

## FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

## CHAPEL HAPPENINGS

### FALL 2017

Dear Friends,

The past few days have been beautiful here on Fishers Island. We are enjoying what I call the golden days of early fall, when the air is bright and mild, and the leaves glow in the late afternoon sun. Yet we are aware and concerned for what the weather has done in other parts of our country. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria wreaked havoc in so many communities, places we have visited or where we have homes, or friends and family. We grieve with them, and have responded through the Emergency Fund of the UCC along with prayers for rebuilding.

Adding to our unease is also the sense of turbulence in our political climate. We wonder how to express our faith when the issues loom so large. What can we do? We can remember that God's eternal purpose for the church - to shine the light and hope of Christ - is unchanging. We can reconfirm our trust that when we unite in our resolve to be the people of God in all circumstances, that hope and light come through.

I invite you to consider the words of this benediction from the *UCC Book of Worship*. I've actually heard it in many different churches, and I find it stirring and inspiring. It is a charge to all people whose hearts and hands are ready to answer the call and make a difference. Our actions might not be on a big stage but in our own families, neighborhoods, and communities, there is always an opening for someone to address issues in Christ's way, as this benediction bids us do:

*Go forth into the world  
To serve God with gladness;  
Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;  
Render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;  
Support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;  
Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

May we find joy and peace as God draws us further into his heart as we serve those in need - our neighbors, near and far.

In Christ,  
Candy

## UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

New email: [fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com)

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

Minister: Rev. Candace Whitman

[candy@fiunionchapel.org](mailto:candy@fiunionchapel.org)

Moderator: Susan Renna

Trustee Chairperson: Louisa Evans

Deacon Chairperson: Laura Edwards

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter

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



### CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS

Monday, Thursday, Friday

10:00am – 1 pm

Tuesday – 10:00am – noon

Closed all other days



## THANK YOU

## TO OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR FLOWERS AND SOCIAL HOUR

**JUNE – AUGUST 2017**

### SOCIAL HOUR:

Diane Dexter

Sharon Patterson

Victoria Klimczak

Laura Edwards

Susie Renna

Anita Fritze

Michele Klimczak

Eleana Spinola

The Deacons

Fran Roethgen

### FLOWERS:

Ellen Parker

Michele Klimczak

Susie Renna

Kim Campbell

Laura Edwards

Nirapa Horning

Susie Ferguson



**COME TO OUR “FUN-RAISER”...**

## THE FALL FAIR!

**Saturday, October 7**

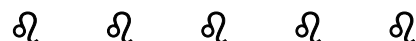
**10 am - 1 pm**



Planning for our Annual Fall Fair is underway!

Thank you to Mary Pankiewicz, our deacons, bakers, and volunteers who once again are hard at work to make this a great fun- and fund-raiser for our church.

Come and enjoy a delicious **chili dog lunch**, shop at the **craft tables** or **home-baked goods**. The **raffle** table will feature a colorful quilt for children by Laura Edwards and a bountiful gift basket by Jan Cook.



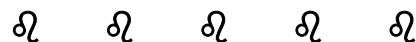
## Friendly Reminder

**Donate your old eyeglasses**

in the basket in the

Fellowship Room.

Thank you!



**COME TO CHURCH NOW  
and miss the  
Christmas rush!**

From “Now Open Sundays”  
by Rev. Paul Sinclair

# NEWS BRIEFS

## THANK YOU TO THE FISHERS ISLAND THREE CHURCHES CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT 2017



This year the Churches' Golf Classic enjoyed a good turn out under blue May skies. Once again we appreciate so much our sponsors, as well as the efforts of our Chair Laurie Finan, and our Committee members Gail Cypherd, Diane Dexter, Matt Edwards, Dirk Harris, John Klimczak, Emily Peabody, Joe Rogan, and Matt Skinner who helped make the Tournament a success. We received \$12,000 from the proceeds.

