

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760
(508) 653-1674 www.fiskumc.org

Pastor's Note

I hope that each of you had a wonderful and relaxing time this summer with family and friends. It is always a good and joyful thing when we can rest and be revived to continue God's work.

My family and I arrived and were welcomed. For this, we are grateful. It was helpful to have intimate worship services this summer. We met personally with members of the congregation and getting to know them is a blessing as I start ministry here. Therefore, as September begins and we move back to the sanctuary, I will continue to meet with those persons coming back from vacation and those visiting us as we worship, proclaim and celebrate the good news of God's kingdom.

It is my prayer that each of you will find time to meet with me to share your joys and concerns. And do not forget to join me for Bible study every Sunday starting on September 25

Pastor Alecia

Get to know your pastor through Bible study & fellowship time!

Starting, Sunday, September 25, we will meet in the Pastor's Study, to share and reflect on selected books of the Bible every Sunday from 9:15 -10 am until June 11, 2017 (Annual Conference week).

Our first study is ROMANS, keeping in mind that we are not immune to what happened centuries ago.

Please sign up by September 2nd to ensure that you receive a book (a donation of \$5.00 if you are able). Thank you. The sign up list is on the counter in the church office. You may also send an email to Joanne to sign up: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

We Remember

For all that has gone wrong, is going wrong and will go wrong, we will never forget our brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the senseless act of violence on September 11, 2001. As we remember, let us never forget their families as we pray for those who incite violence, encourage division, spread words of hate and live with evil.

As a remembrance, on Sept. 11th we will host a special service in the sanctuary. Please join us and invite others to attend.

We Celebrate

On Sunday, September 25, we will celebrate, "Homecoming". We will welcome those people who were gone for the summer, those who are returning to the household of God, those who are visiting and those who are looking for a church family.

It is my prayer that we will feel the presence of God and feel the spirit of excitement that will be blowing through Natick. As that happens, join the choir, attend a Bible study, do a Bible study, sign up for a ministry, bring someone new to worship, bring a child back to Sunday school. But most of all, be the disciple that we are called to be.

Lectionary Readings

For continued reflection this month & spiritual growth, read the following Scriptures from the Lectionary that were selected for our time of worship.

Sep 4 Luke 14:25-23, Jeremiah 18:1-11
Sep 11 Luke 15:1-, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, and litany insert
Sep 18 Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113 *UMH 834), Luke 16:1-13
Sep 25 Luke 16:19-31, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Psalm 91:1-6, 1-16

Evangelism

Greetings! Evangelism has been working on exciting plans for Natick Days which is on Saturday, September 10th from 10-3 p.m. This is a town wide event very well attended by thousands from our local community. This year our theme is prayer and we have a wonderful eye catching display, kids and family activities and handouts in the works!

We need each and every one of you to participate by volunteering at the Fisk table for an hour or more, or just come by the table and lend your smile, warm hello and chat with your church family and neighbors. We look forward to sharing more about this with you at fellowship hour. Please consider participating in the event. We have opportunities for help setting up at 8 a.m., time at the event for an hour or more, or help with break down at 3 p.m.

Please contact Heather Oluwole or Michelle Drolet about participation or sign up during fellowship hour.

HeatherOluwole@hotmail.com

michelled@towerwall.com

In the city of Jerusalem there is a place where millions of people of different faiths go to pray. It is called the Wailing Wall. I have never been there, but I have heard that when people visit the Wailing Wall they will frequently write down their prayers and place them into cracks and crevices along the wall. Fisk is hosting a Prayer Wall at Natick Days Sept 10th, where anyone and everyone can write their joys, gratitude, concerns for themselves or for others and post it on the wall...and the people of Fisk will be there to share quiet prayers and invitations...



Good news for all!

The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be a blessing, the summer months of vacations and family times have not slowed the pledges and giving which is vital to our finances. We are a little ahead of our Financial Plan after seven months. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources to keep this positive:

- Our financial support is 3% above Plan through July
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses, saving 5%

We continue to pray for continued growth, and improvements in our financial position. We would urge you to review your quarterly Statement of Giving, mailed to you, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk's ministries for those that are behind.

Many activities are planned for the fall so keep active!

Larry Drolet (Chair)

Education

**Sunday School begins on September 11 at 9:15a.m.
Blessing of the Backpacks, in worship, September 25**

Calling One...Calling All

"Train up a child in the way he/she should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

-Proverbs 22:6

Our children, teens, and adults need the Word and they need us for Sunday school. Fisk is still seeking Sunday School teachers, assistant teachers, as well as substitute teachers who are willing to fill in occasionally. Can you help?

Our Christian Education materials have great ideas and activities galore. Experienced leaders are also here to support you. If you can give of your time and your Christian love, teaching God's word to our youth will reward you ten-fold!

Adopt an SSK!

A what?! Adopt a Sunday School Kid!

Please consider sharing your Christian warmth by serving as a buddy and forming a special bond with one of our Sunday School kids.

