

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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www.fiskumc.org

July / August 2018

Pastor's Note

SUMMERTIME is HERE

As we anticipate various activities with family and friends; heating up the grills, reunions, vacations, and other celebrations, let us think; Fun, Fun, Fun. These are traditions that many have cherished over the years after the bliss of a cold winter and snow.

As we plan and take time off, may we continue to be faithful to our ministries at Fisk, reach out to the forgotten and those persons that are hidden in plain sight. But most of all, let us joyfully share our time, talent and treasures with our church; a place that needs us the most to reach out and connect with others in ministry and mission.

Thanks for your faith-giving gifts and continue to include us in your summer plans.

Have a restful and blessed summer

-Pastor Alecia

Worship Highlights

Mark 6:31 *"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*

Here's hoping that you and your family will have an opportunity to rest and relax during the summer.

Exodus 33:14 *and he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

At Fisk, summer worship services will be held in Rooms 8 / 9 from July 1st through Sunday, August 26. Time will be 9:30am to 10:30am. Come at 9:20 for our Musical Singpiration.

Psalms 23:2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.*

May God restore your family during this special season.

Diane French, Worship Chair

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Rev. Cheryl Gates on her retirement as a faithful servant and deacon in full connection in the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.



As a deacon in full connection, she has offered leadership and direction to deacons, diaconal ministers, inquiring and provisional deacons in the conference for many years. But most of all, we are grateful for her ministry of preaching, teaching, visuals and liturgical design and ardent presence at Fisk UMC, Natick, MA. Thank you Rev. Gates. We will miss you but be and feel blessed for your service to God and humanity.

BIBLE STUDY

After a summer of rest and relaxation, and as we welcome all persons; visitors, old members and new members home, we can be refreshed as we study, worship and serve together. Starting the month of September as we focus on a "Season of Stewardship", we will be studying the book on "TREASURE". Our focus will be, "Giving our Treasure Back to God". If we believe we belong to God and all we have, God gives. Come and study with us. Bring your Bible, your heart and your thoughts. We will begin on Sunday, September 2 at 9:15 am in the Women's Parlor and every Sunday after until Advent.

God bless each of us as we pray, study and share.

A NEW SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Our New England UMC Conference has commissioned a new spiritual director, Bonnie-Jean Rowe. Spiritual direction is the practice of being with people as they work to deepen their relationship with the divine, or to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. If you are interested in this, or have any questions about this, please contact Bonnie Jean directly.

Bonnie-Jean Rowe (First UMC Framingham)
508-523-8582 Bjmrowe@verizon.net

UPCOMING CLASSES

Fisk UM Discipleship

Prospective & New Members' Classes

Join Pastor Alecia for a light, informative and heartwarming study and discussion on how we belong, what we believe, how we live, and the unlimited possibilities for growth as you travel the journey as a United Methodist. Therefore, if you have not yet connected as a full member of Fisk UMC and would like to, please let Pastor Alecia know.

Preparing for Baptism

Starting in September there will be two classes; one with the parents and another for parents and sponsors. Both classes are required. Please contact Pastor Alecia at any time if you are interested in connecting your young child or children into a nurturing body of believers.

♪ Music Ministry ♪

Fisk Family Singers - Summer Singspiration

All Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church members and visitors are honorary members of the Fisk Family Singers! Please join us at 9:20 every Sunday in July and August as we enjoy singing our favorite hymns prior to the 9:30 a.m. worship service!

Evangelism



Saturday – July 14 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fisk on the Natick Common!

Fisk Church will be assembling Blessing Bottles for Family Promise and local families. What is a Blessing Bottle? It is a water bottle filled with personal care items especially needed in summer: Sunscreen, lip balm, granola bar, toothbrush, Band-aids, etc. Stop by and help us with this hands-on activity!



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME

FOR KIDS AGES 1 TO 7

1st and 3rd Saturday - 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"Closed" July and August

See you in September!

NMINISTRY OF CARING

We thank all of you who signed an encouragement card or a special occasion card at the end of June. You helped brighten up someone's day!

Remember: prayer is a conversation with God, and there are a lot of ways to pray. This summer, make a promise to explore different ways. Sometimes we might need to use a "method" to freshen up our prayer time. We can pray the Psalms or other Scriptures such as The Lord's Prayer. Here is a "Five-Finger Prayer" to use as a guide when praying for others:



- When you fold your hands, the thumb is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you—your loved ones (Philippians 1:3-5).
- The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who teach—Sunday school teachers and preachers and those who teach adults (1 Thessalonians 5:25).
- The next finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you—national and local leaders, law enforcement, your supervisor at work, your teachers, and principal (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering (James 5:13-16).
- Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God's greatness. Ask God to supply your needs (Philippians 4:6,19).

Whatever and wherever you pray, talk to God. He wants to hear what's on your heart.

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, MOC Co-Chairs

Food for Thought

"Choosing to be positive and having a grateful attitude is going to determine how you're going to live your life."

(Don't we know it! When we are grateful for what we have we will always have everything we need.)

