

The Messenger

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February 2017

Pastor's Note

As we enter another month into 2017, I have been praying for another wonderful year of ministry at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church. God has richly blessed us in so many ways and we count our blessings. For this, we give thanks and praises.

These are challenging times and no one knows what the future holds in 2017. But at Fisk, we know and believe in the One who holds the future. We continue to look up in faith and are allowing the Holy Spirit to fill us and move us in new ways. Most of all, we have a God who makes all things possible when we believe, work together and share genuine love.

This month we will celebrate Valentine's Day, an annual romantic holiday. We will celebrate as we always do; give chocolate, candies, flowers, cards and sometimes gold, silver or diamond jewels. But, here is a challenge; can we duplicate those gifts or reduce the amount we spend to extend love to others? I believe we can. As we do, let us remember that we are loved by God and it is okay to love others; no matter who they are, where they have been and what they have done. Therefore, it is my prayer that we become more loving, more caring and more generous to all God's children in all places and at all times.

May the love we feel and give, light the way for others this year!

Pastor Alecia



Mahalia Jackson (1911 – 1972) was a famous American gospel singer and civil rights activist with a powerful voice for praise, peace and justice. She was referred to as "The Queen of Gospel" and is well known for these words, "I sing God's music because it makes me feel free" and "It gives me hope".

She believed that the blues, when you finish, you still had the blues, but when you sang God's music, it was liberating.

With this feeling, it is told that in 1963 at the March on Washington for jobs and freedom, she sang, "I Been 'Buked and I Been Scorned", with an affirmation saying, "Tell them about the dream, Martin!" before Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King gave his speech on "I Have a Dream".

Therefore, during this Black History month, we remember and honor the memory of this great woman as the dream lives on for all persons; especially women of all ages, races, social classes and the like. But most of all, we continue to live with hope because Mahalia Jackson said that she hoped her music could break down some of the hate and fear that divide people in this country.

Ash Wednesday Service & Lent

Ash Wednesday is March 1st. At 7 pm in the sanctuary, come and feel that you can be forgiven as we start the season of Lent. We will also have worship services and Bible Studies during Lent and all persons are invited on this journey.

CMA Resource Day and Youth Event
Saturday, March 4 at Fisk UMC from 8AM – 3:30PM.

Event is free for youth – see Sherry Culver
Event is \$12 prepaid by February 1 for adults
and \$20 after that date
Selected workshops during the day

Please sign up now. Form is available in the office
or ask Pastor Alecia or Sherry Culver.

Ministry of Caring
Where Faith and Life Connect!



A new year is well under way and we are busy with plans for caring for our Ministry of Caring "Guests of Honor" at the 1st quarterly Potluck Supper. Thank you to those of you who have signed up on Mealtrain for the Potluck supper.

We have placed a box in the hallway for Heart Gifts (trial size or fun size gifts) for the Heart Bags (gift bags) for our guests. These treats along with "Heart Cards" will be put in the bags for the Potluck. Let's show LOTS OF LOVE for our Caring Group.

This month's Ministry of Caring focus is on visits and phone calls; names A-He are being contacted by Marilyn and Ho-Z being contacted by Pat. Any Heart Bags not given out at the potluck will be delivered.

There is another need for meals, February 10- 17 (low-salt), for Betty and Ainsley Wicks as Ainsley is having heart surgery. Please help with a meal and say hello. Here is the sign up link for the Wicks' Mealtrain.
<https://www.mealtrain.com/yllkyl>

Prayer Bears were blessed on January 29th. Additional 2017 Prayer Bear blessings will be on the 5th Sundays: April 30th, July 30th, October 29th and December 31st.

We continue to visit and talk with people. If this is a gift of yours, please let us know! In this new year, if you are available to make a meal when needed, deliver care pieces, call those in prayer-needed situations that do not have email or electronic devices, let us know! We would love to help you share your talents and gifts with others.

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs
508-359-4025 508-873-1514

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures from the Lectionary selected for our worship this month.

