

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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## November 2017

### Pastor's Note

Over the years, I have learned that it is deeply biblical for us to give thanks and praise. In Philippians 4:6, the Apostle Paul wrote, that in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, we should let our request be known to God.

This month, we start a season of thanksgiving – one of my favorite times of the year. Why? Because I can intentionally thank God for the simple things of life; things we take for granted.

On Thursday, November 23rd, we will celebrate "Thanksgiving Day". As we prepare for this day, let us think about it as two gifts; one of giving and one of receiving. Though this is not the only day to give thanks, we can remember that thanksgiving becomes more meaningful when we give and when we receive; even if it is a simple word; THANKS.

When we give and receive, joy is experienced at both ends and this makes the world a better, peaceful and just place. I will affirm these because this is the kind of world God planned for all creation. We can claim that world by never giving in to hatred and never giving up hope.

Today, I thank each of you for your generous giving to Jesus Christ's church for ministry and mission. This kind of giving stimulates others and everyone is moved by a spirit of thankfulness and kindness. Therefore, my request is to give thanks with a grateful heart.

Thank you God and thank you for our Fisk family & friends!

*- Pastor Alecia*

### November Dates to Remember

- **Saturday, November 11**, is Justice For Our Neighbors Dinner at 5:30pm – Lexington UMC, Lexington, MA. The event also includes a silent auction
- **Sunday, November 12** is Consecration Sunday in thanksgiving for all our gifts.
- **Thursday, November 23** is Thanksgiving Day. As we gather, let us invite others to the table as we give thanks and praises.

### Pastor's Announcements

#### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY (with DVD)**

"Because of Bethlehem" - In the midst of receiving the gift God offers in Jesus Christ, God also understands our struggles and our challenges. But we "know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose". (Romans 8:28). Can we believe and surrender this season as we receive the Christ Child? Yes, we can. Come and experience a God who understands.

**Sundays – December 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 9:15 AM in Ogle Parlor.**

#### ***Coming in December-Save the date!***

- Hanging the Greens Service is Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Advent Bible Study "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado (Begins December 3)
- United Methodist Women's Christmas Open House is December 5<sup>th</sup>
- Church Conference is December 14
- "Live on the Lawn" is December 16

**Christmas Eve Service - There will be no service on Sunday Morning, December 24, 2017 at 10:30 AM. But all persons, with family and friends, are invited to a combined celebration service for Christmas Eve on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Please feel free to leave the cares of the world behind and join us to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.**

#### **Special Worship Services** **(with Caring Ministry's support)**

Fisk Memorial UMC offers two services every month:

The first Wednesday of every month at 1:30 PM at Whitney Place, 3 Vision Drive, Natick, MA

The second Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM at Eliot Center for Health and Rehabilitation, 168 W Central Street, Natick, MA

*All persons are encouraged to come, share or participate with the residents.*

#### **November 2017 – Bible Readings**

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following.

11/5:	Revelation 7:9-17	1 John 3:1-3
11/12:	Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25	Matthew 25:1-13
11/19:	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	1 Peter 3:13-22
	Psalms 107:1-9, 33-37	Luke 17:11-19
11/26:	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

## m Ministry of Caring m

"Will you support this church with your prayers, presence, gifts, and service?" Sound familiar? Then, you responded with "yes," "I do," or "I will." This was a promise that you made out loud, before God, and witnessed by this congregation. For the prayer part of this vow, how have you or how do you travel from the words of this promise to the actual living of these words?

Praying takes daily faithful participation from all of us. We are called to keep, and hold in prayer, those listed in the Sunday bulletin and those listed on our Prayer Wall. We are called to keep in prayer those that we may know that are not named before us, and those situations in the world today that so need our prayers.

You may pray at a certain time and place, you may do breath prayers all day, you may have a prayer "routine." We encourage you to continue taking a prayer bear from the back of the sanctuary to one in need. You can focus on one heart tag on the Prayer Wall that someone left; take a picture of that tag with your phone! Where do you keep the prayer list? Put sticky notes around your house! Always continue to trust, and make sure your prayer life is activated and up and running. Your prayers are important!

