

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760

June 2015

Reflections from Pastor Xia

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Our church has been very busy for the past few months: Lent, Holy Week, Eastertide, and Pentecost. Coming up in June we will observe Children's Sunday and honor all of our graduates. It is wonderful to see everything that is happening in our church family.

This year, my prayer as your pastor, is that you and your family will indeed find time for some rest and relaxation over the coming weeks; but at the same time, I want to encourage you to stay connected with your church family throughout the summer, remembering that the work of the church in fulfilling the call to make disciples is constant, and that to accomplish our goals, every person is needed. This year our church has been focusing on disciple-making and reaching out to the wider community. I am excited at the things that we have been able to accomplish in a relatively short time. We are reaching out intentionally into our communities... utilizing updated communication techniques...keeping in touch with our members and visitors more effectively...increasing our connection to mission opportunities...working to improve Christian growth opportunities on every level.



While we all do need the summer break, I hope that you will also take some time to consider how you can help your church move forward from here. We are blessed to have many willing and dedicated people working on our ministry teams and committees, but we need more. I hope that every person will think about some area of service for the coming year. Even if you are not a "committee" person, there are places where you can help. So, in the midst of renewing and re-charging, do some thinking and praying about how you can help to accomplish the mission of the church.

Have a very blessed summer!

Pastor Xia



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev Xia Jiao-Chur
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates

How to reach us:

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Youth Fellowship Leaders: Fiskyouth@gmail.com
Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net
Cheryl's Email: deacongates@gmail.com
Church Website: Fiskumc.org

Hannah Circle Luncheon
at The Wayside Inn - Sudbury
When? Tuesday - June 9, 2015
Time? 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Who? Hannah Circle
Meet at Fisk to carpool at 11:30am

Ladies! Are you looking for a fun activity?

There are 4 slots left for the *Women's Luncheon*
Cruise on the Concord River

On Saturday, June 6

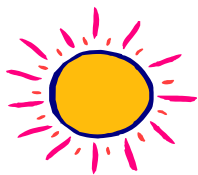
The cost is \$30

Let Janis Cail know if you are interested.



Greeters

June 7- The Worship Team
June 14- The Worship Team
June 21 - The Worship Team
June 28 - The Worship Team



Liturgists

June 7- Rev. Cheryl Gates
June 14- Susan Carney
June 21 - Mark Owen
June 28 - Joanne Billo



Communion Servers

June 7- Debbie Friscino & Barbara Beekman

\$\$ Finance Update - June 2015

Many good things are happening at your church! Those ministries, and new ideas, depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us. Over 80% of our expenses are funded by the direct giving from all. Our stewardship, our sharing of all that we have, by God's grace, makes our ministries work. All of our missions and ministries require support: our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources.

The faithful support of you, the congregation, has been a blessing in the first five months of the year, but we continue to run behind last year, and our Plan. Our financial update:

- Pledge support is behind: below our critical needs by 10% through May.
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate,
- We are planning and praying for continued improvements in our financial position.

If you are current in your commitment of giving, we thank you. If you are behind, or need an update, please contact Sherry Culver to get a confidential update of your giving. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our ministries. Our ministries need your prayerful assistance.



Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Xia, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader),
Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer),
Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary),
Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC),
Larry Drolet, Frank Foss, Jen Garran, Crystal Mayo.



The Men of the Bible

Summer Bible Study
Wednesdays
9:00am – 10:00am

This class will start on July 8 and continue through the end of August . It will be taught in the same vein as the *Women of the Bible* that we did in the fall. So the subjects will be class led. Watch for more details in the next Messenger. Come and join us as we spend time together with the word of God. Please feel free to share opinions and suggestions.

Susan Carney – Education

Does Sunday School just end on June 14?



Wellit goes on as an independent study. When there are volunteers - students up to finishing second grade will leave the service and have a mini – lesson. There will be nursery as always for the entire service.

I will be enclosing a calendar in the July and August Messenger with quick ideas for you to do with your children and yourself. I hope you will make use of these calendars and keep God where God belongs in the forefront of our lives.

THANKS to all our Sunday School Teachers and bless your efforts this summer.

A Prayer to Start the Day for Your Children and for You!