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### Miss Pauly sends greetings

...and we send our blessings and best wishes to Eleonore Pauly, now living in a lovely apartment in Waterford! If you wish to write her, you may reach her at

Eleonore Pauly  
AHEPA 250-2  
95 Clark Lane  
Waterford, CT 06385



### New Selection for The Open Book Group: *Tribe*

Church and community will be invited again this fall to join us our next book, *The New York Times*' bestseller *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* by Sebastian Junger. Stay tuned for the date for our discussion. Booklist writes that "Junger uses every word in this slim volume to make a passionate, compelling case for a more egalitarian society."

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COME EARLY

TO ENSURE A BACK  
SEAT!

SUNDAYS 10AM

From "Now Open Sundays"  
by Rev. Paul Sinclair

### *Looking ahead to December*

**Sunday, Dec. 3**

Joining Library-Chapel Christmas Story time

**Friday, Dec. 15**

Piano Recital by students of Kapri Thomas

## 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.

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## 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

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## THE STEEPLE WAS LIT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

### May:

In Memory of Timothy J. Rogan

Given by David Rogan

In Honor of Ken and Cookie Edwards

60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Given by their children and grandchildren

### July:

In Memory of Melanie Rae Petti

Given by her mother Peggy Elliott

### August:

In memory of Lady Barbara Gorham and Catherine  
Leslie

Given by Jean M. Leuchtenburg

## More Community Dinners! Yum!



### Friday, October 13

Union Chapel and FI Library

Community Dinner 6 pm, Bingo Night 7 pm

### Friday, November 10

Community Dinner

With Collection of items for  
Operation Christmas Child

**Details to follow!**

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## Our regular monthly events include...

Communion Sunday - 10 am - first Sunday

Ladies' Potluck Luncheon – noon - first Monday

Bible Study – Wednesdays, 5 pm, Parsonage (note  
new day and time!)

Church School – 3 pm – Wednesdays/Thursdays

Deacons' meeting – noon - second Friday

Trustees' meeting – 1 pm - second Monday

Senior Lunch – noon – third Thursday, Oct.- May

Library Book Club – 7 pm – second Thursday (at  
the Library)

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**INTERNATIONAL  
COOKBOOK COLLECTION  
AVAILABLE FOR FREE**

*Contact Candy for more information*

# SUPER SUNDAY!

## September 24 was a blessed day for Union Chapel

During our Sunday service on September 24 we had the joy of greeting five new members to our church. Each has already been a strong part of our community – sharing their presence, gifts, and prayers -- and we look forward to continuing our journey of faith together to fulfill Christ's call to serve others in this time and place.



The new members were invited up to the platform to reaffirm their baptism and affirm their desire to join hands with our congregation, after which Laura Edwards, head deacon, led us in a warm welcome. From Left: John Klimczak, Nick Klimczak, Michele Klimczak, Fran Roethgen and Steve Cook (joining as an associate member). At right, Candy addresses the congregation.



### Rededication of our Building

During the service we also re-dedicated our building on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was in September of 1967 that the congregation first worshipped in the new chapel, and so Sarah Porter read the poem her father had written about Union Chapel. It reflected our tender feelings for this church “by the roadside near the village” – “a home for you and me.”

The trustees have seen fit to make some repairs and upgrades to our lovely but aging space so that we can continue to be a welcoming place for worship, church school, and community events. We are spiffing up floors around the building, and soon new windows will be installed in the chapel and the heating system will be repaired to provide heat once again in the offices and food resource room.

### Hellos and Goodbyes

That same Sunday our Moderator Susie Renna convened our Annual Meeting. We welcomed a new deacon, Tim Patterson, and a new Trustee, Anita Fritze. We also say goodbye to Mary Pankiewicz who is stepping down as director of the Thrift Shop. We are so grateful to Mary for her amazing energy and creativity, and the many hours she has devoted each year to this outreach ministry. Mary leaves big shoes to fill!





# SPORTS AND SPIRITUALITY

## and other ways *The Upper Room* speaks our language

The inspiration for this article came when a member told me recently how much something she had read that morning in *The Upper Room* had meant to her. The reflection that morning included these words: “Our world often praises only those who dream big and achieve ‘great’ things. But then there are those who work in smaller ways with their God-given gifts to touch our lives and make them better. In today’s restless world that’s a challenge for us all.”



