

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.fiskumc.org

July & August 2019

Pastor's Note

As we enjoy the sun and the heat, it is my sincere prayer that all is well and going well with each of you and your families.

I give thanks for each of you and all you have done, and continue to do in God's church, Fisk UMC.

During this season of the year, a time when we have no limit on how much time and resources we spend, can we take a few minutes to reflect on our faithfulness and where our greatest treasure lies?

I know we can. Our minds are at peace, our bodies relaxed and our hands are more willing to share. You see, our family at Fisk is a faithful one with life-giving and sharing hands. They are people who are compassionate and passionate about God's ministry and missions on earth. We give our time, talents and tithes knowing that the church of Jesus Christ will live on because each gift that is given makes a difference.

We also have leaders that have a stake in the outcome of ministry and missions here. They are frugal with our spending, spend wisely and life is worth living with, and among us, as we strive to be more faithful stewards of all our resources. We believe we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13), and because Christ lives we will also live and be the church Christ calls us to be.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and prayerfully include us as you share your gifts!

-Pastor Alecia

Central Massachusetts District of the New England Conference UMC

This month we welcome Rev. Megan Stowe, our new District Superintendent. The bishop affirms that she has a compassionate heart; and at Fisk, that is who we are. So, with great joy and continuity, as the greatest "Movers & Shakers" ever, we live to serve God and work with her.

"Welcome Rev. Stowe!"

New England Annual Conference Award 2019

Last month at our New England Annual Conference in Manchester, NH, Fisk UMC was recognized for mission through the "Lifetime Discipleship Award" given to **Marcia Hoyt** for dedicated service as a lay person to the United Methodist Church's missions.

We are blessed and grateful for all our United Methodist Women who walk this journey and make Fisk UMC a beacon of hope in the conference for "Mission Work."

Congrats Marcia and thanks to the great team of faithful persons at Fisk UMC that have journeyed with you. We are grateful also to Gary, and your family for sharing her with us

Worship Team



Summer worship starts

Sunday July 7, in Rooms 8 & 9.

Please arrive at 9:15 AM for "Favorite Hymn Sing" prior to start of worship service.

**We look forward to seeing all of you ...
the turkeys too!**

Summer church office hours, until August 19.

The office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

phone: 508-653-1674

email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org



Adaptive Worship A Time for Spirited Kids

The Adaptive Worship Service will be held at 4:30 p.m. on July 21, and August 18. We welcome families seeking a more flexible, less structured worship experience for children and youth with diagnoses and challenges that make attending a traditional worship service difficult. This 30-minute monthly service will be held on the third Sunday of each month, followed by a light meal and time of fellowship. While the service is designed for people with special needs, everyone is welcome to join us. For more information, please contact Jennifer French (508) 653-1687, or Debbie Friscino ((508) 653-7657.

When life gives us lemons ... Fisk makes lemonade! **Lemonade Hour—Summer Sundays**

Fellowship is an important ingredient in any recipe that makes a church home! During July & August, "Lemonade Hour" follows the casual summer worship services in Rooms 8 & 9. Individuals, groups, friends, and families are invited to host a Sunday. Pitchers and platters are available in Ogle Parlor for you to use. If you are interested in a particular Sunday, please check the bulletin board outside Whipple Hall where the sign-up sheet is posted. Whatever you "bring to the table" is always welcome with grateful hearts. Lemonade Hour provides an opportunity for us to gather and share with one another in friendship and fellowship.



Evangelism Team

We are God's presence. We connect and partner with all groups at Fisk. In addition, we reach out and are present in the community. One of the ways we do this is to participate in the Annual Natick Day in Natick, MA.

This year will be another special year as we remain a presence in our community. Hence, please save the date for Natick Day, on Saturday, September 7 from 10 AM-3:00 PM. To make this day extra special and a great success, we will need all the help we can find. We will be asking for help to create more awareness of our ministry and mission at Fisk, but you can also sign up (following worship on June 30) to participate. Thanks!

