

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760 (508) 653-1674

www.fiskumc.org

October 2018

Pastor's Note

This month is a time to focus on the things that have changed in our lives, our families, our communities and the world. As we focus, we might have a flashback or a time of intentional reflection. But whatever it is for us, know that nothing is in our control and things will always change. When we realize this truth, we can surrender to the only one who is in control in all places and at all times: Jesus Christ.

As the song states, "I surrender all to him and to him I will freely give", let us remember that if we give, we will receive and if we receive, we will truly give. That is the spirit of generosity what moves us to love and trust in Jesus Christ, the giver of all things. This is the same Jesus Christ who pours blessings on us as individuals and on us as the faithful community of Fisk UMC.

Let us not forget that the next few months are going to be crucial in planning ministry and mission for 2019. Hence, it is going to be very important that each of us take courageous steps to continue to support Jesus Christ's ministry on earth. And yes, we can be faithful and authentic disciples and not just volunteers who choose what they want to do. I say this because I believe and know that God who is present at Fisk continues to hold us to a higher calling. In that call, we have unique and diverse gifts that have been given to us. Most of all, we are responsible, accountable and connected for ministry and mission until final victory is won.

"No one can do what God calls you to do and no one walks alone."

-Pastor Alecia

Scripture Readings for the Month of October

Oct. 7	Psalm 26	Mark 10:2-16
Oct. 14	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
Oct. 21	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10: 35-45
Oct. 28	Malachi 3:6-12	Mark 10: 46-52

"Read as you study, study as you live and live well!"

- Pastor Alecia

BIBLE STUDY ~ Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

This month as we start our annual stewardship commitment and highlight the need for on-going stewardship as a spiritual practice, we are invited to create awareness. As we create awareness, we will continue our study with the book, "TREASURE" by Jacob Armstrong.

We at Fisk have given so much, and we know the need to continue to give. Therefore, do not forget your Bible, your heart, your thoughts and your gifts.

October 7	"Getting Caught Up in Confetti" 1 Corinthians 10:31
October 14	"Life as Prayer" Matthew 6:6
October 21	"What to Do with Worry" Matthew 6:25
October 28	"Look at the Birds" Matthew 6:26

Community Connections

Fisk under the leadership of faithful servants continues to reach out to those who need us the most. And yes, it is amazing what God does through our minds, hearts and hands. To name a few:

- In June, we prepared and served dinner for more than 60 persons at Natick Open Door.
- In July, we prepared and served families in a focus-oriented program; Family Promise.
- Throughout the year, we serve and reach out to people in the community and beyond. We collect food, clothing and gifts for the Economic Ministry in Maine, the Natick Service Council and all those who need us during times of disasters.
- Every year we host Vacation Bible Study (VBS) for all children and it is always a success
- Throughout the school year, we have been blessed to have volunteers from Natick High School and we have been a blessing to those who go out to do community service for the common good.

GO FISK UMC- SHARE STORIES!

Fisk Connectional Class (Membership & Discipleship)

"Being a Christian in the Wesleyan Tradition (United Methodist Church)" and how we relate as Christians using the book by John Gooch. It is an informational and spirit-filled class to be held Sundays in October from 2-3:00 p.m. in Ogle Parlor.

October 7
How We Belong
October 14
What We Believe

October 21
How We Grow
October 28
How We Live

Please join us if you have not fully connected to Fisk but want to walk this journey with us. Contact Pastor Alecia anytime.

🎵 Music Ministry 🎵

To the congregation of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church,

Over the past fifty-five years, I have had the privilege of serving twelve church congregations in music ministry. At the end of this year, I will be stepping down as Fisk Minister of Music in order to serve on the new Climate Change and Justice task force ministry at Old South Church in Boston, where I am a member. Although I'll no longer be serving in on-staff music ministry, I'll continue to offer my organist and pianist services for weddings, funerals, memorials and worship services to area churches, as time and availability permit. It has been such a joy and blessing to serve the Fisk congregation in music ministry. I will be forever grateful for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

John T. Bybee II, Minister of Music

Evangelism



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME FOR KIDS AGES 1 TO 7

Saturday – October 6 – Falling For Fall
Saturday – October 27 – Costumes on Parade
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Young children and their parents and/or grandparents are invited to our **FREE** Music and Movement class.

For more information:
Please contact/email Deborah Hernandez
deborahlhernandez@gmail.com

Family Pasta Dinner at Fisk

Karaoke Returns!



