

# The Messenger

**Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760**  
**(508) 653-1674** **www.fiskumc.org**

**March 2016**

## Reflections from Pastor Xia

It is so good to be home. The day after I was back from the Holy Land pilgrimage, I woke up at 1a.m. due to the seven-hour change of time. I tried to find my journal in the suitcase, yet had no luck. Then I sat at the kitchen table, had one cup of morning coffee, trying to recall the places we went, and things we have done. I was surprised how vividly I remembered all the experiences in the Holy Land. Pilgrims from the New England Conference read "Sermon on the Mount" in six different languages on the mount of Beatitudes, received Holy Communion on the Sea of Galilee, walked down the path that Jesus took from the Mount of Olives to the gate into the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, prayed and worshiped amongst the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane—some are from Jesus' time, literally over 2,000 years old, and listened to the powerful sermon delivered by Bishop Fisher at Garden Tomb, meditated, prayed, and received Communion there.

I have to say, it is a life-transforming journey. Running by the Sea of Galilee before sunrise realizing Jesus walked around this mass of water many times, watching drama played by some of us at the sea of Tiberias and in Bethlehem Bible College, hearing the song "O Jerusalem" playing over the bus speakers, praying at the wailing wall for our church members, looking up the Mount of Temptation from the northwest over Jericho, praying and receiving Holy Communion in the Garden of Gethsemane, I was in tears. Yet, the most meaningful thing to me is: I was not simply visiting the Holy Land, making the connection between the Scripture and the real places that Biblical events have happened; I was also being challenged in my understanding of ministry, in many ways. Standing in the midst of the sacred, and witnessing to conflicts happening in Israel and Palestine, in this world, each and every day; all this is challenging me as a Christian. How do we tell the story of Jesus today? And how do we live out the story of again, in different contexts and cultures?

We, as a group, visited Bethlehem Bible College. I was so impressed by how they started out with only 20 dollars in 1979 and are now training Christian leaders, about 30 graduates every year, to serve Arab churches and society. Two female students we talked with were young mothers with three, and four little children, respectively. Bethlehem Bible College does provide all possible support they could give to open doors for young women who have passion in ministry, and in serving and changing the community.

Another ministry that really touched me was Hope Christian School in Bethlehem. Hope School supports orphans, homeless children, and poor Palestinian families by providing for their education. The entire pilgrimage group visited the school and met students one day, and seven of us went back to the school on our free day, doing mission work there. We cleaned up a basement area that is planned to become Hope School Kindergarten classrooms in the future. At the end of the day, we were all exhausted, yet so happy; we all felt God's love that connects us and people there.

The Spirit of the Lord is among us, each and every day. I am deeply grateful for that. The day when I was back and saw our church, I was in tears, again. From the East to the West, God does make the connection of love and faith among all His beloved people. During this Lenten season, let us all together in the spirit of prayer—remember Jesus' journey in the wilderness, and pray for the peace and love that the Lord God brings to the world.

Together we serve,

*Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur*



## Soup & Fellowship

Weekly **Soup and Fellowship** followed by a brief time of reading and reflection from Henri Nouwen's book, "Walk with Jesus." We will conclude with Night Prayer.

- Mar. 3      Thursday 6-7:30PM sponsored by  
                 SPRC and Friends  
                 **\*Jesus Carries His Cross**
- Mar. 10      Thursday 6-7:30PM sponsored by  
                 Evangelism  
                 **\*Jesus Falls**
- Mar. 17      Thursday 6-7:30P) sponsored by  
                 Finance  
                 **\*Jesus Meets Mary**

## *Easter Lilies and Tulips*



Order beautiful Easter lilies or tulips in honor or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special person or event, and help decorate Fisk's sanctuary for our Easter service. These lovely flowers will be delivered fresh to the church just prior to Easter and will be available for you to take home with you after worship on Easter Sunday – or can be delivered to someone who is in need of joy. A special insert of flower dedications will be included in the worship service bulletin on Easter Sunday.