SUMMER SCRIPTURE READINGS

For continuous spiritual growth as you live each week, spend time with family and friends, find time to read, and reflect on the following scripture passages:

July 7	Galatians 6:1-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 14	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
July 21	Psalms 52	Luke 10:38-42
July 28	Colossians 2:6-15	Luke 11:1-13
Aug 4	Psalms 107:1-9, 43	Luke 12:13-21
Aug 11	Hebrew 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12: 32-40
Aug 18	Isaiah 5:1-7	Luke 12: 49-56
Aug 25	Psalms 71:1-6	Luke 13:10-17

Ministry of Caring

"From God's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16

"Who ya going to call? Ghostbusters!" Are you singing or saying that line over and over in your head now? This summer, change it up a bit and focus on Stressbusters! Be aware, and when you feel overwhelmed by stress, read the scripture above and know there is a constant supply of grace flowing towards you. Then imagine ocean waves rolling over you, cleansing and invigorating you. Recognize grace this summer; whether you are at the ocean, or remembering a summer from long ago, know that God's grace flows over, and through you.



Team Members: Pat Price, Marilyn Donnelly, Clotilde Hyango, Gerry Billingsley, Joanne Billo, and Pastor Alecia

Finance & Stewardship

"Since my money is God's money, every spending decision I make is a spiritual decision." –John Hagee

Though we are striving to be the best Stewards God wants us to be, sometimes we fall short due to conditions in the world, especially during the summer months. But we give thanks that in the midst of all there is and can be, we have generous and faithful stewards at Fisk UMC who continue to serve and support God's ministries and all our missions. And as always, we count on all of you *because your love for God is guaranteed* – Share a blessed and safe summer and continue to remember us in your plans!

Local & Global Missions



UMCOR Hygiene Kits

These kits are an ongoing project for Fisk. The kits are in great need by UMCOR. Our goal for each year is to send 50-100 kits to UMCOR. We have sent the ones that have been collecting in Ogle Parlor—35 went on their way to a depot and will be used as needed throughout the world. This is something that is so easy and so needed. Put this list in your wallet and when you see one of the



items...buy 2 or even 6. There is a basket in the parlor for your donations. Someone this past year bought 50 pairs of nail clippers—thanks, that is so helpful. Be creative, BUT you must follow the list

exactly.

Hand towel 15"x25" or 17"x27", no microfiber

Facecloth no microfiber

Soap 3oz. or larger Bath bar soap, wrapped
No Ivory or Jergens

Comb Sturdy and with at least 6" of teeth

Toothbrush Adult size and individually packaged

Nail clippers Nail or toenail clippers

10 common adhesive bandages "band aids" 3 x ¾ "
Package all in a one-gallon re-sealable plastic bag.

CLOTHES FOR MAINE

The United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine supplies two thrift shops through our connnectional church system. This Mission Site serves many, many families in this under-served area of the western mountains of Maine. Their revenue is dependent on us, from our pledges, our giving, and our clothes that they sell for very reasonable prices. Many residents in the area shop here, regardless of their income level.

NOW ... about the clothes: It is best if they are folded into paper grocery bags; they are much easier to move around and get to their destination. They take clothes for all seasons, all ages, and all genders. Infants and children's clothing are always appreciated and needed. Where to bring them? Two options...

1. The wooden box outside the church office.

2. Drop them at Hoyt's home-8 Bacon St. If we are not home, just put them "on the porch by the side door". There is a bench there so they will not get wet.

Thanks for your support for these projects from Marcia Hoyt, Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, and Janis Townsend---members of the Mission Committee.

Christmas in July and August! Fisk's Summer Mission Emphasis

The Missions Committee is encouraging the gathering of Christmas Gifts for the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Maine. It is important to do this during the summer months so that they can organize and set-up their Christmas Shopping area for late October and November.

Suggested gifts:

All items must be NEW & UNWRAPPED.

All sizes, male & female, and for all ages welcomed.

- Packages of underwear
- Packages of socks
- Clothing-sweaters, sweat shirts and pajamas
- Toys
- Games and books—
all ages
- Personal care products
- Stamps
- Gift cards (Hannaford's or Walmart)



Gifts may be put in the **Red
Tubs**, by the church office

and the narthex until July and then in Room 8-9. These may be the only things these families receive for their Christmas. Shop now for Christmas! How fun is that!

Questions: Ask Marcia Hoyt

September Messenger Deadline

Friday, August 23

9:00 a.m.

Mailing Date: August 28

All women of Fisk UMC are invited!



Relax in the beauty of Maine, spend time with your sisters in Christ, and be refreshed and renewed during our time together.

Fisk Women's Retreat

August 9-11, 2019

Hoyt's Lake House in Harrison, Maine

We have planned a weekend retreat for all women. This is a time of relaxation, fellowship and learning along with lots of fun, swimming, walks, shopping, reading, naps, and time for you to do what makes you happy and refreshed.

We are excited to have Dorothy Phillips lead the discussions and reflections.

Our plans include

- "Sunday worship on the deck"
- Three reflection times
- Working on a mission project and/or maybe a Fair Project
- Carpool rides arranged. It is a three hour trip from Natick
- What you will need:
- Personal items, bed sheets/sleeping bag for twin bed, towel, just casual clothes
OPTIONAL--swimsuit, your knitting, a book, your Bible...

All Fisk Women are encouraged to attend.

See Susan Carney to register TODAY.

Cost is just \$30.00

We can accommodate 18-20 women.

Call or email Susan with your plans to attend.

Reserve your bed now!

Your name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

In June, 11 members of the Hannah Circle came together and had lunch at Ken's Steak House. Although we missed those who could not attend, we had a wonderful time!

As we were getting ready to go towards a summer of rest, relaxation, time with family and friends—and possible new adventures and visiting fun places—our "leader" gives us Tissue Homework! If we have homework over the summer, you have homework over the summer!



We each received a small package of tissues with a saying on them, and were asked (told) to reflect on that message as it applies to our life and the life of our church family. We got one saying, but you have a choice. Please choose one, reflect over this and share with us: "Find Your Fearless", "Seize The Moment", "Believe In Yourself", "Summon Your Strength".

Youth News

For Fisk youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

Youth Group meets on the first Friday every month, and on the third Sunday following service, September—June. 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 & Family Night ~ Everyone is invited!

Friday, September 6, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

A simple dinner is provided – we ask for volunteers to bring a dessert, salad, or vegetables. Enjoy 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, September 15, 12:00 PM

Youth Fellowship Leaders:

Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang, fiskyouth@gmail.com

If you wish to volunteer, contact Tian, Bingxin or Sherry Culver at sherrycd@comcast.net

Thank You Fisk UMC

Thank you, thank you, and thank you, for the many thoughts and prayers for me as I accepted the "Lifetime

United Methodist Women

of Discipleship Award" from the Preacher's Aid Society at the New England Annual Conference last week.

As usual, this conference is always trying to "catch up" with their planned schedule. When I approached the stage...the leadership apologized for not having time for my comments.

However, I do want you to know that my (planned) acceptance speech included ALL of you! Mission work is not done in a vacuum and as they say "it takes a village"...Fisk Church has been my village!

So I thank you for being supportive of some things I have brought to the Mission Work of Fisk...dating back to 1972 (47 years ago!) trying to convince the church that it was "the right thing to do—to house a Day Care Center for working mothers." This was a very controversial idea in the early 70's when many people thought—*mothers need to stay home with their children...Natick did not have needy families...so who would be using the center? Would it bring too much traffic?* I am proud of what FACE has done for this community, making affordable Child Care for the working parents. It is also good stewardship of our building and the outside space.

There have been so many successes: Dr. Belinda Forbes, our connection with the General Board of Global Ministries, your support of Cooper Community Center, you are regular volunteers at the Natick Food Pantry, our continued support of JFON and United Methodist Economic Ministry in Maine, to name just a few. Since that time so many things have been started, and fortunately continued for us to serve God and..."clothe the naked, feed the hungry and welcome the stranger" (Matt. 25-paraphrased.) My involvement with UMW has also kept me inspired to do this work.

