
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."



SUMMER'S COMING! 2018

Dear Friends,

In a few weeks I am taking an Armenian Pilgrimage. It is a tour designed for Americans of Armenian descent, and we will visit sites in Turkey where Armenians have lived for centuries, speaking their own language, practicing their culture and their religion - Christianity. (Many Armenians live well outside the country of Armenia proper.) Some of the places will overlap with areas mentioned in the Bible – Cilicia, for example. I can't wait to share my experience when I return. Don't worry, I will limit the photos!

The *hajj* is the pilgrimage Muslims make at least once in their life to Mecca. Some people make the long trip to Lourdes in France in search of healing. Pilgrimages usually involve journeying to a sacred place, going on faith, anticipating an encounter with the holy.

The truth of spiritual journeys is that we actually do not always need to have a geographic change to have that encounter with the holy. As we enter into another summer season on Fishers, as we spend time in this familiar place, our spiritual journeys need not go on hold. An encounter with the holy can happen in a bustling, busy kitchen or sailing a soft breeze at sunset. It can happen in a new friendship or reconnecting with an old one.

Ever since God called Abraham to follow him into the unknown, Christians have been called to embark on journeys that require us to trust God as a companion and guide in all circumstances. It is God's grace that we can never be separated from God's presence or purpose, no matter where we are.

As this newsletter arrives Pentecost is in the air. This exciting holiday is a reminder that Christianity is about movement – our being led to new places, internally and externally. The Holy Spirit is to be welcomed as that wind that blows us toward wholeness, toward peace and toward the conviction that no matter where we are, we are free to breathe in and out the love that is God's for us and for the world.

As your fellow traveler in Christ, I will be praying for your journeys this summer, and that faith grows and flourishes amidst the warmth and sunshine on our beautiful Fishers Island.

Blessings,

Candy

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

New email: fichapel1@gmail.com

www.fiunionchapel.org

Minister: Rev. Candace Whitman

candy@fiunionchapel.org

www.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



THANK YOU

TO OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR FLOWERS AND SOCIAL HOUR

APRIL

SOCIAL HOUR:

Anita Fritze

Virginia Thors

Sharon Patterson

Laura Edwards

Candy Whitman

Michele Klimczak

Louisa Evans

Ellen Parker

Diane Dexter

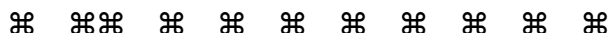
FLOWERS:

Virginia Thors

Laura Edwards

Ellen Parker

Easter Flowers



FOR LAUGHS

On Easter Sunday as the pastor was preaching, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?" "I know, I know!" a little boy exclaimed,

"panty hose!"

- www.swapmeetdave.com

UPDATE FROM OUR TRUSTEES

We are grateful to report that 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. This year we are pleased to have completed a number of long overdue maintenance issues, and we plan to continue to make improvements to both church and parsonage to help us continue a vital presence and ministry on Fishers Island. On behalf of the Trustees, thanks to all for their support of this church and our role in the social and spiritual well-being of our Island community.

CALENDAR

Regular Monthly Events

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)



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.



Beach church will resume Sundays, 8:00 am Dock Beach in July and August (exact dates to come)

LIGHT THE STEEPLE MINISTRY

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:

April :

In Memory of Art and Rosemary Baue

Given by Barbara and Ron Casey

In Memory of Gus Kinsolving

Given by Constance White

Charlie Ferguson Memorial Service

Sunday, July 1, Movie Theatre

1:00 pm

Reception Following at the Community Center

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

*Do not worry about anything, but in
everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be known to God.*



- Phil 3:4

Sermons now on line

www.fiunionchapel.org

Sermons from our Sunday services are now frequently being recorded and posted on our website, www.fiunionchapel.org (just click on the sermon tab at the top.) You will find many of Candy's recent sermons as well those of members and guests.

If you weren't here to hear it on New Year's Eve day 2017 — please listen to Michele Klimczak's testimony of her husband John's medical miracle.



On April 29, our guest preacher was Rev. Joan Cooper Burnett, a nationally sought-after preacher, retreat leader, lecturer at Yale, and chaplain at York Correctional Facility in Niantic. Her message was on Acts 8:26-40, where in the first months of the church, Philip is called by an angel to travel some distance and share the gospel with an Ethiopian eunuch. Her theme was "Get up and go!" which echoes the rousing words of the angel to Philip.