"When you focus on being a blessing, God makes sure that you are always blessed in abundance."

(Sounds like Pastor Alicia!)

"You can change your world by changing your words... Remember, death and life are in the power of the tongue."

(Our tongue is the scariest part on our body we at Fisk should always try to use it wisely!)

Mission Possible by Marcia Hoyt

Christmas is here!

The MISSIONS COMMITTEE has chosen to support the United Methodist Economic Ministry and their Christmas Shoppe; one of the projects that support the people of the Western Mountains of Maine. This is a space where all NEW gifts are displayed and the parents can “shop” for their children / family. There is also space for children to choose a gift for their parents. They are given coupons relative to their income to help with their shopping. Fisk will be collecting these gifts until September and then they will be brought to Maine so volunteers can have them organized by November.



*Gifts should be **NEW and UNWRAPPED!***

Most items listed are for all ages, male/female

Suggested shopping list includes:

- toys and books for all ages-infants to teens
- new packages/underwear
- new packages of socks
- sweatshirts, sweaters
- note cards/stamps
- small household items
- games, basketballs etc.
- personal care products,
- newborn clothing etc.
- sets of sheets, towels...etc.
- new winter jackets-all sizes



Christmas Gifts may be left by the church office or in Room 8-9 in the red tubs! They will be collected often and stored until the “Sleigh goes North.”

We will continue to take your good, clean, wearable clothing to the ministry until early November. It is easy to transport if they are folded into paper grocery bags.

*Missions Committee- Susan Carney,
Janis Cail, Janis Townsend and Marcia Hoyt-Chairperson*

Stewardship

As faithful people of God at Fisk, we give, we receive and we share. By doing all these things, we continue to reach out and touch lives through our gifts.

Ministry and mission are possible with our gifts and through our hearts and hands. As we give, remember that each new gift brings new hope and strengthens us on this on-going journey of faithful stewardship.

Thank you for who you are and all you do to make God’s will and work at Fisk UMC possible

Stewardship Committee

United Methodist Women

UMW Hannah Circle

On June 12, our circle went to The Olive Garden in Framingham for our annual spring luncheon. We had a great waitress/server, Angela, who attended to all of our needs. At the end of our meal, we received an unexpected financial blessing. Someone had paid our bill – in full – including a nice gratuity for Angela. We would like to thank this anonymous donor for this amazing gift! God used a willing heart to bring a blessing to a group of church ladies. Hence, our love, and thank you.

The Hannah Circle will not be meeting in July and August. We return on Tuesday, September 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Our hostesses for this meeting are Donna Morrell and Diane O’Loughlin. Debi Henry will be reading devotions, and leading us in a program called “Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning?” Program materials will be available in late August. All women are invited to bring their lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We hope you will join us in September!

Summer Bucket List for United Methodist Women

- Stay in tune with the NEWS affecting women, children and youth
- Find an opportunity to EMPOWER a young women
- Read one or more books from the READING LIST -information on the Ogle Parlor bookcase
- Attend the Fisk Women’s RETREAT-See Susan Carney
- Join the PRAYER SHAWL Group any Wednesday at 10am
- Call a FRIEND for tea
- Attend MISSION u. See Sherry Culver
- Work on a craft for the Annual FAIR
- VOLUNTEER at the Food Pantry-Call Marcia Hoyt
- RELAX, renew, refresh yourself with a new devotional book



God's Green Therapy

What messages does God have for us in the plants and gardens of the Bible? Join us to learn of some of the green therapy in God's word. Relax in the beauty of Maine, spend time with your sisters in Christ, and be refreshed and renewed during our time together.

Fisk Women's Retreat

July 20-22, 2018 in Harrison, Maine

We have planned a weekend retreat for all women. This is a time of relaxation, fellowship and learning along with lots of fun, swimming, walks, shopping, reading, naps, and time for you to do what make you happy and refreshed. We will let the Spirit guide us!



Some of our plans include "worship on the deck", three reflections times guided by one of our members, working on a mission project and maybe a Fair Project. Detailed schedules can be found on the UMW bulletin board.

Carpool rides arranged. It is about a 3 hour trip.

All Fisk Women encouraged to attend.

See Amy Bruns or Sherry Culver to register NOW.

Cost is \$25.00.

We can accommodate 18-20 women.

We share in meal preparation.

Questions for the Answering!

- Who has been a spiritual hero in your life?
- What book or story has had the biggest impact on you (aside from the Bible)?
- What is one worship song, hymn, or lyric that has really spoken to your heart?
- What would your perfect day look like?
- What is a memorable quote or scripture verse that has changed you?

MEN ~ WOMEN ~ YOUTH ~ KIDS

Mission U



Mission u invites you to experience education and transformation. Mission u is an annual event offering opportunities for adults, youth and children to grow spiritually, learn about issues affecting society and experience Christian mission in its many forms. *Summer School for your Spirit!*

Mission u will be held July 27-29 at Southern New Hampshire University, just outside of Manchester, NH. Details, information on courses, and registration forms are located online at the New England Conference website, <http://www.neumc.org/missionu> or in the church office. For early bird rates, register by July 1. \$50 discount for first timers!