Thank you for your support and for your efforts in these and the many others way to act on our beliefs. Our work is not done! John Wesley challenges us to...

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

Marcia Hoyt

Please keep them in your prayers . . .

m Special Prayer of mercy and grace for our denomination (UMC)

- m Prayers for Sedia Freeman Awuah & children or the loss of her husband, Dr Kwadwo (Kojo) Awuah
- m Prayers for the Thomas family for the loss of Charlene Thomas
- m Healing and recovery prayers for Dale Heron
- m Prayers of strength for Maurice & Mabel Alves and their son, Robert Eddins
- m Prayers for Christopher, son of Blanche and Fran
- m Prayers for strength and healing for Carol Milne
- m Prayers for refugees and immigrants, everywhere
- m Prayers for healing and strength for Louis and Linnea Fisher
- m Healing & recovery prayers for Angela Curran, & her son, Zack
- m Healing prayers for Carol Olson, Barbara Prescott, Carol Drew, and Donna Henry
- m Prayers for Jovanni, Nancy Swan's great-grandson
- m Prayers for Dwight W., Margaret S., and Addie (Dorothy Phillips' siblings)
- m Prayers for those who are struggling: financially, emotionally, spiritually, & physically
- m Prayers for all leaders and people around the world, especially children
- m Prayers for Congregations, Clergy, and Bishop of the New England Conference UMC
- m Prayers for staff and families served at Family Promise, UMEM, Cooper Community Center, and other United Methodist Missions
- m Prayers for the families who lost loved ones in the tragic accident near Randolph, NH on Friday, June 21st.

Please continue to keep these people in your prayers:

Diane French, Barbara Beekman, Donna Douen, Doug Knapp, Marty Griffin, Jeffrey Potter, William G., Stacey R., Carolyn & Jan Carlson, Anthony B., Ginny Van Tassell, Betty Wicks, Debbie Caswell, Elisa's dad (Don), Judy LeBlanc, Ethel Longworth, Helen Hollingworth, Steven Lindsey, Paul D., Carole Becker, Rich Biro, Tom Gillespie, June D., and Wade W. & sons..

Michael Igo, Paul (Syung) Kim, Andrew Colvin, Erik Maloney, and others *serving in the military.*

Dr. Belinda Forbes--*Missionary – Serving Christ in Nicaragua.*

Mat & Kayle Pelletier--*Missionaries serving in S. Africa & others, serving around the world.*

♪ Music Ministry ♪

♪ Summer Worship—Favorite Hymn Sing ♪

All Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church members and visitors are invited to join us in Room 8/9 at 9:15 every Sunday in July and August as we enjoy singing our favorite hymns prior to the 9:30 a.m. worship service!

July & August Celebrations



Pastor Alecia was ordained as a full Elder in the New England Conference, UMC on June 14, 2019.



Several members of the Fisk Family were in attendance to celebrate with Pastor Alecia.



July 4 ~ Independence Day

This month the United States of America is celebrating 243 years of freedom. As we celebrate, we do not forget others around the world struggling to be free, especially those who arrive at our borders seeking the same freedom we enjoy.

We can also be reminded that to be free comes with great responsibility. Free people are, and will be, accountable to God; the one who calls us to free those in bondage, and set the captives free. For if we do not strive to so these things, our living as Christians is in vain and our freedom is worthless. As we enjoy this day, join Pastor Alecia in the 4th of July Parade in Natick, starting at 9:00AM.

"Let us enjoy this day and know that Jesus Christ came to set us FREE"

Summer Anniversaries

Louis & Linnea Fisher	7/1
Joseph & Joanne Billo	7/8
Richard Mahoney & Jeananne Roche	7/11
William & Barbara Naser	7/11
Dwayne & Aljani Stanley	7/12
Robert & Doris Cadigan	7/15
Pastor Alecia & George Freeman	7/18
Steven & Cynthia Lovewell	7/20
Colin & Kate Macdonald	7/23
Gary and Marcia Hoyt	8/12
Kenneth & Kathryn Reynolds	8/14
Rev. Rolland & Diane French	8/20

Summer Birthdays

Congratulations with Blessings

To Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, the lead pastor at Union UMC in Boston, MA, for being the 2019 Ziegler Preacher at the New England Annual Conference this year. Read more about Rev. Williams on the bulletin board next to the office entrance.

