

# The Messenger

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

May 2015

## Reflections from Pastor Xia

Dear Fisk Methodist Church family and friends,

Grace and peace to you! Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is May. Spring is here. And we are still in the Eastertide, the liturgical season of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. On Easter Sunday, we heard the amazing news that the story of Jesus is not over. When the women went to the tomb early on the first day of the week, they discovered that the tomb was empty and that Jesus was alive. Their relationship with Jesus would continue!

Almost two thousand years later, you and I continue to celebrate that wonderful good news. Because of the resurrection, the story of Jesus goes on. We have been called to follow Jesus on an adventure that will never end!

Here at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church, our relationship with Jesus includes the various ministries and activities of our congregation. Through our life together as a congregation, we participate in Jesus' on-going story. When we gather for Worship or a bible study. When we help out with Sunday school, Music and Movement, and other ministries and missions here at Fisk Church. And, when we reach out to the community, we are participating in the on-going story of Jesus. Our active involvement in the life of the church is one of the ways in which our adventure with Jesus continues.

I am always proud of you for being good stewards, giving freely of your time, talents, money, presence, service, and prayers, so that we, as the church, can best serve God and God's people. Together as a community of faith, let us participate in the on-going story of Jesus. Your active involvement is one of the most important ways there is in which you can celebrate and proclaim the good news that Jesus is alive.

Blessings as you continue to follow Jesus!

*Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur*

**HAPPY** *Mother's Day* 

### Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

### How to reach us:

**Phone:**(508) 653-1674      **Fax:** (508) 655-0587  
**Pastor Xia's Email:** [Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org)  
**Church/Judy's Email:** [fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)  
**Youth Fellowship Leaders:** [Fiskyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Fiskyouth@gmail.com)  
**Eric's Email:** [emazonson@verizon.net](mailto:emazonson@verizon.net)  
**Cheryln's Email:** [deacongates@gmail.com](mailto:deacongates@gmail.com)  
**Church Website:** [Fiskumc.org](http://Fiskumc.org)



Join us for Worship on Sunday Mornings at 10:30am

## Pastor Xia's Office Hours

Pastor Xia's Office Hours are  
Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Please note: Friday is her day off

## **Worship Service Participants for**



### Greeters

May 3 – Larry & Michelle Drolet  
May 10- Diane French  
May 17- TBA  
May 24- TBA  
May 31- TBA



### Liturgists

May 3 - Rev. Cheryl Gates  
May 10- Amy Bruns  
May 17- Zachary Gates  
May 24- Jennifer French  
May 31- Sherry Culver



### Time of Fellowship Hour Hosts

May 3 - TBA  
May 10- United Methodist Men  
May 17- Youth Council  
May 24- TBA  
May 31- Visioning Potluck Lunch



Fellowship Hosts are needed on Sunday mornings.  
If you are able to help, please sign up on the clipboard  
outside of Whipple Hall.

## **\$\$ Finance Update - May 2015**

The faithful support of you the congregation has been a blessing in the first three months of the year, but we are behind, and must continue to do more. Our financial update:

- Pledge support is a bit behind: below expectations by 9% through March.
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate,
- We are planning and praying for continued improvements in our financial position.

Exciting events are happening at our church! Take a look at Tom's letter and photos, mailed out two weeks ago, and see all that your support is accomplishing. We would urge you to review your first quarter Statement of Giving, included in that mailing. If you are current, we thank you. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our ministries. We need your prayerful assistance.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. We as a congregation provide important ministries to individuals and families at Fisk, to our community, to New England, and to the world in need. All of our missions and ministries require support: our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources.

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 Garrant, Crystal Mayo.

## Vacation Bible School is coming to FISK!

August 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 8:45am - 11:45am

Ages 3 - 10



God lives in each one of us! And it is God who **craves** the adventure of living in us as we teach our children all about Him. God will grow inside our children as they learn about Him and let His love shine!

*"All your children shall be taught by the LORD,  
and great shall be the peace of your children."*

**Isaiah 54:13**

Please volunteer at VBS this summer! We want  
you...yeah, **YOU!**

Teach a class      Help make snacks  
Help make crafts  
Help set up      Help clean up  
Distribute flyers

Contact Susan Carney and Sarah Gates

[susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com)

[sarahgates4@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgates4@gmail.com)

## Mission in Maine

It is Springtime and time to clean out your closets and sort clothes you no longer need or want. I will be making several trips to the **United Methodist Economic Ministry** in Salem Maine during the next few months. I take your donations of GOOD-CLEAN used clothing to the thrift shops that serve this very under-served population with very high unemployment.

Our United Methodist connectional system supports this mission site with monetary gifts, clothing and many other needs for those living in the western mountains in Maine.

Bring your appropriate clothing...best if folded and in paper grocery bags...easier to handle than large trash bags that are too difficult to lift : ). New items are also welcome!

UMEM takes, women's, men's and all youth and children's clothing! **Questions: Gary Hoyt 508-655-0077**



## Bibles

The Word of God

Students who are in grade 3 or above who have not received a Bible from their Fisk family will do so in June . Please let me know if you know of someone who would be in that group.

We take great joy in giving Bibles to our students. I will be asking the families to pick someone to present these Bibles . I will be ordering them soon and so I would appreciate knowing if I have everyone's name.

Susan Carney



## OUR CHILDREN IN CHURCH

As the Sunday School Superintendent and cheerleader of all children, I feel compelled to write this article. Please read it knowing that I take very seriously the words that Jesus said, "Let the children come unto me."

Let me start with the nursery. The nursery has been set up for children age 5 and under. There are some circumstances when older children have been allowed to stay in the nursery during church. I would ask that when these circumstances affect you that you speak to me or those in the nursery to seek an answer. This will help us to ensure the safety and fun for our youngest members. Thank you!

That being said in church behavior does not happen overnight. We must foster it, expect it, and acknowledge it. Here are some tips that I have seen working for some of you ----

I am hoping that these ideas will make church more meaningful for our children.

1. When entering the church remind your child that they are here to worship God.

2. Grab a book or a clipboard with age appropriate activities.
3. Once you are in the pew have your children acknowledge others around them. This may let them know that they are part of the church community and not just attending to get through it.
4. Open the bulletin and point things out to them ....even if they cannot read .... They can be read to.
5. Pick a place in the service that is reasonable for your child to look at the book or clipboard. Knowing all of our kids --- I would say that no one should need them until after the Children's Sermon.
6. Have them stand when the congregation stands .
7. They should all be attempting the Doxology and the Lord's Prayer.
8. You should feel free to talk to point out things in the Bible and Hymnal and around the church.
9. Keep pushing the point where they have permission to use the clipboard papers
10. When asking them to be quiet ....put your finger to your mouth or have a sign instead of engaging in shhhhh or words. That opens the talking gate.
11. On the way home discuss what they heard in church. If they heard one word ...it is a start.
12. Ask God to help you to know your child and their needs and how to react to them.
13. Know that I pray for our children all the time and want church to be a community worship time for them.
14. If you have suggestions for me that would help you and others please let me know.

-Susan Carney -



# United Methodist Women

Upcoming dates for activities sponsored by UMW

**May 2-Saturday at 9:15am** We are hosting the Central Massachusetts District United Methodist Women. It's not too late. Plan to join us on Saturday—**Behind the Kitchen Door**. ..that is one of the subjects to be explored ...the Justice issues surrounding the Restaurant Industry. Flyer enclosed.



**May 9-Saturday at 8:30am** Our Annual Spring **YARD SALE and BAKE SALE**. Bring your items to sell preferably May 6-8 from 1-3pm and put them in the Toddler Room. Baked goods may be delivered Friday evening or early Saturday morning from 1-3pm.

**June 6-Saturday** Join us for a **CRUISE!** It is a peaceful time on the Concord River with friends while enjoying lunch. See Janis C. for reservations. They are limited. \$30/pp.



SAVE the DATE

**July 10-12-Women's Retreat**

More information elsewhere in the Messenger.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets each and every Wednesday at 10:00AM. Come and join us when you can.



