

# The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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## September 2019

### September Worship Highlights

#### Pastor's Note

At an early age mom and dad taught us to give and/or share. Before we started earning our own money, they shared many gifts with us including some weekly pocket change. The intention was for us to manage this resource; take some out and share with others in the neighborhood that did not have as much as we did, and to give some to our church, trusting that more will return, knowing that God loves the cheerful giver.

As I shared over the years, I felt a sense of relational warmth and closeness to others and I still do. But most of all for my church family, because through the church many lives were touched and many received, not just God's grace of salvation but, much needed basic resources.

I believe many of you might have a similar story. Hence, as we continue to live out our faith, can we share something greater than ourselves and leave a legacy of our faith behind? I know this can happen. I believe each of us can in a small way leave a gift for the church; for small things can make a difference and our church can benefit for years in ministry and mission. As we do, we can start when we fill out our pledge card for 2020.

As we anticipate our yearly stewardship campaign and the promise of another year to come, let us prayerfully consider God's church as an abundance. Let us climb a step or two higher by increasing our giving, and/or think about leaving a legacy that will provide years of support for, not just our secular family, but Fisk's church family. Most of all let us leave memories of faithfulness that will last for future generations.

**"May God richly bless each of us, our families, and visitors as we share our gifts together."**

*-Pastor Alecia*

#### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Will start on Sunday, September 15 at 9:15 a.m. in Ogle Parlor. We will be studying and reflecting on the Book of Exodus. Come; bring your Bible, your heart, and your stories for a time of learning and sharing.



At Fisk UMC is Sunday, September 8. Come to be and feel blessed. Invite others and bring someone to worship with you.

Pastor Alecia will do special blessings for all persons, backpacks, bags, dolls, toys, and stuffed animals after service on the front stairs of the church from 11:45 to 12:45 p.m.

Remember: No one walks alone. We are Fisk, the faithful and watchful community of God and we share our blessing with others with great joy. Come!

*Pastor Alecia*

*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.

#### Sept 1

**Worship service will be held in Rm. 8/9 at 9:30 a.m.**

#### Sept 8

**Worship services will return to the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.**

#### Sept 9

**Fisk UMC Church Conference—at 7:00 p.m.**

#### Sept 15

**Guest Preacher, Mark Owen**

We look forward to seeing you and don't forget Natick Days, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>!

*Diane French, Worship Chairperson*

**October Messenger Deadline**

**Friday, September 20**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Mailing Date: September 25**



**A Time for Spirited Kids**  
**Adaptive Worship Service**  
**September 15<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 p.m.**

We welcome families seeking a more flexible, less structured worship experience for children and youth with diagnoses and challenges that make attending a traditional worship service difficult. The 30-minute service includes music, movement, and active participation while allowing freedom to move around, draw, and otherwise “fidget” while listening to Scripture, a short message and prayer time.

This monthly service will be held on the third Sunday of each month. Worship will be followed by a light meal and time of fellowship. While the service is designed for people with special needs, everyone is welcome to join us.

**Altar Flowers**

The congregation is invited to purchase Altar Flowers as a way to honor, remember, or celebrate loved ones, friends, or special events. The cost of an arrangement is \$40.00. Your gift will be listed in the Sunday worship bulletin and a member of the Altar Guild will be in touch with you to discuss your flower preferences. Please check the Flower



Calendar located on the bulletin board in the hallway outside of the church office. A request form and envelope are available in the church office. For more information, please contact Barbara Beekman (508) 647-4004, or Debi Henry (508) 651-0256.

**Evangelism Team**

**Annual Natick Days**

**Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.**

We will have a booth representing Fisk UMC. All committees' members are welcome to be present and share information about their ministry and/or mission. In view of this exciting time, we will need volunteers from each committee to staff the table either for an hour or more as members of the Evangelism Team interact and connect with persons visiting our booth.

**— Special Feature this year —**

**Blessing of back packs, toys and animals**

Please sign your committee up (at least one member).

*“Together we will move forward!”*

**Ministry of Caring**

**Ministry of Caring**

*“Whoever you are; into whatever faith you were born,  
whatever creed you profess, if you come to this  
house to find God, you are welcome.”*

*John Wesley*

Members of Fisk Memorial UMC are a part of a family - a family that cares for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of each other. We are hoping this month to equip one another, and to use our God-given talents in service to help those in need. Everyone in this congregation can be a part of this ministry. There are so many different life circumstances for which God may be calling us to be present, and to do something; a smile, offering kindness, praying for someone, baking/cooking, watching kids, delivering flowers, giving a prayer bear, sending a card, or making a phone call. There is a place for your heart and talents. Please talk with any one of us and share what God may be calling you to do!

