

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760
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November 2016

Pastor's Note

Over the past months, I have been thinking a lot about being thankful. This month we will celebrate a day of thanksgiving. Yes it will soon be Thanksgiving Day, a time set aside to express our thankfulness to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, tells us to "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Hence, we do not have to wait for a specific day to give thanks. We can give thanks without ceasing even as we anticipate Thanksgiving Day.

Today and every day let us give thanks to God with our hearts as we count all of God's wonderful deeds. As we give thanks, there might be a difficult question; have we thought about why we should be thankful to God? Well, as you approach the day of Thanksgiving, here's one way to cultivate a thankful heart. Spend time listing God's blessings in your life and then give willingly, generously and consistently. God bless each of us as we give.

May God's abundant blessings fill your heart and home with a rich harvest of Thanksgiving!

Pastor Alecia

Advent Bible Study- There will be two classes; Sunday morning (November 27, December 4, 11 & 18) from 9:15am - 10am and the other on Wednesday evening (November 30, December 7, 14, 21) from 6:15 pm - 7 pm in room 8/9. This will provide an opportunity for everyone to attend at least once session during the Season of Advent. We will prayerfully focus on "Christmas gifts that won't break" and how we can offer these lasting gifts.

Dates to Remember

Our **Annual Church Conference** is Wednesday, November 2nd at 7pm, here at the church. All persons are invited to attend.

Consecration Sunday (blessing of our gifts) & our sharing with others - *November 20, 2016* is the blessing of our harvest together and gifts to share with others. We will celebrate with a catered lunch after this special Sunday worship service.

"Justice for our Neighbors" Dinner & Silent Auction November 5th

at the Lexington UMC from 5-7 pm.

The pastor will donate two gift baskets in honor of Fisk Memorial UMC because of our gift of presence.

If you can attend or pay for someone else, please call the church office.

For continuous spiritual growth and reflection, read the following Scriptures, from the Lectionary, that were selected for our worship this month.

November 6

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke: 20:27-38

November 20

Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 13

Isaiah 12
Luke 21:5-19

November 27

Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44



Advent is upon us!!! On Sunday November 27th we will celebrate with the Hanging of the Greens Service. With your help, by the end of the Service the Sanctuary will be decorated in reds, greens and golds.

The Worship Team is looking for your assistance; no reading parts. Items need to be added throughout the Sanctuary (Advent wreath, altar cloth, Chrismon ornaments, Nativity to name a few) while Pastor Alecia and the Liturgist describe the significance of each item.

*And of course,
there will be
lots of singing!*



Over the next few weeks a member of the Team will be reaching out with a call, email, or face to face for participants. Please say "yes!" This is wonderful way to be part of a Service ~stress free~ and to welcome in the Advent season.

From the Finance Committee

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!

Remember to return your Pledge cards by November 13th. Come celebrate on November 20th, Consecration Sunday, followed by a luncheon in Whipple Hall.

Experience the Christmas Story Live on the Front Lawn at Fisk

See and experience the true meaning of Christmas...

This year is going to be a little different as we narrate the story of Jesus' birth. This is our chance to share this wonderful story with our community. We will be including costumed Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus, the Angel, Wise Men, Shepherds, the Innkeeper at the Inn and the manger in the little Town on Bethlehem on our Fisk Lawn with fire pits to keep us warm.

After we share the story of Jesus' birth everyone will be invited inside to warm up with Hot Chocolate, cookies, and enjoy Christmas Caroling!

What we need is everyone's participation, support, and enthusiasm.

Watch for more information in your upcoming bulletins.



Stewardship Moment

Fisk Memorial UMC through our giving in the United Methodist connection and through Global Ministries send missionaries around the world; one such was Melville B. Cox. He travelled to Liberia on November 6, 1832 to foster mission work and hoped that his work would kindle enthusiasm for missions.

