

# The Messenger

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

**May 2016**

## Introducing Our New Pastor

I am Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman. I will be your new pastor starting July 1, 2016, and per Pastor Xia's request I am writing this introduction. Though excited, I am humbled to be in service for God as I anticipate serving your great congregation. I come to your church through the grace of God, the working of the Holy Spirit in my life, and after almost eight years of service/leadership at the First Church of Winthrop United Methodist, Winthrop, Massachusetts.

As I continue ministry with all of you, I take up the challenge of not knowing all but embracing all. By embracing all, I view each person as a child of God capable of working towards perfection through God's grace. To this end, I envision that the transformation that God creates, can increase our knowledge, deepen our spirituality, grow our faith and improve our service in ministry. Most of all, I believe that we are called to be Christians by our love and deeds. Therefore, we can continue to reach out, share with and serve others.

I am originally from Liberia, West Africa, and one of fifteen children. I hold a Master's degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University, Boston and a Master's in Divinity from Andover Newton Theological Seminary, Newton, Massachusetts. In addition, I live with my husband, George in Framingham, Massachusetts. We have young adult children and four grandchildren.

*Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman*



Pray for the  
UMC General  
Conference

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body will meet at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon on May 10-20, 2016.

The spiritual leaders of The United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops, conceived the plan for a prayer vigil in the months before the event. We ask you, the members of Fisk, to join the Council of Bishops in prayer from May 1 to May 20 as a meaningful way to focus spiritually on the experience, as well as to surround the delegates and church leaders with prayer for a General Conference that inspires us in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church which meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs.



**Deadline for the  
June Issue of  
The Messenger  
Weds. May 27th  
8:30 AM**

# Worship Team

May Worship Services promise to continue with wonderful selections of music from our newest staff member, John Bybee, Minister of Music. Be sure to speak with him after Services or during Fellowship, to learn more about his vision for our music program.

May is a busy month, Mother's Day, Pentecost and a guest speaker on May 22.

Together We Serve,

Worship Team Members are Barbara Beekman, Joanne Billo, Kathy Reynolds, Julia Jaco, Francisco Ramos, Diane French and Carolyn Carlson

## OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH May 2016

Just a reminder to watch for upcoming events and fund raisers this spring, and spread the word of our great church. Finances continue to improve and giving is a little ahead of schedule. We will continue to plan and strive for growth to reduce our deficit for the remainder of the year.

We urge everyone to support our ministries with your time, your talents and your on-going financial support. Evangelism is every single person's responsibility.

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



**The Hannah Circle**  
**Tuesday, May 10**  
**12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

We will celebrate Friendship, Fellowship, & Fun! Lunch will be provided.  
Reservations: Please contact Nancy Parece (508-653-

8687) or Nancy Swan (508-653-8151) if you can attend!

The Hannah's meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Looking for pictures!

Take a Selfie!

Looking for pictures! Take a selfie!

Many of you have asked about a new church directory. The congregation listing found in the back of our annual report is great - except it does not have pictures of people, making it difficult for new members and new staff to identify who is who. As it turns out, our church membership software has an option to add pictures to our church roster!

Over the next two months we will be collecting pictures for an electronic church directory. To be included, send Sherry Culver a picture (electronic

or print) of you and/or family for our directory. Additionally, Sherry or Tian Zhang will be taking pictures of anyone (individuals or family groups) for the directory during Time for Fellowship on Sundays in May and June.

Pictures may be informal or formal - whatever you have is fine. Pictures may be emailed to : sherrycd@comcast.net or left in the church office for pick up.



**Fisk's**  
**CAVE QUEST**  
**Adventure**

**Vacation Bible School at Fisk**

**July 25 to July 29, 2016**

Join us this summer for games, songs, learning, crafts, and fun! Invite your

friends to join the adventure too!  
Check the Fisk website for more  
details in May. [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

## MISSION POSSIBLE

We have many Mission opportunities for you to consider. We encourage you to participate, contribute and pray for these ongoing programs.

**BLANKETS and MOTHERS DAY** We have a wonderful Mother's Day gift idea for you to remember or honor a Mother. For a \$10 donation you will receive a card to recognize a special Mother. The BLANKET will be given to someone needing this "hug" of warmth, love and caring.



Cards will be available at  
Coffee Hour on **May 1 and  
May 8.**

We also have cards that will "give a blanket" for any other occasion i.e. birthdays or anniversaries.

**MISSION TRIP** Have you ever wanted to "go on a MISSION trip? Here is your chance. We have planned a trip to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine...just for you. We know this as "Maine"; it is where we have been sending clothes and small household items for many years. It



is also where our Christmas Wreaths and Maple Syrup originate. **June 6-8** are the dates we have scheduled. Want to join us in doing "a day of mission work" for these families in the Western Mountains of Maine? If you are interested—speak to Marcia Hoyt. If these dates don't work for you, but you would be interested...let us know.

**IMAGINE NO MALARIA** is an ongoing challenge. Fisk voted to contribute \$2500.00 and we are not there yet. This is a preventable disease that kills too many children and adults daily. How much can you help?

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING...watch for the news!**

### Missions Committee

Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Marcia Hoyt-Chair,  
Pat Price and Janis Townsend



## YARD SALE and BAKE SALE

**Saturday, May 7**

**8:30am until noon**

CLEAN OUT your garage, cellar  
or wherever you store  
your "stuff."

### HAVE YOU--

- Made a pile or filled boxes at home?
- On May 2...that is when you can begin to bring your items to the church.
- Monday and Tuesday--you will need to bring them in the front door and carry them to the TODDLER ROOM (Room 2) between 9am and 1:00pm.
- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday someone will be at the "red doors" from 9-11 am and from 1-3 pm. Friday we will be there after 6:30pm.
- Toys, bikes, kitchen items, all types of books, tools, games, puzzles, pots and pans, baskets, small furniture, vases, holiday items, plant cuttings or starter plants... just about anything you are ready to pass on/recycle....in the name of mission.



## Spring Bake Sale

**Bake and buy!**

**Mother's Day is the next day!**

**All monies go to local and**

**national missions!**

**Questions to Janis Cail**

**Sponsored by United Methodist Women**

## **Fisk's Next Potluck Supper**

**Celebrating Moms, Daughters, Granddaughters ...**

**Family Fun Saturday, May 14 at 5:30 p.m.**

You can count on one hand all of the pieces to this potluck! The "homework" is due next Sunday, May 8.

1. Do you have a favorite recipe from your mother or your grandmother that you would like to make & bring to this potluck? Write it down, or copy the recipe - sign-up for this on the Meal Train below - and give the recipe to Pat Price by May 8. Recipes will be put together in a booklet and given out at the potluck.



2. Complete a "Family Fun" page! In the upper corner of this page - list the country that your ancestors came from. Fill out this page - even if it is just yourself. Please give this to Pat Price by May 8.



3. Essay Paragraph! Time to write an essay! Kids, youth, and adults are invited to write a paragraph (yes, or type a paragraph) under one or both titles. "My Mom Rocks!" - or - "Best Adopted Mom" "Best Adopted Mom" could mean legally adopted, or someone who has been like a mom - or mother - to you. Send or give these to Debi Henry - also by May 8. These will also be "published."



4. Invite - and bring extended family members or friends.

5. Bring your family, family, your grandmother when they



pictures of your church wedding - your or mother were a kid!

*Bring your brag book!*

*Pat Price is collecting the recipes and the family fun sheets, Debi Henry is collecting the essays. Recipes, family fun*

*sheets, and essays are due by May 8. For more information, contact Pat Price [508-873-1514](tel:508-873-1514) or Marilyn Donnelly [508-359-4025](tel:508-359-4025).*



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

## **MAY**

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 1 MYF 12 noon  
May 15 MYF 12 noon  
May 22 Campership Luncheon

**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)



## **MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME**

**For Kids Ages 2 To 7**

**May 14 and May 28**



**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)**



## **Campership Luncheon Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Why: To raise much needed funds for the youth program and to help send our youth to United Methodist Church Camps!**

**When: Immediately  
after worship, stop by  
Whipple Hall and  
enjoy lunch!**



**What's for lunch?  
Hamburger, fresh salad, chips  
and cake for just \$10 per person.**

**Hot dogs available upon request.**

**Remember-  
it is a  
fundraiser  
for our  
Youth!**



**(UMM)  
High  
baseball  
wave"**



## **Batter UP!!!**

**All Fisk men and boys are  
invited to join the United  
Methodist Men  
cheer on our Natick  
School Varsity  
team. Let's "do the  
as they strikeout the**

Braintree team on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at 6:50 p.m. in the stands of Mahan Field (90 West St. across from football field). If game is rained out, we will go to the Norwood game - same time and place - one week later on Wednesday, May 18. Contact Gary Hoyt or Geoff Del Sesto if interested.



*Casting all your care upon him; for He cared for you. 1 Peter 5:7*

May the Lord bless, comfort and encourage you with His peace and care.

Ministry of Caring continues this month with regular letters, cards, notes, phone calls and prayers to our church shut-ins, sick and injured, and grieving family and friends.

We are also looking for your response to our next potluck supper on May 14th. Please think about what recipe of Mom or Grandma's you would like to bring, add the name of your food item to the Mealtrain, then write out your recipe card and family fun sheet and return them to Pat Price.

We are praying for your health, well-being, and joy for this anxiously awaited Springtime.

### **Where Faith and Life Connect**

*Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs*

### **Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church**

Pastor:	Rev Xia Jiao-Chur
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Joanne Fitzgerald
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang
Minister of Music:	John T. Bybee II
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryln Gates

### **How To Reach Us**

Phone:(508) 653-1674

Fax: (508) 655-0587

Pastor Xia's Email:	Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org
Church Email:	fiskoffice@fiskumc.org
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Fiskyouth@gmail.com
John Bybee's Email:	fiskmusicministry@gmail.com
CherylN's Email:	deacongates@gmail.com
Church Website:	Fiskumc.org

### May Liturgists

- 1 Rev. CherylN Gates
- 8 Susan Carney
- 15 Thom Townsend
- 22 Mark Owen
- 29 Dorothy Phillips

### May Acolytes

- 1 Rose C.
- 8 Rebecca F.
- 15 Nick J.
- 22 Sara F.
- 29 Nick J.

### May Greeters

- 1 Kate Haranis

*Greeters are needed for May 8, 15, 22 and 29!*  
*Please contact Joanne in the church office to sign up.*

### May Ushers - All Sundays

Dwayne Billingsley and friends

### Communion Servers

Larry & Michelle Drolet

### Psalter Reader

Rose Currie

### May Time of Fellowship

- 1 Sherry Culver & Geoffrey Del Sesto
- 8 tbd
- 15 Susan & Tom Carney
- 22 MYF Campership Luncheon
- 29 tbd

