

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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September 2018

Pastor's Note

With the pending arrival of the fall season, I write to share that there is a season for everything and the wisdom in Ecclesiastes 3 affirms this thought. As the heat of summer gives way to cooler days, with leaves falling and flowers fading away, we can continue to fully participate in the greatest season of all times; faithful stewardship.

But remember that in the midst of a change in season, I am giving thanks to all persons at Fisk, our visitors and our friends, who find the time to visit us, serve and continue to support us in ministry and mission.

We have done a lot this year with appreciation for all of you who have shared gifts of tithes, talent and time. Therefore, as we continue to travel this journey together and to be God's ardent presence in the world, let us continue to serve God and all of God's children in all places and at all times.

Be blessed as we anticipate the fall season and as we stand up to increase our gifts and widen the circle!

-Pastor Alecia

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

Starting this month of September and as we put emphasis on a Season of Stewardship, we will be studying the book TREASURE by Jacob Armstrong. Our focus will be, "Giving Your Treasure Back to God". Therefore, if you believe that this is a spiritual practice, come; bring your Bible, your heart and your thoughts.

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| September 2 | "Something Bigger Than I Am" |
| <i>Romans 4:19-21</i> | |
| September 9 | "A Warning against Performing" |
| <i>Matthew 6:1-4</i> | |
| September 16 | "Praying and Giving" |
| <i>Matthew 6:5</i> | |
| September 23 | "Don't Walk Away Sad" |
| <i>Matthew 19:21-22</i> | |
| September 30 | "The Blessing of Enough" |
| <i>Malachi 3:10</i> | |

Scripture Readings for the Month of September

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|----------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Sept. 2 | Psalm 45:1-9 | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |
| Sept. 9 | James 2:1-10, 14-17 | Mark 7:24-37 |
| Sept. 16 | James 3:1-12 | Mark 8:27-38 |
| Sept. 23 | James 3:13-4:3-8 | Mark 9:30-37 |
| Sept. 30 | Psalm 124 | Mark 9:38-50 |

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

- Pastor Alecia

Worship Highlights

Welcome to all as we begin our fall activities at Fisk UMC! Hopefully, you have had some time to rest and relax over the summer. Highlighting worship activities for the month of September:

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|---------|---|
| Sept 2 | <u>Worship services</u> will return to the sanctuary at 10:30 am. |
| Sept 16 | Time of Fellowship hour in honor of Rev. Cheryln and John Gates |
| Sept 23 | <u>Baptism</u> of Mason MacDonald |
| Sept 30 | <u>Baptism</u> of Tiala Lela Darrah |

Please come for a celebration of the work and ministry of Rev. Cheryln Gates and her husband, John.

Cheryln has participated in so many activities at Fisk that it is hard to name them all. She has been involved with the Church School and Education of Fisk's youth. Of particular importance to her was the Spiritual Formation of the congregation. She has assisted with Communion and has sung with the choir. She has recently retired as an ordained deacon from the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church and she and her husband will be relocating to Maryland to be closer to their daughter.

We will miss them greatly and wish both Cheryln and John the very best in their retirement.

Diane French, Worship Chair

Coming up: Discipleship (Membership) classes in October
Four Sundays from 2-3pm. Speak with Pastor Alecia.

October Messenger Deadline
9AM, Sept. 21st

Choirs will resume rehearsals on September 9th

Worship Choir at 9:00 AM
Children's Choir at 11:45 AM

Evangelism



The Evangelism Team is coordinating Fisk's presence at Natick Days, the town-wide celebration and community outreach.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

We need *your* presence and many hands make light work! There are opportunities for set up - hands on help to set up our space at Natick Common. The plan is to meet at 8 AM on Saturday. Volunteers are needed to be "friendly faces" - to engage people and kids in crafts for one-hour blocks of time from 10:00 AM until 3 PM. In addition help is needed for clean up / break down at 3 PM to bring equipment back to church.



Please contact someone on this team and reach out to Heather with questions. Heather's cell: 508-308-5707 or email her at heatheroluwole@hotmail.com.

