

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

May 2018

Pastor's Note

Traditionally, rain in April, gives way to May flowers. Hence, I couldn't stop thinking of Easter opening a way to new life. So this month, we will be celebrating graduations, weddings, and birthdays; even Mother's Day.

As we celebrate what is happening or will be happening in our families, churches, community and the world, do not forget to continue to celebrate Easter and the new life it brings. As we celebrate new life, let us smell the bulbs and see the flowers of new life popping up everywhere. But most of all let us be hopeful, prayerful and thankful for all of our relationships.

We, at Fisk United Methodist Church appreciate each of you who attend and/or visit us. And because we appreciate you, we invite others who have not visited to come, to listen and to walk with us as we continue to encounter God in new ways. And, yes, that God is always present is alive and working in our midst through the Holy Spirit.

Congratulations to graduates and blessings for the gifts of birthdays, anniversaries and weddings.

Happy Mother's Day!

-Pastor Alecia

May 2018 – Bible Readings

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, please worship with us every Sunday. In addition, you will be touched and strengthened when you find time to study and reflect. During this month you can read the following scripture passages:

<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
5/6: 1 John 5:1-6	John 15:7-17
5/13: Acts 1:1-11	Luke 24:44-53
5/20: Acts 2:1-4, 14-21	John 15:26-27, 16:4-15
5/27: Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

An Inspirational Moment

DEAR GOD:

I want to thank you for what you have already done.

I am not going to wait until I see results or receive rewards; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until I feel better or things look better; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until people say they are sorry or until they stop talking about me; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until the pain in my body disappears; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until my financial situations improves; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until the children are asleep and the house is quiet; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until I get promoted at work or until I get a job; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until I understand every experience in my life that has caused me pain or grief; I am thanking you right now.

I am not going to wait until the journey gets easier or the challenges are removed; I am thanking you right now.

I am thanking you because I am alive.

I am thanking you because I made it through the day's difficulties.

I am thanking you because I have walked around the obstacles.

I am thanking you because I have the ability and the opportunity to do more and do better.

I'm thanking you because GOD, you haven't given up on me.

What a tremendous honor to be used by GOD to lift up another. Ask him to teach you; to give you a word in season that will heal and encourage, bless and edify. (The Servant of GOD says) The LORD GOD has given me the tongue of a disciple and of one who is taught, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary.

THANK HIM

I believe in Angels, the kind that heaven sends....

I'm surrounded by angels, but I call them friends...

-unknown

Worship

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices,
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.*

Easter Sunday may have come and gone but the Easter season is still with us during the month of May. We will uplift three days in May : **Ascension, Pentecost Sunday, and Trinity Sunday.**

Ascension (Thursday, May 10): 40 days after Easter Sunday. While much of the world may see Ascension Day as just another Thursday, United Methodists can celebrate. With John and Charles Wesley, we remember that Jesus ascended to heaven where he took his rightful throne as Lord of the whole earth. (umc.org)

Pentecost (May 20): 50 days after Easter Sunday, Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. (umc.org)

Trinity Sunday (May 27): Trinity Sunday occurs on the Sunday following Pentecost and celebrates the Christian doctrine of the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In addition, Fisk UMC will be celebrating two baptisms on May 13.

Please join us for all of these meaningful services.

Diane French
Worship Chair

Evangelism

We were blessed by a special guest Dr. Theodore Hickman from Boston University, who visited us Sunday April 22nd, for a thought provoking talk and discussion with Evangelism and Fisk leaders on church trends and societal changes relevant to how we approach our outreach and programs. Dr. Hickman gave us lots to consider and think on as we move forward in these changing times.

We invited him back and he agreed to come back for another visit and work with us as we consider all he has shared with us.

Thank you to our Pastor for this opportunity to work with Dr. Hickman and everyone that took the time to participate in the event.

Evangelism hosted the Easter Sunrise Service and Pancake Breakfast at 630 am. It was a beautiful service on the lawn for members of Fisk congregation and community guests! We were blessed by hands on service of a group of volunteers. Thank you to those that woke up early and those that helped in all ways for a wonderful morning service.

Heather Oluwole,
Evangelism Committee



A message from the Finance Committee

Dear Fisk Family,

Through your generous weekly financial giving to Fisk church, we should be able to fund all of our Fisk church ministries this year. However, as in the past, we have a deficit – about \$8000.