Saturday – October 20, 2018
5:30 p.m.

Adults = \$7 Children = \$5



**Karaoke returns for another
great night of music!**

**Zip-A-Dee Doo-Da, Let It Go,
Run-Around-Sue, Rock-Around the Clock,
God Is Bigger Than the Boggie Man,
We Are Family, Rhinestone Cowboy, A B C,
and more!**

**Tickets and Karaoke Song Sign-up in
Whipple Hall following worship beginning
October 7, and in the Church Office,
Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**You, your family, or friends
can lead all of us in a song!**

Fisk Evangelism and Ministry of Caring Teams

Wow! Another amazing day! Fisk was out in force at the annual Natick Day event from the set-up team to the folks tending the booth and then clean-up. Small but mighty is what we are.

The Prayer Bears continued to have great impact and people showed much appreciation from young to old. The Spin Game brought in hundreds of people many putting prayers on the Prayer Wall.

One young girl asked if the Wall was Christian...she said she was Jewish. We told her it was non-denominational and she happily wrote her prayer and put it on the Prayer Wall. That WALL is special and we pray the prayers every Sunday. Thank you to all who helped make Natick Day very special and those who left prayers.



United Methodist Women

FAITH - HOPE - LOVE in ACTION

September 29 – Saturday Progressive Brunch
Progressive Brunch for all women and older teens... at 9:00am. Please register by emailing Heather Busa-- HMSB51@aol.com ASAP. Pay your \$10.00 at the door. This is being hosted by Fisk...no traveling...we could use your help and you will enjoy the program. See Janis Cail or Susan Carney

Making Ends Meet—Vote—Power of Prayer

YARD SALE

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



**Saturday,
 October 13th
 8:30am to 12noon**

[ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES]

See Janis Cail or Susan Carney

Your donations can be brought to the church Tuesday-Friday, October 9th—12th from 10 a.m.-12noon or in the evening 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the United Methodist Women

Country Fair

Saturday, November 10, 2018

9 AM to 2 PM

Homemade Baked Goods, Soups, Salads, Fudge, Cookies, Pies and much more!

Home Décor, Crafts, Holiday items - Thanksgiving and Christmas, Good-as-New Gift

Room, Maple Syrup, Collectibles and Gift Baskets, Cheddar Cheese, Antiques, Jewelry (new and used), Accessories and Handbags, and many SILENT AUCTION items. And once again, a selection of vendors with their specialties.



LUNCHEON -- Lobster rolls, choice of hot soups, Mac 'n Cheese, American Chop Suey, cider, hotdogs and beverages.

Mission Possible by Marcia Hoyt

Our Neighbors...they are here and there and near and far...but still our neighbors.

Natick Neighbors—there are so many ways to help each other. Can you volunteer an evening helping at the Food Pantry? Perhaps you can help at the Natick Service Council or support their Auction to be held



October 19 at Walnut Hill School.

Merrimack Valley Neighbors—We are all aware of this disaster and gas explosion! Our neighbors are struggling with severely damaged and/or loss of their homes. You can help by contributing to the *New England Conference* UMC and the funds will go directly to those affected. On the memo line note “Fire/Gas Disaster”.

North and South Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic coast—Health Kits are needed to replace those distributed to families following “Hurricane Florence.” Donations go through UMCOR.

JFON-Justice For Our Neighbors—our connection to helping those “stuck” in the Immigration Process. Support with your gifts and/or plan to attend the Annual Dinner—at the Lexington UMC on Nov. 10 at 5:30 p.m.



United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine—We will be taking the last load of clothes by October 15 (deadline to contribute clothes is October 15—until spring). Please pack the folded, clean clothes in paper grocery bags and bring to Fisk or leave at Hoyt’s home.

Questions? See one of the Missions Committee members: Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Marcia Hoyt or Janis Townsend.

UMW Hannah Circle

On Tuesday, October 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Hannah’s will hold their monthly meeting. Our hostesses for this meeting are Nancy Swan and Nancy Parece. Please let one of our “Nancy’s” know if you can attend. We will be discussing the Country Fair and our part in this amazing day! We will also jump rope, play jacks, pick-up-stix, and assemble Paper Dolls, and go over more surveys! (Well, at least one of these!)

