

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760

July & August 2014

Greetings from Pastor Xia

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

I feel very blessed to be part of the Fisk Memorial UMC family, the beloved community of faith in Jesus Christ. Over the past years, God has granted us the grace to see what has been made possible here by faithful commitment of people at Fisk. It is my honor to serve alongside all of you, and to journey with you into what God has in store for this church. I cannot wait to get to know all of you, to hear life stories of yours and your loved ones, the history and culture of the church and wider community. I am not new to this area—my family had lived in Newton for about six years before I got appointed to Connecticut—but as a pastor, I need your help to show me around, tell me of the dreams that the church body has dreamed, the needs of the church family and the community, in which areas our ministry in the past has connected people to one another, and been a witness to God's grace, love and care.

I know there will be a lot of summer fun waiting for you. Some families have already left on vacation; others may have plans for camping or trips after the hustle and bustle of graduation and the end of the school year. Summer is a wonderful time for rest and recreation, as well as for exploring new things in exciting ways. It is a new beginning, new chapter of life for me and my entire family as well. This summer you will see my husband, Kai Chur, who is pursuing his Master of Divinity at BU School of Theology; our daughter Angela who is

entering Grade one, and one-year-old son Ethan. If you and your family are away for summer vacation, I look forward to seeing you when you are back. For those whom I am going to see this July, please do not hesitate to come to my office and say Hi, introduce yourself, have a little chat, or tell me prayer requests, let me know who'd like pastoral visits—either yourself or anybody that you know.

I keep all of you in my prayer and looking forward to working with you all.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Xia Jiao-Chur
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Ministers:	TBA

How to reach us:

Phone: (508) 653-1674 Fax: (508) 655-0587
Pastor Xia's Email: fiskpastor@fiskumc.org
Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net
Church/Judy's Email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org
Cheryl's Email: deacongates@gmail.com
Church Website: www.fiskumc.org

Remember: Fisk has new email addresses!
fiskpastor@fiskumc.org will reach Pastor Xia and
fiskoffice@fiskumc.org will reach Judy Bortolotti, our
Administrative Assistant. Please begin to use these
email addresses with your next email to Fisk.

Summer Calendar

Sunday Worship Services BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND our Worship Services will begin at **9:30am** each Sunday for the months of July and August and will be moving to rooms 8 & 9.

Children's Sunday School will meet during Worship!

The Church Office summer hours are
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30am -12:30pm
from July 1 through September 2nd.

Brown paper shopping bags are needed

All of our Starbucks donations are delivered to local food pantries and shelters in a brown paper grocery bag. We are looking for as many as you can supply.



If you are able to help, please leave them in the church office! We are especially looking for bags with handles, but we'll take them even if they don't!

September messenger Deadline: Aug 28



UMW Hannah Craft Days

The Hannah Circle will meet this summer on Tuesday, July 8 and Tuesday, August 12 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Ogle Parlor to work on craft projects for the fair in November. All women are invited to come and either bring your own project or work on one of three others. Supplies, snacks, and beverages will be provided. For more information, contact Diane O'Loughlin at (508) 655-1443.

Finance Update – Summer 2014



Summertime...as we begin the beautiful summer season here in New England and plan our family vacations and time together, we must remember our commitments to our stewardship of God's gifts to us all. We continue on "Plan" after six months. The faithful support of you, the congregation, continues to be a blessing, and we are spending wisely:

Our financial update is little changed from last month:



- Your financial support is within 3% of Budget through May, but trending down from our goals,
- We are carefully spending less than our budgeted expenses,
- We pray for continued growth, and improvements in our financial position.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. We as a congregation provide important ministries to individuals and families at Fisk, to our community, to New England, and to the world in need. All of our missions and ministries require support: our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources. Please review your financial statements, and plan to continue your stewardship during the summer months.

Many wonderful things are happening! With prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing our church, and HIS grace, we will succeed in 2014 and beyond.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Rick Black, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC), Larry Drolet, Frank Foss, Jen Garrant..

Copies of the Sunday bulletin

If you are absent from church, and would like a copy of the bulletin from the week you miss, they will now be available in the literature racks at both entrances during the following week! Or - please contact Judy in the church office at fiskumc@aol.com and she can email or mail you a copy!

Summer Prayer Points

- Pastor Xia and her family
- Those struggling and dealing with addiction and recovery, depression and mental illnesses, health issues and healing, surgery, hospice and end-of-life issues, finances and employment, family and relationships, spiritual guidance.
- Safe travel for those going on vacation or an "adventure" this summer.
- Family Promise
- Military Service men and women and their families

Please continue to pray for those listed each week in our Sunday bulletin.

Throughout the summer – rides to/from church, meals, visits, prayers, and specific help requests are received. If you are available to help, please contact *Pastor Xia, Sarah Gates, Debi Henry, or Judy in the church office.*

Summer Questions (Homework) for Discussion

1. If you could spend one day (24 hours) with anyone from the Bible, who would that be?
2. Do you think it would be better if the entire world found out beyond any reasonable doubt that God did in fact exist? Why/why not?



Ice cream Social

to welcome Pastor Xia and Family!

Please join us for an Ice Cream Social here at Fisk to meet and welcome Pastor

Xia and her family, on Tuesday, July 1st

from 6:30pm - 8:00pm, located at the playground.

Please bring a beach or a lawn chair to sit on.

If it rains we will be indoors.

Also, join us NEXT Sunday, July 6th for Pastor Xia's first worship service here at Fisk!!



New Email Addresses for Fisk!

Starting on July 1st, Fisk will be using new email addresses.

The new email addresses are:

Pastor Xia: fiskpastor@fiskumc.org

Judy Bortolotti and the Fisk office: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

To reach our pastor, this is a *new* email address. To reach the church office, this is a *change of email* address:

fiskumc@aol.com becomes fiskoffice@fiskumc.org.

The email address fiskumc@aol.com will continue to work for another 2 months. However by September 1st, the fiskum@aol.com will no longer work for communicating to Judy in the Fisk office.

So please begin to use fiskoffice@fiskumc.org to reach the church office. And be sure to update your address book to add Pastor Xia's email address (fiskpastor@fiskumc.org) and to update the Fisk office email address from fiskumc@aol.com to fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

From the Worship Team



Back by popular demand!!

Sunday worship for July and August will be held in Rooms 8 & 9 and will **begin at 9:30am**. So dress casual if you like, enjoy a drink and call on and sing praises to the Lord!

We are excited to assist **Pastor Xia** in spreading the Good News!! **Her first Sunday is July 6th**. During the summer, we will be meeting in Rooms 8&9 at 9:30am.



Remember the wonderful "sacred space" table that greeted us each Sunday? Here's your opportunity to join in this great ministry. The table and two different colored tablecloths (if you like the colors) are provided. Speak with Barb Beekman for ideas and to pick a Sunday, or two.

Members of the Worship Team;

Joanne Billo, Cheryln Gates, Kathy Reynolds, Sherry Culver, Geoff Del Sesto, Barb Beekman (chair), Thom Townsend, Lois Potter, Dwayne Billingsley, Leo Jaco, Eric Mazonson, Dorothy Phillips

Annual Conference Adventure

Whoa!! My first time truly was an adventure, and yes, I'm looking forward to next year's. Gordon College has a beautiful campus, lots of trees, flowers, Chapel, quintessential New England appearance.

The experience of spending four days with sisters and brothers in Christ, was amazing! We worshiped together, took classes together, heatedly discussed and voted on important issues together and we sang together.

Have you ever lifted your voice to praise the Lord with 1,200 other voices ?!!

All are invited to attend Annual Conference.

Maybe you will join me next year!!