Being the first missionary sent to a foreign field, he made plans but knew that their accomplishment was not up to him. His belief in God, with the support of the United Methodist Church through the apportionment fund, was a success. He left a legacy of faith through his time, talent and your tithes. The giving established many school, churches and hospitals.

Because of our timely and generous giving, we transform lives locally, nationally and globally. For example, my father, husband, siblings and many friends of mine are products of the United Methodist connectional giving of which Fisk is a part of the whole.

THANK YOU FISK FAMILY as we continue to be intentional and faithful givers in stewardship.



Country Fair

November 12, 2016

9am to 2pm

This is the major fundraising event for the Fisk United Methodist Women ... to support women, children and youth, locally and beyond. We could use your help and you will have a great time helping us help others!

COOKIES—COOKIES—COOKIES!—Come for a “walk”A Cookie Walk! Choose your cookies as you “walk” and have a great selection when you are finished. More than 900 to choose from.



LUNCHEON—Enjoy a hot cup of soup, a lobster roll, hotdog, American Chop Suey or whatever is your choice for lunch. Bring a friend to lunch!

HANDCRAFTS—All handcrafted items are either sewn, knit, needlepoint, crafted from glass, wood, fabric or other materials that you like to use. Aprons, napkins, placemats, kitchen towels, mittens, hats, and.....

★ **SANTA** is coming! Santa will be here from 11 -12:30 for YOU to take your Holiday picture. Have the children wear their fancy clothes...or their pajamas and bring your own camera or Smart Phone. We will provide the backdrop, chair and a Santa...the rest is up to you. Tell your neighbors, friends and relatives. No charge... just come and take your photos! Take a “selfie.”



BAKERY—Love to bake, but need an excuse? Here it is. Pies, pies and pies are always popular. Breads, bars, jellies, pickles, take-along salads etc.

Barbara Beekman and Marcia Hoyt-Co-Chairs

★ **JEWELRY**-- Collect used or un-used jewelry from your home and from friends and neighbors. We all have things we no longer want to wear and someone else is looking for just that piece. Give what you can collect to Janis Cail.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES—Find a NEW treasure or do you have a treasure to donate. We have been promised some very unique antiques. Come and see what we have for you!

★ **SILENT AUCTION**— Do you have a favorite hairdresser, restaurant, manicurist or anyone with a skill or product that would attract bids? We have a pre-printed letter you can give them...asking for a donation to our Silent Auction.

★ **ORNAMENTS**-- Our goal is to have 100 handmade ornaments...no store-bought ornaments! Can you craft, paint, sew, embroider, needlepoint or...create an ornament or two. We want to have a tree covered with new, handcrafted ornaments...we can do it. You can help!

COUNTRY STORE & BOUTIQUE-- Specialty items, some jewelry, some crafts, holiday items and antiques. Lots of surprises! Cheddar cheese, pickles, maple syrup, collectible wooden Pepsi crates.



GOOD-as-NEW— What can you donate? Also come and see what you can purchase for yourself or a gift. We have many great items, most are new and have never been used.

AND...this is a wonderful day of fellowship with each other as the Fisk Family and with our neighbors and shoppers. Plan to join us. Spend an hour or two sitting at a table (i.e. Jewelry, Handcrafts etc.) Can you contribute something?

Please help us spread the word about our Country Fair. See the attached flyer (with e-Messenger), or find copies in the church office. Do you have a place to display one of these? Take one or more (or print from attachment) and hang them in a prominent place.

(Please remember to take flyers down after the event)



The United Methodist Women is thanking each and every person who helped Fisk host 110 women from all the New England states for their Annual Gathering. We were proud of our building, our resources and our radical hospitality. Thanks to the many men and women who participated. Also, we thank everyone for their help with the Fall Yard Sale...over \$700.00 for UMW Missions

Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00pm. We are having a meeting of the whole UMW group. We will have a Pizza Party with salad and beverages...and dessert, of course. It will be the last update on the Country Fair and we will celebrate our thankfulness with our **WORLD THANK OFFERINGS.**

Saturday, November 12 at 9am Country Fair
(See details on page 3)

Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00pm Come and **CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!** Pot Luck Supper, “snowman exchange*,” turn in your UMW pledges, vote on the 2017 Budget and elect officers for 2017. We will sing Carols and play a few games. Do you have a Christmas Table Decoration you would like to share for one of the tables? See Susan Carney.
* Bring a “snowman” to exchange... ornament, wall hanging, decoration or whatever you can think of. Limit \$10.00.

**UNITED METHODIST
MEN**

Dinner out!
Meet at Shanghai-Tokyo Restaurant
54 East Central St. Natick
November 8th at 7:00pm

Questions—Call Gary Hoyt 508-655-0077 or
Geoff Del Sesto 508-651-1876

November 20th—Thanksgiving is a time of family, food and thankfulness for all that we have - food, clothing, caring families, faith communities, and shelter. Not all of our neighbors have these comforts. We can help provide food for their



pantries through the Natick Food Pantry. We are asking you to do an extra bag of shopping this month (list of suggestions below) and bring it to Fisk to be dedicated on Thanksgiving Sunday.

Shopping List

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Jelly | Mustard |
| Catsup | Canned fruit |
| Cheerios | Mac ‘n Cheese |
| Juice boxes | Hamburger Helper |

December 11th—looking ahead—Purchase a pair or two of WHITE TUBE SOCKS and some small personal items, deodorant, crackers, foot powder, candy, gloves, juice boxes etc. and we will fill them on Sunday morning, December 11th at Coffee Hour. Then, those available will take them to those in need... possibly to the Boston Common, shelters in Framingham or those living in a city park. We are “stepping out of the box” and offering the gift of caring and a gift of something new and warm.



Marcia Hoyt, Missions Chair



Bring a Rake Bring a Broom it’s time to clean-up the grounds and the rooms!

The Trustees need people to help with their fall cleaning of several rooms in the church and spruce up the grounds. Please join the team on November 5th from 9-12 to help get Fisk in tip top shape for everyone that will be coming to the Country Fair and attending worship at Thanksgiving and during Advent.

**The Hannah Circle is meeting on
Tuesday, November 1st at 12 noon
(Date changed to the 1st Tuesday).**



Bring your lunch! Our hostesses for this meeting are Judy Maloney and Barbara Miller. They will provide beverages and dessert for us. We will talk about cookies, the Country Fair, cookies, the Presidential Election, cookies, All Saints' Day and cookies.

Reading Resources

The New Program Resources booklets are in Ogle Parlor, if you would like to pick up a copy, to read through the list of books and reviews for the 2016/2017 new reading recommendations. A list of the books now on the shelf, is below; look for the 2017 label. They are on the shelf above the 2016 Books recommended for last year.

The books on shelf for this year are:

Falling in Place
Wild in the Hollow
The Perfect Place
Broken & Blessed
Boundless
Love Casts out Fear
Remember Dippy
Pre –Post-Racial America:
Spiritual stories
Slowing Time
The Courage to Be yourself
-for Teens



Pickup a book, when you have time, read it and return it to the bookcase so others can read it too. Don't forget to put your name inside the front cover.

Also, there are other books in the program you can pick up at bookstores, the library, or online. Feel free to grab a program to see the other suggested reads.

What better way to spend a cold afternoon, but curled up with a favorite book.

Terry Ames
Reading Resources Program

Fisk Youth

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

NOVEMBER

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

What's happening in November?

Nov6 -- MYF meeting
Nov13 -- MYF meeting
Nov20 --Special event (visit Whitney Place)
Nov27 -- No MYF meeting

Looking ahead to Dec:

The week before Christmas: Progressive supper (Date: TBA)

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



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME

For Kids Ages 2 To 7

November 5 & 19

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
or email the church office