February 5
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Matthew 5:21-37

February 19
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-1
Matthew 5:38-48

February 26
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Finance Committee - February

STEWARDSHIP IS SPIRITUAL

Stewardship is an on-going part of the Christian life. All Christians are involved as each of us has a stake in the outcome of ministry and mission in God's church.

We are affirming this because stewardship is not a one-time event or a short-term fund-raising. Therefore, the Finance Committee is excited about teaching, illustrating and sharing stories to encourage and inspire us; at Fisk, and with our family and friends to be life-time stewards.

In view of this, we will have a stewardship moment; sharing our stories on the second Sunday of every month starting February 12. You do not want to miss these stories as you continue to be more generous and knowing that God loves the cheerful giver of time, tithes, and talent.

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

by Marcia Hoyt

White Bread, Corn Bread, Cranberry Bread, Banana Bread, Focaccia, Naan...Whatever kind of bread you are willing to make for our—

MONTHLY BREAD SALE

The Mission Committee will have a BREAD SALE each month on the first Sunday from February through June. This will benefit Daniel's Table, a grassroots program in Framingham designed to "end hunger in that town."

On February 5 bring any bread you are willing to donate to this important effort and ...maybe purchase another bread for you to enjoy!



SAVE THE DATE of March 11

support, housing, and education. If you would like to donate an item(s) for Elizabeth's Warm-Up, please give them to any one of the Hannah Circle members listed below. Thank you!

*Nancy Parece, Nancy Swan, Winnie Sinclair,
Judy Maloney, Barbara Miller, Diane O'Loughlin,
Carole Becker, Ethel Longworth, Marilyn Donnelly,
Pat Price and Debi Henry*



Fisk's United Methodist Women began a new year with the Installation of the Mission Team and a luncheon following worship. We have many plans for your participation in Missions for women, children and youth. Thank you to the following women who have agreed to lead for the next year.

President	<i>Susan Carney</i>
Vice President	<i>Janis Cail</i>
Secretary	<i>Lois Potter</i>
Treasurer	<i>Sherry Culver</i>
Education & Interpretation	<i>Barbara Beekman</i>
Membership, Nurture and Outreach	<i>Joanne Billo</i>
Social Action	<i>Marcia Hoyt</i>
Spiritual Growth	<i>Janis Townsend</i>
Program Resources	<i>Terry Ames</i>

Saturday, February 11 You are invited to a Light Brunch at 10:00am. This is a time to come together for a muffin, bagel a warm beverage, and fellowship. Our pastor, Rev. Alecia Reeves-Freeman will be our Special Guest. She has agreed to answer our questions about... her Spiritual Journey to this place, her family, her early years on another continent and whatever else you have been wondering about. What a great opportunity for us to get to know our new pastor.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, March 18 we will host other United Methodist Women at another Brunch; we are trying not to meet in the evening during these colder months.

**Elizabeth's Warm-Up
Now through February 14**

In memory of Elizabeth Coates, the UMW Hannah Circle will be collecting new, store bought or handmade **Scarves - Mittens - Gloves - Hats** that will be donated to Rosie's Place in Boston.

Rosie's Place was founded in 1974 as the first women's shelter in the United States. Rosie's Place creates and finds answers for over 12,000 women a year involving



This is a national effort focused around the Football Super Bowl Game--to care for people in our local communities who are hungry and those in need. Fisk has celebrated this energy in a number of ways.

February 5th

**New England Patriot's vs. Atlanta Falcons
Fisk Church vs. Hunger**

This year we are selling containers of HOMEMADE SOUP for you to enjoy at home...along with the BREAD you may buy from the first BREAD SALE!

Stop by our "store" during coffee hour to purchase some soups and breads...all of which helps feed those in need...either Daniel's Table in Framingham or the Natick Food Pantry.

Note: Would you like to make some soup or bread for us? Just bring it on Sunday morning; we have containers.

Missions Committee-Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt...and Pat Price!