It was the great pumpkin, Charlie Brown! We thank all who brought items to share, items for the Natick Food Pantry, and helped with the "chores" for the October Pot Luck event. Our thanks to Geoff Del Sesto for setting up Whipple Hall and being our "technical brilliance" on the running of the movie.

*Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs*

## n n n n n n n Finance Update

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 touch many, many people: children and families, our faithful members, our community and the world.

Stewardship makes it all happen. Stewardship is ... every one of us, as we live faithful lives!

Remember to return your Pledge cards by November 12th. Come and celebrate on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Consecration Sunday, followed by a luncheon in Whipple Hall.



## UMW Hannah Circle



The Hannah's will meet on Tuesday, November 14, 12 noon to 2 p.m. in Ogle Parlor. All women are invited. Bring your lunch. Dessert & beverages are provided.

A tisket, a tasket - God has filled my Thanksgiving basket! We will talk about our blessings, play team Thanksgiving Trivia, and review "the most amazing Country Fair and Cookie Walk that was held on Nov.11." We hope you are able to join us! please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can come. Linnea Fisher and Florence Young are our hostesses for this meeting.

## United Methodist Men

November 11<sup>th</sup> the UMM will meet to help with the Country Fair - no other meeting in November.

In December, the UMM will meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17 at Eli's restaurant  
12 Washington St, Natick



## Missions



## Our NOVEMBER EMPHASIS Disaster Response and Coordination



### Long-Term Recovery Response through the Church Rebuilding Phase Volunteers and Material Goods

When disaster strikes within the New England Conference and elsewhere, trained Early Response Teams (ERTs) together with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) stand ready to provide relief, resources and caring Christian support. If you are interested in attending an ERT training session to qualify to go on a trip to help begin the process of rebuilding, see Pastor Alecia or Marcia Hoyt.

Our conference has staff and volunteers certified by UMCOR to teach:

- Early Response Team (ERT) training (basic, re-certification and advanced courses)
- Connecting Neighbors, a disaster readiness program for individuals, churches and communities
- United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Team Leader training
- Disaster Spiritual and Emotional Care team training

The UMC is asking us to continue to provide UMCOR Health Kits and Cleaning Buckets.

#### Health Kit (in a large zip lock baggie) includes:

- 1 hand towel at least 15 x 25 inches (*provided by Fisk*)

- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb - *comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long. No pocket combs/ picks*
- 1 wrapped bath-size (3oz. or larger) bar soap - *no Ivory or Jergens soap (due to moisture content)*
- 1 metal nail file or nail clippers
- 1 toothbrush - *Adult size only single package*
- 6 Band-Aids —*3/4 inch to 1 inch size*

The Missions Committee is providing you with the baggie and the hand towel ... you purchase the other items and return the filled baggie. Baggies may be picked up any Sunday at Coffee Hour or in the Office during the week. **GOAL—50 kits by December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Please continue to be present to survivors, in disaster areas, through the gift of your prayers.

#### WHAT ELSE---

Continue to bring your non-perishable food donations for our regular deliveries to the Natick Food Pantry. Our donations are much needed and appreciated by the many Natick families in need.

Would you like to volunteer at the Food Pantry on the second Thursday of each month—Fisk Night? See Gary or Marcia Hoyt.

#### THANKS—

For making Christmas a happier time for many families in Maine with your generous collection of toys and new clothing. We delivered 21 new winter jackets and many, many wonderful gifts and toys to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine.

#### MAPLE SYRUP—

After we unloaded the van of toys and clothing we picked up a supply of Maple Syrup...locally made in the Western Mountains of Maine. It will be available at the Country Fair on November 11 or by calling the Hoyt's 508-655-0077. Great Hostess gift, stocking stuffers etc.

#### CLOTHING—

Last trip to UMEM is November 9<sup>th</sup>. Continue to save your good used clothing until April 1.

### White Socks?

Remember last December we stuffed white socks with “goodies for veterans”? It was a fun time of “hands-on Mission work.”