For more information, contact Barbara Beekman or Sherry Culver.

Education

Special Thanks and Praises to the Christian Education department for a successful Vacation Bible School (VBS) program in June. It was a joy and a blessing to see the smiles on children's faces and the love and energy of our volunteers, so say "thanks" to them. -Pastor Alecia

Fisk was blessed during the last week of June as our community came together to serve over 35 children at Vacation Bible School. Though we were SHIPWRECKED, we learned through the week that JESUS rescues when we worry, when we struggle, and when we do wrong.

A huge thank you to our adult and youth volunteers. All told, 18 Fisk members volunteered, doing everything from making very messy "slime" to building green apple sea turtles for snack to leading water and island-based active games to sharing thoughtful Bible lessons on the island we had created. We praise our God for a growing program which spreads God's word as we are called to do, and which blesses our community and each of us! Thank you, all!



From Fisk Church Office

The deadline for submissions for the
September issue of
The Messenger is

9AM on Friday, August 24



Joanne Fitzgerald will be in the office

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Tuesday ~ Wednesday ~ Friday

Full week schedule resumes on September 20th

From the Financial Secretary

This is a gentle reminder to ask everyone to keep up to date with your tithes and contributions during the summer months. You may do so, even when away from home by using our online donation service. Visit fiskumc.org and click on the Donate button located on the right side of the webpage.

Donate to Fisk UMC Ministry

Or go directly to : <https://onrealm.org/fiskumc/Give>.

You can set up your pledge to be sent regularly to Fisk or make a one-time special gift on a specific date. Donations may come from credit cards, or your checking or savings account. And info may be saved so that the next time you don't have to enter in the account or credit card information.

Thank you for your continued support of ministry at Fisk.

Crystal Mayo, Financial Secretary

July + August Worship

July	Liturgists	July	Ushers
1	Barbara Beekman	1	Dwayne
8	Jennifer French	8	Billingsley
15	Sherry Culver	15	&
22	Deborah Hernandez	22	Friends
29	Aljani Stanley	29	
Aug		Aug	
5	Barbara Beekman	5	Dwayne
12	Barbara Beekman	12	Billingsley
19	Crystal Mayo	19	&
26	Jennifer French	26	Friends
July	Greeters	July	Fellowship
1	Mike	1	Pastor Alecia
8	Bruns	8	
15	&	15	
22	Friends	22	
29		29	
Aug		Aug	
5	Mike	5	
12	Bruns	12	
19	&	19	
26	Friends	26	
July	Communion	Aug	
1	Susan&Tom Carney	5	Blanche Ciccarelli

crystalJP@yahoo.com or (774) 287-1705



The **2018 Altar Flower Calendar** is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. If you would like to reserve a worship center vase arrangement of flowers for a particular Sunday during July or August, please print your name legibly on the date. For more information, please contact Debi Henry at (508) 651-0256, debraleighhenry@yahoo.com



FISK Church fiskumc.org

VBS Update

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Wednesday's Theme:

When you struggle, Jesus rescues.

Wednesday's Verse:

"Be still, and know that I am God!"

Wednesday's Bible Focus:

Today's story focused on Jesus's time in the Garden of Gethsemane. While there, he struggled as he faced his own death. His disciples struggled stay awake...and then to



protect Jesus. They struggled to be good friends. Jesus doesn't promise to take every challenging situation away, but he does promise to be there with us.

When we struggle, Jesus rescues!

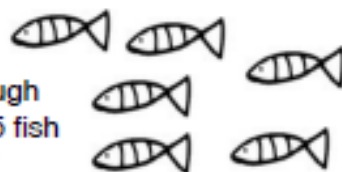
Our "FISHY" Mission!

Thank you for bringing your child or your children to Fisk VBS. It is our pleasure to serve in this mission. Thanks also for sending in your donation to teach your children about mission.

Another aspect of the Heifer project that we love is that offspring of animals are passed on to others. This helps to lift more and more people to higher standards of living.

Great news...

Tuesday we collected enough money to get 35 fish fingerlings!



We continue to take a mission collection each morning during our gathering time. You may send money with your child to support our goal of three schools of fish fingerlings!

We continue to watch our "school" grow! Ask your child about today's results!

FISK CHURCH FOCUS



We take action to support others.

Fisk regularly supports local missions. We have an ongoing collection for the Natick Food Pantry, and special collections occur during the year. We have a "Souper Bowl" Sunday and a large ingathering at Thanksgiving. We pray for our community...and have a Prayer Wall each year at Natick Days, where we greet and pray for people and invite them to leave a prayer on our wall. We continue to pray for them. We believe in prayer, and we feel connected when we answer God's call and give as we are able.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Please join us on Friday a little bit early...at 11:45. Come into the sanctuary, sit near the front, and we'll share some of our learning with you! Hear some songs we enjoy singing, get some tidbits on our lessons from the week, and greet our leaders, helpers, and other parents. Your child might like to introduce you to his or her new friends! See you then!