**Reading Program**---Find the selected books on the shelves in Ogle Parlor. Some great books for your summer reading.



**Justice Café:  
Behind the  
Kitchen Door**

*"Issues Affecting Workers from Farm to Table"*  
Focusing on justice issues embedded in and related to the restaurant industry.

Question: Do you know someone working in an un-just restaurant situation? Call Sherry Anne Bryant 508-358-4310

**Central Massachusetts District United Methodist Women**  
**invite you to join us**  
**Saturday, May 2, 2015 for our Spring Brunch Gathering**  
**at the Justice Café**  
**Registration at 9:15am**

**Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church**  
Brunch      Fun      Prizes      Fellowship  
Reading Certificates      Resources  
Mission Today Recognitions      Take-away goodies

**Ingathering for the Salvation Army:**  
**Packages of crackers, cookies, individual**  
**pudding cups or applesauce, or Granola**  
**bars.**



REGISTRATION FOR SPRING GATHERING

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spring Gathering registration and brunch is **\$9.00.**  
Checks payable to: **CMA UMW**

*Sponsored by the Central MA District United Methodist Women for ALL women.*

# Save the Date

## Women's Retreat

July 10-12, 2015

Space for 20 women

Harrison, Maine at Hoyt's

\$20 plus "out to eat" Saturday evening

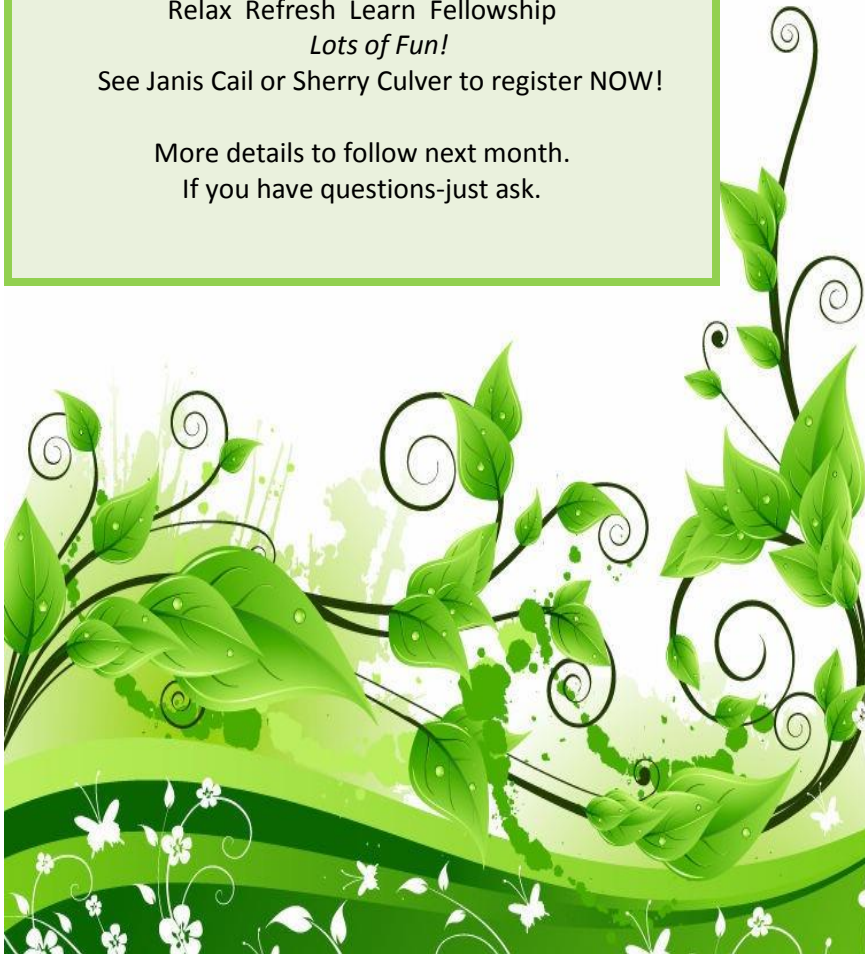
Relax Refresh Learn Fellowship

*Lots of Fun!*

See Janis Cail or Sherry Culver to register NOW!