**Prices: \$12 each Lily - \$10 each Tulips**

**Order Deadline: March 18, 2016**

Complete the order form by Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

## *Easter Services 2016*



### **Palm Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00am** - Palm Processional

*All are invited to join in this processional  
with palms and song.*

**10:30am** - Worship Service



### **Maundy Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30pm** - *Last Soup and Fellowship Supper  
followed by a short Service in rooms 8&9*



### **Good Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**12-3:00pm** - *Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary*

*A time of scripture, meditation and music. This is  
an opportunity to focus on Jesus' last hours. This is  
not a service. All are invited to stop in for a few  
minutes or for as long as you wish.*



### **Easter Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**10:30am** - Worship

*Hallelujah!!*



Saturday, March 26 10 AM

Something Eggmazing is happening!

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fisk Easter Egg Hunt  
for the Community

Mark the date!

Tell your neighbors and friends!

Come rain or come shine.

Help us remind the community of  
the joy of Easter!

It is a great day at Fisk and needs many, many  
hands for short term preparation and "all hands on  
deck" on March 26.

*Sign up to help at A Time of Fellowship  
or reach out to us.*

Volunteer and Support Opportunities

\*In early March – Assembly of craft kits, stuffing eggs,  
stuffing goodie bags, labeling post cards & hanging  
flyers. \*March 25 evening – table and area set-ups, and  
baked cookie drop-off. \*March 26 morning – day of –  
hide eggs, leading in games, registration – craft tables –  
snack table – Directing Traffic – indoors, outdoors, and  
parking lot.

Contact Debbie Friscino, Debi Henry, and Deborah  
Hernandez

*(Yes, really, 3 Deb's! Eggcellent!)*

Sponsored by Council on Ministries

**MISSION  
POSSIBLE**

Come and join us!

We are going around the  
World. Enjoy the...

**TASTE OF MISSION**



*Gather with us to see just what  
is happening in the field of  
Missions. We will enjoy a simple  
supper and experience some  
information that YOU will find  
helpful and interesting.*

**Saturday March 5**  
**at 5:30pm**

*Relaxing and enjoyable!*

*Make a pin...*

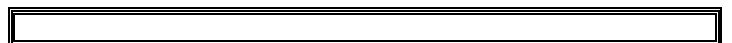
*Help us save the earth...*

**"Fisk Collections Unlimited"**

No cost! Free supper!

Free will offering if you desire to contribute  
to the dinner and to Missions.

Questions: Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077





## **Where Faith and Life Connect**

**Fisk Pot-Luck Suppers!** Thank you so much to all who participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> potluck of this year. Your “Love Thy Neighbor” dishes were all awesome and we had such a great variety - something for everyone. We hope you all got a chance for a game of ping pong or shuffleboard and to check out the crafts. Again many thanks and save the date for the next potluck



**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – when an Old & New Hymn Sing will follow the potluck meal. This will also be the “debut” of the Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church Old and New Hymn Sing Orchestra! Do you play an instrument? Flutes, Guitars, Pianos, Keyboards, Trombones, Trumpets, and banjo’s – adults & youth - all are welcome! A practice, jam session will take place @ 12 noon on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Debi Henry if you would like to be a part of this special orchestra! Also - Look for the on-line Mealtrain sign-up as it will be sent out soon.

**Visits** – Is visiting and talking with people a gift of yours? We continue to visit church members who cannot get out to church and would like a visit. If you would like a visit – or would like to visit someone, please let us know!

**Care Bears** - They are a visible reminder that there is always someone in need of comfort. Fisk friends and family deliver the bears to those that need to be reminded of God’s love and our care for them. If you know someone who has a need – bring them a Care Bear!

*Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price*  
Co-Chairs



Family Promise Metrowest is excited to announce the

## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Away Homelessness Walkathon**

SATURDAY, April 9, 2016  
on Natick Common at 8:45am  
Registration opens at 7:30am

Join WROR 105.7 FM radio personality LBF and hundreds of walkers of all ages for fun, music, food, face painting, prizes and more!

