

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

Summer 2017

Pastor's Note

As we continue to enjoy the sunshine of abundance, let us continue to weed the garden of our lives. That is, we need to remove those things that obstruct our relationship with God and with each other. We need to continue to be good stewards in July and August as we were during Christmas and Easter.

I say this because I believe that there is always a sweet, sweet spirit at Fisk. There is something good, right and true that forces us to think about, reach out and serve others well. And if the truth is told, there is always the spirit of laughter, serving, sharing and giving as we worship and work together.

Our worship is holy and wholesome. We are striving for perfection and God is always faithful and present. But most of all, in the midst of all the chaos and busyness of life, we take time to meditate, to welcome all persons and to be God's presence in our families, our community and the world.

So this summer, have permission to do a little more and give a little extra as you take time off for family and friends.

HAPPY Summer Days!

- Pastor Alecia

Worship Highlights

Effective Sunday, July 2 to Sunday, August 27, we will be meeting for Sunday Service in rooms 8+9 at 9:30 a.m. However, on July 16 and 23, please note that the location will be moved to the sanctuary, to accommodate our Family Promise guests. As in the past few years, our summer worship time will be an informal, relaxed, but spirit-filled service.

Would you like to donate a small vase of flowers, set up an informal altar/sacred space during the summer? There will be a medium size round table available each Sunday in rooms 8+9. It can be decorated on Saturdays or before 9:00am on Sundays. Contact Barb Beekman, 508-647-4004.

🎵 Fisk Family Singers - Summer Singspiration 🎵

All Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church members and visitors are honorary members of the Fisk Family Singers! Please join us at 9:15 every Sunday in July and August for Summer Singspiration as we enjoy singing our favorite hymns prior to the 9:30 a.m. worship service!

July/August 2017 – Bible Readings

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following. In addition, you can join us in worship, reach out to others, touch a life by your sharing and feel blessed that you are God's presence in the world.

Date	Scripture	Gospel	Date	Scripture	Gospel
7/2	Romans 6:12-23 Psalm 13	Matthew 10:40-42	8/6	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
7/9	Romans 7:15-25	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	8/13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
7/16	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	8/20	Romans 11:1-2, 29-32	Matthew 15:10-28
7/23	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	8/27	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
7/30	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52			

Opportunities for Service - 2018

There are many great opportunities to serve God at Fisk. When we decide to serve, it becomes a ministry and mission mindset, and not a volunteer job. We work with others and we begin to have a stake in the outcome of ministry and mission in God's church. But to do this, we need everyone's heart, mind and hands. Therefore, please prayerfully consider signing up for one of the ministries or mission work with the passion you have to be and to give all that you can.

After prayer and reflection, please speak with Pastor Alecia or our Lay Leader, Dorothy Philips knowing that God has given each of us gifts to serve and exalt God's holy name.

**SPREAD
THE
WORD!**



Vacation Bible School

**Join us for games, songs, learning, crafts and fun!
Invite your friends to join the adventure too!**

Where: Fisk Memorial UMC
When: July 10-14
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Who: Children ages 4 - 11

***** Cost \$25 — Scholarships available *****

Sign up at: www.fiskumc.org



**ALSO:
Volunteers needed!
How can you help?**

- * Be a teacher/leader for a small group
- * Tell the Bible story or lesson on one or more days
- * Purchase snacks and food supplies (list provided)
 - Help with decorating before the week begins
 - Help with registration on Monday morning from 8:30 to 9:30

Contact Amy Bruns: AmyBruns35@gmail.com



PICNIC IN THE PARK

David or Alicia Blais will be telling us more about Daniel's Table. We will be presenting them with our check from Bread Sales January-June, as well as proceeds from the picnic.

WHO: Fisk Members and Friends
WHAT: Picnic and games to raise money for Daniel's Table
WHEN: August 12th, 12:00-4:00PM
WHERE: JJ Lane Park, Natick

LADIES: Bring a boxed lunch for two. Be creative and make them delicious and pretty. SECRET - Insert pretty packages into a brown paper bag, don't let anyone see.

GUYS: Bid on a boxed lunch for two and have lunch with the lady that made the lunch. Bids start at \$15, funds are for Daniel's Table. Once everyone has a lunch date you can bid on other lunches too.