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## TIME TO VOLUNTEER AT THE THRIFT SHOP?

Summer is almost here and doors will open soon at the ever-popular Thrift Shop. Thanks to Louisa Evans, Sarah Malinowski and other helpers, the space has been sorted and cleaned for the new season.

We thank Mary Pankiewicz for her years of service and understand she has decided to pass the baton. Please get in touch if you have a few hours per week to help manage or work at the Thrift. It's fun and a great outreach to the community! Just call Diane at the church office: 631/788-7898. Thanks!



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THE FI CHURCHES GOLF CLASSIC

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

The 22nd Annual Fishers Island Churches Golf Classic will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018. The Fishers Island Churches Golf Classic is a golf tournament held for the benefit of the three Island churches, and is supported by the community through donations of time, gifts, tee sponsorships, auction items and tournament proceeds. Last year



all three Island churches received \$12,000.00 each thanks to the hard work of the committee.

Golfers come from all over to play in this prestigious event held on the Fishers Island Club golf course. The day's events include a BBQ before the tournament, 18 holes of golf competition, awards ceremony after the tournament at The Pequot and dinner available for purchase. The final chance to bid on auction items will be held live at the Pequot after the tournament. Proxies for on-line bidders available, see website for more details.

Even if you are not a golfer you can help by:

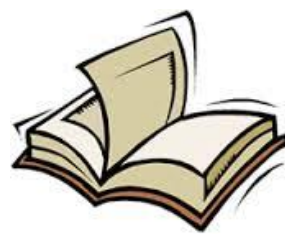
- Buying raffle tickets. Prizes include 4 tickets to the Yankees/Red Sox game, Fishers Island Oysters, \$200 landscaping gift certificate, Massage by Healing Hands, Flowering tree planted on island, Fuel gift certificate, Dinner for 4 at the Pequot Inn, plus more.
- Bid on auction items. Go on line to www.fichurchesclassic.com, and click on "Go To Online Auction" to bid. Items include: Tournament Teams (5 players) to play in the May 20th tournament; Home Garbage Pickup for 2018; A Private Tour of the Intrepid for six; 2 Group sessions at Tiggy's Health Studio, an Overnight Stay and Dinner for 2 at the Spicer Mansion, and (4) Yankees box seat tickets next to the Yankees dugout. And more to come!
- Donate an auction item or supply prizes for the event.
- Become a sponsor with a financial donation made out to the FI Churches Golf Tournament and sent to P.O. Box 625, Fishers Island, NY 06390.

- Make a donation to the newly established Charlie Ferguson Award, a permanent plaque with the names of winning team players. This plaque will be on display at the Community Center and will be updated each year. Please make your check out to the FI Churches Golf Classic Tournament with "Charlie Ferguson" on the memo line.
- Volunteer to sell raffle tickets.
- Volunteer at the tournament itself.

If there are any questions, contact any committee member: Laurie Finan, Joe Rogan, Gail Cypherd, Diane Dexter, Matt Edwards, Dirk Harris, John Klimczak and Ace Aherns. Contact Laurie at 860-803-2963 if you can help.



Open Book Group Forays into Topic of Racism



Our readers are very moved by our upcoming read: Debby Irving's *Waking Up White*, and *Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. In this stirring autobiographical work, Irving writes of how her WASP background led her to take her white privilege for granted, blinding her to the racism in herself, and the injustices of our social and legal system. As she wakes up to the inequality she illuminates what is necessary for healing and change. Join us! We'll meet Saturday, May 19, 11 am at the parsonage.

Wallace Calney Memorial Service

Saturday, June 16, 11:30 am
Union Chapel
Reception following

CHURCH SCHOOL:

Completing a year with new teachers, new approaches

Laura Edwards is a hard act to follow, but this year Yaritza Gello and Candy enjoyed leading our Christian education program on Wednesday afternoons with two groups of children, one K-1 and the other grade 3 and up. The older group, taught by Candy, has used the David Cook “graphic novel” approach to scripture lessons, focusing mostly on the life of King David and the teachings of Jesus.

In addition, our emphasis on the command to love others and care for creation has led us to do many service projects.



Recently, in honor of Earth Day, we did a clean up on the stretch from the church down to Dock Beach; we filled many bags with trash! We also with the community's help created “Care Kits” for the homeless - - handy bags with

travel-size toiletries and other useful items. Bags were available to anyone who wanted to keep one in their car to hand to a person in need; others were delivered to the New London Meal Center for their guests.

Church school with the little ones recently included the engaging journey through our



Heroes of the Bible series. The children were amazed to learn that what makes a true hero is not because of what you see on the outside – but rather what is in the inside of a person. As we studied Bible characters such as David, Daniel and Jonah, among others, the children are identifying attributes that are symbolic of greatness such as obedience to God, courage and faith.



When learning about Noah whom God instructed to build the ark according to specific instructions so that it would be strong and safe in the storm, we made paper arks, and tested them with small colored weights to make sure they were strong and sturdy.



Every lesson is accompanied by new songs and hands-on activities, often using the room across the hall when we need more space. We have so much fun when we are together learning about God's people. If you ask Alex about church school, he says, “I wouldn’t miss it for the world!”

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NEW BIBLES FOR VERSES AND VOICES

Each Sunday after our 10 am service and social hour of meeting and greeting, we have the opportunity to sit down and discuss the scripture on which the next sermon will be based. We call this time "Verses and Voices."

It is a time of learning background information about the passage, and its significance in the life of faith. Candy leads the discussion and we get a chance to share examples from our own experience, expand on ideas, offer "our take" on interpreting the message and make suggestions on how to preach from it.

Since we have a good sized group each Sunday, we have ordered and received additional large print Bibles. We will be dedicating them to the "Verses and Voices" time that has been illuminating for all of us. It also makes the next sermon more interesting!

It is fun to share ideas about the reading. You do not have to be a Biblical scholar, just come with an open mind and a desire to learn!

- Diane Dexter

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ Seven Kids to Silver Lake Camp this June!

We are thrilled to be sending six Fishers Island children to camp this summer at Silver Lake Camp and Conference Center in Sharon, Connecticut. The children will spend a week full of activities such as games, swimming, arts and crafts, as well as engaging in discussion and worship to help them grow in the Christian faith. For our Island children in particular, it is a wonderful opportunity to meet children of diverse backgrounds from Connecticut and beyond, and maintain these friendships afterwards through social media.

This experience is made possible partly through a gift of the New London Association, and we are very grateful for their generous support. Please keep our children in your prayers for a safe and happy week away!

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GET CHAPEL HAPPENINGS BY EMAIL

Help us be **GREEN** by saving paper and sending you Chapel Happenings each quarter by email. You'll see it in color, too! Email Diane at the church to get on our elist:

fichapel1@gmail.com. Thanks!



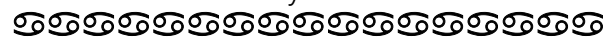
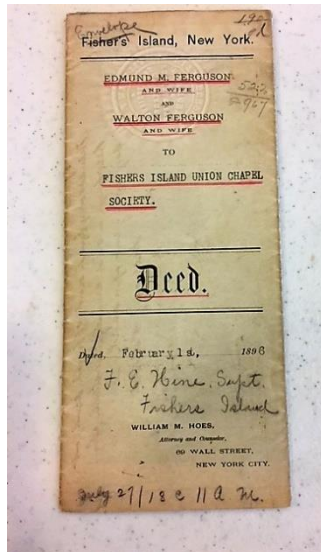
**If anyone needs an ark,
I happen to Noah guy.**

- Readers Digest

FROM THE ARCHIVES....

We are so fortunate to have MaryBeth Guimares working on organizing our files, boxes and cabinets to help catalog the contents of our church archives. It was a eureka moment when MaryBeth discovered the original deed to the property on which the first church was built. The congregation was organized in 1893, but did not have land on which to build a chapel until 1898.

The envelope containing the deed (above) reads "Edmund M. Ferguson and wife and Walton Ferguson and wife to Fishers Island Union Chapel Society." It also includes the name of the lawyer, "William M. Hoes" whose office was apparently on Wall Street in New York City.



PLEASE WELCOME OUR UPCOMING GUEST PREACHERS

While Candy is abroad we are pleased to have **The Rev. Krysia Burnham** fill our pulpit over Memorial Day weekend, and **The Rev. SaraJane Munshower** June 3 and June 10 at Union Chapel.

In 2016 Krysia was ordained as a minister in the UCC, and now serves as a full-time hospice chaplain at the VNA Hospice & Palliative Care of MA. She lives in Newton

with her husband, Stephen, and enjoys blogging about peoples' epiphanies at the end of life, a creative non-fiction project she hopes to grow into a larger work.

SaraJane is retired after twenty-six years in ministry. She has served churches in CT, PA, and NY as an interim pastor after three years as the associate in Tolland. She offers spiritual companionship/direction in her home, and is available for retreats and workshops. SaraJane and her husband, Bruce, are members of First Church in Glastonbury and have two grown children living in CT.



Tom Clough, UCC Eastern Regional Director, to retire

We recently learned that
The Rev. Dr. Thomas

Clough -- our Regional Director, mentor, guide, counselor, and friend for the past seven years -- will retire on June 30. In his letter he states that "These have been exciting and challenging times of transition for the 61 congregations of God's Favorite Region." Tom was proactive in caring for churches in our area, and brought wisdom and new strategies to help churches deal with changing times. Tom was ordained in 1981 and has served faithfully for 37 years.

Thank you, Tom, for all your support for Union Chapel! You will be missed. The Trustees are sending a donation to his retirement gift sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the UCC. We send blessings on this next chapter for Tom.

The Rev. Chuck Ericson will serve as interim Regional Minister.



EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS – 2018

In Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Grant Sanger,
Peter D. Sanger, Stephen C. Sanger
And Morgan P. Sanger
Given by Kandi Sanger

In Memory of Frank and Marie Burr
And Walter and Margaret Thompson
Given by Jan and Peter Burr

In Memory of Peter G. Bryan
Given by Miggie and Barry Bryan

In Honor of Ray Gary
Given by Prue and Mimi Gary

In Memory of Rev. Dr. Paul S. Koumrian
With much love
Given by Rev. Candace Whitman

In Memory of Charles B. Ferguson
Given by Ellen and Harry Parker

In Memory of Mom and Dad
And Marcia and Edward
Given by Laura Edwards

In Celebration of my grandchildren Lauren, Justin,
Anthony, Alexandra and Sebastian
And my great grandchildren Hailey and Ryan
Given by Diane Dawson Dexter

In Honor of the Burnham and Ferguson families
Given by David and Heather Burnham

In Honor of Merritt, Charlotte, Nate, Emily and Bryson
And in Memory of Nancy Gerry and Harris Parsons
Given by the Brinckerhoffs

In Memory of Herbert Ahlgren
Given by the McNamara family

In Memory of Meredith Moody
And Lisa Cook Reed
Given by Sarah and Geordie

In Memory of Rachel and Maxwell Porter,
Eliot and Marilyn Porter
And Charles Arnold
Given by the Arnold, Porter and Soper Families

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

In Memory of Catherine and Howard (Jim) Hancock
Given by Teri Young

In Memory of our parents and grandparents
Given by John and Melie Spofford

Given by Meredith and Peter Rugg

In Memory of Pip and Pat Sinclair
Given by Scudder and Susie Sinclair

In Memory of Melanie Petti
Given by Peggy Petti Elliott

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

In Memory of our parents Everett and Gayle Brown,
Lorraine and Harold Wagner
And my sister Dulcey Fowler
Given by Paula and Joseph Pendergast

In Memory of Charlie Ferguson
Given by Amb. and Mrs. W. L. Lyons Brown, Jr.

In Memory of Otis and Aurelia Horn
And Frank H. Handy, Jr.
Given by Luis and Sue Horn

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

In Memory of Jimmy Benkard
Given by the Benkard family

In Memory of Karl E. and Frances M. Fransson
Given by the Fransson family

In Memory of Charlie Ferguson
Given by Liz Carter, Rossie and Randy Hutcheson



April 1, 2018. Once again Union Chapel honored the meaning of the resurrection by decorating the cross with symbols of spring. This year we had the first daffodils on the Island, forsythia, tulips and carnations. Our worship service was joyous, and our sunrise service presented a small miracle as the predicted rain held off until we sang the last hymn. Throughout the service we witnessed in the east the beautiful dawn of a new day.