What does it involve? The commitment is simple . . . your love and your special attention. You will be paired with one of our youth, and we ask that you greet each other and check-in whenever you are both at church. Perhaps you can chat about the Sunday School lesson. Certainly pray *with* your student and *for* your student. Become a special presence at Fisk for one of our special young people. It is sure to be a blessing to both of you.

Volunteer today by speaking to Amy Bruns or emailing her at amybruns35@gmail.com

Missions



This "Welcome Back Dinner" is sponsored by the UMW, UMM and the Mission Committee. It is for all adults and friends from Fisk.

It would be helpful to have a number expecting dinner. Call the church office or Marcia Hoyt (508-655-0077) with your reservations. Not really necessary...come along anyway. It is just helpful to have an approximate number to plan on.

Come to visit with all your Fisk friends, many of which have been away on vacation part of the summer. There is no charge for the dinner.

What is happening in Nicaragua?

Come and hear the latest information.

*Please submit your articles for the October Issue of **The Messenger** By 8:30 AM on Wednesday, Sept. 28*



Merry Christmas!

Thank you from the Mission Committee!

You have been so very generous with your Christmas gifts for the United Methodist Economic Ministry Christmas Shoppe! God is Good!

You have helped make their Christmas happier. Fisk supports this organization in many ways—good, clean used clothing, small household items, purchasing their Maple Syrup, some school supplies, the hands-on work day, monetary donations AND NOW Christmas Gifts!!

I personally love the way UMEM handles Christmas Giving. The staff sets up a Christmas Shoppe with all of the NEW games, toys, sweatshirts, sports equipment, and NEW packages of socks and underwear (for all ages and sizes). The families that they serve are given Coupons for their shopping and each family has an appointment when they can come and choose the gifts appropriate for the family...using the coupons. This is done with such dignity and empowers the families to be able to CHOOSE gifts rather than ... be given a bag of gifts and hope they are appropriate.

Again, the Missions Committee thanks you for your help with this project.

Marcia Hoyt for the Missions Committee



YARD SALE

Reminder of the Fall Annual Yard Sale

October 8, 2016.

Start saving your "stuff"—it might be valuable to someone.

Contact Janis Cail or Barbara Beekman

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have a few hours a month to help with one of two projects at Fisk?

#1 is the Natick Food Pantry

Fisk is responsible for two volunteers each **2nd Thursday** of the month... 12 times a year. We have a team of people who share this responsibility, but could use a couple more names to share in this mission work in our community. On the 2nd Thursday you arrive at the Natick Food Pantry, on Webster Street in Natick, and serve the clients who have appointments. It is very easy and you will be "helping your neighbors". You bag the food choices they make and they are on their way. The pantry is open from 5pm to 8pm. Try it! You'll like it! Call Gary or Marcia Hoyt (508-655-0077) and plan a visit when we are doing a "Fisk Night" and then you can decide if this is where you want to volunteer some time.

#2 is serving BREAKFAST!

Did you know that the Charles River Rotary Club meets at Fisk **each Thursday morning**...52 weeks a year?

They pay the church for the space and breakfast. It is ideal to have four teams and each team does about 11 times a year. We usually arrive at 6:30am (depending on the menu for that day) and leave by 9 or 9:30am. We prepare the menu, cook and serve the breakfast at 7:15 and when they are finished (usually 8:40am) we wash dishes, clean-up and leave. You also enjoy breakfast and some visiting time with your co-worker.

The church uses this income to help balance the general budget—this volunteering usually generates about \$5000/year.

Call Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077
or Michelle Drolet 508-651-2724



Mission Through Our Hands
150th Legacy Fund
Cooper Community Center
and...A SOLE HOPE Shoe Cutting



Central Massachusetts District
United Methodist Women

Saturday, September 24, 2016
at 9:15am

Annual Fall Gathering

First United Methodist Church of Hudson
34 Felton Street Hudson MA 01749

Luncheon ~ Fun ~ Prizes ~ Fellowship ~
Installation ~ Worship Resources and
A Shoe Cutting Party!

IMPORTANT—please bring a pair of scissors for cutting denim fabric and some used jeans or denim fabric. More information in the Newsletter.

Ingathering: Stickers for children, large safety pins, non-sterile surgical gloves, cotton balls, medical tape-paper/adhesive, antibiotic cream, gauze-narrow wrapping type, and band aids.

REGISTRATION FOR FALL GATHERING
Deadline is September 19, 2016
Thank you for registering and paying promptly!

Name _____

Fall Annual Gathering registration and lunch is **\$10.00 each**. Checks payable to: **CMA UMW**
Send to:

Marcia Hoyt 8 Bacon St. Natick MA 01760

NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Beginning September 11, 2016

Children ages toddler through middle school are invited to participate in the 15-20 minute rehearsals (during Time of Fellowship) and sing in the worship service, one Sunday in each month.

Please email or see Jen Garrant to sign up.

Jengarrant@verizon.net



Adult Worship Choir rehearsals will resume Sunday, September 11th at 9 a.m. in the choir room. Come join us as we raise our voices in joyful song!