Team Members: Pat Price, Marilyn Donnelly, Clotilde Hyango, Gerry Billingsley, Joanne Billo, and Pastor Alecia

**♪ Music Ministry ♪**

**Choir Rehearsals**

Worship Choir rehearsals resume on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We invite those between the ages of 13 and 103, who enjoy singing, to join us in the choir room!



Youth Choir Rehearsals start on September 8<sup>th</sup> following worship at 11:30 a.m. and will be held at that time every Sunday, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin calendar.

**United Methodist Women**

Susan Carney, President

**The Hannah Circle**



The UMW Hannah Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Ogle Parlor. All women are invited! Come, and enjoy fellowship and discussion with others. Bring your sandwich/salad for lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. The Hannah's will begin the new season with “reviewing” our tissue homework from last June, and having small group discussions on the Fair, the intersections of God's presence in our lives, and the beginnings of the writing of our Hannah Theme Song!

## Education

### **Back-to-School Blessing**

by the Rev. Marilyn E. Thornton

Bless my paper and my pen.  
Guide my spirit deep within.  
Help me think and help me play,  
This whole school year, day by day.

As I move from class to class,  
Guide my footsteps; clear my path.  
Keep my tongue to speak your words.  
Let your will for me be heard.

In every subject high or low,  
May God's excellence be shown!  
Keep me strong to reach the prize,  
To grow in grace, becoming wise.

Whether far from home or near,  
May I hold God's precepts dear.  
To do my best at every task;  
For this blessing, I do ask.

Help my family be a part  
As I lift my mind and heart.  
As I study, work, and pray,  
Be with them throughout the day.

Of whom much is given, much is required.  
May learning be your greatest desire!

## Stewardship 2019

### **Annual Stewardship Campaign**

We have a wonderful church family with many amazing persons, serving and sharing. We have done so much to continue Jesus Christ's ministry and we are grateful for all that have been done and is being done. In view of all the hard work, we still sometimes fall short in meeting all needs. Hence in the next few months, we will start our Annual Stewardship Campaign, a time of intentional spiritual practice.

As excited as we are, anyone who would like to make an extra life-giving donation of faith to Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church is also welcome. This can create and reflect a lasting legacy of commitment and stake in the outcome of ministry and mission for years ahead. As you commit, we will pray for you with thanksgiving to God for your donations as we increase our giving and widen our circle at Fisk.

"Embody Stewardship as an ardent part of your spiritual journey and others will follow."

-Stewardship Committee

## Finance Update – September 2019

Welcome back to a fall season of excitement here at Fisk! It is good to see everyone and to re-dedicate ourselves to our faith and our efforts to serve.

The faithful support of you, the congregation, continues to be a blessing. Our financial standing is good as we continue our mission to grow God's church. We urge you to review your quarterly Statement of Giving, mailed in August, as well as your summer giving, and make every effort to keep up to date on your commitment to Fisk's ministries.

Many great things are happening! Those ministries, and new ideas, depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us. We have something exciting for our fall Stewardship program. Therefore, with prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing Fisk church, and God's grace, we will be faithful and succeed in God's ministries.

The Finance Committee

*"We take care of the future best by taking care of the present now."*

Jon Kabat Zinn

## Solar Committee



Fisk's Solar Project is Progressing!

Installation starts soon...

As you may know, Fisk Trustees and a special Solar Committee has worked hard to research the possibility of putting Solar Panels on Fisk's roof. The research phase is complete. The contracts are signed and our contractor is drawing up final plans, the work schedule, and pulling permits.

You can expect to see installation in October; the actual schedule is TBD, but it's the current target. Our panels will be turned on soon after installation. The panels will be on the Sanctuary roof on the side visible from the parking lot.

Generating solar electricity will significantly reduce Fisk's electric bill and have a significant and positive impact on our environment. If you want more details, see the report in the Fisk Annual Report from the September 9, 2019 Church Conference ... or look up and watch the progress.

-Tom Currie

## Local & Global Missions

### Christmas Blessings, abound!

Your generosity is amazing ... and very much appreciated. During the months of July and August we had suggested that you bring NEW toys, NEW packages of underwear and/or socks for all ages and genders to Fisk.



The Red Buckets remain full! I empty them every few weeks and they fill right up again! The families and individuals living in the Western Mountains of Maine will appreciate your gifts in December.

The United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine sets up a Christmas Shoppe and the client families have individual appointments when they can shop for their families. Gift Baskets are prepared for some of the homebound/elderly in the area.

I will leave a Red Bucket outside the church office for a couple more weeks, before we deliver all of these gifts to Salem. If you feel the urge or see a great sale, feel free to add to the bounty. Great way to educate your children and grandchildren about "giving to others"...take them shopping.



