

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

FALL 2016

Dear Friends,

Although it's hard to say good-bye to a beautiful summer on Fishers, we are happy to hello to an exciting fall!

First, our leaders will meet this month to discuss the positive results of our Holy Cow survey and discuss future directions for the church. Our Eastern Regional Minister of the UCC, Rev. Dr. Tom Clough, who visited us in August, suggests we may need to dream bigger.

October presents us with our annual fabulous Fall Fair on Saturday, October 8, from 10 am – 1 pm, a fundraiser and fun-raiser for the community! And two other not-to-be-missed events also take place in October: our second annual Organ Recital with Glenn Orkney on October 2, and Nina Schmid's ordination ceremony on Sunday, October 23. We are honored to host this service and celebration for Nina.

Fall also means church school returns, as well as our Bible studies and The Open Book Group. Our book this fall is an eye-opening read on Israeli-Palestinian relations. Details are inside.

Looking ahead, I realized the other month that we have two important upcoming Union Chapel anniversaries: in 2017, it will be the 50th anniversary of the construction of our current church building, and in 2018, our 125th anniversary as a congregation! Ideas for ways to commemorate these milestones are welcome. To inspire our creativity please don't miss the charming poem written by Eliot Porter in 1993 about our church.

The aim at Union Chapel continues to be to provide a center of life for our community as well as those of us walking with Christ in our daily lives. With discouragement about our next presidential election, the ever-present conflicts around the world, and our own personal challenges, there is no time like the present to seek God for the peace that passes all understanding.

May we each find that peace in God, whose word is trustworthy, who loves us unconditionally, and calls us by name to walk in his grace and power.

Blessings and shalom,
Candy

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

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



FROM OUR TRUSTEES....

On behalf of the Trustees of Union Chapel, I would like to express our thanks for the ongoing support of our church community, both physically and financially. We have a very positive influence on our beloved Island, and if you have not yet contributed to our annual appeal, I encourage you to do so.

Union Chapel continues to be a welcoming venue for many church and community functions.

Thanks for your support.

In gratitude,
Susie Brinckerhoff



Thank you to all who donated eyeglasses over the past few months. In August we provided New Eyes for the Needy with 20 pairs of glasses! Thank You – Jackie Williamson for organizing this ministry.



Join The Open Book Group

The book selection for this fall is **I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace** by Izzeldin Abuelaish. Paperback books are available from Diane \$14.00 each. There is also a Kindle edition.

We will meet at the parsonage on **Saturday, October 15 at 11 am** to talk about the writer's fascinating life and commitment to peaceful Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Back by popular demand!

GLENN ORKNEY ORGAN RECITAL

**Sunday, October 2nd
3 pm
Union Chapel**

My personal thanks to Dr. Barb Hoch who has been volunteering on Wednesdays (Diane's day off) to answer phones, greet visitors, and cheerfully complete a myriad of other volunteer tasks at the office.

I am grateful for your presence to us and the community! - Candy

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

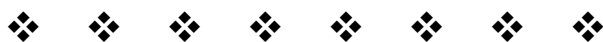
In Honor of or In Memory of (circle one)

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



ANGELS NEEDING THANK YOUS

Thank you to all of our angels who made flowers appear on the altar each Sunday, and provided goodies for social hour after church for July and August.

SOCIAL HOUR:

Susie Renna	Diane Dexter
Laura Edwards	Sandy Hurlburt

FLOWERS:

Laura Edwards	Valarie Kinkade
Kim Campbell	Susie Ferguson
Nina Schmid	Bagley Reid

UNION CHAPEL CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

September - October 2016

Each month

Communion Sunday - 10 am - first Sunday
Ladies' Potluck Luncheon – noon - first Monday
 Except September – lunch on Sept. 12th
Library Book Club – 7 pm – second Thursday
Deacons' meeting – 10 am second Friday
 Exception: September - 09/16/16, 1 pm
Trustees' meeting – 1 pm third Monday
Senior Lunch – noon – third Thursday

Special Events this Fall!

Sunday, September 11

Tim Patterson, Preaching

Monday, September 19

Leadership Gathering, 2:00-4:00 pm

Sunday, September 25

Annual meeting

Sunday, October 2

Glenn Orkney Organ Recital, 3 pm

Saturday, October 8

Fall Fair, 10 am – 1 pm

Saturday, October 15

Open Book Group, Parsonage, 11 am

Sunday, October 23

Nina Schmid's Ordination

Stay tuned for church school and Bible study start dates!



**IT WAS A BUSY, BLESSED
SUMMER FOR THE FAITHFUL!**



MEMORIAL DAY FAIR.

The sandwich crew at our Memorial Day Fair finally catching their breath after a busy lunch crowd! The Bake table, craft tables, and wildflowers also had big sellers! The event raised \$ 1,152.00 for the church. Thanks so all who made it a success!

ANNUAL PET BLESSING

The annual Pet Blessing took place on Sunday, August 7. Many islanders brought their wonderful dogs to the green. Candy joined Michael Spencer of St. John's who led a brief service, and each pet received a personal blessing afterwards (and sometimes their humans, also!) Photo by Jane Ahrens.



BEACH CHURCH 2016

Our Beach Church congregation returned this summer and welcomed many visitors to this informal worship service amidst the beauty of Dock Beach each Sunday at 8 A.M.

What a beautiful way to start the day in worship. Thank you to everyone who attended.



P.S. Someone even showed up on August 28th, even when there wasn't a service, but I won't tell.

ISLAND CONCERTS

In August, Union Chapel hosted Island Concerts for a spectacular piano performance by Yelena Grinberg.



**Would you like to receive
Chapel Happenings by email?**

Let Diane know:

631 788=-7898

fichapel1@gmail.com

Help us conserve resources and
see everything in color!

Columbus Day Fair

SATURDAY, October 8th

10 am-1 pm

We will again be hosting our Annual Columbus Day Fair. Come and join the fun and for a good cause, too! We will have our fabulous food table with homemade goodies, crafters, and a lunch with homemade salads, Mary P's famous baked beans, grilled hot dogs, Amish cole slaw, and potato salad – maybe even a surprise menu item!

Volunteers for the day are always welcome. There is a signup sheet outside of the business office door.



Featured for the raffle there will be a beautiful handmade quilt by Laura Edwards, “On the Beach” and a Jan Cook basket of Fall Goodies.

Tickets are \$5 a piece or 5 for \$20 and can be purchased after church from Diane or Laura or at the P.O. on some sunny days. The raffles will be at 1 pm the day of the fair at Union Chapel.



THE BIBLE SHOULD BE TRUSTED
NOT DUSTED

THRIFT SHOP - Fall News

This year we have received many lovely donations which our customers snap up as soon as they are displayed! New items are added as soon as we have an area to display them. If you come in and don't see what you are looking for, PLEASE ask Vi or Mary. That particular item may be in storage just waiting for its turn on the floor!

Our work time is every Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. when we sort and price donations and try to get the shop presentable for the week.



Volunteers are most welcome!

Please stop by our Trifles and Treasures Table at the Columbus Day Fair. We bring out selected items, this year including some lovely Christmas decorations that you will be so glad you have when December rolls around! The Thrift Shop will open from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. on October 8th. Saturday, October 22, will be the last day we are open this season.

Call the Church office (788-7898) if you have any questions about the Thrift Shop or the Fall Fair. Because of safety issues and the environment, the Thrift Shop cannot accept donations of *air conditioners, auto parts, bathroom/kitchen fixtures, children's items(i.e. 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.*

A Note from Nina Schmid

Dear Fishers Island Friends,

I hope this finds you enjoying the waning rhythms of summer and the early hints of fall as we cross over into that lovely season. Much has ensued since my last update. Many of you are aware that God blessed me with my graduation from Eden Theological Seminary in May, 2015 with my Master in Divinity Degree. Since then, I was able to complete a Sabbatical coverage at Venice UCC last summer and a residency as a chaplain at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. In May I completed my Ecclesiastical Council with the New London Association, which endorsed me with “approved for ordination pending call” with our beloved Rev. Candace Whitman at my side, who blessed me with her presence and wisdom through this final stage.

I am humbly grateful to say I am writing this note from my office at The First Congregational Church of South Windsor, CT, where I am now serving as their Designated Pastor. I am continually amazed at the work of God in my life – as the Sufi poet Rumi declared – “My amazement is amazed!” This church, founded by Timothy Edwards in 1694 (father of Jonathan Edwards, theologian of the First Great Awakening), is rich in **fascinating** history. I am privileged to be here with these wonderful folk, as we walk together during this exciting, and, sometimes perplexing and challenging time for church in today’s world, listening for the word of the Lord as we go forward.

Four years have passed since I became a Member in Discernment sponsored by Fishers Island Union Chapel– four years of continual support, welcoming and cheerleading from all of you, inspiring and strengthening me for this journey. Four years and counting, for which there are not enough years left for me to thank you.

Eternally In Christ,

Nina

Bless you, Nina, in your ministry! – Your fellow travelers at Union Chapel

SENDING LOVE AND PRAYERS

*We mourn the passing of
beloved*

PAUL REDMOND EVANS

Oct. 3, 1958 -July 2, 2016



Islanders for Islanders to provide support for short-term job training

On behalf of Islanders for Islanders, many thanks to all of you who have supported this outreach again this year with food and funds. We are overjoyed to be able to continue to help islanders obtain food, meals and cover utility expenses over the winter. Since our aim to help islanders become more self-sustaining year round, the committee is also enlarging our ministry in 2016 to cover small expenses related to job skills enhancement.

Islanders for Islanders is a
collaboration of all Island churches.

HOLY COW! Our leadership is on the move again...

With summer in full swing, Union Chapel launched a church-wide survey in order to learn the opinions of our congregation about our church life. By conducting the survey in August we were able to glean information from both our summer and year-round congregations, and have a basis for planning at the fall meeting of church leadership.



The survey, created by Holy Cow Consultants, touched on a range of topics – our worship, outreach, our thoughts on scripture, for example - and was geared for smaller churches. Rev. Dr. Tom Clough, our Eastern Regional Minister of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC, is a certified interpreter of the surveys, and so Tom came the Sunday after the results were in to preach and to meet with our Trustees and Deacons to discuss the findings.

Survey Highlights

Tom reviewed what respondents said, and provided the following summary for us:

1. We are “highly satisfied” with, and have “high energy” for, the ministry of the church.
2. We are “progressive” theologically, which means we are liberal in our thinking about Christianity.
3. We are very happy with our worship services.
4. One area to look at is how well we apply faith to our everyday lives. We scored low on these questions, but Tom added that we are on par with New England churches!

2016 LEADERSHIP GATHERING

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19**

2-4 PM

Where do we go from here?

Strong approval ratings, according to Tom, indicate that we are stewards of a great gift and we need to see it as a responsibility to do more.

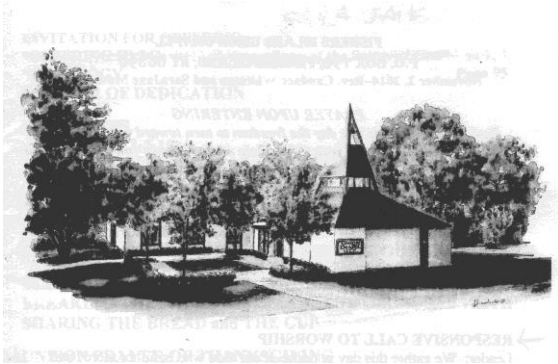
If you attend church here regularly and would like to be part of the conversation about new directions or places for us to focus as a church, you are warmly welcomed to attend our leadership gathering on September 19. Please just let Candy know to expect you.

Tom added that he often does not see such positive survey results. And so we have much to be grateful for! I look forward to our continued work together under God’s guidance for how we can fulfill our mission to serve God in this place and time.

- Candy

UPCOMING 50th Anniversary of our Church Building

Our 50th anniversary of the construction of our current chapel will take place in 2017! Please let the office know if you have any ideas of how we can commemorate this milestone and honor the men and women whose dedication and service to God have made it possible for us to continue as a strong presence on our island.



This heartfelt poem by Eliot Porter was read from the pulpit in 1993 on the occasion of our 100th anniversary as a congregation.

Our island is a quiet place
For many months a year.
Oh, yes! You hear the ocean waves
And the winter winds you fear,

But from the happy months of summer
To the rustling leaves of fall
Come the wind born snowflakes flying
And the seabirds sharpened call!

There's a oneness here with nature
There's a love for out of doors
And watching seagrass swaying
And the breakers on the shores.

By the roadside near the village
The people built a church;
By the roadside close to houses
So you didn't have to search.

The people came to worship
They came to praise the Lord
And they taught their little children
To learn of their own accord.

One day the little church burned down
So they built a new one then
They built it by a roadside
Near the village once again.

They had named it Union Chapel
Where the people met to pray
And now one hundred years have passed
So we celebrate today

For when Christian people gather
And they praise the Lord in song
They listen to the word of God
And learn the right from wrong.

On the island near the village
Our little church does stand
By the roadside near the village
Where God is close at hand.

We have to look on forward
As those people did before
We must work to make things better
And better evermore

That each year little children
And grown-ups too – I know
Will come and gather here each week
And in the Lord will grow.

By the roadside near the village
On our island by the sea
Stands a church we love together
A home for you and me.

☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

MORE TO COME! 2018 it will be the 125th anniversary of our coming together as a congregation!