Bring your lawn chairs and/or blanket, bat and softball, soccer ball, corn hole, scrabble, checkers or other games. In case of rain, we will have an indoor picnic at Fisk. Hope to see you all for a great summer picnic and to help raise some funds for Daniel's Table.

June's fruit basket from Ministry of Caring was delivered to the Gates Family in Pennsylvania. They say "Hi" to everyone and that they miss you all and encourage travelers to come visit. They have their Law Office for Zack and psychologist office for Sarah running well, and have a full time office worker. They are hoping to bring in another lawyer by the end of the year. They are busy with the kids, community, church and Bible study Saturday nights at their home. Sarah was in a Community Theater production on Friday and Saturday nights. There are many other exciting things taking place in their lives, including "Isaac the Master Magician", who will be going to 2nd grade in the fall, and Adrienne going to Kindergarten. They have a big tank of beautiful fish and are looking forward to maybe getting a dog. It was a wonderful visit.

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



MISSION TRIP #2 -- completed

Eight Fisk members went to the United Methodist Economic Ministries, in Salem, Maine, for a Mission Work Day. We completed a variety of tasks to ease their workload and contribute to the vital ministry they are doing for these under-served people in the Western Mountains of Maine.

- We heard their first-hand experiences and the history of this Mission site
- Sorted Greeting cards
- Packaged and labeled new pairs of socks and underwear to be included in the 200 backpacks that will be distributed just before school begins in September
- The “shop and tool room” was sorted and re-organized

Ask any of us about our experience...Townsend, Barbara Beekman, Mary Greenwood, Hoyts, or the Cails. We were all educated about the needs of our brothers and sisters...so close to home. The trip was a blessing to each of us. Some of us shopped in the Thrift Shop.

Are you interested in going the next time?



UMCOR Health Kits

(United Methodist Committee on Relief)

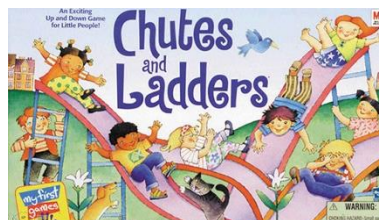
YOU completed 85 Health Kits for the 2017 collection at Annual Conference. Sherry Culver and Marcia Hoyt delivered them, to Manchester, NH, to be transported to an UMCOR Depot. Fisk's were added to those from around the New England Conference and will be sent when and where they are needed globally. Those receiving a Health Kit often have survived a flood, fire, drought, tornadoes, earthquakes or just a lack of resources. These kits are also used to teach good healthy habits to third world countries. This is an ongoing project, and we will begin to collect for 2018. How many

can we do by next June? Can we double that number? There are seven items in a kit...so if you just purchase one item (or multiples) each month...by next June we should have 100 kits! Information is on the Bulletin Board.

Christmas is here!

July and August

The MISSIONS COMMITTEE has decided to highlight our Christmas Gift Giving during July and August. This was reinforced by our “Mission Trip to the United Methodist Economic Ministry” a few weeks ago. One of the projects that support the people of the Western Mountains of Maine is a Christmas Shoppe. This is a space where all NEW gifts are displayed and the parents can “shop” for their children or family. There is also space for children



to choose a gift for their parents. They are given coupons relative to their income to help with their shopping. Fisk will be collecting these gifts until

September. They will then be brought to Maine so they can have the gifts organized by November.

Suggested shopping list includes:

*Gifts should be **NEW and UNWRAPPED!***

Most items listed are for all ages, male/female)

- toys and books for all ages-infants to teens
- new packages of underwear
- new packages of socks
- sweatshirts, sweaters
- note cards/stamps
- small household items
- games, basketballs etc.
- personal care products
- newborn clothing etc.
- sets of sheets, towels...etc.
- new winter jackets-all sizes



Christmas Gifts may be left by the church office or in Room 8-9 in the red tubs! They will be collected often and stored until the “Sleigh goes North.” We will continue to take your good, clean, wearable clothing to the ministry until early November. It is easy to transport if they are folded into paper grocery bags, if possible.

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

Mission by the Numbers

Your generosity is appreciated.

BREAD SALES on the first Sunday of the month through June-just over \$1000.00 for Daniel's Table. Thank you to the bakers and the buyers!

MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY CARDS – We sent more than \$300.00 to Tools for Hope and the Blankets Emphasis. Fisk also sent more than \$250 to UMEM as a result of the Gift Cards.

