

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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

www.fiskumc.org

September 2017

Pastor's Note

As the season of summer ends, we can still hold and feel the sunshine within us. I say this knowing that the pending season of fall is also a beautiful season. We can continue to enjoy the bright sunny days and cool breeze that will give us a glimpse of the season of winter.

During the season of fall, let us enjoy diverse and magnificent colors of leaves on trees around us; for all is changing and all is different. As we look with delight, the challenges are; can we delight in the diversity of people in our families, in our communities and in the world? But most of all, can we look with bright clear eyes and see every person as made in God's image?

Now, that might sometimes be difficult for some of us. But as the season starts, let us take a closer look at what is happening. Let us open ourselves to reflect and rethink what we can do in a changing world to make the changes reflective of God's presence. As we do, we can remember that no one can do it alone because no one walks alone.

If you ever feel alone, visit us, call us, email us and believe that we are God's presence. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

- Pastor Alecia

September 2017 – Bible Readings

For continuous learning and reflection please find time to read the following. In addition, you can join us in worship, reach out to others, touch a life by your sharing and feel blessed that you are God's presence in the world.

Date	Scripture	Gospel
9/3	Romans 12: 9-21	Matthew 16: 21-28
9/10	Romans 13: 8-14	Matthew 18: 15-20
9/17	Romans 14: 1-12	Matthew 18: 21-35
9/24	Philippians 1: 21-30	Matthew 20: 1-16

In Remembrance

Remembering Rev. Dr. Seth O. Asare

Rev. Dr. Asare was former Pastor and Shepherd-leader of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church in Natick MA from 2004-2011. He was also a retired elder in the New England Conference.

During his years of service, he brought the word of God alive and empowerment in ministry and mission while leading many to Jesus Christ. Most of all, he met many along the way and touched many lives.

On Saturday, August 12th, he passed on to glory at his home in Ghana, West Africa. As we remember this faithful servant of God, his home-going celebration was Thursday, August 24, 2017 in Ghana. His daughter Abena writes:

"Dad died sleeping peacefully in his bed in the mountains of his hometown. He did not have any illness or signs of decline. After a beautiful day with his wife, Dorothy, they went peacefully to bed, and when she awoke, the Lord had called him home."

Note: A memorial service will held on Sunday October 29th at 4pm at Parkway United Methodist Church in Milton, MA

🎵🎵🎵 Music Ministry 🎵🎵🎵

Choir Rehearsals

Worship Choir rehearsals resume on September 10, at 9:00AM. We invite those between the ages of 13 and 103 who enjoy singing to join us in the choir room! Note: Please read John Bybee's letter, printed on the last page of this newsletter.

Youth Choir Rehearsals start on September 3 following worship at 11:30 a.m. and will be held at that time every Sunday, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin calendar.

Adult Bible Study

Bible Study- starting Sunday, September 3, 2017

On the book, "A Missionary Mindset" by Douglas Ruffle. As we read scripture passages and listen to lessons learned from a missionary (E. Stanley Jones), it is hoped that we can reflect on what we need to know to reach out to all persons; but most of all, to enlighten us to reach out with grace, love and humility.

All persons are invited as we prepare to be more intentional about becoming missionaries and not volunteers for God. We need everyone's heart, mind and hands to accept the increase in territory that God has promised.

- 9/3 Matthew 28: 16-20; Galatians 2: 11-14 & 1 Corinthians 9: 19-22
- 9/10 Matthew 22: 37-39; Colossians 3: 12-17
- 9/17 Colossians 1: 9-14; 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-22
- 9/24 2 Peter 1: 5-7
- 10/1 John 4: 6-30
- 10/8 Matthew 23: 11-12; Philippians 2: 1-11
- 10/15 John 13: 31-35; 1 Corinthians 13
- 10/22 Acts 16: 1-15; Acts 18: 1-4; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-12
- 10/29 Matthew 5: 1-12; Matthew 6: 31-33; Hebrews 12:28
- 11/5 Proverbs 3: 1-10; Matthew 25: 31-46

Education

Please prayerfully consider teaching or substituting in Sunday School. 9:15-10:15 on Sundays or working with our youngest from 10:15-11:30, during church, in the nursery.

We need you. It is a blessing working and learning with these children.



Middle School and High School will be taught by Susan Carney.

Grades 1-4 will be headed by Terry Ames and her team.

Age 3 – Kindergarten will be lovingly led by Kathy Reynolds and a helper.

We need volunteers and missionaries. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to assist once or twice this year. Let's make the list long and the load lighter. God bless our children.

Susan Carney, susanjcarney@gmail.com

Opportunities for Service - 2018

There are many great opportunities to serve God at Fisk. When we decide to serve, it becomes a ministry and mission mindset, and not a volunteer job. We work with others and we begin to have a stake in the outcome of ministry and mission in God's church. But to do this, we need everyone's heart, mind and hands. Therefore, please prayerfully consider signing up for one of the ministries or mission work with the passion you have to be and to give all that you can.

After prayer and reflection, please speak with Pastor Alecia or our Lay Leader, Dorothy Philips knowing that God has given each of us gifts to serve and exalt God's holy name.

Evangelism

**Join us on Saturday Sept 9th for Natick Days
2017 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

We always say we are small but mighty... that was especially true on Natick Days last year. Heather and I are sure many of those who participated feel the same way, "grateful".

Natick Days is now approaching fast and we need to gather our team to setup, breakdown and work during the day at the Fisk tent. Last year we had our Prayer Wall which was a huge success, I know this year with our intentional thoughts and prayers it is going to be even more powerful! We are all God's children and getting "His" word out to our town will help us all!

Please see the sign-up sheet in the office to participate. We need your presence and participation for an hour or two, or any part of the day! Fisk needs all your support again this year. Thank you in advance! Have a wonderfully blessed day!

~~~~~  
Are you bored sitting in the pew? Do you want to get on your feet? Is hospitality and service among your spiritual gifts? If yes, then Team Evangelism needs you. Come join Team Evangelism and sign-up to be an usher and/or greeter for Fisk Sunday services. What a great way to serve!

Contact [michelled@towerwall.com](mailto:michelled@towerwall.com) or [heatherOluwole@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherOluwole@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

There will be a sign-up sheet available on Sunday mornings.

We are all blessed to be a blessing. Thank you!

*Michelle Drolet & Heather Oluwole, Evangelism Team*



**Thank You for your Christmas-spirit!  
The Gift of Giving!**

We can continue to bring Christmas gifts for the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine...for a couple more weeks. These can include NEW, unwrapped toys, games, books, and puzzles as well as NEW packages of underwear and socks (all sizes). NEW winter jackets for children are also on the list. The families that are served are able to "shop" for their family with coupons depending on their income. What a wonderful way to spread the Spirit of Christmas.



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

**"It's the Great Pumpkin,  
Charlie Brown"**

**Movie! Pumpkin Decorating!**

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

Look for more information in the Sunday  
bulletins and for Meal Train Sign-Up!

**m Ministry of Caring m**

It's September again, vacation times are loving memories and the fall routine starts again. It's great to get back to the church and all the familiar faces that have been away and also being back in our comforting sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

We are hoping that you get to thoroughly enjoy seeing all the beautiful changes that God is giving us each and every day; enjoy savoring the season-changing sights, smells and tastes and thank God for all his blessings!

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

*Ministry of Caring  
Where Faith and Life Connect!*

**Finance & Stewardship**

**STEWARDSHIP IS GENEROUS GIVING**

*Stewardship is not just generous giving but also an on-going spiritual part of the Christian life. So, whether we have a young family, a middle-aged family or an older family, as Christians, we get involved and begin to put our treasures where the heart is.*

*Though generous giving sometimes seems extinct, we at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church continue to have a stake in the outcome of ministry and mission in God's church and the world.*

*We affirm this because stewardship is not a one-time event or a short-term fund-raising for us. At Fisk, we are reaching out to make radical changes on how we use all resources. To this end, we appreciate all those who continue to walk this path with us by generously giving their time, tithes and talent.*

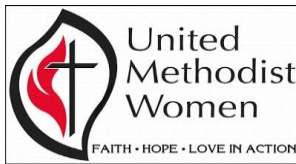
*The Finance Committee is excited about encouraging, illustrating and sharing stories to empower and inspire us, our families and friends to be life-time stewards with great joy.*

*In view of this, we will continue our stewardship moment, "WE ARE FISK" on the second Sunday of each month. You do not want to miss these stories as you learn who we are, what we do, how we do it, where we do it and why we do it. Thanks again as you continue to be more generous and believe that . . .*

*"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*-Matthew 6:21*

Finance Committee



## Come and Meet Deborah Sampson



Who is she?  
Why is she important?  
Come and find out!  
**September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**  
**Fisk Church, Rms. 8 + 9**

All women, UMM, and people of Fisk Church are encouraged to attend the first United Methodist Women's meeting of the fall season. We will gather for dinner (provided) and hear about our busy fall schedule and all the exciting things planned. World Thank Offering containers will be distributed for your fall THANK OFFERING.

## **Central Massachusetts District UMW**

"A Thriving Earth & Thriving Lives:  
Our Environment Challenge"

### **September 30 in West Boylston MA**

Join a car pool for a lovely day and foliage along with fellowship and important information. Fisk has several women being installed—come CELEBRATE with them.

**Yard Sale** is "just around the corner"! **October 14<sup>th</sup>** ... begin setting aside a pile of things to donate.



Trip to Bangor to hear a well-known speaker about  
**Maternal and Child Health**  
**October 21, 2017**



**The Hannah Circle will be meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

The Hannah's meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. *If you are 70 years old – or older – come join the Hannah's!*

The Hannah's will talk about the U-M-W-F-A-I-R, summer, and begin work on a legacy map. Bring your lunch! Dessert and beverages provided.

Contact Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan if you can attend!

## **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 September?  
Regular meetings will be held at the church:

**Sep 10 – MYF**  
**Sep 17 – MYF**  
**Sep 24 -- MYF**

**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)

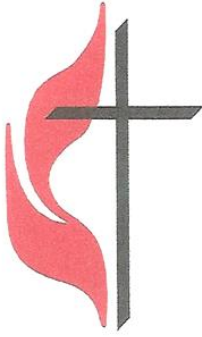


**Music & Movement Time**  
**For Kids Ages 2 To 7**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**September 16<sup>th</sup> + 23<sup>rd</sup>**

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)





## *Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church*

106 Walnut Street  
Natick, MA 01760

PASTOR ALECIA REEVES-FREEMAN

TELEPHONE: (508)653-1674 FAX: (508) 655-0587

CHURCH E-MAIL: [fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)

PASTOR E-MAIL: [fiskpastor@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskpastor@fiskumc.org)

WEBSITE: [www.fiskumc.org](http://www.fiskumc.org)

August 14, 2017

God's Peace with blessing to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

On Sunday, September 10, 2017, we will celebrate "Fall Gathering" Sunday as we welcome all persons. As pastor of this great congregation, I am looking forward to seeing each of you, to share, to be present and to connect.

We will start the day with breakfast for all at 9:30am, followed by the worship service at 10:30am with blessing of backpacks and celebration with new and old friends.

In view of all that God gives and offers, I am reaching out to you with the love of God; the one who placed you in our lives at one time or the other. We have not forgotten you and would be pleased if you can join us on this Sunday or any other Sunday during the year.

Even though these are challenging times, we have excitement ringing and moving at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church. As the spirit moves in our midst, we know there is hope in connection. Come, feel the love of God and be blessed. You can start by bringing some friends and feeling welcomed.

Therefore, please take this opportunity to come, invite family and friends. The service starts at 10:30 am. And as I anticipate your visit, it is my prayer that you will feel the spirit of excitement that is blowing and moving us to perfection

COME AND EXPERIENCE love and joy for the first time or again!

Yours, in the Master's Cause,

Alecia Reeves-Freeman, Pastor