DANNY VENORA ~ FISK TRUMPETER-IN-RESIDENCE
We welcome Danny Venora as Fisk Trumpeter-in-residence. Beginning September 11th, Danny will join our growing Music Ministry as we strive to build and enhance a more vibrant worship experience. Danny hails from West Hartford, CT and is a recent graduate of the Yale School of Music, where he earned his Master's degree in trumpet performance. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in music education and trumpet performance from the Ithaca College School of Music in 2013. While a student, Danny performed with the Ithaca College Wind Ensemble and Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, and the Yale Philharmonic. He is also a past winner of the International Trumpet Guild Scholarship Competition, and a former member of the Ithaca College Trumpet Ensemble, which placed fourth at the National Trumpet Competition in 2013. Danny has performed as principal trumpet with the Northern Tier Symphony Orchestra in northern PA, with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra in Ithaca, NY, and with the Hartford Independent Chamber Orchestra in Hartford, CT. In summer 2015, he was a Norfolk Chamber Music Festival fellow with Brickhaus Brass, a brass quintet formed at the Yale School of Music. Danny is currently employed by the S. E. Shires Company, which produces and sells some of the worlds finest trumpets and trombones. Danny moved to Natick, MA this past July. When not working or practicing, he enjoys playing chess and attending live music performances. He is a lifelong baseball and soccer fan.



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME

For Kids Ages 2 To 7

September 17th
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



Concert Across America
September 25 from 2 to 4 PM
on the Natick Common

A variety of local musical groups will perform as part of "The Concert Across America" - a series of live music events of all sizes taking place from coast to coast to remember the forgotten victims of America's gun violence epidemic.

Enjoy some wonderful performers and join in raising the volume on the national effort to save lives from gun violence at this event coordinated by the Natick Interfaith Community.

REST, RELAX AND REFRESH RETREAT

Mission accomplished on the women's retreat! 14 of us enjoyed each other's company and shared thoughts about spiritual and intellectual and physical well being. God calls us to care for ourselves without feeling guilty and in doing so we can better serve our creator.

Stockings were made and stuffed for Christmas at the Salem Economic Ministry. Sugar scrubs were made for each of us to pamper ourselves. Bible study focused on the Psalms and guitar music and worship centers enhanced the weekend.

We played games, colored, created trinity squares, and laughed a lot. Thanks to the Hoyts for their hospitality. Thanks sisters for the meals. Thanks Jesus for this time to enjoy fellowship and make a joyful noise.



Where Faith and Life Connect

Fisk Pot-Luck Suppers! Welcome back, Church – to worship, Sunday School, meetings, and happenings! Fisk Pot-Luck Suppers continue on Saturday, September 24th with a theme of “Everything Apples” to be held 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Apples are not just something that you eat each day “to keep the doctor away.” Apple is more than a Mac, your iPad or your iPhone. Time to get together for a pot-luck, catch-up with each other, and just hang out together. Bring your family and friends! How does a Cheddar-Apple soup sound? Apple Crisp? Apple Cider? Plenty of recipes with A-P-P-L-E-S in them – or bring your favorite entrée, side dish, salad, beverage, or dessert! Sign-up in Whipple Hall following worship & let us know if you can come! To sign up for the Meal Train : <https://mealtrain.com/k4mm5z>

Care Bears - They are a visible reminder that there is always someone in need of comfort. Fisk friends and family deliver the bears to those that need to be reminded of God's love and our care for them. If you know someone who has a need – bring them a Care Bear!

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price
Co-Chairs



UMW—Central Area Fall Meeting

This fall, CMA UMW will gather at Hudson UMC for the Fall meeting on September 24th. This meeting is about hands and using our hands in mission. There will be a hands-on mission project, info about Cooper Community and a presentation about the Legacy Fund. If you have not been to a CMA Gathering in a while, take this opportunity to attend and see what is happening in Central Mass. We will have time for fun, fellowship and even a few fun activities for you! I hope to see you there.

Peace, Sherry

Fisk Youth

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

SEPTEMBER

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

What's happening in September?

Sept 18 Group meets following worship

Sept 25 Group meets following worship

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

Altar Guild

Thank You to all for donating flowers for the sacred space this summer!

If you would like to give flowers to the Glory of God in honor of someone or in celebration of an occasion, or in memory of someone, in September or October, please contact Debi Henry (508) 651-0256 debraleighhenry@yahoo.com or Barbara Beekman (508) 647-4004.

The Hannah Circle will meet on **Tuesday, September 13 - 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.** in Ogle Parlor and Room 9. September 13 is Defy Superstition Day and we will celebrate with a discussion of superstitious beliefs that we had as kids, or have had all of our lives!

We will also talk about upcoming UMW happenings, "What I did over the summer", and the Fair. Bring your lunch and join in on these lively discussions. Beverages and dessert provided! All women are invited to join! For more information, or to let us know you will be coming, please contact a Nancy! (*Nancy Parece, or Nancy Swan*).