

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.fiskumc.org

January 2019

Pastor's Note

WOW, another year given to us! As we start another year, know it is because of God's amazing grace; unmerited and undeserved.

I know there are many things we are thinking about to make commitments as the year starts. As we think about, worry about or reflect on, let me share this. I have had a relationship with someone for as long as I have been living. Though sometimes I do not keep up with my commitment, this person does. The relationship we have is long, and lasting. If the truth is to be told, this person has never let me go or never given up on me.

I am sharing this because this person is Jesus Christ, the son of the living God. Hence year in and year out, this person is still present. Because of this person's genuine relationship with me, I continue to respond by developing genuine relationships with others.

This month, January 20th will be observed as Human Relations Day. It is a time to reflect on and appreciate the strength of diversity that God has given this earth. As we do, let us unite to celebrate everyone's gift and offer opportunities for each to enhance his/her gift.

We are called to be God's presence, to encourage and empower all persons. This year and the years ahead, let us be more intentional about being present with love and hospitality. Most of all let us continue to love God, our neighbors and be the difference the world needs. That is what genuine human relationships are about.

Can you add this to your list of commitments for 2019? I believe we all can. If you find it difficult to do, visit us this year at Fisk, see and feel what the Holy Spirit can and will do.

*HAPPY NEW YEAR WITH
MUCH LOVE AND BLESSING!*

-Pastor Alecia

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We will resume our Sunday morning Bible study on Sunday, January 13 at 9:15 am in the Women's parlor. We will start a journey of reading and studying from Genesis to Revelation. Please join us knowing that without spiritual growth, all other growth is in vain.

Happy New Year with love and blessing! A New Year brings new things; prayers, pledges and participation. As the New Year unfolds, I pray that these things will awaken us to the possibilities that can happen. But no matter what unfolds in 2019, know that God has never left. Therefore, we can continue to seek comfort as we live with humility and openness to help and accept help from others.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Pastor Alecia

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 14th Annual Natick Community Celebration

Is Monday, January 21st at 10am at the Wilson Middle School. Please come out to support our community, join others and remember Dr, King.

*Sponsored by the Natick Area Interfaith Clergy
Association, the Natick School Department, SPARK
Kindness and Natick Together for Youth*

THANK YOU FOR 2018

Thank you to all our leaders, committee members and this congregation for faithfulness and support to all the ministries of this church. May God richly bless each of you and your families this year and the years ahead as we serve God here at Fisk Memorial UMC, Natick, MA.

For Personal Reflection & Spiritual growth

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

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan. 6 | Matthew 2:1-12 | Isaiah 60: 1-6 |
| Jan. 13 | Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22 | Psalm 29 |
| Jan. 20 | John 2:1-11 | Isaiah 62: 1-5 |
| Jan. 27 | Luke 14: 14-21 | I Corinthians 12: 12-31 |

2019 Confirmation Class

Pastor Alecia with Rev. Ted Crass of Community UMC, Wayland will host Confirmation classes together at Community in Wayland. Below is the schedule as we pray that our parents will support their children; our youth for this heart-warming experience with other United Methodist youth.

Please let our Christian Education chairperson, Amy Bruns or our Sunday School Superintendent, Susan Carney know if you are interested and can commit to this growth in the life of your child or children. Thank you with God's blessing for 2019.

Schedule below: (Sundays)

January 13 & 27 from 4:30-6pm

February 3, 10 & 24 from 4:30-6pm

March 3 from 4:30-6 pm

Saturday- March 9- Retreat from 9am – 1pm

2019 Lay Academy

Saturday's – January 26 & February 9, 2019

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

South Walpole UMC

Registration Deadline: January 11th

Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course

Lay Servants Lead in Conflict Resolution

Justice in Everyday Life (UMC Social Principles)

Classes may be taken for certification or audit purposes. Class Descriptions and Registration Forms are in the church office and in the literature rack by the nursery.

For more information, please contact Barbara Beekman, Debi Henry, or Beth Ferguson, CMA LSM Director at betheferguson@gmail.com

Worship Team

Happy New Year 2019 to all!!

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11***

Sunday, January 6 will be our celebration for Epiphany —when the wise men reached Jesus to praise him and give gifts.

On December 30th, we celebrated the music ministry of John Bybee II who has been with us for almost three years. Fisk's Music Ministry has become more vibrant under his direction, the choir has grown, and we have all gotten to know a really great man. Let us celebrate.

On January 6, we will welcome our NEW Music Minister Dr. Americo Motta, who comes to us from the Fall River area. Over the past several years, he has served two churches with his special brand of enthusiasm, spiritualism, and cordiality.

Many blessings to all of you in this new season.

Diane French, Worship Chair

United Methodist Church **#Giving Tuesday Update**

More than \$624,000. was given for ministry on #GivingTuesday on November 27th. The denomination came together to #GiveUM furthering mission and ministry across the globe. The giving will have a positive impact in the lives of countless people around the world. We celebrate this generosity!

Ministry of Caring

We are a Christ centered and Gospel driven community of faith. Hence, as children of God, our loving, caring and serving go beyond the walls of the church. These past months we have reached out to those who had surgery, those in need of healing, comfort or just a presence. And because we are God presence in the world, we continue to embody the love of God by reaching to those in need.

We also reached out by hosting a monthly worship service at Whitney Place and Eliot House; two nursing care facilities in our community. We are present with the residents and members of our congregation that are homebound in addition to sending out cards of connection; hope, love, joy and peace.

We give thanks to those who continue to serve in this ministry and those joining us in 2019. Most of all, thanks for your continuous gifts to make this ministry possible and connectional.