Every year we manage to make ends meet financially and we will this year, too. The Finance Committee and Trustees rearranged how we pay for some things this year, but we need your help.

If every family would give just \$5 per week more for the rest of the year (just \$160) we could wipe out our deficit. While not everyone can afford that, some people may be able to give more (\$10 or \$15). We just pray that you ask the Holy Spirit to guide your giving. You may be surprised what God has in store for you and for Fisk.

I have found that any financial gift that I have given to Fisk has somehow enriched my family in ways beyond those I could imagine. If you feel the same, please help keep the good momentum going at Fisk by giving to this special financial request.

In his service,

Geoffrey Del Sesto,
Trustee & Finance Committee member

Mission Possible by Marcia Hoyt

BLANKET SUNDAY

What is Blanket Sunday?

It is one way to be IN MISSION. It is also a gift option for Mother's Day or any other celebration. Traditionally, Blanket Sunday is a time to Honor or Remember your Mother, mother-in-law, an aunt, grandmother or anyone you felt was "like a mother" to you. A donation to Church World Service for a BLANKET, will give a family a mat to sleep on, keep a family warm, make a temporary shelter, carry their belongings or cover them with love and warmth. What a wonderful gift!

The Mission Committee has Gift cards for Mother's Day or other occasions stating that you made a gift of a BLANKET in their name. It is a sign of generosity, a sign of loving care, a very real sign of compassion. Easy and meaningful shopping for MOM.



These blankets are used in many places following earthquakes, floods, in emergency housing for refugees and to keep the homeless warm.

Who would not want to give or receive a Gift of Love and Compassion? A \$10 donation for a Blanket card will give someone comfort, you probably will not ever meet the recipient but the recipient will know you care. Purchase a Blanket for all the Mothers you may want to honor!

*They are also filled with abundant joy,
which has overflowed in rich generosity.
2 Corinthians 8:2*

We will also have cards for general gifts...to say Thank You, Congratulations to a graduate, for the birth of a baby, birthday gifts—any occasion when you might need a gift. Buy it now and have this gift option on hand. We will also have cards that support other causes. All cards are \$10 each with all the funds going to the cause.

The Mission Committee will have these available at Coffee Hour for the next three weeks or contact Marcia Hoyt or the church office.

MISSION TRIP

Have you ever been on a Mission Trip?

Well here is your chance! For the past two years Fisk has sent a group to Salem Maine for a One Day Mission Workday. We have done many types of things... organized the tool room, sorted clothes, counted socks and bundled them for backpacks, mowed the lawn, folded flyers, stocked the Food Cupboard etc. We travel

to Harrison Maine on Monday stay overnight at Hoyt's, continue on to UMEM on Tuesday and return to Natick on Wednesday (June 18-20). It is a great time of fellowship and service. Interested? Call a Mission Committee member: Janis Cail, Janis Townsend, Susan Carney or Marcia Hoyt



Mission Team 2017

We Are Fisk

What is "Stewardship"?

As Christians, we are called upon to be good stewards of our blessings, and we are called upon to give back generously to our Lord and Savior.

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will
also reap sparingly, and whoever sows
generously will also reap generously."
2 Corinthians 9:6*

- Stewardship is...spiritual.
- Stewardship is...generously giving back to the Lord some of what HE has provided.
- Stewardship is...supporting important ministries. Our ministries at Fisk define us. They touch many people; children and families, our faithful members, our community and beyond. Our church cannot do all the things we do without your financial support and faithfulness. Stewardship makes it all happen.
- Stewardship is...every one of us!

The Finance Committee.



*The following programs are
open to all women who may be
interested in supporting the
mission work for women,
children and youth.*

Come for Brunch...something new!

The Women of the

Fisk United Methodist Church
Invites you to

May Friendship Day

Spring Brunch and

Speaker

May 4, 2018 at

10:00am

Fisk United Methodist
Church



Speaker is Karen Kiefer—Spread the Bread

Our Fisk women have invited all the Christian women in Natick to a Spring Brunch. All of the churches in Natick have received invitations and we are hoping for a great response. We are hosting this



event and using the Church Women United materials designated for May Friendship Day. (most of the mainline denominations are also connected to Church Women United).

We hope you can attend and participate in hosting our neighbors. If you are coming we would like a reservation so we can plan for the food. No cost, just an offering.

