish to volunteer, contact Tian, Bingxin

Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang, [fiskyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fiskyouth@gmail.com) or

Sherry Culver at [sherrycd@comcast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)

If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact them or Sherry Culver, Youth Council Chair, [sherrycd@comcast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)

## **December Worship Participants**

Dec	Liturgists	Dec	Acolytes
1	Carolyn Disciullo	1	Dwayne
8	Thom Townsend	8	Nick
15	Deborah Hernandez	15	Tiffany
22	Karen Gallagher	22	Danny
24	Diane French	24	Sarita
29	Sherry Culver	29	Danny
Communion			
1	Dorothy Phillips & Crystal Mayo		
Psalter Reader			
15	Zander G.		
Cross Bearer			
Rose C. all Sundays in December			

#### **A Season of Gratitude**

"Gratitude is at the heart of the Christian faith," says the Rev. Kent Millard, president of United Theological



Seminary. While every day should be a day of thanksgiving to God, the seven weeks encompassing the Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas seasons call for a special outpouring of gratitude.

Use this calendar to engage in daily acts of gratitude and kindness. Most of them can either be done alone or with family or friends. Some require a bit of planning, so you may want to look ahead a few days, or make arrangements to do the actual activity a few days later.

**Sunday, Dec. 1 (World AIDS Day):** Take good magazines and leave in the hospital waiting room.

**Monday, Dec. 2:** During Advent, commit to placing only positive messages on social media. Consider tweeting or posting a photo of something for which you are grateful each day.

**Tuesday, Dec. 3:** Make a donation in gratitude to your church or another United Methodist-related institution or ministry as a Christmas gift in honor of someone.

**Wednesday, Dec. 4:** Leave sticky notes on various cars in store parking lots or on bathroom stalls in rest areas or public restrooms with simple messages of gratitude or kindness.

**Thursday, Dec. 5:** Share a favorite book with someone ...and encourage them to pass it on.

**Friday, Dec. 6:** Offer to babysit for free to give young parents a night out.

**Saturday, Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Day:** Send a note to any WWII veterans in your town thanking them for their service. If you don't know any of the vets, thank their survivors or descendants.

To see Weeks 1, 3 & 4, click on this website:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/a-season-of-gratitude>

