

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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## January 2018

### Pastor's Note

As we start another year, it is my prayer that we continue to live with hope, share the love of God, advocate for peace and justice and spread joy in our churches, communities, country and the world.

A long time ago, I discovered that faithful disciples of Jesus Christ can be nurtured and equipped. When we equip people to grow and be nurtured, they become God's presence and generous stewards. This is important because it is through our outreach, caring and giving that we leave a legacy behind. I believe this because, since I arrived at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church, there have been moments that each of you have taken my breath away.

When I arrived, I started to become more aware of additional gifts God has given me. So I thank God for the day, the weather, the church, family, and friends. However, over this past year, I have been led into deeper thanksgiving for life and the opportunity to serve, as I find comfort in uncomfortable places, because I believe that God is present everywhere.

God is everywhere and will never let us go nor give up on us. So, this year, let us continue to live, learn and hear the Word of God as we give thanks to a great and powerful God; even during the not-so-good times.

Finally, I have found that it is in hardship that I am most inclined to turn my heart to God, sometimes in desperation. But, in view of all there is and will be, let us never give up on what God can and will do through each of us and all of us together. Let us start this year by being an ardent part of ministry and mission. There are many opportunities here, at Fisk. Speak with someone, walk with someone and work with someone this year and the years ahead.

As you speak, walk or work, know that you are made in God's image and a significant part of Fisk's family.

HAPPY NEW YEAR WITH RENEWED HOPE!

*-Pastor Alecia*

### Pastor's Announcements

#### Bible study resumes January 7, 2018

"Treasure"- Whether we have plenty money or no money- Jacob Armstrong shares; that has a direct connection to our values, our health, our relationships and our faith. Therefore, we will study and rethink who we are and where these things matter as we start the year with emphasis on stewardship; long and short term.

#### Every Sunday at 9:15 AM in Room 9

All persons are invited to come, study and share.

*"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

*Matthew 6:21*

### January 2018 – Bible Readings

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

1/7:	Ephesians 3: 1-12	Matthew 2: 1-12
1/14:	1 Samuel 3: 1-10	John 1: 43-51
	Psalm 139: 1-18	
1/21:	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10	Mark 1: 14-20
	Psalm 62	
1/28:	1 Corinthians 8: 1-13	Mark 1: 21-28

### Thank You!

The Altar Guild thanks Sue Dodd, and Ainslee Wicks for arranging the Poinsettias on the altar, and all who donated a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone to help beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

The Altar Guild will be looking for assistance in March to help take orders for Easter lilies. Please contact Barbara Beekman, Chairperson, if you can assist with this task.



**ALTAR GUILD**

### Missions



What is NEW for 2018? The Missions Committee is working on their plan for the next year...a plan to fulfill part of our goal...

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*

Matthew 25:35

Last year we proved that **MISSION is Possible**, supported a wide variety of projects—Daniel’s Table, Family Promise, Taste of Missions 11, Church World Blankets, Father’s Day Tools for UMCOR, UMCOR Health Kits, workday in Maine, Christmas in July and August for UMEM, Justice For Our Neighbors, Cleaning Buckets, White Socks for Homeless Veterans, our missionaries and more.

We thank each of you for your participation in these opportunities. You helped many, many people change their living and increased their HOPE for the future.

Clues for 2018 . . .  
Oink, oink! Moo moo!  
Ending poverty and hunger!  
Empower!  
Watch for details . . .

**Mission Prayer Focus for January**

We are asking that you keep the following mission program in your prayers for the month of January.

United Community Centers  
Birmingham Alabama

Peru-Bolivia Lake Titicaca Border Mission  
Bolivia

*Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Marcia Hoyt and Janis Townsend...we encourage you to share your concerns, interests and ideas.*

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION  
FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF  
THE MESSENGER BY  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, AT 9AM**

January 14 our Fisk United Methodist Women will install their 2018 Team members during worship. What does this mean?

Our United Methodist Discipline states that each church “shall have an organized group of United Methodist Women.” Fisk is proud of our group, as we are one of the strongest, most productive and dedicated groups in New England. We have stood by our PURPOSE and accomplished our goals each year. We thank our foremothers for their solid foundation, many years ago.

