
FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

821 CRESCENT AVENUE, P.O. BOX 192

FISHERS ISLAND, NEW YORK 06390

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www.fiunionchapel.org

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



HOLIDAY ISSUE 2018

Dear Union Chapel family,

We are not there quite yet, but soon we will all be busy with holiday preparations, shopping, and special events. These gatherings and celebrations are a delight to look forward to -- but as Christians we know they sometimes eclipse the spiritual meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas. What can we do differently?

Wherever this finds you, I urge you to take advantage of worship services this season to keep the meaning fresh in your spirit. Worship has dimensions we sometimes forget. For example, in many places around the world when Christians gather for worship, they are in effect also doing something subversive. They are stating their allegiance to Someone beyond the harsh dictators or oppressive regimes that rule their country by worshipping the God of All, the God of Love.

There is an element of subversion even here in America. We enjoy much ease when it comes to attending worship. We comfortably come to church to be lifted up into God's presence, hear God's word, offer prayers, sing beautiful music, and to be with fellow Christians. All these things are wonderful and I am ever grateful we can partake of this blessing so freely. But we should also know that when we join together to declare our faith in our Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer we are not performing a quaint ritual, but making a statement of allegiance to the conquering power of God's love and strength. When we do so we are at the same time aligning ourselves in the Spirit of Christ who refuted the power of everything that would claim power but shouldn't. Our worship helps defy the forces on earth and in the heavenlies that we oppose.

In addition, we can also remember that centuries ago when Christians chose Sunday morning for worship, they honored the Resurrection of Jesus Christ which occurred on the first day of the week. Sunday worship, then, also claims new life for us and for the world, a tremendous gift of the grace of God.

I pray that all of you will find ample time for church this joyful time of year and reaffirm your faith in the greatness of God. I myself enjoy celebrating with you how God has not remained indifferent or distant in times of human struggle, but saw fit to send a Son in the flesh to show us the way and to die and rise again to set us free from all that ails us. Once we wrap our minds around the grace and power contained in that glorious gift and the possibilities it opens, we just may want to make worship a regular thing throughout the year!

All blessings to you and yours for the Happiest of Thanksgivings and Merriest of Christmases,

-- 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 AUGUST – SEPTEMBER OCTOBER 2018

SOCIAL HOUR:

Michele Klimczak

Sharon Patterson

Laura Edwards

Susie Brinckerhoff

Eliana Spinola

FLOWERS:

Bagley Reid

Kim Campbell

Nirapa Horning

Laura Edwards

Susie Renna

Ellen Parker

Anita Fritze

Candy Whitman

Grace Lang

Susie Ferguson

Mary Pankiewicz

Ellen Parker



2018 Appeal Underway

Thank you to those who have sent in their support this year for the mission of Union Chapel. As the holidays and the season of giving approaches remember that the annual appeal accounts for 50% of our operating budget. Every gift, large or small, helps us support our mission as a spiritual hub of our island community. We appreciate your prayers for our church.

– David Burnham, Treasurer

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:

October 2018

- In Memory of Cynthia Riley and all who loved her,
given by Sue Schutz.

- In memory of Cynthia Riley and for Ed Riley, given
by Constance White

- In memory of Peter D. Sanger

Given by Katharine duPont Sanger

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 – (runs
 through May 2019)
 Open Book Group –throughout the year
 Library Book Club – 7 pm – second Thursday (at
 the Library)

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And now faith, hope, and love
 abide, these three; and the
 greatest of these is love.

- 1 Corinthians 13:13

OUR FALL FAIR WRAP-UP!

Our Columbus Day Fair was a huge success. Our sales enhanced our church budget by \$1,467. . Thank you for all the volunteers, bakers and people who came and enjoyed a delicious lunch – fried Oreos for dessert were a winner - and holiday shopping at our crafters' tables.

The raffle basket created by Mary Pankiewicz was won by Bella Harris, and Laura Edward's quilt was won by Joanne Thompson.



The table with ethically-marketed coffee from Lutheran World Relief (LWR) drew good attention and was also served in the kitchen. 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'll be serving it at coffee hour often.