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide a flower arrangement for a particular Sunday – for a celebration, occasion, or in memory of someone you loved, please print your name legibly by the date on the flower poster next to the church office door. For information about reserving flowers in October, please contact Debi Henry at (508) 651-0256 debraleighhenry@yahoo.com.



World Communion Sunday

“What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus’ affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who have historically been assigned to the world’s margins? “As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty.”*

On a personal note, I found this information touching because it refers to the area of the Philippines in which my husband and I served for three years—Davao City, Mindanao. Please give generously to this excellent cause and join us on Sunday, Oct. 7th for the celebration of World Communion Day at our church. Once a year, we join United Methodists in giving a portion of our gifts to give help and hope to others throughout the world. This includes providing scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

*<http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/world-communion-Sunday>

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 those ministries depend directly on our giving. Several of our families have experienced setbacks this year. Financially, we need everyone’s help to compensate for some of those setbacks. 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.

Financially, we continue to find ourselves behind our Plan after eight months. We continue to spend wisely, and are carefully managing our resources:

- Our financial giving remains 3% below Budget, through August,
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate, saving 8% so far, but expenses continue,
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

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.

The Finance Committee

Stewardship 2018-2019

Fisk UMC is blessed by your gifts of tithe, time and talent. Each year we honor the ways in which we continue to give back to God through our ministry and mission work. We are intentional about our thanksgiving for all God has done and continues to do for us. That is why we always sing, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow” (UMH 95).

For the next few weeks, we will pray about our gifts, make a prayerful pledge and start an early thanksgiving of praises for our gifts. We will share our accomplishments, our joy, and our concerns and conclude with a celebration of our “Covenant Giving” on Sunday, November 11 with a spirit-filled worship service and a luncheon after church. Hence, during these few weeks, we would like you to focus on prayers, faithful and continuous stewardship as the Holy Spirit leads us in rethinking the estimates of our giving for 2019.

Though we have committed ourselves to support the work of Jesus Christ, through ministry and missions at Fisk, this year and the years ahead will be challenging. Hence, we will all need to be more intentional with our giving as we take a leap of faith and climb one, two or more steps. As we do, it is our prayer that God will multiply our gifts, widen our circle and increase our territory to create a harvest that will need more workers. Thank you!



United Methodist Men
October 9th at 7:00pm
at Shanghai Tokyo
54 East Central Street
Natick, MA



November Messenger Deadline
9AM - Monday, October 22

mMinistry of Caring m

During September, a lot of cards, notes, and Sunday bulletins were mailed. October is “the caring month of the calendar year.” It is noted that October is:

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month
- Crime Prevention Month
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Liver Awareness Month
- Healthy Lung Month
- Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month
- Rett Syndrome Awareness Month
- Spina Bifida Awareness Month
- Mental Illness Awareness Week – October 1-7
- National Red Ribbon Week – October 23-31
- World Mental Health Day – October 10
- Metastatic Breast Cancer Day – October 13
- National Mammography Day – October 20
- Make A Difference Day – October 28

For many years, we have heard the sentence both inside these walls, and outside these doors. There are a lot of people with issues, that need your time and help. Inside these walls we collect for Natick Food Pantry and deliver, Starbucks pick-ups and deliveries and other projects from the Missions Commission – and that doesn’t add to the list of emergency situations. Someone in pain may be sitting in your pew, or in the next pew. For whatever reasons, wherever your heart may be, “be or become an action figure!” Praying- Supporting-Doing ... Go for it!!

Pat Price and Marilyn Donnelly, MOC Co-Chairs

Youth News

For youth and their friends in Grades 6—12

Youth Fellowship Leaders:

Bingxin Xu newacexbx@gmail.com
Tian Zhang zhangtian96@gmail.com

Youth Group meetings are held following Sunday services (usually twice a month) and there will be special activities periodically for all youth and families. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please check out

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

See next page for scheduled youth activities.



Everyone is invited!

**Friday, October 5
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Who : Youth and Families of
Fisk - all ages.

Food : Simple dinner provided – we ask for volunteers to bring dessert , salad or vegetables.

Activity : Games, fellowship, and informal fun members of the family.

Please note: Tian & Bingxin are on vacation. Therefore, please let Pastor Alecia know if you plan to attend.

Next monthly meetings at Fisk Church

Date: **Sunday, October 14**

Time: **12:00 p.m.**

Special Activity—(Pending)

Special Note: If you have never attended any of these activities, please come and have a child-like experience.