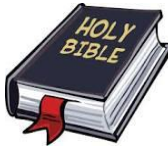
*God in heaven hear my prayer,
keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do,
Bless all those who love me too.
Amen.
--- Traditional*

Summer is officially here!!! Let's rejoice and be glad in it!

We commemorated the arrival of the Holy Spirit to the disciples on Sunday May 24th. What a wonderful reminder of God's gift to each of us. We have the holy privilege and awesome responsibility to respond to the Holy Spirit's guidance every day.



Your Worship Team looks forward to greeting you each Sunday in June. Scripture will bring to life the activities of Jesus and his disciples. Our children will be presented Bibles, Graduates will be congratulated and Father's will be honored. An added bonus will be Communion, Children's Choir, Youth participation and a Contemporary service. What a great way to lead off Summer!



As always, we are YOUR Worship Team. We encourage you to make suggestions/comments to enhance your Worship Experience.

In God's service,
Joanne Billo, Leo and Julia Jaco, Thom Townsend, Sherry Culver, Kathy Reynolds, Barb Beekman (chair), Rev. Cheryl Gates, Pastor Xia, Eric Mazonson (Music Dir.), Dorothy Philips (Lay Leader), Dwayne Billingsly.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

**Sunday, July 5th begins the
Summertime change of time and venue**

TIME: 9:30am

VENUE: Rooms 8&9

(on July 12,19, 26 we will be in Whipple Hall - *Family Promise* families will be using Rooms 8&9) Be sure to check with Deb Friscino to see how you might participate in this wonderful ministry.

June 14 – Children's Sunday



During our regular service, we will recognize all of our children with a flower. This symbolizes how we pray they are rooted in God and that we hope for their blooming to be as filled with grace as possible.

Students – Grades 3 and above who have not received a Bible of their own will receive one from the church. If you have a child who falls into this category—
Please let me know and also if you have someone who you would like to have them receive their Bible from.

I do not want to miss anyone.

I also need the names of graduates from high school or above and their future plans.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Susan Carney

susanjcarney@gmail.com

UMM Cookout at Fisk!

Tuesday June 9th at 7pm

FREE!

**All men are
invited!**



Hot dogs & Hamburgers!

See Geoffrey Del Sesto for more
information 508-651-1876

Fisk Women's Retreat

July 10-12, 2015

Harrison, Maine

"Spirit-filled"

We have planned a weekend retreat for all women. This is a time of relaxation, fellowship and learning along with lots of fun, swimming, hot tub time, walks, shopping, naps, and time for you to do what make you happy and refreshed. We will let the Spirit guide us!

The plans include "Worship on the deck", three reflections times guided by one of our members, working on and assembling Layette Kits for UMCOR, maybe a Fair Project will be available for those wanting to do a craft.



See Janis Cail or Sherry Culver to register NOW.

Cost is \$20.00

We will share in meal preparation.

Carpool rides to Maine (three hours)

Space limited to 18-20 women

Be Still and know that ***I am*** GOD—

Psalm 46:1

Update on Outcomes of Church-wide Leadership Retreat (January 2015)

Committee: Visioning Team
Dorothy J. Phillips, Lay Leader

Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur, the Visioning Team and Council on Ministries (COM) continue to implement programs, ministries and events that support the 2015 focus on “Church-Wide invitational Outreach”.

This update is in an outline format. Pastor Xia and any member of the Visioning Team and/or COM will gladly give you more details.

Evangelism

1. Seven new members joined Fisk Church on April 12, 2015.
2. Pastor's letters and visits to visitors.
3. Connection cards are now available to capture new visitors' information as well as requests for prayers and Pastoral visits; they are inserted in the Sunday bulletin.
4. Increased marketing visibility of church programs and events via website and flyers.
5. Welcoming coffee available during Sunday school.
6. Music & Movement held bi-monthly; successful program with at least 10 children ages 2 to 7 years old attending regularly.
7. Third annual Easter Egg Hunt with approximately 100 attendants.

