

FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

821 CRESCENT AVENUE, P.O. BOX 192

FISHERS ISLAND, NEW YORK 06390

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fichapel1@gmail.com

www.fiunionchapel.org

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here."*

CHAPEL HAPPENINGS NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

Dear All,

I am rejoicing that as of this week, I have been with you at Union Chapel for one year. I have MUCH to be grateful for this Thanksgiving! A new life on a beautiful island, being part of a close-knit community, enjoying loving fellowship, and witnessing the willing hearts and hands in the church and in our community to serve God in a myriad of ways.

For all of us, Thanksgiving this year comes at a time of concerning news of more terrorism abroad, and how to address the refugee crisis. Our own lives right now may present challenges for which we are, frankly, not grateful. How can we genuinely celebrate this holiday when we're not "feelin' the love"?

The need to express gratitude to God in all things is how the apostle Paul encourages the early Christians, even when daily life included danger and uncertainty. In her book *One Thousand Gifts*, writer Ann Voskamp narrates her own experience of how learning how to say thanks for the multitude of small blessings in her daily life helped bring her out of depression. She quotes Albert Schweitzer who said, "The greatest thing is to give thanks for everything. He who has learned this knows what it means to live..." For Christians, gratitude is not a polite gesture to God; it's a mindset that awakens us to a deeper reality and transforms our life.

I pray that our thanksgivings this season are healing, and offer us a view of hope that we can take with us beyond the holidays. As we consider again this year the birth of Jesus we can be renewed in the truth that there is Good News for humanity that has not diminished in his strength or scope – and never will, for it is here for eternity.

Blessings of peace, hope, and joy-

Candy



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

It is that time of year again!

At this time of year our thoughts turn to beauty of the Christmas season.

In December, Union Chapel will be decorated with poinsettias. To contribute toward these flowers, please complete the form below (legibly!) and send it in along with your donation. Checks may be made payable to Fishers Island Union Chapel. Our mailing address is F.I. Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390.

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY, HONOR OR CELEBRATION OF: (circle one)

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION: _____

BIBLE QUESTIONS YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK

Please send your questions about the Bible (any kind of question!) to Candy at candy@fiunionchapel.org.



Next issue: What order were the books of the Bible written in? And should we be more attentive to earlier books?

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

New email: fichapel1@gmail.com

www.fiunionchapel.org

Minister: Rev. Candace Whitman

Moderator: Susan Renna

Trustee Chairperson: Louisa Evans

Deacon Chairperson: Laura Edwards

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter



CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS

Monday, Thursday, Friday

10:00am – 1 pm

Tuesday – 10:00am – noon

Closed all other days



UNION CHAPEL

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday, Nov. 1

10 am - Communion Sunday

Monday, Nov. 2

Noon – Ladies’ Potluck Luncheon

4 pm – Bible Study at the Parsonage

Wednesday, Nov. 4

2 and 3 pm – Wednesday School

Sunday, Nov. 8

10 am - Sunday Worship

Monday, Nov. 9

4 pm – Bible Study at the Parsonage

Wednesday, Nov. 11

2 and 3 pm – Wednesday School

Thursday, Nov. 12

7 pm – Book Club at the Library

Friday, Nov. 13

12:30 pm - Deacons’ meeting

Sunday, Nov. 15

10 am - Sunday Worship

Monday, Nov. 16

1:00 pm – Trustees’ Meeting

4 pm – Bible Study at the Parsonage

Wednesday, Nov. 18

2 and 3 pm – Wednesday School

Thursday, Nov. 19

Noon – Senior Lunch

Sunday, Nov. 22

10 am – Sunday worship

Monday, Nov. 23

4 pm – Bible Study at the parsonage

Thursday, Nov. 26

Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, Nov. 29

10 am – Sunday worship

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday, Dec. 6

10 am – Communion Sunday

4 pm Children’s story hour

5 pm Tree lighting

Monday, Dec 7

Noon – Ladies’ Potluck Luncheon

4 pm – Bible Study at the parsonage

Wednesday, Dec. 9

2 and 3 pm - Wednesday School

Thursday, Dec. 10

7 pm – Book Club at the Library

Friday, Dec. 11

12:30 pm - Deacons’ Meeting,

Sunday, Dec. 13

10 am – Worship Service

Monday, Dec. 14

4 pm – Bible Study at the parsonage

Wednesday, Dec. 16

2 and 3 pm - Wednesday School

Friday, December 18

Piano Recital, Kapri Thomas’ students

Sunday, Dec. 20

10 am - Sunday Worship

Monday, Dec. 21

4 pm – Trustees’ meeting

3 pm – Bible Study at the Parsonage

Thursday, Dec. 24.

