
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."



Spring Ahead! 2018

Dear church family,

With Holy Week and Easter on the horizon, I am reminded of something that happened to me last summer. It was a Wednesday in late June, and I was taking a break to do a little overdue clean up in the beds around the parsonage so I could plant impatiens.

I grabbed my garden gloves and began to weed. Blending in to the rocks and soil were some paint chips and pieces of shingle (debris from when the wonderful new windows were installed). I gathered them and tossed them out. But then I saw a long nail, lying against the tender plants. Then I saw another, and another. I gingerly placed them just inside the sliding doors on my kitchen table until I could figure out what to do with them.

Now here's the thing: earlier that week I felt God was letting me know – and this kind of thing doesn't happen very often to me – that I was going to receive a great gift from God on Wednesday. It came with a sense of certainty, but I've learned that whenever I "hear" such things to hold them lightly. I had kind of forgotten about it, but that afternoon, when I was back in the house, I went into the kitchen and my eyes took in afresh the three nails on the table. Instantly I knew this was the great gift: the reminder of Jesus on the cross. And as soon as that hideous event came before my mind, I was reminded also that that terrible day was not the end of the story.

No one at Calvary that day knew what was going to happen – that three days later, Jesus would be alive.

At this writing our country is experiencing a kind of Good Friday – the loss of innocent life in mass shootings. And while we do not dismiss the effect of losing a loved one, Christians offer hope in the darkness because this is not the end of the story. Good Friday gave way to Easter. Our faith is based on evidence that there is something at work in the world that cannot be thwarted by the world – God's grace. Jesus is risen, and in Him we have forgiveness that enables us all to live fully in God's image as God intended. No matter what.

This spring I will be puttering around the garden again. I will marvel at nature's beauty and God's care of living things. But I will also be reminded of the nails that stood out that day. I will remember that first Good Friday was meant to stand out as an interruption to our way of life, the way God brought real hope to suffering humanity.

With blessings for a joyous Easter,

Candy

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

New email: fichapel1@gmail.com

www.fiunionchapel.org

Minister: Rev. Candace Whitman

candy@fiunionnchapel.org

Moderator: Susan Renna

Trustee Chairperson: Louisa Evans

Deacon Chairperson: Laura Edwards

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter

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 JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2018

SOCIAL HOUR:

Anita Fritze

Sharon Patterson

Laura Edwards

Michele Klimczak

Ellen Parker

FLOWERS:

Family of Jan Cook

Laura Edwards

Ellen Parker



For Children

How do bunnies stay healthy?

Eggercise!

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/holidayjokes/easterjokes/easteronlinersjokes.html>

Union Chapel mourns the loss of

Charlie Ferguson

who died peacefully at his home on
January 7, 2018.

May God's comfort surround his family and all of us as we remember Charlie. We are grateful for his life, his love, and for the beautiful window he created for Union Chapel. He will be greatly missed. A gathering to remember Charlie will take place on **Sunday, July 1** at the Fishers Island movie theatre.

Reduce your carbon footprint:

If you normally take a bath, take a 5 minute shower instead, or take a "shipboard shower" and turn the water on only to rinse. (The New England Regional Environmental Ministries, UCC)

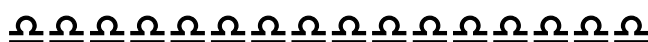


Meet our Archivist!

We are delighted to have MaryBeth Guimares working with us to organize and preserve our files. Marybeth will be spending the next few weeks sorting through documents from the church's beginnings in



1893. Stay tuned for some interesting artifacts that surface from the archives – we will feature them in future Chapel Happenings!



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:

November 2017:

In Memory of Augustus Kinsolving

Given by the Kinsolving and Farrar families

December 2017:

In Memory of Augustus Kinsolving

Given by Ann and Barry Bannister

February 2018:

In Memory of Dick Baker

Given by a Friend

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MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FAIR!

Join us for our traditional Spring Fair on Saturday, May 26th, 2018 from 10 am until 1 pm. Lunch, crafts, raffles ...if you would like a table or can volunteer, please call Diane at 631/788-7898.

Our regular monthly events include...

Communion Sunday - 10 am - first Sunday
Ladies' Potluck Luncheon – noon - first Monday
Bible Study – Wednesdays, 5 pm, Parsonage
Church School –3 pm – Wednesdays
Deacons' meeting – noon - second Friday
Trustees' meeting – 1 pm - second Monday
Senior Lunch – noon – third Thursday
Open Book Group –throughout the year
Library Book Club – 7 pm – second Thursday (at the Library)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TITHES AND GIFTS



The trustees and deacons of Union Chapel wish to thank all our members and supporters for their generous donations toward our ministry on Fishers Island and beyond. We are grateful for your tithes and gifts as well as your prayers, and hope that you will

continue to share with us through notes and phone calls your own hopes for our church as we seek to carry out God's will for us in this time and place. So many have responded to the call to serve this church with time, treasure and talents - but Union Chapel seeks always to be a spiritual resource for our members and friends as well.

