

The Messenger

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

July & August 2015

Reflections from Pastor Xia

Summer is a wonderful time for rest and recreation, as well as for exploring new things in exciting ways. Whatever your summer plans may be, my hope and prayer is that these months will be a blessing to everyone. Summer is a great time for Sabbath and renewal, physically and spiritually. As the summer moves on, as your pastor, I would like to suggest some things to be part of your summer spiritual renewal.

Spend some time praying for our church and its many ministries still going on during the summer. Scripture reminds us that we “pray without ceasing”. Ask God to strengthen our commitment and our connection to the church, to help us grow in every way.

During the summer, think about your commitment in terms of “being there” in our worship and activities. I know that some families have already left on vacation; others have plans for camping or trips after the hustle and bustle of graduation and the end of the school year. Lots of other fun is coming, too. I encourage you to actively participate in worship and church activities when you are in town.

Have you considered how you might serve, using your gifts and talents, in your church family? Every individual has something that can be used in the work of the church, and everyone is needed. Whether it is working on a team or committee on an ongoing basis, or serving as a volunteer for a specific activity, there is something for everyone. Even better, you might have an idea for a ministry that you would take responsibility for!

Have a very blessed summer, and as you do, think on these things, renewing your vow as a Christian to support the church, the body of Christ, with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, and then taking your place in the life of our church family!

Blessings,
Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur



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, Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday, 9:00am -12:00pm
June 22 through August 31.

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev Xia Jiao-Chur
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	TBA
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates

How to reach us:

Phone:(508) 653-1674	Fax: (508) 655-0587
Pastor Xia's Email:	Fiskpastor@fiskumc.org
Church Email:	fiskoffice@fiskumc.org
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Fiskyouth@gmail.com
Eric's Email:	emazonson@verizon.net
Cheryl's Email:	deacongates@gmail.com
Church Website:	Fiskumc.org

Mission "u"

Mission "u" provides opportunities for persons to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context as well as initiate opportunities for spiritual and educational experiences. The time is spent in worship and in-depth study with music, prayer, sharing, exploring and much food for the body and the soul. It is a time away for families, adults, youth and children of all ages.

2015 Dates: Friday, July 24 - Sunday, July 26

Saturday, July 25: Special one-day Spiritual Growth course

2015 Mission u Studies:

- **Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God (Spiritual Growth Study)** The search for happiness is a dominant topic in our culture. Google "happiness" and just see what you find!
- **Latin America: People and Faith (Geographic Study)** This course will explore the connections between the history, culture, and faith of the Latin American people and how they relate to situations in Latin America today.
- **The Church and People with Disabilities (Social Issue Study)** Unlike other categories of human experience, disability crosses all lines of gender, orientation, ethnicity, socioeconomic position, age, and culture. People with typical bodies can be thought of as temporarily able-bodied because disabilities can happen at any time to anyone. The intent of this mission study is to promote awareness, inclusion, accessibility, and advocacy for people with disabilities.
- **Life and Faith in Latin America (Children's Study)**
- **Latin America: Places, Culture, and Faith (Youth Study)**

Mission u is held at Southern NH University in Manchester NH
See Sherry Culver or Marcia Hoyt for more information including costs.



Finance Update – Summer 2015



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. Our stewardship, our sharing of all that we have, by God's grace, makes our ministries work.

Our financial update:

- Our financial support is behind, below our plan by 12% through May,
- We are carefully spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate,
- We are planning and praying for continued growth, and improvements in our financial position.

Unfortunately, many of us have fallen a bit behind in our commitments to Fisk and all the ministries that our contributions support. This also comes in a year where our expenses have increased due to the harsh winter: snow removal and heat costs have hit us all very hard. In this challenging year, the timely support of our pledges is very important. We are asking everyone to review the special Five month Statement of Giving that we have mailed out, and consider whether you can catch up on that commitment. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our many ministries.

Many good things are happening! Enjoy your summer, and please plan to continue your stewardship during the summer months.

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

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Xia, 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, Crystal Mayo.

Family Promise Metrowest Celebrates The Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ and St. Andrew's Church Framingham as New Hosts

This summer the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, the denomination of many of our network congregations, and St. Andrew's Church, Framingham, begin a partnership as host congregations for Family Promise Metrowest. Families will be housed at the UCC Conference Center at 1 Badger Road, Framingham for two weeks beginning June 28-July 14.



Edwards House provides guests comfortable beds, air conditioning on the first floor and window fans for their rooms. Each family has its own full bathroom as well: all this in a beautiful, rustic setting with acres of land, animals, and activities for children, creating a "vacation" for our families.

St. Andrews will coordinate meals and dinner/overnight hosting from volunteers across the Network. We ask that you give an evening of your time to provide a summer respite for the families we serve. www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F054BAFA728A5FB6-family

Contact Barbara Ward, St. Andrew's lead coordinator, with any questions bward156@gmail.com

- Movement and Music Class will be held at the Church on July 18, 11:00 a.m., and again on August 22, 11:00 a.m.
- The Evangelism Commission will be hosting an Ice Cream Social for the congregation, and open to the public, on July 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Church.!



Fisk's Church Office and Congregation Needs YOU!