4:30 pm – Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 27

10 am – Worship Service

LIGHT THE STEEPLE MINISTRY

A soft light has been installed inside our “steeple” to be lit from sunset to midnight. The Trustees invite you to “Light the Steeple” in honor of or in memory of a loved one by donating \$25 to Union Chapel. Just submit the form below, and we will light the steeple on the appropriate week and print this remembrance in our newsletter.

LIGHT THE STEEPLE FORM

In Honor of or In Memory of (circle one)

Name _____

Given by _____

For the week of _____

Make check payable to and mail this form to: Fishers
Island Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island,
NY 06390

THE STEEPLE WAS LIT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SEPTEMBER:

In Memory of Harold L. Williamson, Jr.
given by Jacqueline and Peter Williamson

OCTOBER:

In Memory of Lady Gorham
given by Jean Leuchtenburg

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

It must be late fall – the leaves are almost gone from the trees and mounting high on lawns – the F.I. Union Chapel Thrift Shop has closed. We can't thank Mary Pankiewicz and Vi Meyer enough for the long hours and industry making the shop inviting and bustling with business all season!

Donations will continue to be accepted this time of year. Please donate gently-used items. There is a donation bin by the double doors which is waterproof and is checked often. If larger items are being left off please call Diane (M,T,Th,F mornings 631-788-7898) at the church office to make arrangements.

Union Chapel is concerned about safety and the environment. Therefore we cannot accept donations of air conditioners, auto parts, bathroom/kitchen fixtures, high chairs, cribs, car seats, strollers, play pens. CRT (tube) TVs, flammable materials, furniture that is heavily soiled, broken or ripped, guns and ammunition, halogen lamps, hazardous chemicals, large appliances, mattresses and box springs, non-working small appliances, exercise equipment, paints or wet or heavily soiled textiles.

This year, the back room was renovated and looks great – new floor, new paint, etc. We are looking forward to the grand opening next spring. Again thank you Mary and Vi.

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Q: What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

A: Tinselitis!

New Schedule for Chapel Happenings

With www.fiunionchapel.org up and running, CHAPEL HAPPENINGS will be issued



quarterly in 2016 to help us streamline communications and be better stewards of time and resources. Look for *Chapel Happenings* winter, spring, summer and fall. And you'll love it in COLOR on email! Just let us know your address and we will switch over your subscription. Thank you!



Share a Joyful Song –

Please let Diane or Candy know about any special recordings of music you think the congregation might like to hear. We take good care of any CDs you might lend us!



THANK YOU FOR OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

SOCIAL HOUR:

Susie Renna
Sharon Patterson
Sarah Malinowski
Liz Burnham

Laura Edwards
Sandy Hurlburt
Diane Dexter
Verena Brooks

FLOWERS:

Laura Edwards
Ellen Parker

Susie Renna
Kim Campbell

A special thanks to Laura Kucsera for helping with the November-December mailing.

Interested in learning about other religions?

Please join the church and community in reading No God But God: The Origins, Evolution and Future of Islam by Reza Aslan. There will be two opportunities to discuss this book: Thursday, November 19 at 7 pm, and Monday, November 23 at 2 pm. Both meetings will take place at the parsonage. Books are available to purchase in the business office from Diane.



UNION CHAPEL ANNUAL APPEAL

Please don't forget to support the Union Chapel with a tax-deductible donation. Your check may be made payable to FI Union Chapel, P.O. Box 392, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you all who have supported us already.



Islanders for Islanders wishes to thank all the residents who donated non-perishable left-overs to be used and enjoyed by island families. Many are shopping our shelves and enjoying staples along with special treats! We are glad to be able to offer this back-up this winter.