Specifics on what we have been able to – and hope to - accomplish will be included in our 2018 appeal letter. Should you wish to make a donation, checks may be made payable to Fishers Island Union Chapel and mailed to P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you!

FAITH IS LIKE Wi-Fi

It's invisible but has the power to connect you to what you need.

THRIFT SHOP: Spring Cleaning Underway!



We thank Sarah Malinowski and Fishers Island Oysters for providing the friendly crew to help us get ready for our 2018 season. During a warm February spell they came and energetically hauled items from the storage room in the parsonage basement to make way for cleaning and space for the new canopy for our courtyard (funds generously donated by the Sanger and Spofford families).

In March, the Trustees will also be organizing the clean-out of the Thrift Shop store to make it accessible for repair work and upgrades inside.

We are grateful to our community for the donations that not only help provide revenue for the church, but enable us to reuse and “recycle” gently used items. The Thrift Shop also provides an affordable shopping alternative as an outreach to the island, our visitors, and workers.



REMINDER! Spring ahead March 10!

Set clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep. Daylight Savings Time begins!

Thrift donations are welcome over the winter!

Please use the weatherproof bin outside the shop for any donations you may have in the off season. (Thank you, Louisa Evans for monitoring the bin and bringing things inside.) Please continue to save egg cartons for golf ball sales, paper bags with handles, and empty metal coffee cans. Cleaning supplies -- Windex, comet, etc. -- are also useful.

Thank you so much, Mary, for the years of dedication.

ART FOR THE HEART

A Lenten Supper and Conversation on Art



Our popular Lenten program returns on **Wednesday, February 28!** All are welcome at this event, which includes a Lenten supper (soup, bread, and dessert) at 6:00 pm followed by a conversation on art pertaining to Holy Week.

Candy will lead the discussion, focusing on each artist's interpretations of the themes and events of the last week of Jesus' life. This gathering welcomes those who aren't experts in art but are seeking a more meaningful Holy Week.



The Promise of Lent

What a challenging season Lent is! As a time for penitence, it asks us to be more disciplined in our prayers, to make time for self-examination, and even give up something we enjoy in order to make more room for God in our lives. What is the reward of such a demanding observance?

There is a great promise in Lent, if as we recognize our faults and failings we at the same time recognize God's grace for these shortcomings is assured. God desires to strengthen and heal us, and the church in its wisdom provides this annual season for us to bring our weaker selves before God for the healing process to begin. Our Lenten practice helps us make forgiveness real, and enables us to walk in this great gift that enables us to look to the future that is not determined any longer by our past.

In our Lenten devotional this year -- *Forgiveness* by Marjorie Thompson – we have clear guidance for this discipline. Don't let the simple title fool you – *Forgiveness* is an insightful, respectful exploration of the many aspects of forgiveness that create both struggle and triumph. However, only through forgiveness does our faith truly offer the promise of new beginnings: As Thompson writes, "Forgiveness is the fountain from which new life flows in a wounded, strife-weary world."



The promise of Lent is fulfilled the more we are willing to engage in honesty before God. Scripture promises that in surrendering we gain. *Repent therefore and turn*

to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...."- (Acts 3:19). May each of us experience Easter afresh this year with the new life Lent makes possible. .

Fishers Island Union Chapel

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday Observance, 10 am

Thursday, March 29

Seder Meal and Prayers, 6:00 pm

Good Friday Service, 12:00 – 12:30 pm

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service, Dock Beach 6:15 am

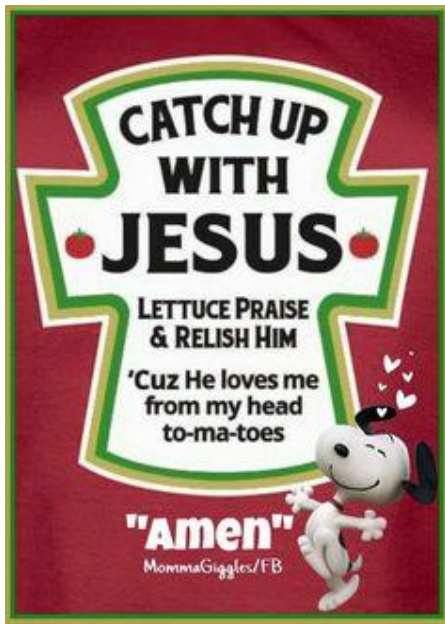
Traditional Worship, Chapel, 10 am



Dock beach at dawn. See you there April 1!

Union Chapel mourns the loss of our beloved, long time member Jan Cook. She was a pillar of the community and true friend to so many of us. We pray God's comfort for the Cook Family and Jan's close friends in the coming months.

In loving memory
JEANNETTE COLLINS COOK
January 7, 1936-December 1, 2017



(from www.printerest.com)

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

DELICIOUS DINNERS
WARM OUR WINTER



Hearty dinners served up by Amy Harris and crew are blessing our community with evenings of delicious food and a time to catch up with folks we haven't seen in a while. Taco night was a big hit! Thank you, Amy, for sharing your gifts with us and taking the initiative with this important outreach to our winter community. Meals are free of charge but donations are gratefully received.

Stay Tuned! More community meals are planned for March.

*God is love, and those who abide in love
abide in God, and God abides in them.*

- I John 4:16b

~~~~~ CARING FOR GOD'S EARTH

In January during Church-in-the-Round our congregation discussed ways we could commit to preserving our environment – land, sea, and sky. We learned about and discussed simple changes in our everyday habits that would help us fulfill the biblical mandate to care for creation. Among the ideas discussed, here are some our members committed to wholeheartedly:

- 1. Unplug appliances when not in use.** They still draw current!
- 2. Make sure your tires are properly inflated.** Underinflated tires waste 1.2 billion gallons of gas per year in the U.S.
- 3. Eat species of fish that aren't threatened – be sustainable in your selections.** For more info, visit www.oceana.org.



AND....are you on our email list? Help us be **GREEN** by saving paper and power by sending you Chapel Happenings each quarter by email. You'll see it in color, too! Email Diane

at the church office to get on our e-list:

fichapell@gmail.com. Thank you!



EXPANDING MISSIONS

Opening our hearts wider to God's work near and far

Union Chapel continues to expand its missions budget to spread God's love deeper and wider. It is exciting to learn of the amazing ways Christians are making a difference in places and with people we would not ordinarily have the privilege of serving. Below is a brief description of three first-time projects for Union Chapel, followed by the other

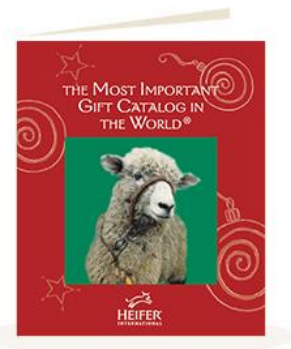
organizations we wholeheartedly continue to support and celebrate for the care they extend for others spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

GHANA: Building a Maternity Ward

This year we are providing financial support toward a maternity ward for a hospital located in Dzemeni, Ghana. Dzemeni is a rural fishing town on the banks of Lake Volta. People travel great distances to go to its market and, while there, take advantage of the medical clinic. It provides basic screening and medical care for all in need. Currently, at least four births occur there every day, and mothers and babies share one very small recovery room. However, a larger, better equipped birthing facility onsite is needed to improve the level of care for mothers and children. In addition, a better facility will attract specialists so that in difficult cases mothers will not need to be referred to the closest hospital, which is 90 minutes away over rough roads. The project is being spearheaded through First Presbyterian Church in Fairfield, CT, in partnership with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana.

Heifer International

A special Christmas offering in December raised funds for Heifer International. This organization provides livestock to families in need around the world so they have a way to make a living. Since their inception over 70 years ago, Heifer International has helped more than 31 million families. They are currently working in more than 25 countries.



We asked that our donation purchase a share of heifer, a flock of chicks, a flock of ducks, one goat and one pig. We are grateful to those who participated in this drive to make this meaningful assistance possible.

(Continued)

New London Urban Outreach, First Congregational Church

To many islanders it is not news that there are homeless people in New London and surrounding areas. The New London Urban Outreach Program is a new ministry of First Congregational Church in New London with the goal of building relationships across differences of economic status, culture, and race.. They specifically aim, among other things, to put a human face on the issue of homelessness and break down stereotypes of what it means to be homeless. This initiative is helping homeless people feel valued for the beloved children of God that they are.

Our ongoing support to the following organizations is intended to offer in Christ's name help, hope, and healing::

Lawrence and Memorial Chaplaincy; Safe Harbor; Wounded Warrior (New London Area); New London Meal Center, the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, Wycliffe Translators, Yale Divinity School, Young Life Johnstown, PA, and the wide-ranging missions and ministries of the Connecticut UCC. As always, each year we take great pleasure in bestowing support upon a graduating Fishers Island high school student through the Katherine and Edwin Horning Scholarship.

EASTER FLOWERS



Help us decorate our sanctuary for the Easter season!

To contribute toward lilies and other spring flowers, 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 address is F.I. Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you!

GIVEN BY: _____

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

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION: _____

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as one of these.” (Matthew 6:28-9)