**TOGETHER WE WILL WALK AWAY  
HOMELESSNESS!**

Register at:

<http://walk.familypromisemetrowest.org/default.asp>

All proceeds from the walk will help Family Promise Metrowest end the cycle of homelessness by providing families with shelter, meals and professional services. Walkers raising over \$100 will be entered into a raffle to win JetBlue flights, Red Sox tickets, gift cards and more!

We are asking all Congregations to come on April 9 to celebrate the work. It is the only time we have so many of our supporters gathered together.

For details, visit our website:  
[www.familypromisemetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org) or call 508-318-4820.



***Saturday, March 19 at 12 noon***  
***We will join our Wayland and Framingham "sisters" for a Luncheon and program.***  
***You are invited!***

Call Janis Cail or Susan Carney if you would like to join us. We hope you do!

### **One Day Mission u**

Wesley UMC in Worcester is hosting a One Day Mission u on March 5. Want more information? See Susan Carney

### **Yard Sale Time is coming up!**

May 7, 2016. Begin putting things aside that you are done with and would like to have us sell for MISSIONS. The profit from this UMW event goes into our budget for mission work with women, children and youth.

### **Road trip to Syracuse NY - June 16-18**

We are reserving seats on a UMW bus and have reserved hotel rooms. We are attending the Northeast Jurisdiction UMW meeting. Sound interesting? Want to join us? Call Barbara B. Theme-*A Fresh Wind Blowing.*

### **Continuing programs...**

- ✓ Prayer Shawl Ministry-Wednesdays at 10:00
- ✓ Reading Program on your own time...check the bookcase for the books and the list of acceptable titles.



**March 2016**

One of the many, many benefits of a church family is our ability to help and support each other. The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways, and those ministries depend directly on our giving. We have not finalized our budget for the year but it is clear we will need everyone's prayerful and giving support in 2016. But, let us pause to say thank you, and recognize our blessings, and celebrate the good tidings of the angels.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk: Larry Drolet (Chair), Pastor Xia, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Tom Currie (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Debbie Friscino (SPRC), Jen Garrant, Crystal Mayo and Thom Townsend



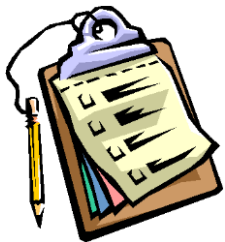
**Join Fisk MYF on a trip to Jerusalem!**  
**Saturday, March 19, 2016.**

Our youth are heading into Boston to see the IMAX movie Jerusalem at the Museum of Science. We want to invite the entire church to join us! The youth plan to leave Fisk at 2pm to spend some time in the museum before the movie. at 5pm. If you are interested in seeing the movie with us, email Sherry Culver at [sherrycd@comast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comast.net) or call [508-651-1876](tel:508-651-1876) before Friday, March 11, 2016. Tickets for the movie will be purchased ahead and are \$10 each. Carpools will be arranged.



The Hannah Circle will be meeting on  
**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

We will celebrate International Women's Day!  
The Hannah's meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of  
each month. Bring your lunch! Dessert and  
beverages provided. Contact Nancy Parece or  
Nancy Swan if you can attend!



### **HOSPITALITY!** *Greeters* *Ushers* *Fellowship Hour*

A Hospitality "Training" will be held in March  
for all of those interested in participating in  
Hospitality Ministry. Adults and youth who  
are committed to welcoming everyone who  
enters the sanctuary on Sunday morning, pass  
out bulletins and collect the morning offering,  
and prepare and serve coffee & snacks at  
Fellowship Time following worship, serve God  
at Fisk as greeters, ushers, and host  
Fellowship Time are needed. If you are  
interested in participating as a member of  
Team Hospitality and would like to come to  
this "training," please contact Michelle Drolet  
or Heather Oluwole, Evangelism Commission  
Co-Chairs



### **MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME**

**For Kids Ages 2 To 7**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**The event is FREE! No registration is required.**

**For more information and pictures  
of past classes, visit:**

**[www.fiskumc.org/music-and-movement.html](http://www.fiskumc.org/music-and-movement.html)**

### ***A Lenten film ...***

(Ages 15+) If you would like to borrow this movie for  
your small group – or just to watch it with others at  
your home, please contact Debi Henry.