Worship

1. A new monthly roadmap started March 1, 2015 that features the following:
 - a. 1st Sunday: Communion
 - b. 2nd Sunday: Children's Choir led by Deborah Hernandez
 - c. 3rd Sunday: Youth involved in worship
 - d. 4th Sunday: Contemporary service
 - e. 5th Sunday: Invite a guest to church followed by pot luck lunch in May and November; Health kits,

Prayer shawls and bears blessed in March and August.

2. Bulletin changes
 - a. Includes more details, such as when to stand and the words to prayers and other recitations.
 - b. Published on website on Fridays.
3. New name tags available in the Narthex.

Education

1. Coffee with the Pastor is an adult bible study class held during Sunday school.
2. Vacation Bible School (VBS) planned for August 10-14, 2015.

If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Visioning Team: Michael Bruns, Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur, Zackary Gates, Deborah Hernandez, Marcia Hoyt, Dorothy Phillips, and Thom Townsend.

The logo for Vacation Bible School features the words "Vacation", "Bible", and "School" stacked vertically. "Vacation" is in red, "Bible" is in yellow, and "School" is in blue. The letters are stylized and overlapping.

Is Happening !!!

***The B-I-B-L-E
Yes, that's the book for me
I stand alone on the Word of God
The B-I-B-L-E***

*All we need are the children and some helpers!
We have God's Word, an awesome curriculum,
and a church that is a perfect facility.*

Oh, the children will come

*Won't you help us make it happen? August 10- 14!
Sign up on the Education Bulletin Board and we can all
sing this song together.*

See Sarah Gates or Susan Carney

It's time for Family Promise

Our two host weeks are quickly approaching and it's again time to turn our space into for four



The families we hosted last year are all settled into their own apartments (Praise God!) – let's hope the families we welcome this year will be as successful.

For this to work, ALL of us need to help. Are you able to help with set-up so rooms are welcoming? Or shop for supplies or food? Perhaps you can help prepare a dinner or Saturday breakfast, arrive after dinner to play with children or simply sleep overnight at Fisk?

Prayerfully consider how you can participate in this wonderful ministry. **Sign up through the link on our website*** or **contact Debbie Friscino at fris@rcn.com for more information.**

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

When: Sunday July 12th- Sunday July 26th

Dinner: families arrive at 6p Monday-Friday and 5p on weekends

Family time: 6:30p-8p weekdays and 5:30p-8p on weekends

Overnight: 8p-6:30a weekdays and 8p-8:30a on weekends

New to Family Promise or want to learn more?

Attend a training/informational session on

Tuesday July 7th from 6:30-8p

* scroll down the page to "Special Events and Notices" as this link is too long to type! <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zbVkaUkV1hIW7SpExUDOOq-hJOeCRP2q5NnTwCCNIHg/edit?pli=1#gid=244629860page>



Youth Activities

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.

What's happening in June?

~ June 7 – MYF meeting and lunch after worship. 12-2pm

~ June 14 - Education Sunday and last day of Sunday school and MYF meeting.

Looking ahead to July ...



~ July 4th parade. More information will be available in the middle of June.

~ Kayaking/boating at Cochituate State Park lake or swimming at the Hoyt's house.

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 GRADUATES!!!!

Coming attractions in the Summer Messenger:

1. Names of our graduates
 2. VBS details
 3. Summer Surprises at Fisk!!
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Habitat for Humanity Stonebridge project in Wayland



Volunteer opportunity:

Two homes are currently being worked on. One home the siding is being put up, and the second home, framing is being done. There might be additional or different work in the next four weeks - our work day is the last Saturday in June the 27th. You may sign up for a morning time of 8 to 12 or an afternoon time of 1 to 4. No experience necessary! Please send an email to the Church office or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the office. Please email Heather Oluwole with any questions. Last year's group had a really good time and we are looking forward to it again.

Time to Picnic

Our Council of Ministries has planned a Church Picnic!

Date: Sunday June 14, 2015

Time: Following worship at 11:30am until ??

Where: J. J. Lane Park on Speen Street

(next to the National Guard Depot)

This is a newly developed park for the town and is open to all groups.



We will gather together for lunch and an afternoon of fellowship and games...volleyball, cornhole etc.

You may choose to be an observer ... as I will.
Bring your own picnic lunch and a lawn chair. We will bring a cooler of cold drinks.

-Marcia Hoyt-
Council of Ministries