

The Messenger

November 2015

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

Reflections from Pastor Xia

Welcome to November 2015! It seems impossible, but Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year 2016 are not that far away. This will mean even busier schedules and many more commitments for most of us, but a great many blessing as well. And, this year, I would like to add to the list of special opportunities that come at this time of the year, your participation in our stewardship campaign, "Do It For Christ Our Lord."

Our Stewardship Team has done a wonderful job every year of reminding all of us about the importance of stewardship, and November and December are the months when they ask all of us to consider how we will support the work of the church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Very often we tend to see this as simply asking us to fill out a pledge card, but stewardship campaign is about much more than this. To be sure, one aspect of stewardship is making a financial commitment to the work of the church through a pledge or estimate of giving. Our church does a great job in terms of careful financial management, and having a realistic and carefully prepared budget is so important. Without pledges or estimates, the work of the Finance Committee is much more difficult. This year, all of us are being strongly encouraged to make a pledge, particularly if we have not done so in the past.

But, there is much more to stewardship.

Stewardship is about how each of us will commit to our church family in many other ways. In order to be effective, we need people: volunteers, committee and team members, teachers, liturgists, choir members... and the list goes on. We need a willingness on the part of every member to attend worship as often as possible, to pray, and to grow spiritually. We need a congregation committed to the health and growth of our church, willing to do whatever is necessary in order to claim our vision of making disciples.

What will your part be? I want to urge you to consider how you can help, remembering the ways in which Fisk church enriches your life! Join us for this special time of giving, praying, and support, and together let's celebrate that it is OUR Church and we do all we can for Christ our Lord!

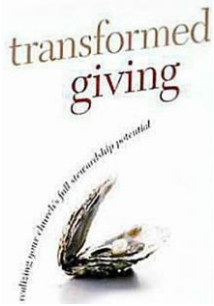
Blessings,

Rev. Xia Jiao-Chur

Annual Church Conference

We will gather at 7PM
Wednesday,
November 18, 2015,
in Room 8/9





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, many people: children and families, our faithful members, our community. Our church cannot do anything without your financial support. Stewardship makes it all happen.

Stewardship is...every one of us!

You will be receiving an important letter from a fellow member of our congregation in November. Please prayerfully consider your personal stewardship, and your Commitment of Giving with our Lord.



November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent!!! Come join us to "deck the halls" (the Sanctuary) during the worship service. It's a

wonderful time of joy and expectation. There are lots of opportunities to participate ~ ~ ~ no speaking parts or ladders. Let Joanne, in the office, a member of the Worship Team, or Pastor Xia know if you would like to "hang some greens".

Memorial Altar Flower Plants – All Saints Day

Altar Flower Plants on Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Day are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

My parents, Emma & Robert Ame, by Terry Ames

Our Parents by Leo & Julia Jaco

Our Parents and Brother by Linnea, Lois, & Blanche

My parents, Don & Louise Owen, by Mark Owen

My wife, Laura Norling, by Mark Owen

Our dear friend, the Rev. Janet Crain,

by James & Dorothy Phillips

My husband, Arthur C. (Bud) Potter, by Lois Potter

My husband, Don Sinclair, by Winola Sinclair



CMA District Bible Study – The Book of James

The Central Mass District is holding a District Bible Study on Thursday's, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at various churches throughout the CMA District. On Thursday, November 5th, the bible study will be held at Christ Church, 2 Brook Street in Wellesley. The study will be on James, Chapter 3. Chapter 4 study will be in Worcester at Aldersgate UMC the following week, November 12.

United Methodist Women

• • • and all women connected to Fisk

This is a busy time of year for our United Methodist Women! We just finished our **YARD SALE**...thanks for all of your support in so many ways. We profited over \$800.00 for mission work for women, youth and children around the world. Thank you!

Our **ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR** is November 14 from 9-2pm. It is looming ahead of us... just about 15 days to go! Can you help? We need bakers, crafters, workers, contributors—of jewelry, good used clothing, ornaments, crafts, bakery items, fudge, Good-as-New items, a special antique, holiday decorations—Thanksgiving and Christmas, knit items and what else can you think of? Oh yes, could you ask your favorite restaurant or your hairdresser or your landscape guy for a GIFT CERTIFICATE for our Silent Auction? Come and enjoy a lunch of Homemade Soups, Lobster rolls, American Chop Suey or a hotdog. We will have cheddar cheese for your holidays or gifts as well as Maple Syrup from Maine, pickles and popcorn. We have three antique sleds with Christmas Decorations on them...they were hot sellers last year... come early! Are you interested in helping for an hour or more—call Janis Cail 781-894-1730. Items can be brought Friday—all day. If you have clothing for the Clothing Closet or jewelry call Janis to make arrangements for an early drop off.

NOVEMBER 3 is our **DINNER MEETING** at 7:00pm. You are invited to join us for dinner and a World Thank Offering option as well as some Fair activity or craft. We hope you will come and enjoy the dinner and evening with friends. Call Joanne Billo 508-653-3074

Looking into December—**DECEMBER 8** is our Christmas Meeting. We ask that each woman

attending bring an ANGEL of some type, style, size, ornament or not, just any kind of **ANGEL** for a swap. We will sing carols, enjoy dessert and have a great evening.

Marcia Hoyt (for all the United Methodist Women)

UMW Hannah Circle

*The Hannah Circle will meet on
Tuesday, November 10 - 12 noon to 2 p.m.*

Women are invited to bring their lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided. At this meeting, we will be mixing up Hannah's Hot Chocolate mix for the Country Fair and answering the "all important questions" - (1) Does God believe that there are atheists - and (2) George Washington sits in on a session of Congress 2015. He writes a quick postcard to his wife. What does the postcard say?

*Contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan
if you can come!*



Thank you to all of you who helped and supported the "Ham and Bean Supper" on Oct. 17th. We feel it was a success.

The United Methodist Men

Country Fair

November 14th



November

I am willing to help in the following ways:

- ☐ I will contribute knit and sewn items
- ☐ I will bake for the Bake Table
- ☐ I will make batches of cookies
- ☐ I have some jewelry to contribute
- ☐ I can help set-up Friday during the day
- ☐ I will help on Fair Day at a table
- ☐ I will bake a pie or two? three?
- ☐ I will help clean-up
- ☐ I will contribute a Silent Auction item
- ☐ I will bring my neighbors, friends, and co-workers
- ☐ I will bring others to shop and have lunch
- ☐ I have a Good-as-New item to donate
- ☐ I will donate to the Boutique / Vintage Table

I will _____

Name

Phone #

Leave in the office, or in the basket on door
or call Janis Cail 781-894-1730

Financially, we need everyone's help to compensate for several challenges this year. If you are perhaps behind in your planned giving, please consider catching up. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our ministries. If you have the ability to do something extra, consider the benefits to your church family. We continue to spend wisely, and carefully managing our resources, as our financial giving remains 15% below Budget.

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.



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME

For Kids Ages 2 To 7

November 21st

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
at Fisk UMC

The event is FREE! No registration is required.
For more information and pictures of past classes, visit:

www.fiskumc.org/music-and-movement.html



*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 November?

November 1 st	Rake leaves for senior church member
November 7 th	Camp Aldersgate
November 15 th	MYF meeting
November 22 nd	MYF meeting
November 29 th	Knitting class - make Christmas ornaments

Looking ahead to December ...

We will have a sushi and movie night at Xu's
December 12th A night in Bethlehem

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 volunteer, contact them or:

Sherry Culver, Youth Council Chair,
sherrycd@comcast.net

MESSENGER DEADLINE:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD