

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.fiskumc.org

October 2017

Pastor's Note

Looking out a window the other day, I was amazed by how the weather keeps changing. And if the truth is told, the world is also changing. Should this be a surprise or should we wonder what's next?

You see, time flies by so quickly and sometimes we are so preoccupied with ourselves that we miss the true meaning of why we are here, on earth. But life happens anyway. So here is the challenge; can we stop to think about others and the wonderful world where God has placed us? If we have not, we might need to rethink what we say, what we do and how we treat others.

As we rethink, remember that prayer is a necessity. We can take time to pray at the beginning and at the end of all we do. And yes, we can do so with gratitude and love for all of God's creation. We were not put on this earth by chance. We arrived through the love of God who sent Jesus Christ. In view of this, let us surrender those things we cannot change knowing that God will do the transformation. But we also need to believe that prayer is the master key. Jesus started ministry with prayer and ended with prayer.

I have great faith in God that if we surrender to God, God will strengthen us as we give up control. So I leave this with you, "To God be the glory for great things God will do".

- Pastor Alecia

Memorial Service

A Service of Remembrance for Rev. Dr. Seth Asare, Retired elder, UMC and former pastor of Fisk Memorial UMC from 2004-2011 will be held here at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church, 106 Walnut Street, Natick, MA on Sunday, October 29 at 4:00pm. All persons are invited.

Pastor's Announcements

Celebrating Our Laity – October 15th

"With prayers and reminders we are called to be God's presence in the world as ministers of hospitality within and outside the church. But most of all, to reach out, engage others, make commitments, grow together and offer HOPE. Thank you for your love and service to God's church for the transformation of the world.

Our District (CMA) Day with the Bishop

When: **Sunday, October 22, 2017**

Where: **St. Matthew UMC, Acton, MA.**

Dinner: **5-6pm (any donation is appreciated)**

Session with Laity & clergy: **6-8pm**

Required: **The pastor & 2-3 members from each church**

Reformation Sunday – October 29

This year marks a significant moment in the life of the Christian Church and in history. This year is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. So, as we celebrate, can we try to love all of God's creation and continue to grow into full communion?

I ask this question because growing in knowledge of each other's traditions is important to peace within and without. It is also important because it is a way of living out our faith and into our full communion agreement. It is also true that we need to grow in understanding of ourselves through encounters with others and re-encounter with Jesus Christ.

When we do, we become more self-aware and this contributes to the deeper formation of people in our traditions, along with connecting all relationships. Please find time to rethink who we are.

October 2017 – Bible Readings

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

10/1:	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
10/8:	Philippians 3:4-14	Matthew 22:33-46
10/15:	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
10/22:	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
10/29:	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46

Missions

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**
by Marcia Hoyt

UMCOR for Hurricane Relief



Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria have devastated our neighbors, friends and relatives. As we watch the newscasts it is our instinct to want to GO AND HELP. Our denomination reminds us NOT to do that. You must be a trained Emergency Response Personnel.

Hence, our denomination is actively "on the ground and doing what they are trained to do." They ask us to PRAY and to GIVE as you are able.

The Missions Committee is asking you to give and give again to **UMCOR for Hurricane Relief**. Checks may be put in the offering or mailed to the church ... marked UMCOR. You may assemble a Health Kit or a Flood Bucket...info in the Literature rack by the Nursery door.

MISSIONARY MAIL

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

Alick Mvula
Block F, Flat 47, Club Street
Nkana West
10101 Kitwe
Zambia

Alick's birthday is October 30
amvula@umcmmission.org

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.

Donate
your
good used
clothing!



October is the last month of 2017 to bring your donations to the church or the Hoyt's home for distribution to UMEM. Again, thank you for being generous in your packing and donating these needed items. Please place folded clothing into paper grocery bags for easy handling.

Thank You for the Spirit of Christmas Gifts! You are awesome. These gifts, jackets and new clothes will be so graciously received by the families served by UMEM in the Western Mountains of Maine.



October 21, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
Potluck Supper!

For everyone!

Movie! Pumpkin Decorating!

***Come dressed
as your favorite character!***

You're invited to this fall potluck supper! Bring an appetizer, side dish or salad, main entree or dessert to share! Please consider bringing a non-perishable item for a collection to the Natick Food Pantry. *Your* donation will make a real difference to families in Natick. Please sign-up in Whipple Hall during Fellowship Time following worship or go on to the Meal Train [Potluck for "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" Potluck Family Fun Night \(Click Here\)](#) to sign-up.

m Ministry of Caring m

Hi Everyone,

Well, fall is back. For some it has sped up and started to wiggle back into a busy routine, while for others it means days are shorter, slowing down a bit and snuggling down. Wherever you fit on life's busy scheme of things, we hope that you are enjoying all of God's blessings. Please be in touch with us if there are things that Ministry of Caring can be of assistance with.

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs
508-359-4025 508-873-1514

Ministry of Caring ~ Where Faith and Life Connect!

Daniel's Table

Following the 9/24 service, during coffee hour we welcomed Guest Speaker David Blais from Daniel's Table. He spoke to us about the beginnings of Daniel's Table, changes that have occurred and how they are adjusting to help people in need. He stressed that they have not solicited funds, but just prayed and had faith that it would happen, and it has, in abundance! He said that the key has been to hit the ground running, have faith and keep going. He told of being drawn to the scripture Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink."

David was eager to speak with our church members and to thank everyone for all the efforts made in feeding those in need in our area. He also showed us new door hangers that they will be putting out starting this week to reach others in the area and to tell them that if they have a need for meals to call Daniel's Table. They need volunteers!

We presented David with the BIG check for \$1,000 raised by the Missions Committee Bread Sales, and an additional \$205 from the Picnic Lunches at our Picnic in JJ Lane Park this summer. Some of our bakers were on hand for pictures with David.



YARD SALE

Do you have "treasures" to donate?
Could you volunteer a few hours at the sale?



Saturday, October 14th
8:30am to 12noon

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR
OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

See Janis Cail or Susan Carney

*Your donations can be brought to the church
between Tuesday, October 10 and Friday 13th from
10am-12noon or in the evening 6pm to 7pm.*

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women

United Methodist Men

*"Come share some fall fellowship and catch up
with your UMM friends."*

United Methodist Men

Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00pm

Dinner at Shanghi-Tokyo Restaurant in Natick



Maine Maple Syrup is here! We have quarts, pints and ½ pints. The sale of this syrup helps support the families connected to UMEM (United Methodist Economic Ministry) in Maine. See Gary Hoyt or purchase at the Fall Fair.

Country Fair

Saturday, November 11, 2017

9:00am to 2:00pm

Fisk United Methodist Church

106 Walnut Street Natick



Come visit our Country Fair. Stay for Lunch (lobster rolls, for sure). Handmade Items Crafts - Jewelry - Good-as-New Shop - Bake Table - Meals-to-Go - Cider - Maple Syrup Antiques - FREE Popcorn - Guest Vendors

Sponsored by United Methodist Women for Missions

October Altar Flower Arrangements

Flower arrangements on the altar are given to the Glory of God, and help beautify our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings for worship. Flowers can be given in honor or in memory of someone. They can also be given in celebration of an occasion, or for a reflective moment.

If you would like to provide flowers for a Sunday in October, please sign-up on the Altar Guild Flower Calendar on the bulletin board outside the church office. You will be contacted about details. *Thank you!*



The Hannah Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 10, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Ogle Parlor. Judy Maloney and Barbara Miller are the hostesses. Women are invited to bring their lunch, as beverages and dessert are provided. The Hannah's will discuss plans for the Fair Cookie Walk and begin writing down "the answers" to a Legacy Map. If you would like to attend, please contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan.

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>

What's happening in October?

Regular meetings will be held at the church:

Oct 8 – MYF

Oct 15 – MYF

Oct 22 -- Special Event TBA

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

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

October 7 – Apple-picking theme

October 21 – Halloween theme

The event is FREE! No registration is required.
For more information and pictures of past classes, visit:
www.fiskumc.org/music-and-movement.html

October Celebrations!

Evangelism

Natick Days 2017

All we can say is wow! The Fisk Prayer Wall was even better received than last year! The wall was set up with some of the prayers from last year, on ivory colored tags. Susan Carney brought white prayer tags for the 2017 Natick Days prayers so that all could see that the Prayer Wall is an on-going Fisk ministry, and it worked! Look at all the white tags! While Pat Price tied knots in the tags to be hung, many Fisk Evangelists stood around the

Prayer Wall and asked people, as they walked by, if they needed a prayer for themselves, for someone they loved, or just something they were grateful for. It was the weekend when Hurricane IRMA was hitting hard, so many prayers were for those in harm's way.

As with last year there were special moments throughout the day. Here are a few:

1. I asked a woman walking by if she would like to put a prayer on the wall. She stopped and gave me an emphatic "YES". We went to put her prayer on the wall saying "Lord hear our prayer." She looked at me and shared that she had been diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer which had moved to her liver, and she had 2 little kiddo's at home. The woman said she had been in remission for a while, but the likelihood of it returning was really high. So let's continue to pray for her.
2. Three Young Men walked by and I asked if they would like to put a prayer on the wall? The first two were kind of like "What is it?", but the third, you could see, really got it. His eyes lit up and he said "Yes!" A few minutes later, as they were writing their prayers, I said to him "You really get this" and "you must have a great family." After they put their prayers on the wall he walked up to a woman who I thought must be his mother; I went over and shared with her what had just transpired and how inspired I was by her son. He came over and shared that he had just started his Freshman Year at Natick High and he was having a real hard time (his girlfriend had broken up with him the week before) and he was using prayers to help him get through it. I handed him a white prayer bear which he really appreciated! I told him to put it in his mother's purse and know our Fisk Family is praying with and for him. It was a WOW moment.
3. One more....A mother put a prayer on the wall for her daughter who had just left for college and had had rough Jr. and Sr. years in High School. We exchanged a few words and I said I would pray for hers if she would pray for mine. We shared a tear.

It was an emotional day but wonderful. We thank everyone who helped with the gathering of information, coloring materials, setup, working during the event and clean up! We have an amazing team and we should all be so proud. God was with us and is with us always. Blessed to be a blessing.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION
FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF
THE MESSENGER BY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 9:00AM**



Finance Update

One of the many, many benefits of a church family is our ability to help and support each other. The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways, and these ministries depend directly on our giving. Beginning on Sunday, October 15th we will have a weekly speaker to tell us about Fisk's ministries in action.

In addition, we will be sending out pledge cards with the new narrative budget brochure. This will conclude on November 12th when we celebrate Consecration Sunday.



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.