As we strive to “know God” we are bound together as a mission organization. This tradition began 150 years ago and continues today. Fisk has a UMW unit of 60 members and those who choose to -- also belong to a “circle.” Circles are just smaller groups of the larger unit. These smaller groups make it easier to “get the work done.” The circles also help us be a “creative and supportive fellowship to each other.” There are discussions about forming an additional Circle...get in on the planning steps! See Susan Carney.

Join us for a simple Luncheon on January 14 following worship. Hear the many opportunities available to you as a United Methodist Woman---dedicated to missions.

**PURPOSE of United Methodist Women**

*United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

**Fisk’s UMW Team members:**

- President-Susan Carney
- Vice President-Janis Cail
- Secretary-Lois Potter
- Treasurer-Sherry Culver

Coordinators: Joanne Billo, Marcia Hoyt, Janis Townsend, Barbara Beekman, Terry Ames

**Mark Sunday, January 14 on your calendar!**

## Finance Update

We all love the Christmas story, and the promise that the birth of our Savior brings to us all (or those good tidings of great joy). We are pleased to report that we at Fisk are blessed with a very positive response to our financial concerns, but we still need your help. So, let us all say thank you for a wonderful effort and commitment to giving.

We do not yet have the final results, especially on the spending side of supporting our ministries. We do not know what 2018 will bring, nor do we know what challenges we will encounter. We do know that we still need to hear from a few of our faithful supporters who have not yet had the opportunity to complete their new 2018 Commitment of Giving. We do know that we will need everyone's prayerful and giving support in the coming year. But, let us pause to say thank you, and recognize our blessings, and celebrate the good tidings of the angels.

The Finance Committee



### Where Faith and Life Connect!

As we affirm faith in God through our ministries, we claim a sacred place where Christ's love unites us with compassion and the caring of others. In order to make the love of

Christ a real presence in the life of each person we reach within our faith community, our ministries:

- Extend support during the trials of life and celebrate the joys
- Lead persons to resources appropriate to their needs
- Encourage all to explore and maximize their individual spiritual gifts for the work of the church and to the glory of God.

To help and participate in the Ministry of Caring, please contact Ministry of Caring Co-Chairs, Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price. Meal preparation, transportation, praying, card/note/letter writing, flower deliveries, visitation and listening are some of the ways you can help.

Marilyn Donnelly  
(508) 359-4025

Pat Price  
(508) 873-1514

The **2018 Altar Flower Calendar** will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. If you reserved altar flowers on a particular date in 2017, or would like to sign up, please print your name legibly on the chart. For more information, please contact Debi Henry.



The UMW Hannah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Ogle Parlor to discuss Purses and Prayers. All women are invited to bring their lunch, and beverages; dessert will be provided. Bring your purse, pocketbook, backpack, or bag that you carry each day when you go out. "No fairs cleaning it out before this meeting!" We will have lively discussions and make plans for the first half of 2018. Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend.

## Fisk Youth

*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: see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html> to view MYF pictures and schedule updates. Regular meetings will be held at the church:

**January 7**  
**MYF**

**January 14**  
**Movie Night**

**January 21**  
**MYF**

How to contact Bingxin and Tian: For youth-related activities, email to [fiskyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fiskyouth@gmail.com). For youth-related activities, they will be using [fiskyouth@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)



**Music & Movement Time**  
**For Kids Ages 2 To 7**  
**January 6 and 20, 11:00AM–**  
**12:00PM**

The event is FREE! No registration is required.  
 For more information please contact/email Deborah  
 Hernandez [deborahlhernandez@gmail.com](mailto:deborahlhernandez@gmail.com)

**January Worship Participants**

Jan	Liturgists	Jan	Ushers
7	Dorothy Phillips	7	Dwayne
14	Aljani Stanley	14	Billingsley
21	Sherry Culver	21	&
28	Crystal Mayo	28	Friends
	Greeters		Fellowship
7	Mike	7	
14	Bruns	14	
21	&	21	
28	Friends	28	
	Acolytes		Cross Bearer
7	Danny J.	7	Rose C.
14	Sarah F.	14	all
21	Tiffany S.	21	Sundays
28	Nick J.	28	in January
	Communion		Psalter Reader
7	Tom & Susan Carney	21	Zander G.



**“The Christmas Story .... Live on the Lawn”**  
**December 16, 2017**