*Heather Oluwole and Michelle Drolet, Co-Chairs
Team Evangelism: Ken Reynolds, Rob Rowe and
Aljani Stanley*



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME

FOR KIDS AGES 1 TO 7

Saturday – September 15th

11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Back To Music and Movement

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

We have musical instruments, guitar music, a parade, singing and much more.

For more information:

Please contact/email Deborah Hernandez
deborahlhernandez@gmail.com

A Moment in Time John and Cheryln Gates

By Debi Henry

For a moment in time, John and Cheryln Gates – their friendship, their "light," and their talents have served God at Fisk – both inside these walls, and outside these doors. On September 16th, we will honor and remember them, and thank God for sharing them with us.

Rev. Cheryln Gates – Deacon Gates – Cheryln, has given of her time and talents, and her love for our Lord. She has led us in worship, created beautiful altars and areas around Fisk that reflect God's light and love. She has written liturgy, taught and led children and youth, sung in the choir, and she has given us all the Word of God to spiritually discern, and to help us be stronger in our relationship with God. Beyond Fisk, Deacon Gates served God at Boston University's School of Theology, St. Luke Board of Deacons, and throughout The New England Conference sharing her gifts in Spiritual Formation. "Light" is used throughout scripture to symbolize God, and faith. Matthew 4:16, Matthew 5:16, John 1:5, John 8:12 and more! Rev. Gates – Thank you! Our love and prayers go with you.

John Gates – Go see Mr. Gates. – John Gates will assist you. John is the one "who knows your name." He asks, "How are you?" and really wants to know. For many years, John was the person at the back of the church who said, "Good Morning!" He may have handed you a bulletin, he may have shown you to "your" pew. If he wasn't greeting you in the back of the church, you may have found him in the kitchen preparing a meal, or running the dishwasher. (He taught a lot of us how to do that!) As member of the UMM, John worked and played well with others. Mr. Gates chaperoned many a youth retreat, helping teams of kids set the table, prepare the meals, teamwork. Mr. Gates also shared his wisdom and experiences in life. In "real life," John Gates is a husband, father, and grandpa. He is an Emmy-award-winning lighting director with over 30+ years experience in film, television, theatre, and special-events lighting. John has traveled the world. Questions about LED Lighting? Light Panels? A "retired" John Gates may still have the answers.

Our love and prayers go with John and Cheryln to Maine, and Baltimore as they continue to celebrate life with their two married children, Emily and Jeremy, and their grandkids!

United Methodist Women

This is the very busy season for United Methodist Women. We are women of FAITH, HOPE and LOVE in ACTION. All women and older teen girls are welcome to any and all of our meetings. Please feel invited and welcomed.

CIRCLES-Fisk has three Circles that meet monthly to do the work of UMW. The Susanna's meet on the 2nd Wednesday in the evening, Hannah's meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. and the Joyful Joanna's meet at various times. Join any of them for a meeting.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY-We gather each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. It is very casual. Come when you can. Knit or crochet Prayer Shawls for this ministry to use in celebrating and caring!

READING PROGRAM consists of a wonderful selection of books, suggested by the UMW National Office for our reading and education. The books cover a variety of subjects and are meant to broaden our knowledge and experiences.

ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIR is on the calendar for **November 10**. Plan ahead for that date. We raise a good part of our UMW mission funds that day and have a great time working together doing it.

SEPTEMBER DATES

September 11 at 7:00pm

Chicken Dinner and Speaker

Sponsored by UMW and UMM

Whole church invited and encouraged to attend.

Great time to re-connect and begin the fall by sharing a meal.

September 29—We are hosting the Central MA District Meeting. The meeting is a Progressive Brunch along with a presentation of some current issues and election of officers.

OCTOBER DATES

October 2--Monthly meeting of UMW

October 13 --**YARD SALE** Begin putting your treasures aside for our big sale.

Questions?

Call Janis Cail or Susan Carney for more details

UMW Hannah Circle

"Here we come – walking down the street – we get the friendliest looks from – everyone we meet. Hey! Hey! We're the Hannah's!"

