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# 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."*



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## Fall 2019

Dear Union Chapel Family,

It must be all the years we spend in school -- but doesn't it seem like the new year really starts in September, not January? In any event, there are some new "Chapel Happenings" that are taking place this fall that I want to share with you. Each one has the potential to take us in exciting new directions and strengthen our mission.

First, we are renewing our commitment to families here on the Island. Church school, led ably by Michele Klimczak, now takes place on Sunday mornings, with family-friendly elements in worship, including a children's message. Yaritza Gello and I are launching some youth events for tweens and teens, starting with a movie on September 27. And for parents, we are piloting "The Meeting of the Moms" on September 26, a gathering to hear and discuss an excellent NPR/Sesame podcast on having difficult conversations with your children. All moms are welcome, along with grandmoms and dads!

For our Trustees and Deacons, a new structure in church leadership is being explored to help refresh and renew us for our call. The idea is to join both boards into a Council – the exact term for this group still being decided – which would enable us to unite behind our mission and enhance communication between leaders. We would also design meetings to involve less nuts and bolts which can be discussed after the meeting, and allow time for reflection and creativity about how we are shining Christ's light into the world. Other United Church of Christ congregations have adopted this concept to great effect. Should we choose to move in this direction, we will do it as a pilot program.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to a time of renewal as I make plans for my first-ever sabbatical, a very special aspect of the pastoral package you provide at Union Chapel after five years of service. Thank you! My plans are to be away January 1 through the end of March, and am excited about the chance to delve deeply into areas of interest. Once my plans and the church's plans for coverage in my absence are settled, we will let you know.

As Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (II Cor 5:17a). Newness is God's gift in a Christian's life, but it is a gift intended also to be shared with the world. My goal is that whatever new thing God is doing in our church is quickly felt in our community in terms of new energy, new ideas, a more vibrant witness to those whose lives we touch. May each of you in your walk of faith find newness that brings joy and hope to you and to others --and may our world discover also the gift of new life in Christ that awaits their response.

Blessings,

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)



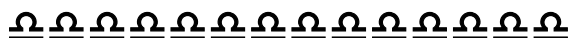
### **CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS**

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 JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2019**

#### **SOCIAL HOUR:**

Anita Fritze

Sharon Patterson

Eliana Spinola

Grace Lang and family

#### **FLOWERS:**

Susie Ferguson

Laura Edwards

Bernice Auger

Laurie Finan

Nirapa Horning

Michele Klimczak

Laura Edwards

Susie Renna

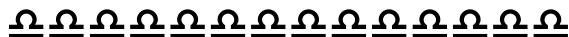
Fran Roethgen

Susie Renna

Anita Fritze

Jane Lamb

Gail Schongar



**REMINDER!**  
**Daylight**  
**Savings ends in**  
**November.**

Set clocks back on November 3, 2019

## COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND FAIR OCT 12!

Join us for our traditional Fall Fair on Saturday, October 12, 2019 from 10 am until 1 pm. Enjoy lunch, craft tables, and raffles! Tickets for Laura Edward's beautiful turnstile quilt are already a hot item!



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

### **Trustees and Deacons Consider New Leadership Structure**

This past August, our church leaders met with our interim Regional Director (CT UCC) Rev. Chuck Ericson to explore the possibility of merging our two boards into one Council. Since then, our Trustees and Deacons are continuing to consider this possibility. Joining efforts in one Council would unify our leadership behind our mission and enhance communication between the different functions. Any change would be implemented on an experimental basis. Stay tuned!





**LIGHT THE STEEPLE FORM**  
*In Honor of* or *In Memory of* (circle one)

**For the week of**

**THE STEEPLE WAS LIT FOR THE FOLLOWING**

✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

# Union Chapel

## MONTHLY CALENDAR

CHURCH SCHOOL now meets on Sundays during worship. And for tweens and teens, stay tuned for youth events such as movies, games, and other activities!



With another election season in view, I recommend a recent work by Senator John Danforth, **“The Relevance of Religion: How Faithful People can Change Politics.”** Danforth not only served in the Senate, but started his career as ordained clergy and has thought a lot about the intersection of church and state. He helps us answer the question of how religion can helpfully inform and support our democratic process, not by touting a particular agenda, but suggesting an approach to citizenship that reflects a commitment to the common good. Join us! Discussion Date in November TBD!



# SO LONG TO GREAT SUMMER!

Sprouting seedlings, magic choir music, and  
beauty and the beach!



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## Rev. Nina Schmid's Church celebrates 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

All are welcome at 3:25 pm for the Tolling of the Bell, with worship, a reception, and  
exhibits to follow. **Saturday, Oct 26**

First Congregational Church, 993 Main Street, South Windsor CT

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## HASTE MAKES WASTE

The inventor of the modern safety pin, Walter Hunt, invented the device in an evening in 1849 and sold his idea for \$400.00 the next day. He paid off the \$15.00 debt he owed someone, but the buyer of his invention made a fortune from the simple gadget.