NATURE LOG IN PROGRESS!

This year we are staying tuned in to the marvels of our Creator by keeping a log on Sundays of natural developments around the island – a certain bush turning color, an animal sighting...so please note what you observe each week and bring it to worship!

In late October I observed this bush near Dock Beach in bloom – but I don't know what it's called. Do you? If so, call Diane at the church.



Nature Log Highlights this fall

Sept. 16: "Autumn Joy!" - sedum turning pink; 50 dragonflies flitting in a patch of yard

Sept 23: 10 cormorants on the Dock Beach float, drying their wings

Oct 21: Mink sightings! Baltimore Oriole still here; a molted snake skin found on church property

Nov 4: Grateful no one hurt in the tornado!

Nov 11: Kingfisher fishing near shore in West Harbor; wondering why trees are particularly colorful this year!



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 9 at 5:00 pm!

Come and watch the children of Union Chapel enact the very first Christmas in Bethlehem!



Looking ahead to the Holidays

Special Events on our Calendar to add to yours!

Thanksgiving Weekend

Community Thanksgiving Brunch, Saturday, November 24, 9:00 – 11:00 am
Thanksgiving Sunday, November 25: Glenn Orkney, organ

Advent – Special Events

Sunday, December 2	Service for Cynthia Riley, 5:15 pm
Sunday, December 9	Community Christmas Pageant, 5:00 pm
Friday, December 14	Piano Recital by the Students of Kapri Thomas, 5:00pm

Christmas

Monday,, December 24	Community Christmas Eve Service, Time TBD
Tuesday, December 25	Community Christmas Breakfast, 9:00-11:00 am
Sunday, Dec. 30	Service of Healing, 10 am



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

It is that time of year again!

At this time of year our thoughts turn to beauty of the Christmas season. In December, Union Chapel will be decorated with garland and poinsettias. To contribute toward these 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 mailing address is F.I. Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390.

GIVEN BY: _____

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

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION: _____

Thank you!

WORSHIP SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!

This fall, members had an opportunity to take a survey regarding our worship services on Sunday. The purpose of the survey was to help me gauge what part of the service tends to hold the most meaning for our worshippers as I am always seeking ways to create worship experiences that are rich and uplifting. The survey also provided room for comments and suggestions, and the Deacons and I have paid heed.

About 70% of regular attendees responded, and when the deacons and I met to tabulate the results, we had valuable further discussion about some of the questions.

Here are some things that surfaced from the survey. You will note unanimity in some answers, and others evoking a wide range of personal tastes. Expect tweaks to upcoming services according to the survey results!

What are the most important parts of the service to you? From a multiple choice list, respondents' top picks were (in this order) the sermon, the music, fellowship, prayers, and the scripture reading.

What style of music do you prefer? The majority said they liked a mix of contemporary and traditional music in worship.

Do you prefer contemporary language or traditional for the confession? Some had preferences for one or the other, but doing both was what received the most votes. Fortunately, wonderful writers have published Protestant liturgy in traditional style as well as the language of today and I can continue to draw on both sources.

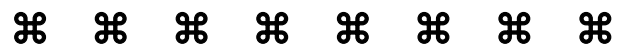
Do you like arts added to the service? For most, visual elements and poetry were the art forms most enjoyed, followed by drama and video/film.

The Passing of the Peace This question was included on the rumor that it was becoming a bit boisterous and time-consuming. About half the respondents said passing the peace was taking too long, or made them feel awkward. Others felt it was a great part of the service, and a chance, for example, to greet people who leave before coffee hour.

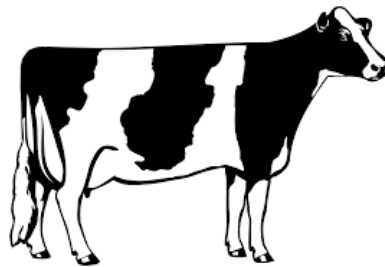
Where do you think silence belongs? Preferences for adding silence to our services varied widely. Many felt there should be a moment of silence after the sermon, as well as during the prayers (as we do now so people can lift up individual prayers). Since there are other appropriate places to observe a holy silence in worship, I will try different placements in a spirit of experimentation.

