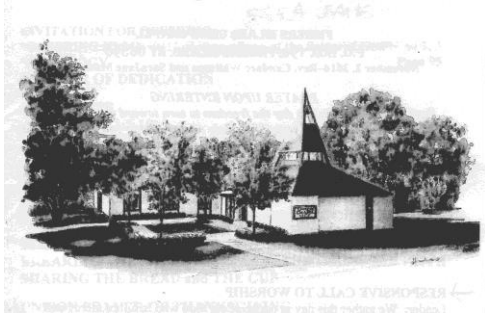


**FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**821 CRESCENT AVENUE, P.O. BOX 192**  
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*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,  
you are welcome here.”*

## **CHAPEL HAPPENINGS**

### **“SPRING AHEAD” ISSUE 2017**

Dear Church Family,

With February coming to a close it is not too soon to look ahead to spring! But first, we invite you to rejoice with us in the new - and renewed - things that have accompanied the start of our 2017.

This winter we renewed our outreach to the community with a record turn-out “Dinner and a Movie” in January, and we are bringing back the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. A long-awaited new sound system is on the way to enhance fidelity and reduce the crackling that has often disrupted our worship. A new heating system is on the way for the church, and the parsonage is getting new windows! And, we are reinvigorating our faith commitment to healing our environment with an expanded wildflower program, this year selling seedlings at the Spring Fair and also offering of milkweed at Easter.

Of course, for many of us the main news of 2017 is the change in the White House. As I have often spoken from the pulpit, it is essential that as Christians we find a way to respond to the political divisions of our time constructively and with grace. No matter our own position, assuming a posture of listening, generosity and humility – words recently spoken by a wise person – will reflect the presence of a God of Love who is also Sovereign over all nations.

Lent is a season of self-examination. As we enter Lent in March it is an opportunity to recognize that while it is good and admirable to hold specific political views, none of us are privy to the whole truth. Scripture tells us God does not favor Democrats or Republicans, but the contrite heart. This year Easter may have special meaning if we keep in mind that Christ died and rose again on behalf of *all* people, to set all of us free to serve God in love. What possibilities this opens up for a healed, unified humanity! Yet this can only happen one heart at a time. The person who receives this message no longer sees hope as out there in the distance but a dawning reality.

Joining you in the journey of open ears and open hearts,  
Candy

## UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone: (631) 788-7898

Email: [fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com)

[www.fiunionchapel.org](http://www.fiunionchapel.org)

Trustee Chairperson: Louisa Evans

Deacon Chairperson: Laura Edwards

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter

Minister: Rev. Candace Whitman

Moderator: Susan Renna

☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

### CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS

Monday, Thursday, Friday

10:00am – 1:00 pm

Tuesday – 10:00am – noon

Closed other days

☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

### UPDATE FROM OUR TREASURER

The fiscal health of Union Chapel remains strong. Although operating expenses have continued to climb, the Church has managed not to dip into reserves thanks to the generous support of the Fishers Island community. In fact, we have been able to accomplish some long overdue maintenance projects such as painting the exterior of the church. This year we plan on making some improvements to the heating system at the church as well as replacing the windows in the parsonage. The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their support of Union Chapel and our role in the social well-being of our Island community.

- David C. Burnham, Treasurer

## THANK YOU FOR OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR FLOWERS AND SOCIAL HOUR FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY

### SOCIAL HOUR:

Anita Fritze

Sharon Patterson

Candy Whitman

Michele Klimczak

Fran Roethgen

Diane Dexter

Laura Edwards

### FLOWERS:

Laura Edwards

Michele Klimczak

Christmas Flower donations (see separate page)

Ellen Parker

## 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.

### November:

In Memory of Anne Tehan given by Mary Horn

### December

For surgery to good health for Barbara Hoch given by Constance White

In Honor of Frank Burr given by Grace, Frank, Jr., Andrew, Allison and Matthew

In Memory of M. Schutz given by the Schutz Family

In Memory of Sue Barlow Rogan given by Peter W. Rogan

In Honor of Melen Zito given by the Linda, Rob, Abby and Reed Noyes

In Memory of Scott Lamb given by Jane and Lew Lamb

### LIGHT THE STEEPLE FORM

In Honor of or In Memory of (circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

For the week of \_\_\_\_\_

## OPEN BOOK GROUP READS

### *Consequence: A Memoir* by Eric Fair

This spring our group is gathering around the riveting memoir of Eric Fair, a former Iraqi interrogator who openly shares his deep conflicts about his service to his country. As a man of faith, Fair's self-searching confessional leads us to consider the nature of forgiveness and how it can be experienced – or not. *The New York Times* calls the book “candid and chilling.” All are welcome to join us. Our discussion of the book will take place **Saturday, March 18 at 10 am** at the parsonage. For copies, call the church office, or check at the FI Library.



**“SPRING AHEAD” next month! Set clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Daylight Savings ends Sunday, November 5 at 2am.**



## FAMILY FUN DURING DINNER AND A MOVIE!

The church was excited to host a packed house on Friday, January 27 when the community came out for Amy Harris' delicious chili dinner and fixin's! The children enjoyed the oldie but goodie “The Adventures of Milo and Otis,” in the sanctu-theatre. The parents for the most part had a chance to relax and catch up over dessert, while the children made brownie runs and explored the folding door latch between the rooms. Thank you, Amy, and all who made it a success!



## THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Mary and Vi will be returning to the island soon and the shop will open. How can you help?  
**VOLUNTEER AT THE SHOP**

## 2017 CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL (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 second Monday
- Senior Lunch – noon - third Thursday

## Special Events

### Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7 pm.  
Fee: Bring a special pancake topping, and a can for the Pawcatuck Pantry.

### Lenten Soup Dinner and Stories in Art

Wednesday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm



### Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Maundy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, Dinner and Tenebrae service  
Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
*Check back for specific service times.*

### **Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

Interdenominational Sunrise Service, Dock Beach and Easter Sunday Worship, 10:00 am with Glenn Orkney, Organist  
⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

## Save The Dates

**GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT** to benefit the Island churches. Sunday, May 21, 2017  
**ANNUAL SPRING FAIR:** Saturday, May 27, 2017  
Bake sale, luncheon, crafts, raffle, and other surprises!

# EASTER LILIES AND FLOWERS

It is that time of year again!



At this time of year our thoughts turn to beauty of the Easter season. In April, Union Chapel will decorate our worship space with lilies and spring flowers. 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:

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

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AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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## A SIMPLE LENTEN OBSERVANCE

(Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 1 and continues through  
Palm Sunday, April 9)

Lent is traditionally a season of penitence and reflection. The wisdom of this church season is that it provides an occasion for us to maintain spiritual vitality by allowing the Spirit to lift to our minds the ways God is active in our lives, and also identify where God's activity may not be apparent. If we detect any behavior or attitudes within us that are blocking God's work, we may then seek God's forgiveness, always on offer through Jesus Christ.

During Sunday worship in Lent we will be observing the centuries-old Prayer of Examen to help us form a habit of healthy self-reflection. The Prayer includes three questions: "Where have I seen God at work lately in my life? Where I have I not seen God at work? And how can I do better tomorrow?" We will keep silence while we each answer these questions in our hearts, and invite God to meet us there in his love and healing power.

***MAY ALL OUR  
CHURCH  
FAMILY BE  
BLESSED WITH  
THE JOY OF  
THE  
RESURRECTION  
THIS EASTER***

## MISSIONARIES IN OUR MIDST!

People who hear a call to serve God in far-away places may seem like characters in old novels or movies. But they are actually our friends and neighbors! At Union Chapel, we have had the pleasure recently of meeting two new missionaries here on Fishers Island, and we thought you might like to know them, too. So here's a snapshot of each, plus an update on two others we already know and love!

### Abby Harris

Abby is Dirk Harris' daughter, and she works as the Area Director for Young Life in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. For over 10 years, Abby's work has been a ministry of outreach to high school students. In Johnstown, she and her team provide activities and events to encourage youth to have fun, learn skills, and participate in healthy forms of recreation. The work is for those who "love kids and love Christ." Abby finds it is a ministry of love, support, and friendship; when God opens a door, she shares her faith. This shot is of Abby (front row, left) and her happy charges!



### Cory Anderson

I first met Cory when he was working for the summer at The Bike Shop. I had the privilege of hearing the dramatic story of how God came into his life, and about time he has spent in places like Haiti and Belize working in disaster relief as well as building up churches – literally and spiritually. On Labor Day weekend, Cory gave the sermon at Union Chapel and shared about times when God has put it on his heart to care for people needing protection from drug dealers – and ministered to the drug dealers also. He is now settling full time on the island. Welcome, Cory!

### Dr. Barbara Hoch

Dr. Barb hardly needs an introduction, but if you haven't heard any of Barb's stories about her service with Wycliffe Bible Translators you are in for a treat. Barb began her work in 1967 in Ecuador, and then in 1970 went to Bolivia for 10 years. She pursued a Ph.D. upon returning home and earned her degree in 1984. She had many adventures working with the tribes, opening schools, and surviving in the Amazon. Right now Barb is almost fully recovered from hip surgery. We look forward to having her back at church on Sundays.



(Continued)

## MISSIONARIES IN OUR MIDST! (Continued)

### Little Pebbles



Last fall Union Chapel was privileged to support Little Pebbles ministry to orphans in Guatemala by collecting new socks and underwear for the children. Islanders Yaritza Gello and Verena Brooks recently sent all the donations, and ensured that they arrived safely (corruption in Guatemala often prevents packages reaching their destination). The children pictured here are part of Casa Bernabé, a wonderful Christian orphanage where 130 children live in home-like settings with two parental residents for each group of children. The orphanage is a refuge from gang warfare and drug violence.



Little Pebbles is now a 501c(3) organization, and Yaritza and Verena are joyfully doing God's work, following the prompting of the Spirit to now offer a sewing training program for teenagers and widows. The trainees will have skills to earn a living. We are so excited about how these two missionaries making such a difference in another part of the world!

#### Here are some of the places and programs Union Chapel supports through our giving:

Hospital Albert Schweitzer Haiti	Safe Futures
Katherine and Edwin Horning Scholarship	United Church of Christ
Lawrence and Memorial Chaplaincy	Wounded Warrior (New London area)
Little Pebbles	Wycliffe Translators
New London Meal Center	Yale Divinity School
Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center	
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	

### *Wild for Wildflowers!*

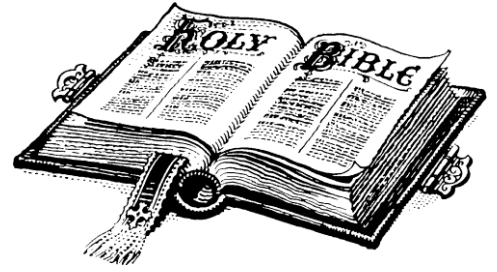
Based on popularity of this initiative last spring, the church plans again to grow seedlings of native species and provide them to the community on a donation basis. Our church school will be doing much of the planting and watching! Specifically, we will offer milkweed (the essential food for the declining monarch butterfly population), assorted wildflowers call "Bee Feed," and other beautiful wildflowers. We thank Jeff Edwards and Race Rock in advance for helping our children grow and plant the seeds in the greenhouse.



When to pick up your flowers? We will have our table again at the spring fair, and depending on growth rates, some may be available as early as Easter Sunday!

## Why Some are Big on Bible Study

Christianity recognizes the scriptures a key source for learning about Jesus. And taken as a whole, the Bible - in our tradition - is the way we understand God and God's relationship with the world. Some in our congregation are finding that a weekly Bible study awakens them to truths that makes the claims of Christianity clearer, which helps set a foundation for deeper faith. Here are some comments from group members reflecting on the value of Bible study:



“Bible study fills you in about the people you’ve heard about from childhood...it also provides depth you don’t have without discussing it.”

“I like to read many kinds of books, but the Bible is the most important thing I read. It has so much more to offer than other things I read – the way to live. It’s substantive.”

“What fascinates me is the layer of meanings, the scholarship, all the references within the passages. Our study makes it so much richer. I have always appreciated the genius in the characters of Genesis, and how the faith was passed down in Judaism. But I didn’t see how the Old Testament fits into the New Testament, things like that. Verses and Voices and the Monday Bible study are helping put that together for me – the evolving history up to Christ.”

“I enjoy the fellowship and hearing what others say about what they get out of it. You get so much more than on your own.”

“Bible study gives me a lot of perspective, for example, what has brought us to today? ...Americans have a short memory. But the Bible makes connections way back, connecting Christ to the line of David.”

*Bible Study Opportunities at Union Chapel: Verses and Voices meets immediately after coffee hour on Sunday to discuss the text that will be used for the sermon the following week. There is also a longer study on Mondays at 3:00 pm at the parsonage. All are welcome, and additional times can be arranged upon request of a small group!*

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*The congregation of Union Chapel joins the Island in mourning  
the passing of Alfred Richard (“Dick”) Grebe  
(July 6, 1944- February 9, 2017)*

*We send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his family and friends.*

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**CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS 2016**

**In Memory of Scott Lamb  
Given by Jane and Lew Lamb**

**In Honor of Merritt, Nate, Emily, Charlotte  
In Memory of Nancy Gerry and Harris Parsons  
In Celebration of Reverend Nina  
Given by the Brinckerhoffs**

**In Memory of my beautiful sister, Marcia  
Given by Laura Edwards**

**In Memory and Honor of my loving family  
Given by Diane Dawson Dexter**

**In Memory of Otis and Aurelia Horn  
Given by Luis and Sue Horn**

**In Memory of Brad and Anne Burnham  
And Lee and Martha Ferguson  
Given by David and Heather Burnham**

**In Memory of Janet Faith and Peter W. Rogan  
Given by David and Susan Rogan**

**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 Meredith Moody and Lisa Reed  
Given by Sarah Porter and Family**

**In Memory of Lucille and Phillip Edwards  
And Lois and Peter Derderian  
Given by Vi and Don Meyer and Family**

**In Memory of Harold, Steven, Casey,  
Keeping you three in our hearts always!  
Given by Jan Cook and Family**

**In Memory of Marie and Frank Burr,  
Hilda and Clarence Edwards  
And all the wonderful people  
who attend Union Chapel  
Given by Grace and Frank Burr**

**In Memory of Dr. Charles I. Whitman  
Given by Candace Whitman**

**In Memory of Samuel D. Parkinson,  
William W. Parkinson, Paul R. Evans,  
Paul G. Evans and Katharine R. Townsend  
Given by Bob and Louisa Evans and Family**

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

**In Celebration of Candace Whitman  
Given by Virginia and Thor Thors**

**In Memory of Grayson and Mary Murphy  
And Gunther Fritze  
Given by Anita Fritze**

**In Celebration of our Grandchildren  
Lucy, Harris and Gus Schwab  
And Reese and Harry Spofford  
Given by John and Melie Spofford**

**In Honor of Frank and Grace Burr  
Given by Bagley Reid**

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

**In Memory of Peter T. Cook  
Given by Steve and Cinnie Cook**