



FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

821 CRESCENT AVENUE, P.O. BOX 192

FISHERS ISLAND, NEW YORK 06390

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

SPRING 2016

Dear Friends,

This year I have the rare opportunity of seeing spring arrive in both this chilly northeast – where spring is always welcome – and in Arizona, where I spent a few days earlier this month with some clergy friends. We were fortunate to be there during the narrow window when the cacti produce their unique blooms – a sign of spring in the desert that is delightful and wondrous.

I am excited to update you on what is "blooming" here in terms of our outreach. First, Islanders for Islanders, our joint initiative with the other three island churches, seems to have fulfilled its goal over the winter to provide year-round families and individuals with support for utility bills and food. Our committee will meet once the season begins to continue to shape this ministry.

There has also been a step forward in resolving issues many islanders face with access to health insurance. In February I traveled with Louisa Evans to the office of our Congressman in DC, Lee Zeldin to discuss our challenges. It was a productive meeting which I am cautiously optimistic will result in positive policy changes for our island. In addition, another effort is underway by Chris Ingram, Di Shillo, and IHP with a health consultant in Connecticut to find suitable plans for our self-employed people.

It is a joy to find these signs of hope for long-term problems... even as creation shows forth God's renewing power with buds and blue skies! Good thing the church provides us with an Easter *season*, because living into the truth of the Resurrection may require more than a special Sunday to have meaning for our lives. I look forward to continuing the journey with each of you this season, celebrating the way God renews our souls with his new life which like spring, returns each year, and is fresh, inviting, and real.

In Christ,

Candy

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

New email: fichapel1@gmail.com

www.fiunionchapel.org

Minister: Rev. Candace Whitman

candy@fiunionchapel.org

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 ANNUAL APPEAL

Please don't forget to support the Union Chapel with an appeal check made payable to FI Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you all who have supported us already.



Three Churches Golf Tournament

May 22, 2016

Help us raise funds for the long term growth and success of the Fishers Island Churches! This wouldn't be possible without our wonderful sponsors.

How can you help?

*Bid on a Team of Five

*Become a Tee/Green Sponsor

*Donate items for prizes

For more information: **631-788-7921**



THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Back this May!

Union Chapel Thrift Shop

Spring has sprung, and we hope to open the Thrift Shop Thursday, May 26, from 3 to 5 p.m. Our normal hours of Thursday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m. and Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon will resume after Memorial Day weekend. Please note that on Saturday, May 28, the shop will be closed since Vi and I will be at the church working the annual Memorial Weekend Fair. Come shop the arts and crafts tables at the Fair and stay for a delicious lunch! Check the Town bulletin board or the Union Chapel website for more details. Thrift Shop sales have helped Union Chapel and its programs since around 1967.

VOLUNTEER – We need all sorts of help. Please call Mary (788-7250) if you want to help or if you have questions.

DONATE – The Thrift Shop accepts gently used household items, clothing and small pieces of furniture. Pieces that have worn out their welcome in your home are always welcome in ours. Call the Church office (788-7898) if you have any questions.

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

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FROM OUR MEMBERS BIG ON BOOKS...

Join us for our current read! It's Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. Called a "spiritual classic," Nouwen writes to a journalist friend about the spiritual life, avoiding theology and technical language. His message? "You are the beloved."

A Dutch Catholic Priest, Nouwen is considered one of the great spiritual writers of our day. Nouwen taught in prestigious seminaries and spent ten years working with disabled children in Toronto.



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Reflecting on our Study of Islam

By Barry Bryan and Candy Whitman

Over the winter our church book group read *No God but God*, a comprehensive history of the development of Islam by Reza Aslan, a Western educated Iranian sociologist. Our meetings were lively and well attended by a small but dedicated group of women and men of the parish, eager to learn more about this important religion and political force in our world today.

Aslan's key thesis is that Islam, now in its fourteenth century, is undergoing a turbulent reformation as did Christianity. He explains that despite extremist terrorism and the continual turmoil in the Middle East, the Muslim faith at its core supports the principles for peaceful and stable democracy. He bases this on the values practiced

by the *Ummah*, Muhammed's first community of followers.

This is a hopeful message, but for some of us, did not offset what we felt was a lack of information in the book about the Muslim faith (core beliefs such as the Golden Rule or the Ten Commandments). This would have helped us join Aslan in his hope that the Islamic world can indeed overcome its history of violence and strife and become a peaceful, democratic civilization. Perhaps we need to read deeply in the Koran to find it.