Reservations to Joanne Billo, Marcia Hoyt, Susan Carney, Janis Cail or the church office. Thanks. Invite your co-worker, your neighbor or friend.

SAVE the DATE!

Tuesday, June 5

We are Cruisin'

**Join us for an Essex River Cruise
and lunch out!!**

YARD SALE and BAKE SALE

Saturday, May 12

8:30am until 12 noon

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

May 7...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 usually be at the "red doors" from 9-11 am. 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, patio furniture... just about anything you are ready to pass on/recycle....in the name of mission. (no computers or electronics)

We could use you HELP also...especially on Saturday from 8-12noon.

SPRING BAKE SALE-- bake and buy! Buy a treat for Mother's Day! ...or just something you will enjoy!

All monies go to local and national missions!

Questions? – Susan Carney or Janis Cail



The UMW Hannah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, May 8th – 11:30 a.m. to 1:30



p.m. in Ogle Parlor. Our hostesses for this meeting are Marilyn Donnelly and Winnie Sinclair. All women are invited to bring their lunch. Beverages & dessert will be provided. May 8 is National Teachers Day and World Red Cross Day. Our discussion will surround sharing our stories about one of our favorite teachers that we had in school, and stories about an injury, or our bumps and bruises. Class and cast pictures welcome! Please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend. Join us!

Tidings from the Trustees

It's finally Spring, and the Trustees and many of you have been working diligently to get God's house in order. Below is a quick update on recent and upcoming activities to maintain our facilities:

- Spring Cleaning: **Thank you** to the 25 people, ages 4 to over 84, who helped clean the church for Easter. What a blessing to see so many of you!

- **Roof:** We have received bids and accepted one to replace the roof extending from the nursery to the intersection with the sanctuary. Please note that we will likely need to do more roof repairs or replacement in the very near future due to the age of the roof. Please don't hesitate to let the Trustees know if you see another leak. We are aware of multiple leaks in the sanctuary. Many thanks to David Cail and Geoff Del Sesto who have worked with contractors to get us the highest quality at the best price for our roofing needs.

- **Exterior doors:** The double doors outside the choir room off the front of the sanctuary have suffered as we all have under the toll of New England weather the last few years. As with the roof, bids were obtained, and a contractor will be replacing those doors over the next few weeks.

- **Heating:** The Trustees also voted to improve the heat flow to rooms 5, 6 and 7 used by FACE. We also improved the heat flow last month to the nursery and the children's Sunday School rooms. Now some of God's smallest children (and their blessed teachers) will be cozier!

- **Gardening:** Please let Deborah Hernandez or Geoff Del Sesto know if you are interested in helping to maintain the grounds, particularly our lovely garden. Even a few minutes to bend and pull a weed would be appreciated. And, if getting down on bended knee is a problem, we have a few standing projects as well! Also, if you have cuttings or bulbs from your yard or garden that you could share, we would welcome them to the garden or greater campus as we do need to replant quite a few areas.

- **Directed gifts:** Just a reminder, that you are welcome to directly give of your financial gifts to your preferred project or the general maintenance fund to help maintain or update our facilities. Please see one of the Trustees if you would like a list of projects that are planned or are on our wish list for your consideration.

- **Maintenance needs:** Please let any of the Trustees or Pastor know if you see anything around the church that needs some extra love. We frequently walk through with our tool belts on and notebooks in hand, but we need your help to keep God's house in optimal condition.

MYF and parents have shopped for the items in a Health Kit and plan to assemble 70 or more kits from the profits from the dinner.

So ... We need your help to assemble! Be sure to stop by during Time for Fellowship and assemble a kit for UMCOR. Add your blessing to these kits that are so important for displaced families in our country. We want everyone to assemble one health kit!

If you want to donate more items for kits, there is always a collection basket in Ogle Parlor. Our church is on track to donate more than 200 kits this year!

Questions about this or how you can help, ask Sherry Culver, sherrycd@comcast.net

EDUCATION

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Ages 4-11

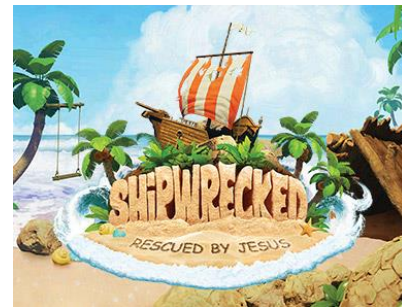
Free of Charge

June 25 - 29, 2018

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration Open Online at <http://www.fiskumc.org>

Contact Amy Bruns to be a Volunteer!



