
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."



FALL 2018

"Let all that you do be done in love." - I Corinthians 16:14

Dear Friends in the faith,

With an election on the horizon, a quote that someone from Beach Church sent me keeps speaking to me about Christian responsibility in the public arena. I share it here (in case you didn't see it on Facebook) because the anonymous writer captures the spirit of reconciliation, love and understanding that should mark Christians in their political life.

For all of you who aren't sure, it is possible to believe in God and science. It is possible to be pro-choice and anti-abortion. It is equally possible to have privilege and be discriminated against, to be poor and have a rich life, to not have a job and still have money. It is possible to believe in sensible gun control legislation and still believe in one's right to defend one's self, family, and property; it's possible to be anti-war and pro-military. It is possible to love thy neighbor and despise his actions. It is possible to advocate Black Lives Matter and still be pro-police. It is possible to not have an education and be brilliant. It is possible to be Muslim and also suffer at the hands of terrorists. It is possible to be a non-American fighting for the American dream. It is possible to be different and the same. Let humanity and love win.

I know that many of us hold strong views about our government and who should run it – as do I. But we have to be sure that in our conversations and actions, everything we say and do reflects God's love. If we place policies over people, or label someone instead of listening, we limit our own understanding of issues. Only by tending relationships with all people do we keep alive the possibility of a strong democracy where mutually-beneficial solutions can be found to today's complex problems.

Christians are fueled by the realization that always and everywhere, the most potent change agent is love. Jesus, acting in love, could have freed Israel from Roman rule...but he chose to accomplish something far more comprehensive in his saving work. Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus liberates all the people of the world from sin and darkness, and grants each person a new day of life and light. And so to follow him is to walk in humility, in hope, and in the path of possibilities. May we Christians joyfully represent this transforming love even in polarized times....when grace is needed most.

May your fall be blessed with this grace in every way, and "Let all that you do be done in love."

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

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 MAY - JULY 2018

SOCIAL HOUR:

The Klimczak Family

Sharon Patterson

Laura Edwards

Anita Fritze

Fran Roethgen

Ellen Parker

Susie Renna

Susie Brinckerhoff

FLOWERS:

Nirapa Horning

Laura Edwards

Susie Renna

Ellen Parker

The Klimczak family

Susie Ferguson



"Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom." James 3:13b

Thank you for your support *Our 2018 Appeal*

As we look back on a full summer season, we also look ahead to the many ways our church provides much-needed "community" for our members and other islanders. In addition to Sunday worship, church school, and Bible studies, we continue to hold community suppers, movie nights, Senior Luncheons, and other events. In addition, we hope to continue the repairs and upgrades that our buildings – showing some signs of wear – have required. The Trustees wish to thank all for their support of this church and our role in the social and spiritual wellbeing of our Island community.

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:

July 2018:

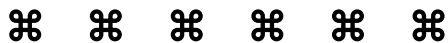
In Memory of Melanie Petti

given by Peggy Petti Elliott.

CALENDAR

Regular Monthly Events

Communion Sunday - 10 am - first Sunday
Ladies' Potluck Luncheon – noon - first Monday
Bible Study – Mondays, 3 pm, Parsonage
Church School – 3 pm – Tuesdays
Deacons' meeting – noon - second Friday
Trustees' meeting – 1 pm - second Monday
Senior Lunch – noon – third Thursday - (begins in
October and runs through May 2019)
Open Book Group – throughout the year
Library Book Club – 7 pm – second Thursday (at
the Library)



UNION CHAPEL ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

The Fishers Island Union Chapel held its Annual Meeting immediately following the 10 am worship service on September 16. We were pleased to welcome **John Klimczak** as our new trustee, filling the term until 2021. Thank you also to the deacons who provided delicious finger food for lunch. There was a raffle for environmentally-friendly prizes: A glass pyrex storage dish (glass is preferred over plastic given all the plastic in our ocean), a sturdy paper jug of Seventh Generation laundry detergent (hard to find in the supermarket, but again, a way to keep plastic jugs out of our landfills and oceans), and long-life light bulbs.



**REMINDER! Fall back on
November 4!**

Set your clocks back one hour before
you go to sleep. Daylight Savings Time ends!

ALL YOUR FAVORITES AT OUR FALL FAIR!

It's back! Our
Columbus Day
weekend fair returns
Saturday, October 6, .
10 am until 1 pm.



Please stop by and
find all your favorite foods, crafts, gift items,
raffles, and even some Christmas decorations!

If you would like a table or can volunteer, please
call Diane at 631/788-7898. Here are some
highlights:

Homemade Baked Items: Always fresh and
delicious and pies, cakes, cookies, muffins, and
more!

Lunch: Hotdogs, chili, chili dogs, Mary P's
famous baked beans, homemade potato salad and
coleslaw and maybe a surprise dessert by Mary P.

Raffles to rave about:

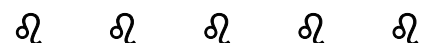
A beautiful quilt by Laura Edwards
A surprise gift basket given by Mary Pankiewicz

Christmas Shop from the Crafters: Beautiful
ornaments and gifts you will love!

And new! Coffee for your conscience



At the fair this year, we will also be
selling ethically-marketed coffee from
Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR
eliminates the middleman by selling
coffee direct to consumers, and along
with other just business strategies,
ensures that coffee farmers are paid fairly for their
beans. The coffee is delicious, too! (We tried it at
our annual meeting.) Please come by and pick up a
bag to brew at home – regular or decaf!



Continuing the Conversation about Conservation....

HELPING MONARCHS MAKE IT!

As many of you know the lifecycle of the beautiful orange and black monarch butterfly depends on a tall, thick-leaved plant called milkweed.

Unfortunately, decades of development and herbicide use have greatly decreased the natural occurrence of milkweed, and accordingly, the monarch – already facing threats from climate change and other forces – has greatly declined in numbers.

Islanders– from the Conservancy to amateur gardeners – are now on the move to help create a “way station” on Fishers for monarchs, who migrate south to Mexico from eastern North America every year. Last year our church school sold milkweed and other wildflower seedlings at our spring fair, and this summer the plants have sprung up again. Here are just a few places that are helping monarchs make a comeback.



I grow some bright orange Butterfly weed (a kind of milkweed) near my driveway, which I expect will keep coming up each summer!

Gail Utterback-Mills at the post office has turned her green thumb for some years now to wildflowers. This is her milkweed in the plot on the porch side. It loves the sunny location and grows thick and lush.



While milkweed is necessary as a place for monarchs to lay their eggs and for the larva to eat, an adult butterfly will drink the nectar from a range of flowers I recently saw when I went out to cut some zinnias for the table. A monarch was happily flitting from blossom to blossom, so I decided to just enjoy the flowers from my window.

Our member and Moderator Susie Renna grew a patch of Joe Pye Weed, which monarchs also like. Joe Pye has pretty purple flowers. According to Wikipedia, the name of the plant is a corruption of the name of a Native American sachem, who used the plant for medicinal purposes in New England during the Colonial era.



Give it a try....

I have been hearing butterfly (and chrysalis) sightings throughout the summer...and it seems it is truly easy to make your yard friendly to monarchs and pollinators. Fortunately, many islanders are waking up to the need for letting wildflowers grow in their yard. Even if they aren't as “attractive” as other garden plants...beauty seems to be in the eye of the beholder!



THANK YOU to the golfers and committee members who made possible this year's generous donation to Union Chapel from the All-Churches Golf Tournament.



ISLANDERS FOR ISLANDERS BEGINS ITS FOURTH YEAR

Initiated in 2015 as a collaboration of all the churches on Fishers, Islanders for Islanders continues its mission to provide confidential assistance to members of our year-round community with expenses for food and utilities, healthy school snacks, senior suppers, small grants to enhance job skills, and other means of support.

Earlier this year – thanks to the continuing generous support of our donors – we were able to recruit and help retain a part time, on-island counselor, Dr. Jeff White. We continue to prayerfully consider ways our funds might lend meaningful support to community life, especially during the winter months when fun activities and company is especially welcome!

Through these funds Union Chapel also maintains a small stash of non-perishable food items available to anyone in need. All requests for assistance are completely confidential. If you need a helping hand or know someone who does, please do not hesitate to call or text Candy at 203/293-5470. If you wish to make a donation, please send your check (made out to Union Chapel, with “Islanders for Islanders” in the memo line) and mail it to the church at PO Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390.

On behalf of our beneficiaries, thank you!



SERMONS NOW ON LINE

Miss a Sunday? Just click on the “sermons” tab on our website (www.fiunionchapel.org) and you’ll find recent sermons – from Candy and guest preachers.

MEET OUR NEW SEXTON

We are pleased to announce that Tim Patterson has joined our staff as part-time sexton. In his new role, Tim will do light maintenance around the building, be our liaison to contractors, and monitor building needs on Sunday mornings. Tim brings great skills, joy, and dedication to his work and we are thrilled to have him aboard.

Welcome, Tim!



NEW ON SUNDAYS! UNION CHAPEL NATURE LOG

As a way of helping us stay tuned in to the marvels of God in nature we are keeping a log most Sundays of developments around the island – a certain bush turning color, an animal sighting, birds flying overhead, changes in temperature...please share what you observe each week and bring it to worship. According to naturalist Nat Wheelwright who presented at the museum this summer, keeping a log year to year lets you track trends...plus, it's fun!



SUMMER SIZZLE AT THE THRIFT SHOP!

The Union Chapel Thrift Shop reopened a little late this season but it was a sunny day with two able children at the lemonade table! Our deepest thanks are owed to all who helped get it ready for



the season – Mary’s shoes were big shoes to fill – and we count this season’s success to

their hard work: Sarah Malinowski and crew, Louisa Evans and Susie Renna, Vi Meyer and the many other volunteers who cleaned, hauled, organized, polished, and priced the many items donated by our community.

The Thrift Shop not only helps provide revenue for the church, but helps the community be good stewards and reuse and “recycle” gently used items. The Thrift Shop also provides a place to connect with friends and acquaintances, and an affordable shopping alternative.

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. Please continue to save egg cartons for golf ball sales, paper bags with handles, and empty metal coffee cans.



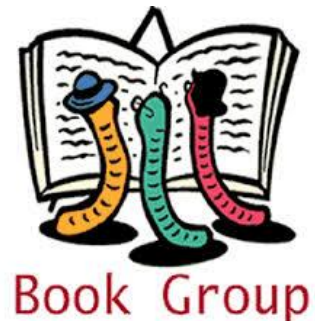
NEXT SELECTION FOR THE OPEN BOOK GROUP

This fall our group will be reading a contemporary classic you may have missed – **Richard Rohr’s “Falling Upward: A**

Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life”

Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest whose ecumenical teachings reflect his understanding of the human heart, and with humor and

compassion, writes a book that offers a fresh perspective on spiritual growth throughout our lives.



“Falling Upward” in particular explores the spiritual richness of the second half of life. Just when we think we are falling “down” we can actually experience uplift. It has been a top read for Christians and all who seek joy in the journey.

Join us! Copies will be available through the church. Our discussion will take place in November.



Got Talent?

Please bring it to our TALENT NIGHT to be held in January of 2019. Details to follow!



CHURCH SCHOOL'S NEW DYNAMIC DUO!

September means the start of church school – and we are excited! This year Yaritza Gello returns to work with the older children, and new teacher Michele Klimczak will be working with the younger class. Welcome, Michele! We know our children will be blessed by the deep faith, love and gifts of these two women.

As always, our program will focus on learning about Jesus, becoming familiar with God's word in the scriptures, and special service projects that teach us to care for others in the love of Jesus.



You'll find us listening, singing, praying, creating and discussing on Tuesdays at 3:00 pm!

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck is dead." The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$150!" she cried. \$150 just to tell me my duck is dead.

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$20, but with the Lab report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$150."

From the Westerly Senior Citizens Center, Sept.2018 - Thank you Mary P. for sharing this

**JUST FOR
LAUGHS**

THE SUMMER STAYS WITH US....

If you weren't on island, here are few of the many highlights of summer 2018, events which conveyed something of God's great love to carry us beyond the season...

At right, the Tibetan Buddhist monks from Drepang Gomang Monastery hosted by Rev. Michael Spencer and St. John's Episcopal Church. The purpose of their visit was to prayerfully and carefully create a sand mandala of compassion— an intricate work of art – which was later released into the water at Silver Eel Cove. The monks were friendly and accessible during breaks from their work, which was conducted upstairs at the Community Center.



In July, Michele Klimczak offered her testimony about the miracles of healing that have taken place in her family – amazing signs of God's grace. Michele originally shared these uplifting stories at the holidays, but with our summer members out of earshot, I invited her to share again this summer. You can hear Michele's sermon by audio at www.fiunionchapel.org/sermons.

Despite some rainy Sundays, Beach Church convened again during July and August on Dock Beach. Together we worshipped God through prayer, readings, scripture, and reflection....and perhaps the most favorite feature, silence. Each week we also marveled at God's creation as Candy recounted one of her own recent discoveries about the beauty and complexity of the natural world.



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