Barb Beekman

Lay Member

SUMMERTIME READING



Looking for a good book? Check out the bookcase in Ogle Parlor! The United Methodist Women's Unit of Fisk Church have acquired great biographies, adventures, social action and devotionals. Books for woman AND men! These books are part of the UMW reading program (check with Barb Beekman if you would like to join in that)! Fisk's UMW would like to share these wonderful books with you for a good old-fashioned summer read! Just write your name/email/phone on the clipboard. Returning the books in a timely manner will allow them to be enjoyed by others! - Barb Beekman-



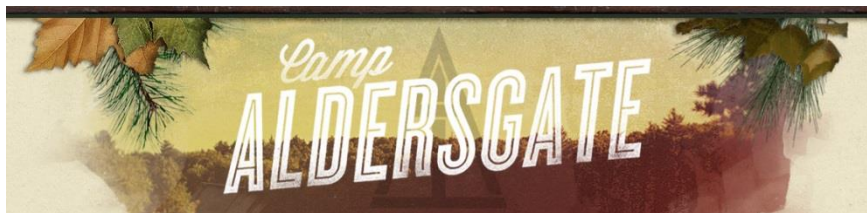
Thank You to all of you for the many prayers, calls and visits during the last two weeks. It is times like this that you realize the importance of your "church family." I am grateful for all of the concerns.
Peace, Gary Hoyt



United Methodists and Semi-pro Football Extend Shelter and Hope

United Methodist Day is August 16! Semi-pro football and United Methodists across New England are connecting to help football fans extend shelter and hope to shelters in Southern Massachusetts. Help stock shelters in by donating "the basics:" toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash (must be alcohol free), deodorant, feminine products, incontinence products, baby wipes, diapers, body wash, and shampoo. On August 16, the EMass Seminoles play the Quincy Militia. Collection boxes will be at the entrance to Veterans Memorial Stadium. Gates open at 6 p.m. Admission: Adults/Teens = \$10, Kids (Ages 6 - 12) = \$5. Children (Ages 5 and under) = \$0. Veterans: Free Admission. The Q-Zone food concession stand will be open. For more information, contact Barbara Beekman or Debi Henry. *(The teams are also looking to have someone sing The National Anthem before kick-off! If you can carry this tune, and would like to be considered, complete a contact form on the Quincy Militia's website.)* Further details are on the New England Conference website calendar.





CAMP ALDERSGATE

North Scituate, Rhode Island

The New England Conference of the United Methodist Church owns and operates four summer camp programs for our youth and children. The closest one is in Rhode Island, about 1 hour from Natick.

Since we don't have a Youth Program scheduled for the summer, we are hoping to interest some youth to attend Camp Aldersgate. We have funds to support you. You can look it up at—

www.CAMPALDERSGATE.COM

If you are interested please speak to Marcia Hoyt (508-655-0077 or marciahoyt@aol.com). There are still some openings most weeks at the camp.



Women's Retreat ...

don't you wish you had joined us?

Ten Fisk women packed their bags for a "retreat weekend" by the lake in Harrison, Maine. We enjoyed worship, discussions, fellowship, good food, camp fires, and the hot tub!

We had lively discussions of two books Morning Coffee with James and The Invisible Thread. We also enjoyed the discussions of selected parts of Responding to God's Grace, the workbook written by Rev. Rick Black.

We cut out some craft sewing projects for the Fair! Played some games, cooked S'mores and got to know each other and shared with friends.

One of the highlights, were the notes we left for each other...notes of encouragement, care and love.

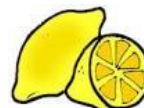
The weather was wonderful, but just a bit cool to swim.

Some of us did hand-waxing, caught up on our knitting, relaxed by the water, went for a walk or worked on the "ongoing" puzzle.

Our goal and purpose:

To enjoy time together in a safe place for friendship, understanding and growth... AND...we accomplished that! Hope you will join us next year.

*Jane Wilson, Sarah Gates, Susan Carney, Debbie Friscino,
Carolyn Carlson, Sherry Culver, Janis Cail, Tian Zhang,
Pat Price and Marilyn Donnelly.*



Lemonade Hour Hosts are needed for July and August. Please sign up on the Clip Board outside of Whipple Hall if you are willing to help!