
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."



HOLIDAY 2019

Dear Friends,

The meaning of Christmas has never been more real to me as I reflect back on another year of our service to God on Fishers Island. The love and care provided by this congregation to one another and to our neighbors truly embodies Christ's love, and so in every day ways the incarnation of Christ is being made real again and again through our hearts and hands. Behold!

As your pastor, I am so very grateful to be on the receiving end of that love in a myriad of ways. But with my sabbatical coming up soon in January, I want to say a very big thank you for this very generous gift of three months of rest and renewal! Of course, the word "sabbatical" is related to the word "Sabbath," and so allow me to share with you here briefly an enriching insight from Rev. Vince Armin of the UCC as it has bearing for our faith as well as our spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Vince Armin suggests a non-traditional view of Sabbath rest. He notes that when God orders Israel to keep the Fourth Commandment (Exodus 20:8-11) it isn't simply meant to give us a breather after finishing our to-do list. Yes, rest is necessary when we have been busy, and God did rest after creating the world. But Armin points out that in the commandment, God references the Exodus, when God rescued Israel from slavery. The upshot is that Sabbath time is not meant for reviewing how much we have gotten done during the week, but for remembering what God accomplishes for us that we cannot do ourselves. When we are overwhelmed or feel out of control, a Sabbath rest is how we ask God to take charge again of our schedules, our priorities, our lives.

The twinkling lights, the joy of gift-giving, and warm gatherings are some of the things that make Christmas beautiful. But the real celebration arises when we recall how God chose to come down to us in real time to bless our real lives, because we are just not capable of saving ourselves. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us* (John 1:14). No need for spiritual feats or superhuman efforts to find grace. Jesus was born to us in a stable, and Christmas means we may find newness and wholeness as Christ is born in us.

During this busy season may we each take time to breathe! But may we also remember that God "delivered" on the promise of the Messiah. He is with us, and that provides us the deepest kind of rest – an abiding peace that passes all understanding. Merry Christmas!

In Christ, 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

Joint Trustee-Deacon Committee Chairperson:

Louisa Evans

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter

www.fiunionchapel.org



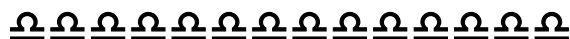
CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS

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 SEPTEMBER 1ST- NOVEMBER 17TH

SOCIAL HOUR:

Anita Fritze

Sharon Patterson

Eliana Spinola

Diane Dexter

Fran Roethgen

FLOWERS:

Susie Ferguson

Laura Edwards

Bernice Auger

Laurie Finan

Nirapa Horning

Michele Klimczak

Laura Edwards

Susie Renna

Candy Whitman

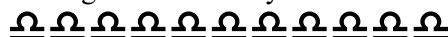
Susie Renna

Anita Fritze

Jane Lamb

Gail Schongar

Allyson/Steve Cook



**Please donate your
used eyeglasses and place
them in the basket on the table
in the social room. Thank you, Jackie
Williamson for collecting glasses for
New Eyes.**

Operation Christmas Child

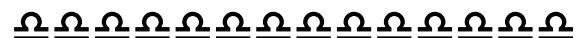
Union Chapel and community members joined in the spirit of giving again this year through Operation Christmas Child, a program run by Samaritan's Purse.

Purchasing toys, school supplies, toiletries, games, and other items, our "santas" filled 25 of these

festive boxes that will soon be shipped to children in need around the world, accompanied



by the message of Christ's saving love. We are thrilled to be able to support this ministry with these cheery reminders of our love and prayers!



2019 Appeal Underway

We wish to thank our members and friends who have so generously donated to our mission at Union Chapel. This year we continue to tend to the needs of our aging facilities, cover expenses associated with programs and staff, and fulfill a missions objective that reflects our commitment to relieve suffering in our local area as well as in other locations around the world.

We treasure, you, our partners whose gifts enable us to maintain our commitment to being a spiritual center of Christ's love and hope for Islanders and beyond. God has indeed blessed us with the gifts and prayers of our congregation and friends!

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:

September 2019

In Memory of Cynthia Riley

Given by Rev. Nina Schmid

October 2019

In Memory of Anne Sagal

Given by Allyson and Steve Cook

Welcome, Rev. Pam!