July & August Worship Participants

July	Liturgists	August	Liturgists
7	Barbara Beekman	4	Barbara Beekman
14	Karen Gallagher	11	Mark Owen
21	Jennifer French	18	Amy Bruns
28	Crystal Mayo	25	Susan Carney
Communion —July: Dorothy Phillips & Crystal Mayo			
Communion —August: Blanche Ciccarelli & Lois Potter			
Cross Bearer —Rose Currie (all Sundays)			

SUMMER READING

Our friends at **Abingdon Press** and the **United Methodist Publishing House** have some new titles that might be perfect for you this summer. Authors you may already know and several new names help you explore topics of life and faith. Here are several to consider.



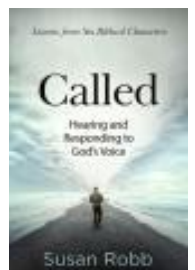
Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple

United Methodist pastor the Rev. Adam Hamilton offers an in-depth dive into the life, faith, and character of one of Jesus' most vocal disciples. An ordinary fisherman who left everything to follow

Jesus, yet was sometimes quick-tempered, impetuous, and struggled with doubt and fear. In many ways, Simon Peter was like us.

Called: Hearing and Responding to God's Voice

Calls aren't just for pastors, missionaries, and church leaders. Throughout the Bible God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never could have imagined on their own. United Methodist pastor the Rev. Susan Robb will help you discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life. A good gift for graduates.



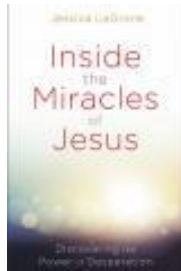
Be Bold: Finding Your Fierce



United Methodist pastor the Rev. Rachel Billups encourages anyone who's ever felt put down, unsure, underestimated, or overlooked, to find their power and potential to be bold. Using the biblical stories of Sarah, Mary and Timothy, mixed in with her own story, Billups teaches how being bold can bring you closer to God and God's plan for your life.

Inside the Miracles of Jesus: Discovering the Power of Desperation

The Rev. Jessica LaGrone, United Methodist pastor and Dean of the Chapel at Asbury Theological Seminary, uses the miracles of Jesus to help us better grasp how our weaknesses can be an invitation for God to work powerfully in our lives. We need God as much on our best days as we do on our worst.



Dare to Hope: Living Intentionally in an Unstable World

In many ways, we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday demands of a fast-paced life get us down. Author and speaker Melissa Spoelstra shares God's message of hope, as seen in the biblical book of Jeremiah. Despite life's uncertainties, you can live with hope!

The Authenticity Challenge: 21 Days to a More Content Life

The fear of missing out (FOMO) isn't new, but social media can intensify it. We may yearn for the lives we assume others are living based on their posts. United Methodist pastor the Rev. Sarah Heath

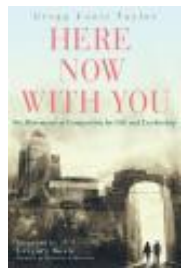


teaches what she learned from her own journey: that we can overcome FOMO

by embracing authenticity in our vocation, relationships, and faith. Living authentically empowers us to move toward a more content life.

Here, Now, With You: Six Movements of Compassion for Life and Leadership

By sharing real-life experiences and relatable stories, United Methodist pastor the Rev. Gregg Louis Taylor encourages us to become more compassionate and connected to one another by experiencing God's movement of compassion in our own lives.



She Dreams: Live the Life You Were Created For

God breathes new dreams within our hearts and revives old dreams that have died. Using Moses' journey to live out the God-sized dream given to him, gifted author and speaker Tiffany Bluhm encourages women to say yes to all God has planted in our hearts. Our dreams, no matter how big or how small, push us to become women of courage, grace, and grit.

****Joe Iovino works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. Contact him by email or at 615-312-373 and God's plan for your life.***