

# The Messenger

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

October 2014

## A Word From Pastor Xia

Dear Fisk church family and friends,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

It is hard to believe that I have been working with you for three months. Time just flew by. I am so grateful for this church family that has been supporting me in many ways. As I continue to lead worship and preach, visit parishioners, provide pastoral care and counseling, facilitate daily devotional and prayer moments, as well as meet with leaders and ministry teams to plan on the ministry for the rest of 2014 and the next year, I begin to put myself in the context of Fisk and its wider community, do theological reflections on some of the “daily routines” that I see as sacred calling and how these “old” spiritual practices speak new things to me in a new church and community setting, and how all of you, the saints of the Fisk church have enhanced and reshaped my understanding of ministry.

This early morning I was reading daily devotional, and praying for people on my prayer list. On the list there were some I have visited and chatted with, and some I didn't yet have a chance to visit—but in my prayer every day. What is the meaning of pastoral visit? I asked myself. Am I just showing people that I am nice? Or because it makes me feel good, being a caring pastor and responsible disciple of Christ? If it is not the case, or at least it is much more than that, what is the meaning of pastoral visit and prayer to me?

Every time I read the Bible, what deeply touched my heart is Jesus' presence in people's day-to-day life as a dear friend, brother, redeemer, counselor, healer, comforter and the Son of God who brings peace, hope and unconditional love. He speaks to our real situations and circumstances. To me, Jesus is a good teacher and role model. What a wonderful thing it is to encounter God in sacraments, prayers, Scripture reading, ministry AND

DAILY LIFE! Through visits and casual conversations with people, I know them not just by names. People teach me how to think in a different way, not simply based on my own experiences and understandings, but from people's unique context and spiritual needs; how to be present to God's beloved, and how to find new ways to work together, support and encourage one another in Christ, be united in love and the One Spirit and One body. For me, it is not a one-way road of learning, but a spiritual journey together. Isn't this togetherness/oneness a wonderful present and grace from God? I always enjoy being in prayer and ministry with people, and say “thank you” to God for this amazing grace.

I journey with you, and I am so grateful for this privilege. From a personal perspective, all this has shaped who I am, how I do ministry, how I care for others and for myself, and how I understand God's grace at work. I am so grateful that all saints here at Fisk church so kindly let me be myself, and walk the journey together with support and prayer. May we continue to work together in love and trust, and faithfully follow the Holy One to build up the church and reach out to the wider community and the world.

May God's grace and peace be with you and your loved ones.

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Xia Jiao--Chur*

### Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Xia Jiao-Chur</b>
<b>Admin. / Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Judy Bortolotti</b>
<b>Youth Minister:</b>	<b>Rev. Marcus Hill</b>
<b>Deacon:</b>	<b>Rev. Cheryln Gates</b>
<b>Choir Director /Organist:</b>	<b>Eric Mazonson</b>

### How to reach us:

**Phone: (508) 653-1674**      **Fax: (508) 655-0587**  
**Pastor Xia's Email: [fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskpastor@fiskumc.org)**  
**Church/Judy's Email: [fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)**  
**Marcus' Email: TBA**  
**Cheryln's Email: [deacongates@gmail.com](mailto:deacongates@gmail.com)**  
**Eric's Email: [emazonson@verizon.net](mailto:emazonson@verizon.net)**

**Church Website: [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)**



## Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for October



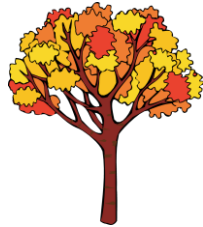
Greeters

### Greeters

Oct 5 – Elizabeth Coates & Winnie Sinclair  
Oct 12– Nancy Swan & Diane O'Loughlin  
Oct 19 – Leo & Julia Jaco  
Oct 26– TBA

### Acolytes

Oct 5 – Rose Currie  
Oct 12– Kelli Garrant  
Oct 19 – Sarah French  
Oct 26– Becca French



### Liturgists

Oct 5 – Rev. Cheryln Gates  
Oct 12– Amy Bruns  
Oct 19 – Mark Owen  
Oct 26– Diane French