**Meet us for Breakfast at
Mel's Commonwealth Café
Route 30 in Wayland
February 11 at 8:30am
See Geoff Del Sesto or Gary Hoyt**

Rides to Rosie's! The Hannah's are looking for transportation into Boston to deliver the winter items collected for Elizabeth's Warm-Up for a special Valentine's Day delivery to Rosie's Place. This would be driving 2-3 Hannah Circle members, departing around 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, from Fisk, dropping the items off, and returning back to Fisk. Directions will be available. If you are able to do this, please let any one of the ladies know.



Welcome to 2017 and the first of our quarterly potluck suppers and fun events, "Share LOVE and Show You Care". Here are the details:



1. A potluck supper and game night (scrabble, Yahtzee®, table tennis, corn hole, etc.)
2. Ministry of Caring has invited as OUR GUESTS OF HONOR, the people that we regularly care for by notes, cards, phone calls, visits, fruit baskets and other remembrances.
3. We are putting together a gift bag of "Heart Gifts" for them. Please bring 3 or 4 trial size or fun size items for the bags. Thank you.

This is the Meal Train for our first potluck dinner.

February 11th, 5:30pm

<https://mealtrain.com/m77y6l>

1. WHAT IS A MEAL TRAIN?

It is organized meal giving around significant life events. What this really means; when a friend is in need, everyone asks "What can I do to help?" The answer is to make a meal. When many friends make and deliver a meal, this is a Meal Train.

2. WHY [MEALTRAIN.COM](https://mealtrain.com)?

To eliminate confusion and increase support. A shared Meal Train calendar and meal instructions answer questions in advance like: What do they like? When are they available? What food have they already had? Are there any allergies? And when should I drop off a meal? Oh yeah, and it is free!

3. WHY DO WE PREFER TO USE MEALTRAIN FOR POTLUCKS?

- This is our way to have everyone become aware of how this program works.
- For a potluck dinner it provides us a way of seeing what is being brought and what else may be needed.
- Provides us a quick way to set up and maintain multiple events as needed.

4. HOW CAN YOU HELP? In the event that we need your help in providing meals to someone just out of hospital or experiencing a life event, people will know how it works. If you don't have access to mealtrain.com online, please call me and I can add your food item for you or help you through the process.

If you wish to volunteer for the Potluck Dinner or if you have questions please **contact Pat Price directly: 508-873-1514, corey_pat@hotmail.com**

SAVE THE DATE!!

**Saturday afternoon at the Movies
February 25th, 3:30pm-5pm at Fisk, UMC**

Come and enjoy popcorn & the movie "He Called me Malala", based on the book "I am Malala"- on our 2016 UMW Reading list

This is about the student who stood up for educating females, and was shot by the Taliban. Open to all women, young women, and friends. Please notify Terry if you are coming, email tames2@partners.org or leave a message on [508-653-1462](tel:508-653-1462), my home phone.

We hope many can attend this enlightening movie. We will also have copies of Malala's book to borrow for reading from the Ogle Parlor

Terry Ames – UMW Program/Reading Resources



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

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

Feb. 5 MYF meeting

Feb. 12 MYF meeting

Feb. 26 MYF meeting

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



Music & Movement Time

For Kids Ages 2 To 7

February 4 & 18 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The event is FREE! No registration is required.

For more information and pictures of past classes, visit:

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

2017 Altar Flowers

It is time to make your 2017 flower reservations! The fresh flowers placed on the altar each Sunday beautify the sacred space of our church to honor God, and they are a gift to those attending morning worship. The altar flowers can be dedicated to commemorate a special event, birthday or anniversary, or to remember a loved one. Please sign up for flowers on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board next to the church office.



8:30AM
Friday
February 24

The UMW Hannah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. All women are invited to bring their lunch. Beverages and desserts will be provided. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day and Ferris Wheel Day. We will also be packing up the delivery of Elizabeth's Warm-Up and getting final counts. If you are able to attend, please contact a "Nancy" –Nancy Parece (508-653-8687) or Nancy Swan (508-653-8151).