So many faithful people feel God is calling them to serve in humble, behind-the-scenes ways – but ways that are significant none the less. It seems to me that although *The Upper Room* devotional is read worldwide and has been translated into 33 languages – it “speaks our language” spiritually. Written by lay people and readers, the entries for each day deal with God’s love meeting ordinary people in extraordinary ways. It helps me to see everyday occurrences in a new light – similar to the way Jesus taught using images and situations that his hearers would understand easily –examples from farming, business, and the household.

For those of us who are sports-minded, many of the daily readings lift up lessons about God from the world of athletics. Doug Wilson from New York wrote about how he went out on a weekend morning to run, only to find the air already hot and humid. He didn’t think he could train as he had planned. But he kept going, and noticed for the first time the row of sugar maple trees that arched over the road he was running on. The shade helped him complete his workout well. Psalm 121:5-6 came to mind: “The LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day.” He was very thankful for experiencing God so personally that day.

Another reader, Deanne Ruedemann from Texas, wrote about how she and her husband went to watch their son play in the state championship basketball game. They were so proud of him as he made all of his free throws time after time, seemingly effortlessly. His team won the championship and their son was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament. But his mother knew that it wasn’t just luck that had enabled him to play so well under pressure. “For the last three years, he had spent hours in the gym – almost daily and often alone – standing at the free throw line, practicing these important shots,” she explained. The writer went on to say that her own spiritual practice of daily Bible reading and prayer has helped her prepare for challenges in her life – and has helped her face life’s problems and pressures with greater trust in God.

The verse for that day was from Hebrews 12:1-4: “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Even the writer of Hebrews 2,000 years ago was drawing on an example from athletics to encourage his readers to maintain their trust in God!

*Free issues of the Upper Room are available at Union Chapel. Each daily reading contains scriptures and personal stories or reflections. Reading it month to month provides an array of views regarding God’s love and signs of God’s work in our lives.*

# Welcome to Church School!

## New People, New Programs!



We are delighted to have with us Yaritza Gello to teach church school this year. Yaritza (“Chi Chi”) will be working with the younger group (K-1), teaching them about God’s love through Bible verses, music, prayer, and activities. Chi Chi is well qualified for this position as she has a BA from Trinity College of the Bible and Trinity Theological Seminary, and loves to teach.



This year the younger and older groups (grades 4-6 and friends, led by Candy) will both meet on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00 pm. This new schedule will permit us to have a brief worship service in the sanctuary and then go to separate rooms for our lessons.

The older children will be engaging in hands-on projects focused on helping others either nearby or in other parts of the world, as well as continuing to learn stories and verses from the Bible, talking about faith, and prayer. They will meet fewer times per month, but meet until 4:30 in order to complete their projects.

We thank Leslie Tombari who will be assisting Chi Chi with the young children. Candy is seeking people able to assist on Wednesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. It will be fun! Please contact Candy if you are available to help on October 4, 11, 25; November 1 or 15; or Dec 6 or 13.



## HOT SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS!



In July, West Coast artist **Sukey Bryan** (Barry and Miggie's daughter) allowed us to display her two "Sky Banners" in the sanctuary. These canvases show beautiful blue skies, the kind Sukey would observe at her home in California during the drought. So while they show stunning views of skies, they are also reminders of our dependence upon the environment, and of our roles as stewards. We are grateful to Sukey for sharing these thoughtful and beautiful works with us.

**Beach Church** was held Sundays in July and August at 8 am at Dock Beach. This nature-based service was enjoyed by regularly Chapelites as well as other Islanders.



**Rev. Dr. Tom Clough**, Eastern Regional Minister of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC, preached on August 20 and then met with leaders and members to see how we are doing one year after the Holy Cow survey conducted in 2016. Tom is center in the photo, in a light blue shirt next to Louisa. With his humor and good questions, Tom helped us gain insights about our church and had us thinking about the kinds of new ministries we might consider.



On Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, "**Magic Choir**" often mysteriously appeared mornings to grace our worship with their beautiful voices. Thank you, all!