Church-in-the-Round On the first Sunday of the month in winter, we meet in the Fellowship Room and in lieu of the sermon, we enjoy a guided discussion in small groups around the tables. The feeling was largely positive about this format – some liking the change of pace, others appreciating the chance to talk with others. There was also a suggestion to change the set-up of the room, which we have already begun to try out.

Thank you to all who took the time to complete this questionnaire. Of course I always welcome comments about our worship, so feel free to let me know your thoughts and ideas. - Candy



DONATE THIS CHRISTMAS TO HEIFER INTERNATIONAL



Heifer international is a non-profit that sends the gift of prosperity and economic independence to

families around the world by providing farm animals and more to help them make a living. If you wish to donate to our church collection, please send a check to the church or drop it in the offering plate. Together we can provide hope and health in Christ's name to our neighbors on the other side of the world. Thank you!

THRIFT SHOP NEEDS

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.



THE ORIGIN OF THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. As Protestants have also come to love this song, this bit of history – or lore – is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on aspects of our faith. Enjoy this as a light-hearted song or one with a hidden meaning known only to the members of their church – written in a kind of code for a religious reality which children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments,
11. The eleven pipers playing stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



TALENT NIGHT COMING SOON!

Stay tuned for details about this fun community event! Our Talent night is slated for January 25 in 2019. Be ready for an invitation to perform!

HOLD THE DATE!



PRAISE AND WORSHIP

**Third Sundays, 6:00 pm
Union Chapel**

For those who enjoy contemporary Christian worship music, the Klimczaks and Yaritza Gello are graciously offering an hour of joy and inspiration with video and recorded music in our sanctuary. We gather on the third Sunday in the evening at 6. Join us!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St. Peter and St. Paul's church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, "Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?" Harry replied, "I took him from the church, Father John." "And why take him?"

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it."

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*Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!"  
Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. - Mark 4:39*

## WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO GOD THIS THANKSGIVING

This Thanksgiving there is so much in our personal and corporate lives to be thankful for. Among many other blessings, I will be expressing my thanks (and great relief) that no one was injured when the tornado of October 29 hit the Island.

We continue to pray for the people who witnessed it and whose property suffered damage in lost trees, boats, and other structures. My theology does not include natural events as punishment, but when they do arise it is an opportunity for us to support one another and trust in the eternal goodness of God.

I offer this prayer as it may help those of us wondering how to pray at such a time. May we stay safe this holiday and counting our many, many blessings.

God of earthquake, wind, and fire,  
Tame natural forces that defy control,  
Or shock us by their fury.  
Keep us from calling disaster your  
justice;  
And help us, in good times or in  
calamity,  
To trust your mercy which never ends,  
And your power,  
Which in Jesus Christ stilled storms,  
Raised the dead,  
And put down demonic powers. Amen.

- From the Presbyterian (PCUSA) Book  
of Common Worship

# CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

## Joshua and the Battle of Jericho

By Yaritza Gello



In the Book of Joshua, the Bible tells us that Jericho was a heavily fortified city with double walls that reached up to the heavens. We had lots of fun recreating this city out of different materials found around the church. We even had a crocodile in the river!

How do you attack a city like Jericho's without modern weaponry? The children were prompted to come out with a plan to attack the city. This included sending spies in disguise through the city's gates, opening the gates from inside, and digging an underground tunnel to allow the Israelite army inside.

"The city is impenetrable," the children said. We cannot win this battle!" The Bible shows us otherwise. It teaches us that with God all things are possible. Jericho was defeated by a most unusual plan. The details of the battle left many of us astounded! We all learned that we must always obey and trust God.



For the little ones, games and songs continue to be a favorite part of the class. For the last couple of weeks, the children, led by teacher Michele Klimczak, have been singing Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho out of the top of their lungs. Their joy is quite contagious!

The shofar played and still plays a vital role in Jewish celebrations. During the battle of Jericho, the shofar called the Israeli army to action. Both of our classes had fun blowing the shofar much to the amusement of both the younger class and older ones!

**"Be strong and courageous!" - Joshua 1:9**