### ***"RESURRECTION" MOVIE***



Max Lucado's renowned short  
story is brought to life in this  
dramatic production that follows  
Claudius, a Roman guard who  
finds himself in the middle of a  
cover-up of the tumultuous events  
following Christ's execution. As  
he digs for the truth, Claudius  
discovers that the religious leaders, the Roman  
government, and even his closest friends are  
attempting to hide something from him and the  
world. In the end, his relentless pursuit of the  
answers to his growing questions threatens his  
reputation and even his life, but it also leads to his  
renewal. Resurrection is a gripping tale that not only  
challenges viewers to put themselves in the shoes  
of a Roman soldier assigned to Christ's execution,  
but also reminds them how any life can be changed  
by seeking truth and understanding.



For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12 Youth  
Fellowship Leaders:  
Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang

## MARCH

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 March?

- March 6 MYF 12 noon
- March 13 MYF 12 noon
- March 19 Museum of Science, Jerusalem at the IMAX, 3pm. Movie: 5pm-6pm
- March 26 Easter egg hunt

### Looking ahead to April...

- April 9 MYF Family promise walk
- April 16 MYF Hike

**How to contact Bingxin and Tian :** 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)



Wednesday  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>

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## Save the Date

Coming this summer  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**at Fisk**

July 25 to July 29, 2016

Join us this summer for a **CAVE**  
**QUEST** adventure!

Invite your friends to join the  
adventure too!

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We'll be gathering for breakfast in Marlboro at Stephen Anthony's Restaurant at 8:00AM on March 19<sup>th</sup>. All men of the church are invited to join us!

## Latest news—

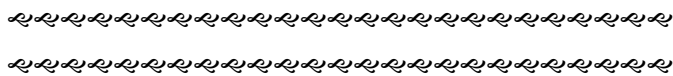
We reported to the National SOUPER BOWL OF CARING our contribution of \$424.00—profit from the Soup Lunch and the Subs-To-Go! Proceeds were donated to the Natick Food Pantry. We thank you so much for your support.



The Missions Committee and the Youth Group

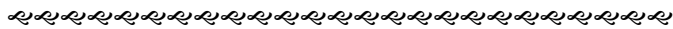


ANY ITEMS NOT CLAIMED BY MARCH 15  
WILL BE DISCARDED.



### March Liturgists

- 6<sup>th</sup> Rev. Cheryl Gates
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jennifer French
- 20<sup>th</sup> Susan Carney
- 27<sup>th</sup> Barbara Beekman



### March Greeters

- 6<sup>th</sup> Leo and Julia Jaco
- 13<sup>th</sup> Zachary, Isaac, Adrienne & Sarah Gates
- 20<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price
- 27<sup>th</sup> Larry Drolet and Walter Olewole



### March Ushers

- 6<sup>th</sup> Dwayne Billingsley and Gary Hoyt
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dwayne Billingsley and Gary Hoyt
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dwayne Billingsley and friends
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dwayne Billingsley and friends



### March Time of Fellowship

- 6<sup>th</sup> Pat Price
- 13<sup>th</sup> Debbie and Dom Friscino
- 20<sup>th</sup> Marcia and Gary Hoyt
- 27<sup>th</sup> Amy and Mike Bruns



Turn your  
clocks ahead  
Saturday night  
March 12<sup>th</sup>



## Missing something?

These items have been in the church office "Lost & Found" box since before December. If anything looks familiar, please contact Joanne in the church office so she can put your item(s) aside for you to pick up.