More details to follow next month.

If you have questions-just ask.



This is our month to HELP the women with Missions and to serve Fisk with a Coffee Hour.

### **May 9 Saturday at 8:00am**

Help with the YARD SALE set-up and then take-down at 11:15

### **May 10 Sunday at 10:00am** set-up Coffee Hour

UMM are hosting the Coffee Hour

*WATCH for more details and plans!*



***Looking ahead...***

**Sunday, June 14th**

**Immediately following Worship**

### **All Church Picnic**

John J. Lane Park

Speen Street Natick

Mark your calendars!

## Sunday School Dates

➡ *The last day of Sunday School will be June 14.*

Please take a moment in the future to thank your child's Sunday School teachers. I appreciate them and their time and love very much. They have brought God's Word to our children – what a gift!



If anyone has a high school or college graduate to report, please let Susan Carney know, as we will be recognizing them during service on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

June 14 will also be Children's Sunday and our youngest members will be receiving flowers that they can plant at home.



### ADULTS

The month of May will be a study of The Men of the Bible led by Susan Carney. This will be similar to The Women of the Bible Series that we did in the fall. This will be held on Sunday mornings in Rm. 9 at 9:25AM.

Then from May 31 until the end of June, Pastor Xia will be teaching a Bible Study in her office at the same time. It will be based on the lectionary. Please join us for this discussion.

The Bible holds treasures for all of us.

See Susan Carney with questions.



### A Note from the Pastor:

*Coffee with the Pastor* takes place at 9:20am on Sundays when there is no church meetings before the service. In May, because of the Youth Council meeting on the first Sunday, and the Pastor's two weeks of vacation starting from May 11th, there will be no Coffee with the Pastor until May 31. The theme throughout May and June is: Lectionary based bible study. All are welcome.

## Did you know that Fisk RECYCLES?



We recycle beverage cans and plastic bottles (no glass bottles, please).

There is a large barrel in the closet next to the custodian's closet where you can leave your donations. They are bagged, counted and redeemed to support our General Budget. So...if you have not been contributing to this effort, we welcome you to join us in raising funds while making it easy to bring your cans/bottles.

AND...your good used clothing is being collected and delivered to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in the Western mountains of Maine. This is a very under-served area of high unemployment. Clothing may be left in the box outside the church office.

The "best way" to bring clothing is to fold and pack them into paper grocery bags. Thanks you for your support.





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**Isaiah 54:13**

Please volunteer at VBS this summer! We want you...yeah, YOU!

Teach a class      Help make snacks

Help make crafts

Help set up      Help clean up

Distribute flyers

Contact Susan Carney and Sarah Gates

[susanjcarney@gmail.com](mailto:susanjcarney@gmail.com) [sarahgates4@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgates4@gmail.com)



## Youth Activities for May

*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 May?

- ~ May 2 – Paintball trip in Upton. Friends invited!  
Contact Bingxin or Tian to get more details.
- ~ May 3 – MYF meeting and lunch after worship 12-2pm
- ~ May 10 - Happy Mother's day! (No youth meeting after Worship)
- ~ May 17 – Campership luncheon after Worship, we plan to raise some scholarship funds to send youth to summer camp.
- ~ May 24 – Memorial Day weekend. (No meeting)
- ~ May 31- MYF meeting and lunch after worship

### Looking ahead to June ...

- ~ June 14 – All church picnic day & Education Sunday, last day of Sunday school and MYF. 2 graduates, welcome next year MYF age youth.

### 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)





## Bring-A-Friend Sunday



- When: Sunday, May 31, 2015 at 10:30 AM
- Where: Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church 106 Walnut Street, Natick, MA 01760
- Fellowship after worship: Pot luck lunch in Whipple Hall
- Bring your neighbors, co-workers, family and friends to worship.



### MUSIC AND MOVEMENT CLASS

Young children are invited to our FREE Music and Movement class! We have musical instruments, guitar music, parades, singing with active movements. Everyone has a great time! The children and the parents love this time together on Saturday mornings. This is geared for toddlers through grade two.