We are looking for a new Administrative Assistant! As you might have heard, Judy Bortolotti resigned from her position and is no longer working in our Fisk church office. We are sad to see her leave and wish her well after 10 years of faithful service to our faith community.

Recognizing that Fisk needs a staffed office, SPRC contacted a temp agency and subsequently hired Joanne Fitzgerald, to step in as a temporary Administrative Assistant for our congregation during the summer months as we look for a permanent replacement for Judy. Be sure to stop into the office and say hi to Joanne!

So ...Fisk is looking for a new Administrative Assistant. Are you that person? Visit our website www.fiskumc.org for complete job description and contact Tom Currie, Sherry Culver or any member of SPRC if you want more information and to discuss if the position fits you!

Ideally, our new Admin Assistant would begin in September. The job is a perfect mother's-hours position with paid holidays and vacation time included. It would be wonderful to have someone from our congregation or local community step into this position and so we wanted to offer it first through our congregation before we advertise outside of Fisk.



Tuesday, September 8 at 7 PM the UMW and UMM will be having a combined pot luck supper meeting. All members of the church are welcome. Come enjoy, fellowship, a great meal and hear a speaker from UNICEF speak about human trafficking. This is a subject that the United Methodist Women's National Organization is trying to make us all aware of, as unfortunately it is prevalent in all communities. Have a great summer and see you in September!

Youth Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang
Plans are to hold regular MYF meetings after Sunday services and host special activities periodically for all youth. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.
Reminder: see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html> to view MYF pictures and schedule updates.



Men of the Bible - Summer Bible Study

Weds. starting on July 8
at 9:00 sharp for one hour!
in Youth Room

I would so enjoy having you join me whenever you could to study those Men of the Bible. I promise you and I will learn something new each week and be blessed by each other's participation.
Susan Carney, Education

Let's Teach Our Kids to Talk to God Daily

Beach Prayer

Joyful God, we thank you for this time together. We thank you for the sun in the sky, the cool seawater, and the sand. We thank you for yummy snacks, buckets, pails and beach umbrellas. We thank you for our family, our friends and the lifeguards who keep us safe. We ask that you bless us on this beautiful day and we praise you for this beautiful Creation that you have entrusted to us. Amen.

(shared from the internet)

Lord, We see pretty flowers on our walk and we say thank you to the people who planted them. We say thank you to you for this beautiful earth. Amen

God ,thank you for the food we eat and thank you for new friends we meet. Thank you for your listening ears that hear our words and stop our fears. Amen

Education Comm.

Youth Fellowship

What's happening in July and August?

- Pool party at Hoyt's on July 26th from 12-2pm.
- Kayaking/boating at Cochituate park, 25 Commonwealth Road in Natick on Aug 9th from 12-2pm.
- Movie night with dinner on Aug 23rd at church.



Looking ahead to September...

We will resume our Sunday school and MYF meeting on Sep 13th.

How to contact Bingxin and Tian : For youth related activities, they will be using 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

Dear Fisk Family,

I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to serve alongside the Fisk community for the past 10 years. I cherish all the friendships that I've made and will continue to pray for all of you!

Thank you for the gift card for Russell's Nursery. I purchased two fruit trees, which I planted in my yard in memory of the years I served at Fisk. Every fall, the trees will be bearing "good fruit," which is a representation of Fisk's service to the community! (Matthew 7:17a).

*I also want to thank the knitting group for my beautiful handmade Prayer Shawl, which I truly adore.
Blessings,
Judy Bortolotti*

Wanted Needed Prayed For

Sunday School Teachers and Assistants and
Substitutes for Preschool to Adult.

Commitments of a quarter to a year hoped
for. Curriculum and support provided.

Small classes that we hope to grow.
Starting in September.

Salary --- can't be repaid

PLEASE see Susan Carney with questions.
susanicarney@gmail.com



August 10- 14

8:45 -11:45

Fisk Methodist Church

Cost : \$10 per child / \$30 per family, and a donation to snacks

Lessons , Recreation , Singing , Crafts , and fun—fun—fun!

Ages 3- finishing grade 4

See Sarah Gates or Susan Carney to sign up to attend or to
Volunteer to help make this happen in an exciting, memorable way.

You can also call the church office to leave your name.

We are excited !!!!!

Join usask neighbors of grandchildren Everyone is invited!

Spirit-filled

Fisk Women's Retreat July 10-12, 2015

Long Lake Harrison, Maine

We have planned a weekend retreat for all women seeking a relaxed time with other Christian women. This is a time of relaxation, fellowship and learning along with lots of fun, swimming, hot tub time, walks, shopping, reading, naps, and time for you to do what makes you happy and refreshed.

We will let the Spirit guide us!

*And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 13:52*

Our Plans or Suggestions for a Spirit-filled weekend

We are planning to work on UMCOR Layette Kits and just possibly a Fair Project. Two Bible Study sessions are planned, a Walk with Susanna Wesley, Body and Mind Stretch, sharing in meal preparation and “worship on the deck.”

We still have a few openings. Are you interested?

To register-

See Sherry Culver or Janis Cail

Cost is \$20...this saves your bed!

Bring your own bedding (sheets and towels)

Carpools are being arranged—depending on when you are available to leave on Friday the 10th.



Questions-

Call Marcia Hoyt

508-655-0077 or marciahoyt@aol.com