Our study continued over a period of months, and at the end Candy suggested we discuss how we might respond appropriately as Christians to Islam. We all agreed that our response to individual Muslims should be one of love, as it would be for the follower of any religion. But could we say all Muslims are God's children? Some affirmed this unequivocally, and found great admiration for Muhammed. Others of us saw being "God's children" true of nonviolent followers, but found it hard to give a pass to the entire faith when violent jihadists claim their behavior is sanctioned by God's revelations to Muhammad in the Koran. We all agreed that it was timely and valuable as Westerners to learn about the roots of this culture and faith.

CONTEST RESULTS ARE IN!

"THE OPEN BOOK GROUP"

...is the name our group agreed upon for our church book group. It shows our openness to learning, to ourselves, and to others. Thank you to the person who sent in this entry (anonymously), and to all who contributed creative ideas...there were many good names to choose from!

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:

February:

In memory of Dulcey Fowler

Given by Paula Pendergast

March:

In Honor of Lily Finley Pendergast

Given by Paula and Joe Pendergast



Come to church NOW:
And miss the Christmas Rush
(from Now Open Sundays by
Rev. Paul Sinclair)

TO OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR FLOWERS AND SOCIAL HOUR JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH

SOCIAL HOUR:

Laura Edwards	Louisa Evans
Sharon Patterson	Anita Fritze
Diane Dexter	Liz Burnham
David Burnham	

FLOWERS:

Laura Edwards
All Easter Flower Donations

SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to Laura Kucsera for helping with the Chapel Happenings mailing.



Friendly Reminders

Donate your old eyeglasses in the basket in
the Fellowship Room
Save egg cartons and coffee cans for the
Thrift Shop!



BEACH CHURCH 2016

Beach Church will return this season at Dock Beach, 8 am, Sundays, July 3 through August 24. Come enjoy worship in a beautiful, peaceful setting. Bring a beach chair or just come! Our traditional 10 am service will continue throughout the summer in the chapel.



Spring Fair Memorial Day Weekend

**Saturday, May 28,
10am – 1 pm**

Plans are underway for another spectacular fair with all our time-tested favorites: a food table with scrumptious homemade goodies, beautiful hand-made raffle items, creative craft tables, and a homemade lunch that can't be beat in flavor or price! Call Diane at the church if you would like to have a table at the fair.

Wild for Wildflowers!

In addition, this year our church school children will be selling seedlings of wild flowers to encourage islanders to plant native species in their gardens and help our local species thrive. A wide variety of wildflowers will be for sale including lupine, Joe Pye weed, butterfly weed, and milkweed. A member of the Fishers Island Conservancy will be present to help promote the effort.



Thank you, Jeff Edwards, for the seeds and helping the children learn about stewardship of the earth!

Can you volunteer for the fair? Let Diane know. Thank you!

KRYSIA BURNHAM TO BE ORDAINED

We were pleased to receive this invitation from Krysia to the Union Chapel community. Read on!

What: Ordination of Krysia Bereday Burnham

When: Sunday, June 26, 2016, 3pm

Where: First Church in Cambridge, Congregational UCC

11 Garden Street, Cambridge MA 02138

There will be a reception following the service. Please RSVP to krysiaburnham@gmail.com if you can attend.

The Union Chapel has been an integral part of my call and its unfolding over the past fifteen or so years. From my early days as a parishioner to baptizing our children in the sanctuary to deep talks with church pastors since the early 1980s, I have been grateful to FIUC for its consistent spiritual support. I am privileged to have taught Sunday School, preached, had gatherings in my home, sung, danced, and even gone swimming at Chapel Camp for the cause! More recently, I have been grateful to deepen the conversation with Pastor Candy as she continues to encourage my ministry in the arts and spiritual care. My thanks extend to the entire Chapel community for your inspiration, and your prayers. I look forward to sharing the joy in the journey this spring, and onward.

SILVER LAKE FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



On April 13th the church was filled with lots of people and wonderful aromas of great food. It was the evening of the Silver Lake Campership fund raiser.

A great time was had by all. Lots of socializing and fun with all leaving with tummies filled with delicious pasta and sauce, salad, bread and desserts to die for!

Many thanks to Robin Toldo, Sue Lusker, Catherine and Jeff Edwards (pictured here), all the volunteer dessert makers and especially to the generosity of the people in attendance. We also greatly appreciate those who contributed to the fund who could not make it.

We realized a total of \$1,345.00. We will send five of our church school children this summer.



JOYFUL RECOLLECTIONS OF SILVER LAKE

THE SUMMER OF 2015

While I was at Silver Lake I went on the flying Squirrel, not Rocky the flying squirrel, but on the flying squirrel. Six counselors would be in front of a clearing and you would be attached to a rope that looped around a tree branch. They would countdown from ten, then they would run into the clearing and you would be pulled up.

I ate wasabi potatoes. They were very spicy and good. They were very green.

There was a basketball game. It was kids vs. counselors and the counselors won.

Some of my roommates were Jeb, Robbie, and Jordan . They were nice.

We went to the store every day. I got strawberry popsicles and Gatorade.

- Benjamin Edwards

UNION CHAPEL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

March-April-May 2016

Each month:

Communion Sunday - 10 am - first Sunday
Ladies' Potluck Luncheon – noon - first Monday
Bible Study – Mondays, 4 pm, parsonage
Library Book Club – 7 pm – second Thursday (at the Library)
Wednesday School – 2 and 3 pm – each Wednesday
Deacons' meeting – 10 am second Friday
Trustees' meeting – 1 pm third Monday
Senior Lunch – noon – third Thursday



Our church school created this exuberant banner for Easter season!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

***Don't miss the last Senior Lunch Barbecue
Thursday, May 19 – noon!***

GOD WHISPERS

The man whispered, “God Speak to me.”
And a meadowlark sang.
But, the man did not hear.

So the man yelled, “God Speak to me”
and the thunder rolled across the sky.
But, the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said “God let me see you”
and the sun shined brightly.
But, the man did not see.

And the man shouted “God show me a miracle”
and, a life was born.
But, the man did not notice.

So, the man cried out in despair, “Touch me God and let me know you are here”
whereupon, God reached down and touched the man.
But, the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.



EASTER FLOWERS 2016

In Memory of Peter D. Sanger, Stephen C. Sanger
Edwina C. Sanger and Grant Sanger, MD
Given by Kandi, Penn, Jennifer,
Christopher and Nina, Peter and Cassie

In Memory of Harold and Gladys Baker
And Patricia Baker
Given by the Baker Family

In Memory of Peter and Janet Rogan
Given by David and Susan Rogan

In loving memory of my parents
Al and Dot Dawson
And dear friend Harris Parsons
Given by Diane D. Dexter and Family

In Memory of Harris Parsons
Given by the John Spofford Family

In Memory of Charles I. Whitman
Given by Candace Whitman

In Memory of Flora and Eddie Woodford
And Dorothy and Perry Edwards
Given by Laura Edwards

In Memory of Lawrence and Bertha Baldwin,
Maude and Herbert Gray
And Andrew and Pat Riess
Given by the Pankiewicz/Geist Family

In Honor of Merrily, Charlotte, Nate
Emily and Bryson
And In Loving Memory of Nancy Gerry
And
Harris Parsons
Given by the Brinkerhoff Family

In Memory of Peter T. Cook and Sheila C. Cook
Given by Steve and Cynnie Cook

In Memory of our son Peter George Bryan
Given by Barry and Miggie Bryan

In Memory of Anne and David Burnham
Given by Liz Burnham

In Memory of Stowe Phelps
And in Celebration of Charlton Phelps
Given by Meredith and Peter Rugg

In Memory of Dorothy and Ted
Given by "Wally"

In Memory of Happy Gaillard
Given by Canio Antonio Toglia

In Celebration of Zac, Pierce and Martin
Given by Tim and Sharon Patterson

In Memory of Harold Cook
and sons Casey and Steven Cook
Given by the "Cookies"

In Memory of Maxwell and Rachel Porter,
Eliot and Marilyn Porter and Charlie Arnold
Given by the Arnold, Porter and Soper Families

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Lamb,
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mac Millan
And our son, Scott Lamb

In Memory of Meredith Moody and Lisa Reed
Given by Sarah Porter and Family

In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph K. Hoch
And Richard J. Hoch
Given by the Hoch Family

SENDING LOVE AND PRAYERS

We mourn the passing of beloved community member Harold Cook (March 18, 2016). Jan and the family wish to thank everyone for their kindness during this difficult time, for their help in providing a beautiful memorial service and reception for Harold on March 26.