### Communion Servers

October 6- Tom and Susan Carney



### Fellowship Hosts for the Month of October:



Oct 5 – Geoff Del Sesto & Sherry Culver  
Oct 12– Leo and Julia Jaco  
Oct 19 – TBA  
Oct 26– TBA

Deadline for November Messenger is October 23 @ 8:30am

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday,  
Thursday and Friday from 8:30am – 1:30pm

# Kids Fashion Show!!

Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

5PM-7PM

Join us for our wonderful  
Kids Fashion Show  
Fundraiser  
And Pasta Dinner



We are partnering with Marshall's to have kids ages 2-12  
model a few fall outfits.



We will also be serving a pasta  
dinner prior to the show.

Check out the Missions bulletin  
board, located outside of Whipple Hall,  
for flyers with more information.  
Invite your friends and family.

- Seniors \$12
- Adults \$15
- Children \$7
- Kids under 2 are free!

Please call the church office to make reservations;  
508-653-1674



**Our semi-annual Yard Sale for Missions!**  
**October 18 8:30am – 12 noon**  
**Clean out your garages, cellars,  
attics and closets.**

We sell almost anything except clothes, ski equipment, and old electronics (TVs, computers etc.) We will take some furniture...but with the provision that if it does not sell you take it back...we do not have transportation or a way to dispose of large items.

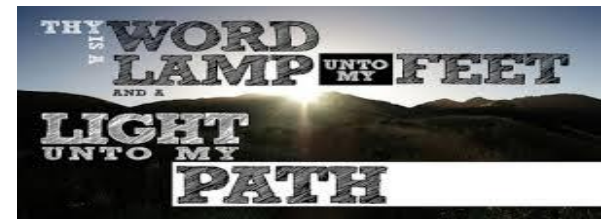


All the money raised goes to Missions—locally and beyond. Help us help others while helping yourself clean out. Items may be brought to the church and left in the Sunday School room any time after October 13.

If you would like to help set up items or sell at the sale...we welcome you!



Call Janis Cail or Barbara  
Beekman or the church office.



## **Adult Sunday School**

Sunday Mornings at 9:20AM

Room 9

*Week One* – Eve

*Week Two* – Deborah / Jael

*Week Three* – Moses' Ladies .... Mother, Sister , wife ,  
and adoptive mother

*Week Four* (Oct.5) – Leah

*Week Five* - Hannah

*Week Six* – Dorcas / Tabitha

*Week Seven* – Esther

After two weeks of class, I can promise you that there  
will be discussion and we will look to God to lead us.

Looking forward  
to sharing with you.

*Susan Carney, Discussion Leader*



## **United Methodist Men**

**The UMM will be attending a  
football game together:**

**Natick High vs. Needham High**

**on**

**Thursday, October 2 at 7:00pm**

**Meet at the football field at 6:45pm.**

**Admission \$5**

**See Ken Reynolds for more information**

## Children's Worship Bulletins

*I hope that you have noticed that we continue to have clipboards at the back of the church for the children to use during service. We have access to this website as it is supported with payment from the Education Comm.*

Did you know that the activities align with the lectionary?  
Did you know that our Sunday School lessons also align with the lectionary? So when your children are listening in church, they should be hearing things that are familiar to them !

**If you know children who would like to use this material but do not attend church, we would love it if you took a copy at the end of service for them.**

PARENTS- There is a code on the bulletins that allows the students access to activities that are fun and biblically based online .... No charge ....just fun. Please let me know if you try this out ...I have previewed the site and it is appropriate and entertaining.  
S. Carney

## Prayer for a Student

Lord, as I study away from home - I am not alone

You are my friend - help me to meet new people  
You are my encourager - come build my confidence and vision  
You are my teacher - help me to learn and gain wisdom  
You are my comforter - hold me when I'm lonely or afraid  
You are my counselor - I share my excitement and worries with you  
You are my protector - I lay my life into your safe hands

Thank you for your presence with me now

Amen

(Please share this with college students or high school students who are away)

## WORSHIP TEAM

After a great meeting with Pastor Xia, the Worship Team is looking forward to expanding their role in the planning of future Worship services. We will be encouraging the congregation to participate, too! The first opportunity will be Sunday October 5th. It is World Communion Sunday.