Sabbatical Notes

Please join the Trustees and me in welcoming Rev. Pam Vollinger as your minister during my sabbatical, January – March, 2020. Pam will cover most Sundays and be available also on Island during the week for pastoral care and other duties. My leave takes me to the New York area, working on a book project and exploring the topic of faith and politics. The church will be in my thoughts and prayers for grace and peace this winter season. I return for Palm Sunday. Blessings! - Candy

Union Chapel MONTHLY CALENDAR

Communion Sunday, 10 am - First Sunday
Ladies' Luncheon, Noon - First Monday
Senior Lunch – noon – Third Thursday
Open Book Group – throughout the year
Library Book Club – 7 pm, Second Wednesday
Joint Deacon/Trustee meeting – monthly

ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE 2019

The church begins its new liturgical year with our Advent observance on the Sunday following Thanksgiving – December 1. During Advent we

enter into this newness by preparing ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ. Tradition affords us the chance to focus on different themes as we await the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior for the world:



December 1 Hope: Church in the Round with communion

December 8 Peace: Advent Worship

December 15 Joy: Advent Worship

December 22 Love: Advent Worship

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 pm
AND...

December 29 Lessons and Carols

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
**A truly happy person is one who can
enjoy the scenery on a detour.**

Little Pebbles' Big Vision

Recently I caught up with Verena Brooks to learn what's new with her non-profit, Little Pebbles. As it turns out lots is new!

Verena, with the help of her husband, Bob still help provide basic needs for the orphanages in Guatemala (her native country) such as food, diapers and clothing. But more recently, Verena has put in place a larger vision to help the older children learn skills so they can support themselves once they are on their own. And so in the past couple of years, Verena created, developed and funded



Ample food from Little Pebbles for three orphanages



Women trainees display tote bags they make for sale

programs for the older boys and girls to learn a trade. These great photos are just a few highlights of the hope these children now have for a prosperous and independent future.

Expressing her Christian faith in deeds, Verena heeds the Biblical command to care for the "widows and orphans." Recently she also initiated and implemented a program to teach sewing to women who

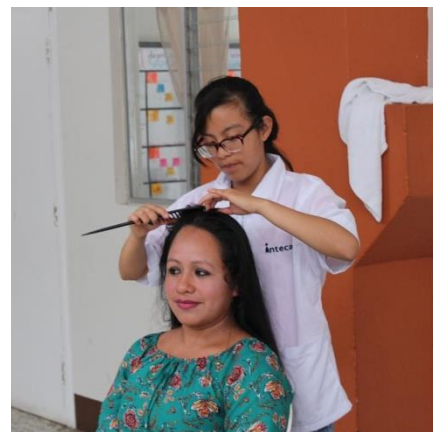
have lost their husbands so they also have a marketable skill. Some of the sewing machines and fabric come from The Rummage!



Learning to be a chef

We hope to provide updates from time to time of this life-changing ministry in a country where many are vulnerable due to corruption, conflict, and poverty. We pray the Spirit continues to bless the work of all the hearts and hands.

For more information, visit www.filittlepebbles.org.



A young hairdresser and her model



LADIES COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

The first Monday of every month, Union Chapel has a noon time community pot luck lunch for all women on the Island. All are welcome, just bring a dish you wish to share or if you cannot, just bring yourself – we always have plenty. See what you missed this summer. Thank you, Joanne Thompson for this culinary lemon pie delight and thank you, Susie Brinckerhoff for sharing this photo op.

HELPING OUR THRIFT SHOP THRIVE

Despite a late opening because of renovations to the Thrift Shop, we had a very successful year. We want to thank all who helped with renovations and its funding, all who donated items and all our loyal shoppers and volunteers. Special thanks to Thrift Shop co-chairs, Susie Renna and



Louisa Evans. Also many thanks to Mary Pankiewicz and Dave Denison with their remarkable golf ball donations. They not only collect them, but wash them, sort them and sell them at the thrift shop, the three churches spring golf tournament and fairs! Please save used eggs cartons, even the plastic ones which are used for LOGO golf balls, by bringing them to Union Chapel. We also collect and need metal coffee cans for rodent control poison for the

“rat commissioner.”

Donations are accepted in the bin outside the shop over the winter. For big items, please call Louisa Evans at 788-7054 for information. Please, no electronics, exercise equipment or bicycles!



A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS
AND BLESSED 2020
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

AND NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE, THESE THREE; AND THE
GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

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!