HEALTH KITS -PLUS the 85 **Health Kits** for UMCOR and the continuing clothing collections.

God tells us to serve others and Fisk is doing just that as we support programs that help our neighbors -- near and far. Keep up the good work!

Volunteer opportunity

Would you like to bag a few groceries approximately 3 times a year? Fisk volunteers at the Natick Food Pantry on the second Thursday of each month from 4:45 to 8:00PM. Speak with Gary or Marcia Hoyt .

Mission u: It's for you



Mission u provides opportunities for persons to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context as well as initiate opportunities for spiritual and educational experiences. The time is spent in worship and study with music, prayer, sharing, exploring and much food for the body and the soul.

2017 Mission u facts:

Mission education experience for all ages will take place **Friday to Sunday, July 21-23**, at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH. (Our UMW has some scholarship money).

1. **Spiritual Growth Study: *Living as a Covenant Community*** led by Mimi Magee. Covenants are found in the Bible from the moment God created

man and woman until the last page of Revelation. This study examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God's character and eternal love for us.

2. **Geographical Study: *Missionary Conferences of The UMC in the U.S.*** led by Roberta Bragan. This study gives you the foundational understanding of how the United Methodist Church developed into the organization it is today through the lens of the three U.S. missionary conferences:
 - Alaska United Methodist Conference,
 - Red Bird Missionary Conference and
 - Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.
3. **Issue Study: *Climate Justice*** (Saturday only) led by Elizabeth Bachelder Smith.
4. **Youth Study: *Missionary Conferences*** led by Michael Terrell.
5. **Children's Study: *Missionary Conferences*** led by Tammy Verity.

Go to www.neumc.org and download a paper registration form

Location and accommodations The housing is in suites with shared semi-private bathrooms; handicapped accessible buildings; shuttle service between buildings; air-conditioned classrooms; cafeteria dining. Bring your own linens, pillow, towels and toiletries including a cup. Five meals are included, Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast.

Mission u is for everyone pastors, laity, families, youth and children. There are classes for both youth and children. Childcare will be available. One Continuing Education Unit (1 CEU) is offered for clergy who participate in the entire event. Sherry Culver has more information.

Maple Syrup

Each spring families in Western Maine gather maple tree sap and boil it down to maple syrup. In this area of high unemployment this is a vital way for some families to be self-sufficient. This income helps bridge the gap between winter and summer employment, locally known as "mud" season. United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) serves as a connection piece between the New England United Methodist Churches and the local producers.



When Fisk sent out a Mission Team in June, they returned with 30 containers of wonderful syrup. Quarts, pints and half pints are available. See Gary Hoyt of the United Methodist Men's group for your purchase.

Finance & Stewardship

Summertime! As we begin the beautiful summer season here in New England, and plan our family vacations and time together, we must remember our commitments to our stewardship of God's gifts to us all. Our stewardship, our sharing of all that we have, by God's grace, makes our ministries work. Our financial update:

- Our financial support is slightly behind through May,
- We are carefully spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate,
- We are planning and praying for continued growth, and improvements in our financial position.
- The timely support of our pledges is very important.

Many good things are happening! Enjoy your summer, and please plan to continue your stewardship during the summer months.

The Finance Committee



Prayer Shawl Group is looking to have others join us...any Wednesday morning at 10:00am in Ogle Parlor. Come, visit, relax and enjoy the company of others while knitting or crocheting.

Education



Summer Child Care

On Sundays during July and August, all children attend the service until after the children's sermon ... then they leave for a lesson and play, led by Kelli Garrant and a helper. We

look forward to an enriching time for our youngest which will allow for parents and older siblings to worship.

There will continue to be "clipboard activities" in worship. We do encourage all the youth to actively take part in worship for as long as their attention spans allow. Please feel free to take the activity sheets home to do as well.

Prayerfully Consider ...

... being blessed by helping in Sunday school. We are in need of teachers, helpers and substitutes. Nursery help is also a need. Please contact Susan Carney, 508-655-6148 or email, susanjcarney@gmail.com.

Summer Office Hours

**July and August
Church Office will be open
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
9:00AM – 1:00PM**



**SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION
FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE
OF THE MESSENGER BY
AUGUST 21ST, 8:30 AM**

Celebrations!