

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

May 2017

Pastor's Note

After the rejuvenation and renewal of Resurrection Sunday, I often wonder what else. I also wonder why Mother's Day comes right after Easter. Well, there may be or may not be answers, but let us think about it this way.

The women were the first to arrive at the tomb of Jesus Christ. But then, isn't it true that women hold up the sky? Isn't it true that women make things bloom? Isn't it true that women make life worth living? Among many things women do, each of us owe something to a woman who has been, is or will be in our living.

Yes, women play different roles; mothers, sisters, aunties, grandmothers, nieces, cousins and daughters. But if the truth is told, they bring out the best in most of us. They made many of us bloom, so others will see and smell the flowers of their labor, because they planted seeds of love.

The blooming is new life. So we can believe that the new life given to us by Jesus Christ on Resurrection Sunday can always be a part of our living as we keep blooming. We can bloom like beautiful flowers that can be shared not just on Mother's Day but all the days as we live out our faith in our families, our churches, our communities and the world.

As we live, let us stand in solidarity with all women, mothers, and girls and give a message of hope to all we meet. as the Risen Christ did on Resurrection Sunday.

Happy Mother's Day to all women in all places and at all times!

Pastor Alecia

Mother's Day - May 14

Though named Mother's Day, I affirm Women's Day, because women play different roles in the lives of many; some, as mothers, grandmothers, aunties, sisters, daughters, cousins and nieces. May God richly bless each of you this day and always.

Pastor Alecia

May 2017 – Bible Readings

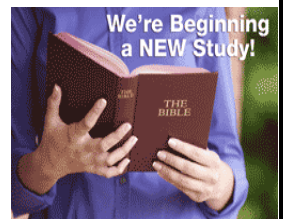
For continuous learning, reflection and spiritual growth, please worship with us every Sunday. In addition, you may be strengthened by reading the following scripture passages this month:

May 7	Acts 2:42-47	John 10:1-10
May 14	Proverbs 31:10-31	John 14:1-14
May 21	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 28	Acts: 1:6-14	John 17:1-11

Sunday Bible Study

Starting Sunday, May 7, we continue our Sunday morning Bible Study with another book.

The book is Extraordinary Men and Women of the Bible by Philip L. Waite. We will study how ordinary men and women became extraordinary for God in their generation, in hope that our lives will be enriched. As our lives are enriched, it is my prayer that we will encourage, empower and inspire others. Most of all that we will make extraordinary disciples of Jesus Christ.



Specific scriptures will be listed in the bulletin prior to week of study. Please join us on any Sunday @ 9:15am

Join your Methodist brothers and sisters
at the annual conference



2017 New England Annual Conference

Radisson Hotel
Manchester, NH
June 15-17, 2017

Website: <http://www.neumc.org/acsessions>

All members of the United Methodist Church are welcome to attend the annual conference. Yes, clergy *and* laity attend. In addition to the business sessions or holy conference the program includes:

- worship services with preaching and singing that lifts you up;
- a dynamic guest preacher, a bible study leader and a renowned music leader;
- a heartwarming message by the selected lay speaker;
- a hallelujah ordination service that you do not want to miss.

You can come for one day, two days, or the full program, Thursday, June 15 to Saturday, June 17, 2017. Early registration deadline is **May 1, 2017**. Links to the on-line registration and schedule-at-a-glance:

<https://neumc-reg.brtaapp.com/2017NewEnglandAnnualConference>

<http://neumc-email.brtaapp.com/files/fileshare/ac%202017/ac%20schedule%20highlights%202017.pdf>

If you have any questions or want more testimonies, please see Pastor Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Rev. Cherlyn Gates, Barbara Beekman, or Dorothy Phillips.

Ladies Ladies Ladies

A group of us are planning to attend the "YOU ARE BLESSED" retreat for women based on the *Sermon on the Mount*. It is being held at the First United Methodist Church in Framingham, Friday June 2nd 6-9:00pm) and Saturday June 3rd (9:00am-6:00pm). We would love to have you join us.

The cost is \$25, but United Methodist Women of Fisk are lowering that cost with scholarships to \$10 for all. There are several slots left. Please see Susan Carney or Barbara Beekman for info. We would love to spend some time with you.

MISSION POSSIBLE

by Marcia Hoyt

BREAD SALE

Thank you for your continued support of the monthly BREAD SALE to benefit Daniel's Table in Framingham.



Our goal is to send them \$1000 in June. We have two more BREAD SALES ...May 7 and June 4th. Are you able to bake a bread, muffins or be sold at our two remaining sales? Come and look what we have and buy a special bread or baked good to enjoy. We are now at just over \$700.00! That is a lot of dough!

BLANKET SUNDAY AND MOTHER'S DAY

Looking for the perfect gift for Mom? For a donation of \$10.00 you can support UMCOR with a Church World Service Blanket to be given to an individual or family to use for a tent, a wrap for warmth, a tote for their belongings or a hammock to sleep in. We have GIFT CARDS to explain your gift.



In addition, this year we have MOTHER'S DAY CARDS for donations to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Maine. This donation will help a family in the Western mountains of Maine stretch their grocery and clothing costs.

Both cards will be available April 30 and May 7th or in the office during the week.

UMCOR SUNDAY! YOU contributed \$648.00 to this UM agency in so much need for these funds. Thank you for your generosity and caring!

Second Annual MISSION TRIP to Maine

The Mission Committee is making plans for another trip to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine in June. The days scheduled are June 19-20-21. We have planned a travel and fellowship day on each end and will spend the 20th doing projects that they have scheduled for us.

Now we need interested people able and willing to go. The tasks vary to fit the abilities and skills of most of us. This is a great way to experience this Mission Site and volunteer for a UM agency and "make a difference."



April 29---This Saturday in Worcester!

Are you planning to join us at the District UMW meeting at the Wesley UMC in Worcester on April 29? We will have a panel of our Muslims sisters discussing their experiences as we all try to understand and live together. Call Marcia Hoyt ASAP if you have not registered. Car pools from Fisk, meet in parking lot at 8:00AM.

Ask the Pastor ~ May 6—Saturday at 10:00am

Come for a simple breakfast and visit with our Pastor Alecia. If you have a question for her, here is your opportunity to ask. She has agreed to answer all our questions... her childhood, her homeland, her family, her careers, her spiritual journey etc.



Health Kits for 2017

We will be wrapping up the 2017 Health Kits and taking them to Annual Conference by mid-June. If you have been wanting to contribute items or kits, it is time to do that NOW. Information is on the UMW Bulletin Board.

Prayer Shawls

A group of us meet very casually on Wednesdays at 10am—or when you can get there! We relax, knit, crochet and have fellowship while making Prayer Shawls for those in crisis, for celebrations, losses etc. Join us when you are able. If you have someone you would like to give a prayer shawl to, speak with Joanne Billo or Mary Greenwood.

Mission u July 21-23

Each year the United Methodist Church and the UMW schedule a time away...Mission u. It is a busy 48 hours of fellowship, worship and learning. The topics for 2017 are: A Covenantal Community, The Missionary Conferences and Climate Justice. If you and/or your family are interested see the UMW bulletin board. Location: Manchester NH. See Sherry Culver for info.



Looking ahead:

Afternoon Tea on June 10th

YARD SALE and BAKE SALE

Saturday, May 13 8:30 until 12 noon

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

- On May 8...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) from 9:00am until 1:00pm.
- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday someone will usually be at the “red doors” from 9-11am and from 1-2 pm. Friday we will be there after 6:30pm. Evenings by chance.
- 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.
- We could use you HELP also...especially on Saturday from 8-12noon.



UMW SPRING BAKE SALE ~ 8:30am-12:00pm

Buy a treat for Mother's Day!

...or just something you will enjoy! The Hannah's are “in charge” of the Bake Table. All monies go to local and global missions! If you are willing to bake for the sale please sign up at Fellowship Time after worship.



Questions? – Terry Ames or Barbara Beekman



**UMM Gathering,
May 15, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

“Batter UP!”

Calling all United Methodist Men and Boys at Fisk, come to our May event! We will be cheering on the Natick High School Varsity Boys baseball team as they play against Weymouth High School.

Game time is 7:00 p.m. at the baseball field, 15 West St, Natick, MA. Come join the fun, have a hot dog, and celebrate a Natick tradition.

[Rain date: May 22 at 7 pm against Framingham HS]

financial support of each and every one of us. Over 80% of our expenses are funded by the direct giving of all of us. 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.

If you are current in your commitment of giving, we thank you, but If you are, perhaps, behind in your planned giving, please consider catching up.

The Finance Committee

3



We were pleased to celebrate Betty Wicks 92nd birthday with her on April 22nd.



Greeting cards and reminders about the potluck supper in May, have been sent to our Caring Group.

If you haven't already heard, Saturday, May 13th is our next potluck supper, "Burst Forth with Song and New Growth", and ♪hymn-sing♪. Read more details on the last page of this newsletter.

Our focus for May is on visits and phone calls; names beginning A-G will be contacted by Pat and H-Z by Marilyn.

Prayer Bears have been blessed and are available for you to take to friends and neighbors who might need prayers from the Fisk Family.

We continue to keep in touch with people in the Fisk family. If you know of anyone who needs a call, visit, meal delivered, or prayers; or if you feel God is calling you to participate in any of these activities, please contact us or Pastor Alecia.

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs
508-359-4025 508-873-1514

Ministry of Caring
Where Faith and Life Connect!



Education



When a child comes to Sunday School and has something to pray about – our hearts are warmed. When we hear from a parent that their child wanted to lift something up in prayer at home – we feel empowered ourselves. When one of our students say that they prayed in school – we almost say *MISSION ACCOMPLISHED*.

We in the Fisk Sunday School have heard all these things. We do recognize that we are all under construction. Come and take part in children's or adult's Sunday School and keep the project of **YOU** on track. Watch for mini Summer Educational Happenings and take part.

Education Commission

Get ready for Vacation Bible School



We are taking a trip, so grab your passport!
July 10 to 14 ~ 9:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
at Fisk Church

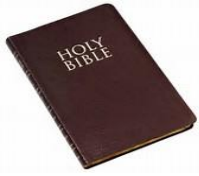
*****Mark your calendar, spread the news,
invite your friends!*****

Finances This Month

Many good things are happening at your church! Those ministries, and new ideas, depend directly upon the

Where is the Bible in Your House?

May we suggest that your children know that the Bible has a place in their home? Today I offer you this verse- Hebrews 13:2



" Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it."

PRAYER: Dear God – May my child/ren always choose to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Amen.

God does not give us a list saying these are the people who we should be kind to. He gives us a command to love our neighbor.

(Submitted by Susan Carney for the Sunday School)

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE FOR ALL WOMEN:

*Christ has no body now, but yours
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which
Christ looks compassion into the
world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do
good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the
world.*

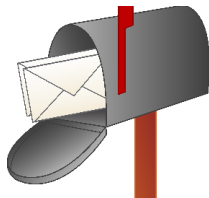
-Teresa of Ávila



4

MISSIONARY MAIL

Each month we are listing a missionary in service to God through our United Methodist connection. Please send a card, email or note to these people telling them that you are praying for their well-being, their work those they are serving. If you get a response that you would like to share with the Fisk congregation...post it on the Missions bulletin Board in the hallway. Who knows—you may become pen pals. Great idea for children too.



Fisk Youth

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12



Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang

Meetings are held after Sunday services and we gather for special activities periodically. Friends of Fisk youth are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Reminder: to view MYF pictures and schedule updates, see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>

What's happening in May?

May 7	MYF
May 14	Campership Luncheon

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 Chair, sherrycd@comcast.net



The Hannah's meet on Tuesday, May 9, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. All women are invited to come, bring your lunch and join in on some lively discussions. Beverages and dessert

Diane O'Loughlin and Winnie Sinclair are our hostesses in May. We will coordinate our Bake Sale "triangles" and make final prep plans. We will also "be in the running at the Academy Awards" as we participate in a UMW skit, "That Handful of Women."

5

May Potluck Supper

"Burst Forth With SONG and New Growth" is the theme of Fisk's Potluck Supper on Saturday, May 13, 5:30 p.m. During dinner Tom Currie will be playing some tunes on the banjo! A ♪Hymn Sing♪ will begin at 6:30 p.m. Singers! (That's YOU!) Please remember to warm up your vocal chords and prepare for defined vocal articulation when you sing these 15 favorite hymns with

others! We are blessed to have our Minister of Music, John T. Bybee II, and our Trumpeter-in-Residence, Danny Venora, lead this wonderful evening with other instrumentalists - and YOU!

Sign-up in Whipple Hall during Fellowship Time, or send an email to fiskoffice@fiskumc.org with Potluck Supper in the subject line, or hop on to the Meal Train! You can sign up for a main dish, side dish, a vegetable side dish, beverages, or dessert. We are also looking for people to

set-up after the Yard/Bake Sale in Whipple Hall, and to clean-up following the music.



MAY 19TH
AT 8:30 A.M.