We would like to have parts of the service spoken in languages other than English. October 19 is Laity Sunday.

The entire service will be lead by non-clergy.

Give a shout out to any member of the Worship Team or email Barb Beekman at [bibeekman@yahoo.com](mailto:bibeekman@yahoo.com) to join in the adventure of being part of a worship service. Youth are encouraged the join in, too.

*Another great way to join in is by volunteering as an usher or greeter. Easy, fun way to meet visitors and old friends alike.*



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Connecting to Christ through  
Communion and Community*

Sunday, OCTOBER 5, 2014

**"Changing One Life At A Time!"**

World Communion Sunday is celebrated the first Sunday in October. This day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice - and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God's earth. On this day, we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve - a world ever more in need of peacemaking.

**Come celebrate World Communion Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**

*World Communion Sunday is designated as a "Special Sunday" in the UMC and you have the opportunity to give a special offering that provides scholarships for U.S. and International students and assists racial and ethnic minority persons pursuing various avenues of ministry.*



## Ministry of Caring and Nurturing

I was sleepless, hungry, and probably hadn't showered in a few days. Beautiful Isaac was in my arms nearly nonstop for the past 5 days. Less than a week old, my new son was the center of my universe. That morning, after returning home from a pediatrician appointment, I noticed that something lovely was left in front of my door. FLOWERS! I later listened to a voicemail message from our own Nancy Swan, telling me that she brought the flowers over to help celebrate Isaac's arrival. Her voice was so kind, her gift was uplifting, so caring, so nurturing.



This is what we are called to do. This is how God shares Himself to others in need. Through our actions, our gifts, our attention, our nurturing. God is Love. And we are made in His image in order to give Love and healing to the planet and all His creations.

If you have a spiritual gift of nurturing you would like to use, please contact Debi Henry (508-651-0256, [debraleighhenry@yahoo.com](mailto:debraleighhenry@yahoo.com)) or Sarah Gates (802-522-3163, [sarahgates4@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgates4@gmail.com)). We might be able to pair you up with just the right need in our community.

If you have a need for healing, household help, friendship, car ride, food, please contact us. We might be able to pair you up with just the right nurturing helper.

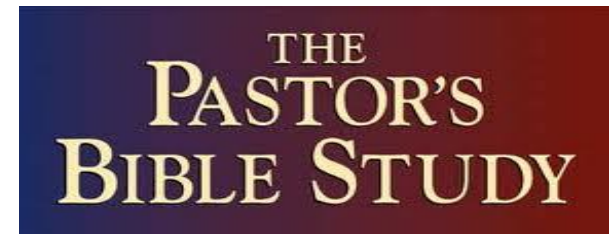
*But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18*

Thank you!!!

My family and I thank you, the members and friends of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church for your prayers, cards, telephone calls and visits during my illness. I am doing well. Your prayers and support were important to my recovery.

With praise to God and His Son Jesus,

-James E. Phillips-



Pastor Xia will lead a Bible Study and Prayer Circle Group every Thursday

Beginning October 2!

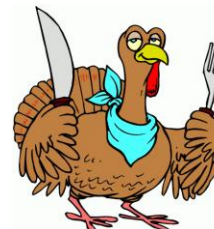
Bible Study 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Prayer Circle 5:00pm -5:45pm

**Come to one or both!!**

**Save the date!**

Thanksgiving Dinner on November 1<sup>st</sup>.



Everyone is invited to join us for an EARLY Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Turkey, Stuffing and all the fix'ens!

Look for more information in future bulletins



# SHOE BAG CHALLENGE at Fisk!

**You've heard of the  
ALS Ice Bucket challenge?  
Well, this is the *Shoe Bag challenge*  
and we challenge all of YOU,  
along with your friends and  
neighbors, to participate!**

Donate your unwanted shoes (sneakers, flip-flops, slippers, boots, clogs etc.) to Fisk and help people in poverty-stricken countries!