There is a collection box at Coffee Hour and in the office...to collect new packages of white socks (tube socks or any men’s white socks that we can fill. Bring in small hand creams, shampoos, combs, toothbrushes, small paperback books, magazines ... any items that a veteran would use and fits in a sock. We will stuff one of the pair into the other along with a selection of small gifts and tie the top. These will be distributed to veterans before Christmas.



December 10 is the day - the day we will stuff them! You may bring items and leave them in the containers until then. We will thank the veterans for their service and give them a moment of holiday spirit from Fisk.

### MISSIONARY MAIL

MISSIONARY NAME AND ADDRESS---Send a card or message from yourself and/or Fisk Church. Offer prayer and emotional support as Elmira approaches the holidays and her birthday.

Send greetings to:

Elmira Sellu  
The United Methodist House  
31 Lightfoot Boston Street, Box 523  
Freetown  
Sierra Leone

Elmira’s birthday is November 25, or send a Thanksgiving greeting and prayer.

We highlight a Missionary each month. Ask about the work they are doing, what led them to this work, how long have they been in this position etc. If you receive a response, feel free to post it on the bulletin board entitled MISSIONS, in the hallway.

### Electronic and Appliance Recycle Day

Fisk Memorial UMC, Natick, MA

Saturday November 11, 9am-2pm (Rain or shine)

(cash and personal checks accepted)

Bring your small to large (refrigerators) appliances and electronic items (computers, monitors, phones etc.) for recycling. Fees range from \$5-\$25. For no charge bring your unneeded bicycles – to be donated (and kept out of land-fills). *All towns welcome.*



Our **Country Fair** is one of the BEST days of the year at Fisk. We all are working together, in the holiday spirit of giving, community and missions. We are all here for the same purpose and having fun at the same time. We encourage you to join us in one of many areas or tasks that make this a great day. Just ask what you can do. See the checklist (below) for some ideas.

**Country Fair**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**9am-2pm**



**I am planning to help in the following ways:**

- ☐ I will contribute knit and sewn items
- ☐ I will bake for the Bake Table + Cookie Walk!
- ☐ I have used jewelry to contribute
- ☐ I can help set-up Friday evening at 6pm.
- ☐ I will help on Fair Day Hours? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I will bake a pie or two, or three!
- ☐ I will help clean-up at 2:00 PM
- ☐ I will contribute a Silent Auction item(s)
- ☐ I will bring neighbors, friends, co-workers to shop and have lunch
- ☐ Will donate a Good-as-New item(s)
- ☐ Will donate to Boutique / Vintage Table...a collectible or antique that you are ready to “pass on.”

☐ I will \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**Leave donations in the office or in the basket on door; or call ... Susan Carney 508-655-6148.**

**Pass the word that SANTA will be here for a photo session from 11:00-12:30. DIY--Do it yourself—bring your own camera.**



## 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>

Regular meetings will be held at the church:

**Nov 5– MYF**

**Nov 12 – MYF**

**Nov 18 -- Nursing home visit**

How to contact Bingxin and Tian: For youth-related activities, email to [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**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**November 4 – Pumpkin Festival**

Come learn the pumpkin dance  
and take home a little pumpkin

**November 18 – Thankful Turkeys**

Join us to practice sharing and gobbling like a turkey

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)

**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
1 HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT**



## November Celebrations!



**November**

### Worship

### Participants

Nov.	Liturgists	Nov.	Ushers
5	Rev. Cheryl Gates	5	Dwayne
12	Susan Carney	12	Billingsley
19	Mark Owen	19	&
26	Diane French	26	Friends
	<b>Greeters</b>		<b>Fellowship</b>
5	Mike	5	
12	Bruns	12	
19	&	19	
26	Friends	26	
	<b>Acolytes</b>		<b>Cross Bearer</b>
5	Tiffany S.	5	Rose C.
12	Danny J.	12	all
19	Sarah F.	19	Sundays
26		26	in November
5	<b>Communion</b>	19	<b>Psalter Reader</b>
	Thom Townsend		Tally

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION**

**FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF**

**THE MESSENGER BY**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27 AT 9:00AM**

**DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY,**

**THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE**