



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 HOLIDAY ISSUE 2016

Dear Friends,

We are in a season of celebration at Union Chapel!

On October 23 we celebrated the ordination of the Rev. Nina Schmid. It was a privilege and joy to see her call confirmed by our denomination, her new congregation in South Windsor, and all the friends and family who attended. Congratulations to Nina!

In November we will celebrate God's grace to us on Thanksgiving. It is a national holiday with deep spiritual roots, and so we will provide a venue for our community to give their thanks with an informal "Thanksgivings" breakfast that Sunday. Spread the word!

In December we will celebrate Christmas with some old and newer traditions: our second annual story time and outdoor tree lighting, partnering with the Fishers Island library; the delightful annual piano recital for the students of Kapri Thomas; and our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service for the community. And due to Christmas being on a Sunday this year, a special Christmas morning service also.

In the Christian faith celebrations are not merely distractions from our concerns about presidential elections, personal challenges, or a respite from our work for justice and peace in the world. Celebrations affirm the power of God to influence our everyday lives. Celebrations permit us to respond joyfully to the truth of God's grace in the world. Especially at Christmas, we rejoice because God has addressed once and for all the darkness of the world with the light of Christ, born to us in the person of Jesus.

May these events, and those on your own calendar this holiday, heighten our joy in the Almighty God who calls us to fulfillment in service, blesses us in ways we could never earn, and promises to be always with us, through Christ, our Savior.

Grace and peace,

Candy

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone: (631) 788-7898

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 – 1:00 pm

Tuesday – 10:00am – noon

Closed all other days



Friendly Reminder

Donate your old eyeglasses in the
basket in the Fellowship Room



BIBLE QUESTIONS YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK

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



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.

September:

In Honor of Tim Patterson

Given by Rossie Fisher

October:

In Memory of Graham A. Davidson

Given by Wesley C. and Norton Davidson

In Memory of Peter Durant Sanger

Given by Kandi Sanger and Family

In Memory of Joseph Lee and Helen Johns Barlow,

Rev. Rosemary-Dysart-Baue and in gratitude to
God and all who have walked with Nina on this
journey

Given by Nina Schmid

November:

In Memory of Anne Tehan

Given by Mary Horn

LIGHT THE STEEPLE FORM

In Honor of or In Memory of (circle one)

Name _____

Given by _____

For the week of _____

HOLIDAY EVENTS

AT UNION CHAPEL

“Thanksgivings” Breakfast

Sunday, November 27, 8 am

All are invited! This breakfast in our Fellowship Room will be a time of informal worship where we can give our thanks to God for our many blessings, and look forward to the hope we have in the holidays. Light breakfast will be served out of respect for those who overdid it on Thanksgiving!

Storytime and Tree lighting

Sunday, December 4, 4:00 pm

The Fishers Island Library and Union Chapel are pleased to invite children of all ages to our special Christmas story time on the afternoon of December 4. We'll hear some classic Christmas stories, some new favorites, enjoy cookies and sip hot chocolate! At dark we will all head outside to light the tree (thank you to David Burnham's crew at Race Rock!) And we will of course sing some carols. Don't miss this wonderful family event the first Sunday of Advent.



Annual Piano Recital

Students of Kapri Thomas

Friday, December 16 Time TBD

The community is invited to attend Kapri's annual event showcasing the talent of her accomplished piano students. As always, the event is followed by a pot luck supper here at the church. Union Chapel is delighted to again host this musical highlight for our community, and share a meal in the holiday spirit.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 4:45 pm.

Our annual Community Candlelight service will be held on Christmas Eve. We'll have carols, the Christmas story, prayers and of course, candlelight to add to this sacred holiday. All are welcome!



Christmas Day Service

December 25, Time TBD

With December 25 on a Sunday this year, we have the opportunity to gather as a church family and celebrate Christmas. Candy and the deacons are planning something unique to celebrate the birth of Christ in the spirit of hope and healing.

Stay tuned for more about this special service!

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

SIGN OUTSIDE A CHURCH

Come to church NOW
and miss the
Christmas rush!

THANK YOU FOR OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR FLOWERS AND SOCIAL HOUR FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

SOCIAL HOUR:

Anita Fritze
Sharon Patterson
Ellen Parker

Susie Renna
Diane Dexter
Laura Edwards

FLOWERS:

Laura Edwards
Bagley Reid
Nina Schmid

Ellen Parker
Susie Renna



ARE YOU ON OUR EMAIL LIST?



Kindly send Diane your email address to receive Chapel Happenings electronically. It is a well-spent minute since it saves the church both time and

money. If you still prefer to receive a paper copy just let Diane know your preference. To reach Diane: (631)788-7898 or email her at fichapel1@gmail.com. Thank you!

THINGS MONEY CAN NOT BUY:

Character
Manners
Morals
Common Sense
Trust
Class
Respect
Patience
Integrity
AND Love



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 392, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you all who have supported us already.

GIVING TO NEEDS

BEYOND OUR SHORES

**Special collections Nov. 6 and
Dec 4 for UCC ministries**

This year as our minds turn to the many blessings of our lives, and the hope we wish to share with the world in Christ, please consider supporting the missions and ministries of the United Church of Christ.

To facilitate our giving a special collection for the UCC will be received Sunday, November 6 and Sunday, December 4. The total of these offerings will be divided between the five funds managed by our denomination: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the church, the Christmas Fund and Basic Support. Our deacons will fund "Basic Support" which means that 100% of your gift will go directly to the other four ministries. Union Chapel's support of the UCC lets us play a part in meeting the vital needs around the world and at home for compassion, justice and mercy. The UCC also works to strengthen pastors and the presence of the church in local communities.

If you wish to contribute this year, please make out your check to Union Chapel with "UCC" in the memo line.

Christ calls us to love God and neighbor, and through this effort we join our hearts with all those who pray to see the world transformed through the love of God.

2016 CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Each month

Communion Sunday – 10 am – first Sunday
Ladies' Potluck Luncheon noon – first Monday
Christian Education – 3 pm Wednesday
Christian Education – 3 pm - Thursday
Library Book Club – 7 pm – second Thursday
Deacons' Meeting – noon – second Friday
Trustees' Meeting – 1 pm third Monday
Senior Lunch – noon - third Thursday

Special Events

Thur. Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving
Sun. Nov. 27 – “Thanksgivings” Breakfast
First Sunday of Advent
Sun Dec. 4 – Storytime and Tree Lighting
Fri. Dec. 16 – Kapri's Piano Recital
Sat. Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service
Sun. Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Service

Stay tuned for details!



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE 2016!

This year are we participating in the Salvation Army Christmas Angel Program right here in New London.

How does this work? The Salvation Army mails us Christmas Angel ornaments that we put on a little tree. Members at Union Chapel will take one or more ornaments. On the ornament is the child's first name, gender, age, clothing sizes and a wish list of a toy or two. We then purchase what we can, bring them to the church by December 4th, and we will take them over to the Salvation Army no later than the week of December 12th.

The gifts are not to be wrapped, but we can supply wrapping paper to be used. **Please call Diane in the office by Nov. 11th if you would like to participate.**

Put a smile on a youngster's heart this year.

NINA SCHMID ORDAINED



Nina takes her vows in response to questions by Rev. Dr. Tom Clough, Eastern Regional Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC. Congratulations, Nina!

To All My Fishers Island Friends:

What an extraordinary ordination celebration you all gave me October 23! I couldn't have asked for a more heartfelt blessing from everyone who attended, and those who checked in from near and far who could not attend. I especially thank those who made the service possible at Fishers Island Union Chapel. It surely was one of the most important days of my life. I was so pleased to share this momentous occasion with all of you. I hope you know I will forever cherish the memory of looking out and seeing all your faces and receiving your blessing, a very moving and humbling moment, indeed.

Thank you, thank you, thank you one and all! May you be blessed with the peace of Christ in your lives. Please know that I carry every one of you with me as I go about my ministry. Hopefully we will see each other again soon!

All best love,
Reverend Nina Barlow Schmid
First Congregational Church, South Windsor CT



CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND 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 decorate our space with wreaths, garlands, poinsettia, and other festive items. To contribute towards our decoration, 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. Thank you in advance for your support.

GIVEN BY: _____

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

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION: _____

As you celebrate this Christmas, may
Christ be born in you.



Blessings to the Union Chapel family
for peace and joy in 2017.

Faith and Fun!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



No shortage of enthusiasm for church school with Mrs. Edwards!

This year we are running two afternoon church school groups. The older children meet on Wednesday from 3-4 pm, and the younger group (Pre K-K) meeting on Thursdays at the same time.

The older children are being introduced to a new curriculum. The first lesson was on Creation, based on Genesis 1:1 through 2:4a. We focused on how we can care for God's creation by creating green spaces and caring for them.

We discussed the different green spaces on Fishers Island. We spent one afternoon at the Betty Mattheson Wildlife Sanctuary at the Oyster Pond. Each child was given a paper bag with the Bible memory verse printed on it: "The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with seed in it. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:12). They were asked to gather seeds and other things from plants and trees.

The next week we looked at what they had gathered. I brought in other seeds and berries,

milkweed, juniper, holly, etc. They made collages on heavy paper plates. They were very creative and showed the different personalities of the children.

After Creation came Noah's Ark. The scripture was from Genesis 6-9. We walked the ball field measuring with our feet to try to get an idea of the size of the ark. We determined that it was too big to fit on the ball field.

One week Diane Dexter taught the children a rhythmic chant "Follow the Instructions" which they had a lot of fun with. We are putting up a Noah's Ark depiction on the bulletin board. There has been a lot of discussion on fears and dealing with life's storms.

For the younger group we use All-in-One-Bible Fun, Stories of Jesus. Every lesson includes a story about Jesus taught in story, song, movements, games, simple prayers and related art activities. Every lesson has a Bible verse which we learn by singing it. We also learn signs from American Sign Language for each verse. We often have the same verse for several weeks in a row. Lessons focus on God's love and loving one another.

— Laura Edwards



Items from our green space at Oyster Pond were made into beautiful collages.

UC Thrift Shop Winds Up Another Successful Season

We are so grateful for Mary and Vi's faithful service to our church and community! We wish them both a restful, refreshing winter. – Candy



Union Chapel Thrift Shop was open Thursdays and Saturdays from May 26 until October 22 (eighty-six hours). We received many lovely donations and had many happy customers.

Highlights of the year included the Trifles and Treasures table at the Memorial Weekend and Columbus Weekend Fairs. At the Columbus Weekend Fair, we tried a silent auction for three sets of dishes that had been received at the Shop. It was very successful. We hope to do the silent auction table at future fairs.



There are many ways to help out at the Thrift Shop. Please consider volunteering next spring! Just two hours a week would make a big difference and help us accomplish more. As always, we appreciate receiving from you empty egg cartons and metal coffee cans. We also like paper shopping bags with handles.

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.

We are grateful for the amazing array of gently-used, salable items we receive throughout the year. Before dropping off your donation please assess whether the item is salable, or better off at the Compost Station!