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.



Missions & Outreach

First of all, as this new year begins we want to THANK YOU for all of the gifts to Mission you made during the last year. We truly are a thankful, giving congregation. Many people near and far depend on our generosity ...we thank you for your share.

EXAMPLE: The Alternative Christmas cards raised \$400.00 during Coffee Hour last week and will make available school uniforms in Nicaragua, assist immigrant families with legal aid and benefit the programs of the Natick Service Council.

The Mission Committee has discussed where to direct our energies in these coming months. Here are some clues—

- Clue #1 Faith, perseverance and promise
- Clue #2 300 cubits long
- Clue #3 Passing on the Gift
- Clue #4 Genesis 6:8-22

A ministry in need through our Connectional Church—

- Clue #1 Northern Appalachia
- Clue #2 Happy 50th Anniversary
- Clue #3 Healthy, sustainable communities
- Clue #4 Matt 25:35-37

Answers: next month's Messenger or you can read about them in the scriptures.



To fulfill our goals of helping those in Natick, New England, the United States and Globally, we continue to bring non-perishable food items for the Natick

Food Pantry and supply Health Kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Collection of clothing will begin again on April 1.



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

UMW Hannah Circle

The Hannah Bananas will begin the New Year with a Slumber/Pajama Party at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, in Ogle Parlor. Please bring your lunch (sandwich), and beverages and dessert will be provided. All women are invited! Pajamas are optional. We will share childhood slumber party memories – either those of our own or our kids – have lunch, and begin making plans for 2019. Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you will attend.

United Methodist Women

*Another year of Mission and Fellowship
as we grow in our faith.*

Our Purpose

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.

Installation of Officers during worship (January 6) begins a new year of programming for all women and older teen girls of the area. We welcome you to any of our meetings in hopes that you will learn, have fun, grow in your faith and help us complete our Purpose.

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

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Education and Interpretation | Barbara Beekman |
| Membership, Nurture and Outreach | Joanne Billo |
| Social Action | Marcia Hoyt |
| Spiritual Growth | Janis Townsend |
| Program Resources | Terry Ames |

*Invitation to a Light Lunch
Following worship on January 6, 2019
Rooms 8-9*



Come and be part of the plan!
Three Circles meet monthly...just ask us.
Prayer Shawl Group every Wednesday at 10 a.m.
Reading Program-individually. Look at our library.

2019 Planning Session

This year will be combined with Administrative Board meeting on Wednesday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 8 & 9. Come to pray, to share, to dream and to spend time together as we plan for the year, 2019 ("The sunrise of a New Year").

January Worship Participants

| Jan | Liturgists | Jan | Ushers |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 6 | Dorothy Phillips | 6 | Dwayne |
| 13 | Kate Day | 13 | Billingsley |
| 20 | Jennifer French | 20 | & |
| 27 | Diane French | 27 | Friends |
| Jan | Greeters | Jan | Fellowship |
| 6 | Mike | 6 | tbd |
| 13 | Bruns | 13 | tbd |
| 20 | & | 20 | tbd |
| 27 | Friends | 27 | tbd |
| Jan | Acolytes | Jan | Cross Bearer |
| 6 | Nick J | 6 | Rose |
| 13 | Danny J | 13 | Currie |
| 20 | Sarita H | 20 | all |
| 27 | Kateri G/Tiffany S | 27 | Sundays |
| 6 | Communion Sue & Tom Carney | 20 | Psalter Reader tbd |



Music & Movement Time

For Kids Ages 1 to 7

Saturday – January 19th

Snowballs! Snowballs! Snowballs!

Young children and their parents and/or grandparents are invited to our **FREE** Music and Movement class.

Saturday – February 16 - Valentines & Friendship

Saturday – March 16 – Glow Spring!

For more information:

please contact/email Deborah Hernandez

deborahlhernandez@gmail.com

Youth News

For youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

Youth Fellowship Leaders:

Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang

fiskyouth@gmail.com

Youth Group meets for Youth and Family night on the first Friday every month, and they get together with Bingxin & Tian on the third Sunday following service. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please check out

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

to view pictures and schedule updates.

Youth & Family Night

Everyone is invited!

Friday, January 4, 2019

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Who : Youth and Families of Fisk - all ages.

Food : Simple dinner provided – we ask for volunteers to bring dessert , salad or vegetables.

Activity : Games, fellowship, and informal fun with members of the Fisk family.

Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend.

Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church

Sunday, January 20, 12:00 PM

If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact them or Pastor Alecia or Sherry Culver at sherrycd@comcast.net



The word **epiphany** means appearance or manifestation. Who were the Magi? We often forget that these Magi or Wise Men were non-Jews. Older sources suggest that they were priestly descendants of one of the tribes of the Medes known for their knowledge of astronomy and their ability to interpret dreams.

What can we learn from the Wise Men? First, the Wise Men began their journey because of their beliefs. It was a common belief that when a world leader like a king was born that a special stellar phenomenon would appear in the sky. The Magi saw something that convinced them that they had seen the long-awaited sign. Historians tell us that the Jews, the Romans, and the Persians were all watching the skies about that time, looking for signs of the birth of an extraordinary king. The Wise Men saw the star and began their journey.

The Wise Men brought gifts. They did the thing that people in the East would do when visiting royalty. They brought gifts. Gold was the kind of gift that you brought to a king. Frankincense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest. Myrrh was given to someone who was about to die.

On This Twelfth Day, known as Epiphany, think of the gift that you will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of your talents? Your service in the community? Your witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?

Excerpted from ...

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/epiphany-reflections>

February Messenger Deadline

9:00 a.m. – January 18th