**Saturday's May 9 and May 23**  
11:00am -12:30pm

## Worship Team

Here's what's going on for the Sundays in May

**May 3** *Dedication of Health kits* made at the first Farmers Mkt. on the Common

Please come to support our Evangelism team and Fisk!

**May 10** *Mother's Day* — Carnation corsages for all the women of Fisk and a special Litany. Rumor has it that our very own UMM will be serving at Fellowship Time!



**May 17** *Ascension Sunday* - Rev. Cheryl Gates will be sharing the Good News. Hear about Jesus' final days on earth and His ascension into heaven.



**May 24** *Pentecost Sunday* - Rev. Rolland French will be sharing the Good News. Hear about the arrival of the Precious gift of the Holy Spirit. The symbol of Pentecost is the Flame, the form of the Holy Spirit.

*Great day to wear **Red** to church.*

**May 31** Bring a Friend to Church - Pastor Xia will back in the pulpit to welcome your friends and neighbors. The Visioning Team has more info elsewhere in this Messenger.

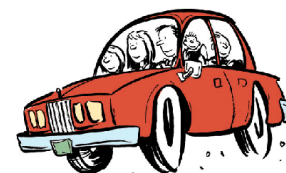
See you all in Church!  
*Your Worship Team*

### RIDES TO CHURCH

*Do you need a ride to Church on Sunday mornings?*

*If Sunday transportation is a challenge for you, we have a few people that are willing to pick you up and bring you home on Sunday mornings!*

*We ask that you call the church office ([508-653-1674](tel:508-653-1674)) or Sherry Culver ([508-651-1876](tel:508-651-1876)) before noon on Thursdays. This is a ministry offered to you, to include you in our Sunday time of worship.*



# Make plans to attend Summer Camp!



Our youth have many opportunities to attend summer camp this summer. The New England Conference is blessed with 4 possible choices for United Methodist Church camps. And because of Fisk memorial funds, we are once again able to offer small scholarships to offset the cost of attending camp.

**Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate, RI**

<http://campaldersgate.com/>

**Camp Wanakee in Meridith, NH**

<http://www.wanakee.org/>

**,Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, ME**

<http://www.mechuwana.org/>

**Covenant Hills in Cabot, VT**

<http://www.covenanthillsvt.com/>



Each site offers a unique style of camp experience ... one of them will surely match your youth!. Last year Fisk sent 4 youth to camp – Ask Tallia, Anna, Kelli or Zander about their experience at the Campership luncheon on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

This luncheon will raise some additional funds for camp scholarships so be sure to stay for lunch and give generously to send our youth to camp. For more info about camp or to support our youth program in any way, ask Sherry Culver, Chair Youth Council. [sherrycd@comcast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)

## Campership Luncheon!

**When : Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> , after worship**

**Why: to raise funds to our Fisk youth program**

A note from Helen Hollingworth



Dearest Friends,

I am writing to thank you all for the wonderful surprise birthday party and communion service! I loved my bible cake, the beautiful flowers, and all your thoughtful gifts! But the greatest gift of all was being able to see your smiling faces, which brought back so many happy memories of our shared activities in the church.

I am the luckiest woman in the world, to have such a large and loving church family in addition to my dear relatives.

Thank you all again, may God bless and keep you all!

Yours in Christ,

Love from Helen!

### ***Thank you – from Family Promise;***

Family Promise Metrowest could not have had a more successful Walkathon than we did on Saturday April 11. The weather was glorious, the spirit infectious and the contributions more that we had ever envisioned. As of today are totals are over \$102,000 - far exceeding our \$80,000 goal.

Thank you for joining us to Walk Away Homelessness! I offer deepest thanks to each of your team members and all their sponsors for their generosity.

Our member congregations are the foundation on which our vision was founded. You continue in countless ways to contribute to our success year after year. This weekend was one of them. We are ever grateful.

With gratitude,

**Judy Mongiardo**

**Network Coordinator, Family Promise Metrowest**