*Missions Committee: Janis Cail, Susan Carney, Mary Greenwood, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt*

Each week in our Sunday bulletin we list our connectional missionaries. We hope that you include them ... and the work they are doing in your prayers. They are doing God's Work and representing us as they spread the Word of God to our neighbors --- outside of the US.

One of those missionaries is Dr. Belinda Forbes (a dental graduate of Tufts University) working in Nicaragua. Belinda works for the General Board of Global Ministries and is supported by Fisk and other churches throughout the US. Belinda is from New England and many of us know her and have individually communicated with her.

*She will be joining us for a Church-wide Dinner on:*

Tuesday,  
at 7:00pm at  
We hope you  
to attend.

Love Offering  
the GBGM for  
NO COST or

but we would like a count. Please sign up at Coffee

Hour September 22 and 29

Organized by the Missions Committee

*Salem  
Sept  
Date*

October 8

Fisk  
will plan

to go to  
Belinda  
TICKETS,



## United Methodist Men

Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00pm  
All Fisk MEN are invited to join us for dinner at

*La Cantina Restaurant*

**911 Waverly Street, Framingham**

Meet us there at 7:00pm or gather at Fisk  
at 6:30pm for carpools.

More information: See Geoff Del Sesto or Gary Hoyt





**"Starting this fall (September),  
we will have this as an upgrade."**

Traveling Light  
Rest from the Baggage of Life

Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks!



With our summer traveling AND the traveling of Life, Dorothy Phillips led the nine women who attended the Women's Retreat in Maine, in discussions of a portion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm—releasing our burdens—using the book by Max Lucado, Traveling Light.

Dorothy had prepared a wonderful weekend. It was relaxing, thought provoking and we all lightened our burdens. We read scriptures, had discussions, answered questions of ourselves, and prayed. THANK YOU, DOROTHY!

We shared in the preparation of meals, clean up, and had plenty of time to relax and to do what you chose to do...rest, walk, nap, read, or just sit on the deck or by the lake.

We also made laminated Luggage Tags for ourselves and for Foster Children to attach to their bags or backpacks. While doing this an idea arose---"we should make name tags for the Blessing of the Backpacks and have them at Natick Days." The Fisk Team would bless backpacks of children in town. You just never know what will come out of one opportunity! Look for the Fisk table and those tags.

We hope more women will join us next year. Watch for details.  
Marcia Hoyt

**Youth News**

*For Fisk youth and their friends in Grades 6—12*

Youth Group meets on the first Friday every month, and on the third Sunday following service, September—June. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events. Please use this link to view pictures and schedule updates.

<http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html>



**Youth & Family Night**  
**Everyone is invited!**  
**Friday, September 6, 2019,**  
**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

A simple dinner is provided – we ask for volunteers to bring a dessert, salad, or vegetables. Enjoy games, fellowship, and informal fun with members of the Fisk family. Please let Tian or Bingxin know if you plan to attend.

**Next MYF meeting at Fisk Church**  
**Sunday, September 15, 12:00 PM**

**Youth Fellowship Leaders:**

Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang, [fiskyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fiskyouth@gmail.com)

If you wish to volunteer, contact Tian, Bingxin or Sherry Culver at [sherrycd@comcast.net](mailto:sherrycd@comcast.net)



**Music and Movement**

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

**The class is geared for toddlers through grade  
two. We have musical instruments, parades,  
singing, and much more!**

**Saturday - September 14**  
**11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**Apples  
and  
Johnny Appleseed's Birthday**

**Fisk Church**  
**106 Walnut Street - Natick**  
**(508) 653-1674 [fiskoffice@fiskumc.org](mailto:fiskoffice@fiskumc.org)**



### September Worship Participants

<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
1	Diane French	n/a
8	Karen Gallagher	Dwayne S.
15	Deborah Hernandez	Sarita H.
22	Carolyn DiSciullo	Danny J.
29	Jennifer French	Nick J.
<b>Communion:</b> Barbara Beekman & Diane French		
<b>Psalter Reader:</b> Sarah F. (Sept. 15)		
<b>Cross Bearer:</b> Rose Currie (all Sundays)		

bother to read the Bible and pray? Why is having a regular time with God important? We spend time with God in order to deepen and strengthen our relationship with the One who created us and yearns to be with us.

But because we are all different and because each of us has a unique relationship with God, no one devotional pattern will work for everyone. And no one way works for anyone all of the time. Experiment until you find the time of day, content, and length of time spent that helps you feel connected with God.

To read more and learn a basic pattern for a daily devotion time visit <https://www.upperroom.org/resources/how-to-have-a-daily-devotional-time>.

### How to Have a Daily Devotional Time

By Mary Lou Redding,

Former Editorial Director of *The Upper Room* magazine.

The phrases "doing devotions" or "having devotions" may sound foreign or weird. These phrases are simply ways people describe spending time with God by reading the Bible (and other Christian literature) and praying. Why