Shoes of any condition will be collected through our **shoe drive fundraiser** and are used in developing nations for impoverished people to start, maintain, and grow a micro-enterprise.

By donating your shoes to Fisk, we are able to provide basic necessities for families in poverty-stricken countries. Shoes from our Shoe Fundraiser are consolidated and shipped to on-the-ground business operators where they clean, repair, or melt down outsoles to make a new pair of shoes - Pick up a bag for **you** to fill, and challenge 4 of your friends to also fill a bag. There is also a donation box outside the church office if you are unable to fill a bag. See Pat Price or someone from Missions for more information! Collecting now through mid-December.



## *United Methodist Women*

Fall is a busy season for all  
United Methodist Women!

**October 7 -- 7:30pm**



Line Dancing! This is something new and fun. We are going to try line-dancing with an experienced dance instructor from Wellesley. Come and learn something new and enjoy the fun. World Thank Offering containers will be distributed.

**October 18 – 8:30am to noon** YARD SALE time again. This is a major fundraiser for our Mission Programs. Set aside your treasures and bring them the week of the sale ...beginning Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**October 25 --** Join those traveling to E. Hartford for the Annual Conference Fall Gathering of UMWomen. It will be a day of information, inspiration, worship and fellowship with lunch.

Want more information call –Sherry Culver  
508-651-1876 or Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077

### **OUR PURPOSE**

***United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.***

# BLOCK PARTY

Fall is here! Fisk is here! ... at 106 Walnut Street  
We have sent invitation to about 300 households surrounding the church and invited them to our BLOCK PARTY. Please plan to welcome any guests...as we again reach out into the community

*Serving Others Trough Outreach!*

**Sunday,  
October 5  
3 – 5pm**

**FREE**

**Come, relax and visit  
with our neighbors  
and each other.**

**Hotdogs  
Fresh Popcorn  
Cold Drinks**

**We will have a Bounce House for “kids of all ages”, Cornhole contests, a “Game of Washers” challenge, Basketball shoot-out and more.**

**Would you like to help?**

**Call a member of Council of Ministries  
or the Hoyts 508-655-0077**



## \$\$ Finance Update – October 2014



The fall season is a beautiful reminder of God's many gifts to us, and our obligation as good stewards to give back a portion of that bounty.

Financially, we continue to find ourselves behind our Plan after eight months. The faithful support of you, the congregation, continues to be a blessing, but the summer months of vacations and family times have slowed the giving which is vital to our ministries. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources:

- Your financial support is 11% below Budget, through mid-September
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate, saving 10% so far, but expenses continue,
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

We would urge you to review your Statement of Giving which you will receive in mid-October, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk's ministries. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our ministries. Our Plan still requires us to “borrow” from our resources in order to fund all of our planned ministries in 2014.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. As we enter the fall, we must prayerfully and purposefully work to grow our church spiritually...and our finances will follow.

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.*



It is time to gather again for our Music and Movement class! We have musical instruments, guitar music, parades, singing with active movements. Everyone has a great time! The children and the parents love this time together on Saturday mornings.

**Bring your young children or grandchildren!  
Mention it to a neighbor! Spread the word!  
Snacks for the children and  
coffee etc. for the adults...  
and it is all FREE.**

This is geared for toddlers through grade two.

**Saturday - October 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
11:00am -12:00pm**

Zach or Sarah Gates can tell you more



## **New Youth Minister is announced!**

The SPRC is pleased to announce that

**The Rev. Marcus Hill  
is Fisk's new Youth Minister  
as of October 1, 2014.**

He brings with him 10+ years experience in Youth Ministry and Youth Group Leadership. The congregation had the pleasure of meeting him Sunday September 28. Please join the SPRC in welcoming Marcus to Fisk and watch for youth program activities to be announced.

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### **From the Mission Commission:**



Please join our FOOD DRIVE for the Natick food pantry! You can find decorated paper grocery bags at the back of the Sanctuary throughout the month of October with a list of "most wanted" items. Bring them back to Fisk each week filled with non-perishable food & toiletries.

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### **Hosts for Time of Fellowship are needed.**

If you can help, please sign up on the clipboard located outside of Whipple Hall