Get Ready to Be Shipwrecked at our Vacation Bible School 2018! Venture onto an uncharted island where kids are rescued by Jesus! Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through every storm in life. They'll learn to hold onto God's promises when they are lonely, they worry, they struggle, do wrong, and feel "left out."



"Through every storm of life I know you're by my side so I am holding on to your promises!"
(from "Never Let Go of Me", VBS theme song)

United Methodist Men

Chicken Parmigiana? Pizza? Shrimp Scampi? Have your choice when you join the UMM for a great meal and fellowship at LaCantina Restaurant in Ashland, MA.



All men and teen boys are welcome. May 8th at 7:00PM

Health Kits Party

**Fisk MYF invites you to a
Health Kit Stuffing Party
Sunday, May 6th,
after worship during Time for Fellowship**

Remember the Corned Beef Dinner? The dinner raised \$864 to be used for Health Kits. Using this money, our

Fisk Youth

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang**

Methodist **Y**outh **F**ellowship meetings are held following Sunday services (usually twice a month) and there will be special activities periodically for all youth and families. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Please check out

<http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>

to view MYF pictures and schedule updates.

We held another event on Friday, April 6 for our youth and families and it seems that each event is better than the last. Hence, if you would like to send your youth to spend quality time, meet other youth, and have fun, you are welcome to; a place that has interest in the outcome of their lives and create lasting connections. In this view, all youth are invited to join us on the first Friday of each month from 6:30-8:30, come, bring a game or something to share and create lasting memory.



Getting creative, April 6, 2018



Everyone is invited!

When: Friday, May 4 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Who: Youth and Families of Fisk - all ages.

Food: Simple dinner provided – we ask for volunteers to bring dessert and salad or vegetables.

Activity: Games, fellowship, and informal fun for all of the Fisk family.

Please let Crystal Mayo (or church office) know if you plan to attend so that we may be sure to have enough food for everyone.

Questions ask Sherry Culver, sherrycd@comcast.net

MYF

Next monthly meeting at Fisk Church

Date: Sunday, May 20

Time: After worship

**If you have an idea for a youth event or activity, wish to volunteer or have questions /concerns, you may send those to Pastor Alecia, at fiskpastor@fiskumc.org during April, May and June.



Friendly competition, April 6, 2018

May Celebrations!

Congratulations to Fisk **trumpeter-in-residence Danny Venora** on his appointment to join the United States Army Band in Washington, D. C. Danny has had a lifelong dream to play trumpet in a military band, and his acceptance in the U. S. Army Band is a great honor. Danny's presence and music has greatly inspired and enhanced our worship experience, and we wish him well on his musical journey!

UMEM

United Methodist Economic Ministry

You have heard the church talk about UMEM. It is one of our connectional mission sites in New England. This is a mission agency serving the underserved people of the Western Mountains of Maine. Fisk has been delivering good, used clothing and small household items to Salem Maine for many years.



Currently, they have three Thrift Shops, all supplied through the Salem site. They also have a Food Cupboard and some housing services as well as being a warm, caring place for those alone. They host a Pot Luck supper for the area each Wednesday during July and August. The staff are often the only contact a person may have during the day or for days. It is the "store" for the area. Anyone can shop there.

Leave your good, clean used clothing in the wooden box in the hallway or call Gary or Marcia Hoyt to leave them at their house. We really appreciate when they are folded into paper grocery bags. It is much easier to handle than large heavy plastic bags.



To learn more about what

UMEM does for the local people of Salem, visit their website at:

<https://www.umeconomicministry.com/>



Music & Movement Time
For Kids Ages 2 To 7
11:00AM-12:00PM

May 5

theme

May 19

theme

This event is FREE! No registration is required.
For more information please contact/email Deborah Hernandez deborahlhernandez@gmail.com



The **2018 Altar Flower Calendar** is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. If you would like to reserve a particular date, as you did in 2017, or would like to sign up for a new date, please print legibly and write in your name.

For more information, please contact

Barbara Beekman at

tbjbeekman@gmail.com, (508) 647-4004.