On Tuesday, September 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Hannah's will hold their first meeting of the year. Our hostesses for this meeting are Donna Morrell and Diane O'Loughlin. Debi Henry will be leading us in a program

called "Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning?" Program materials are available now from Debi for you to look through before this meeting. **All women** are invited to bring their lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. Please let Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan know if you can attend. We hope you will join us!

Mission Possible by Marcia Hoyt

The Missions Committee is asking you to bring your contributions for the **Christmas Shoppe** at the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine.

What contributions?



NEW unwrapped gifts, toys, socks and underwear for all ages and genders. These should be put in the Red Buckets at Fisk and will be delivered to Maine for the Holiday

Season. Thanks for those of you who have already shopped for this event. They are hoping to have a new winter jacket for each child, can you help?



In addition, we are still taking **good used clothing** of all sizes. These items are sorted, and used to supply three thrift shops. These thrift shops are a major source of income besides donations and pledges from individuals and churches. It is preferable that the clothes are folded and stacked in paper grocery bags. They are easier to handle and it is better for the clothes.



These bags can be left in the wooden box outside the church office or left on the Hoyt's porch...out of the way of rain. We check each day and store the bags in the garage until we go to Maine.

Natick Food Pantry is a continuing project! Bring your donations of canned and boxed food (non-perishable) to the other wooden box at Fisk. This is emptied regularly and delivered to the Pantry.



The Missions Committee is busy making plans for something NEW for the fall season. Stay tuned.

Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Janis Townsend
and Marcia Hoyt (chair)

Stewardship

We, at Fisk United Methodist Church recognize that all we are and all we have are gifts from God. Therefore, we are striving to live with gratitude and as faithful stewards by giving of our time, talent and tithes.

We continue to ask God to please help us rethink what we offer as gifts. As we rethink, let us be encouraged to give as we look past the offering plate and increase our gifts for God's ministry and mission on earth. And let us be inspired to give more willingly that others will be touched and share with generosity as they experience God's provision and grace all the years ahead

"In order to lead effectively with compassion, one must first give unselfishly."

Stewardship Committee

The **2018 Altar Flower Calendar** is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. If you would like to reserve a flower arrangement for a particular Sunday – for a celebration, occasion, or in memory of someone you loved, please print your name legibly on the date. For more information, please contact Debi Henry at (508) 651-0256,



mMinistry of Caring m

This past summer was full of heartbreak, and strength – full of comfort, and caring. *James Phillips*, *Bettie Magee*, *Winnie Sinclair's son Bernie*, *Walter Oluwole's mom*, *Diane O'Loughlin's brother Ken*, *Nancy Swan's son-in-law's sister Cathy*, *David and Ethel Longworth's son-in-law Mark* all went on to their eternity. Through cards, notes, hugs, visits and meals – Fisk was "church." Many health procedures and surgeries, rehab, and healing took place this summer and we keep all in our thoughts and prayers.

This past summer was full of exploring, and joy – travel, and rest. We thank God that over 30 kids were Shipwrecked at Fisk's 2018 VBS!

Where did you go on your "summer vacation?" Whether it was a day trip or for a week or longer, we are putting together a map. In the next couple of weeks, let Debi Henry know where you went and a map will be in the October Messenger.

Here are two summer pictures from our Fisk family. The 1st one is of Arlene Freeman's garden (Pat Price's mom), and the 2nd picture is of Mikey D. at LEGOLAND Discovery Center in Somerville. One of his favorite areas was the

Lego car racers, and although he wished there were more Ninja Lego Figures – he had a blast!

Are you ready for some homework? Back-to-School for kids, parents, teachers, and educators. Our prayers go with all of you.



Marilyn Donnelly, MOC Co-Chair

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.



Everyone is invited!

When: Friday, September 7, 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 and salad or vegetables.
Activity : Games, fellowship, and informal fun for all of the Fisk family.

Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend so that we may be sure to have enough food for everyone.

Next monthly meeting at Fisk Church

Date: **Sunday, September 16**

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

Special Activity--September 30

Stay tuned for details!