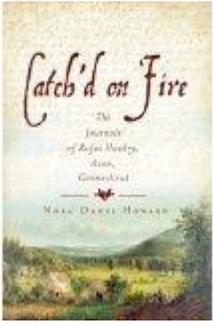
LITTLE PEBBLES UPDATE

Little Pebbles, the ministry founded by Verena Brooks gave Union Chapel and members of our community an opportunity this fall to provide clothes and toys for orphans and children in need around the world. Many brought in wonderful toys and Laura Edwards made cute dresses for the girls. The items we collected are being sent to orphanages in Guatemala. Thank you, all for your generous gifts.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS INFO

Daylight savings has come and gone for 2015. Winter is fast approaching, but fear not - Dates for 2016: Daylight savings begins: Sunday, March 13, 2016 (Set your clocks ahead) and ends Sunday November 6, 2016 (clocks back).





The following excerpts are graciously provided by Nora Oakes Howard, author of Catch'd on Fire: The Journals of Rufus Hawley, Avon,

Connecticut. The book is in the FI library.

Thanksgivings for a Pastor in the 1770s

Hawley's journals are from 1763-1812, a fifty-year span during which he was pastor of the church in Avon. He grew up in what is today East Windsor, CT and graduated from Yale in 1767.

Thanksgiving in May, 1766, for the repeal of the Stamp Acts.

Rufus Hawley was 25, and would soon be a student at Yale. Visiting Yale on May 19 with his sister Deborah, Rufus saw the "Publick rejoicing at Newhaven on the account of the Stamp Acts being repeald." On a colony-wide day of Thanksgiving May 23, bells in Hartford pealed and cannons blasted a 21-gun salute.

Thanksgiving in Avon, December 1778.

Avon celebrated Continental Thanksgiving on December 30, 1778, a tradition started the year before when the Continental Congress proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving with no labor or recreation. Rufus Hawley wrote in his journal on New Year's Eve line a hopeful passage:

*The Wheels of Time rode o'er
and pass the year away;
O may I be of God a lover,
And meet a brighter Day.*

Thanksgiving December 9, 1779, in Avon: The American Revolution wore on. In Avon, there was pride at being part of the new United States. Local resident David Gleason's journal entry for December 9 described the meetinghouse service for the "UNITED STATES THANKSGIVING day." His upper-case cursive letters were striking, carefully written by a proud American.

Thanksgiving 1783, Avon CT. The year concluded with a public Thanksgiving in December. Rufus's sermon on faith and victory, from Psalm 98:1, was a message relevant both to the spiritual outpouring and to America's victory over England. Sophia [his one year old daughter] was taking her first steps, and her father had led Northington's deeply spiritual year. The Farmington River's powerful flood was perhaps on his mind this New Year's Eve:

*Time no more yn [than] a Stream is at
a Stay,
the flying year is ever on her way
Its gone, an everlasting adieu,
To this, & all before it too*



COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



The community came out on Sunday afternoon of Columbus Day weekend to hear Glenn Orkney at his organ recital at Union Chapel. We were so pleased to host Glenn and provide an opportunity for others to enjoy his masterful playing. Glenn chose classical pieces as well as those written for the church, and delighted us with comments about the music and why he selected it for the recital.



Thank you to our generous donor who made it possible to offer this recital free of charge.

FALL FAIR A SUCCESS!

The church had another successful fair over Columbus Day weekend. We can't thank all the volunteers enough for making this happen. Also we thank all the patrons

that came for the day to support the Union Chapel.

There was the usual fare – wonderful homemade baked goods, a delicious lunch, and craft tables.



The Halloween Raffle Basket was won by Jill Rogan and the beautiful painting of an osprey by Charlie Ferguson was won by Van Hengel family.

Our next fair will be over Memorial Day weekend, 2016.

ALL ARE INVITED!

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT AT UNION CHAPEL SUNDAY, DEC. 6

This year Union Chapel will be hosting a Community Celebration on Sunday afternoon, December 6. Starting at 4:00 pm there will be a story hour and refreshments sponsored by the FI Library. At 5:00 pm, we will have a tree lighting with the singing of carols.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR

FROM UNION CHAPEL

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING
JOYFULLY IN FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP
IN 2016

