

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

- Psalm 46:1

Dear Union Chapel family and friends,

Grace and peace to all. I hope this finds everyone well and managing to make it through this very challenging time.

For everyone's safety, we are temporarily suspending all events and worship services at the Chapel until further notice. We will resume according to federal and state guidelines and what is best for our community.

In the meantime, we are gathering for a modified worship service on line via Zoom Sundays at 10 am. If you have attended Union Chapel in the past year, we'll include you in the email announcement. If you haven't been on island but would like to join, we welcome you! Just send your email address to Diane at fichapel1@gmail.com and we will send you log on information.

Attached is the current issue of Chapel Happenings - written before the crisis was upon us. While the events listed are cancelled for now, Rev. Pam Vollinger's letter and her pilgrim prayer are not to be missed!

As we spend the foreseeable future social distancing, remember that "God is closer than our hands and feet" and that as the news changes daily, God's love is never-changing. God longs to fill us with the peace which passes all understanding, made available to us through Christ. In all things let us pull together and find ourselves made stronger through this difficult time.

I also want to thank everyone who helped provide for me a wonderful sabbatical. It was everything I hoped it would be, and I will share more about my time away in the next newsletter.

Keep the faith, and keep in touch!

Blessings,
Candy

Spring 2020 newsletter to follow

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."



SPRING 2020

Dear Members and Friends of FI Union Chapel,

It is an honor, joy and delight for me to be helping out while Candy is on her three month Sabbatical. I love being on the island in the winter with all the blessings that the winter season brings. Epiphany Sunday we reflected on the Wisemen and celebrated by receiving "star" words. A gift of a word from God which we were to ponder. The following Sunday we remembered Jesus's Baptism and our own baptisms. We were challenged to live into our identity as "beloved daughters and sons of God with whom God is well pleased." It has been a blessing to participate in the Senior lunches which have been delicious and a wonderful time of gathering with community members. The tradition of Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper continued on the night before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Rev. Sara Jane Munshower and Rev. Krysia Bereday Burnham covered the several Sundays I was not available.

Now we are in the season of Lent. The church season when we reflect on who Jesus is and what it means to follow him to Jerusalem, the cross, then the Resurrection. Over the past six years I have had the wonderful opportunity to go on different pilgrimages. One of them was to the Holy Land where we visited different places of Jesus's life and ministry. Sister Patty Cook, RSM, one of the co-hosts for the trip taught us the following Pilgrim's Creed as we prepared for our pilgrimage. I realized as I reflected on it daily during that pilgrimage that it was not only meant for that trip but also every day of my life as I seek to be a faithful follower of Jesus. I invite you to prayerfully consider this creed as part of your daily pilgrimage through this life during Lent and in the coming seasons.

Pilgrim's Creed

I am not in control.

I am not in a hurry.

I walk in faith and hope.

I greet everyone I meet with peace.

I am open to all that God is inviting me to learn.

This creed is easier said than it is to live out as I face the temptations, disruptions, and challenges of life that happen during the course of a day. I quickly learned that it is the grace and love of God that helps me to honor and live into that creed.

As I write this the news of the spread of the Corona Virus has become very serious. I want to assure you that the Chapel leadership, myself, and Candy are monitoring it closely and seek to do what is best for the safety and well being of all.

I thank you for this opportunity to once again share God's love with you and to be blessed by this special community and this beautiful island.

In Christ's Love and Peace,

Rev. Pamela Rose Vollinger

The following prayer/hymn which can be sung to the tune of *Silent Night* was written by Sister Patty Cook, RSM. She shared it with the participants of **The Retreat in the Real World: Finding Intimacy with God Wherever You Are**. This thirty four week program is based on the Ignatian 19th Annotation, which is adapts a one month silent retreat structured to help the participants fall in love with God and build an intimate relationship with God, be available to people who can't get away for a month but can commit to an hour a day of prayer. This prayer became an important part of my retreat experience and one that I continue to prayerfully sing as I go about my day. Sister Patty has graciously agreed that I may share it with you.

Seeking you face, in every place,
all I meet, here or street,
as I wonder through every new door,
I will love you and trust you the more
love and trust you the more,
love and trust you the more.

God, I am yours.
God, you are mine.
If I sleep, if I dine.
In the stillness, I wait]for your voice.
In the silence, I trust and rejoice.
Love and trust you the more.
Love and trust you the more.

Growing each day,
changing inside,
finding God in my stride,
making choices more wise and more free,
I find rivers of peace within me.
Loving, trusting you more.
Loving, trusting you more.



IRISH BLESSING

MAY LOVE AND LAUGHTER LIGHT YOUR DAYS,
AND WARM YOUR HEART AND HOME.
MAY GOOD AND FAITHFUL FRIENDS BE YOURS,
WHEREVER YOU MAY ROAM.
MAY PEACE AND PLENTY BLESS YOUR WORLD
WITH JOY THAT LONG ENDURES.
MAY ALL LIFE'S PASSING SEASONS
BRING THE BEST TO YOU AND YOURS!

Traditional Irish Blessing

**May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.**



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



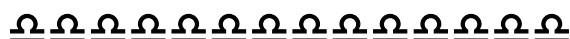
CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS

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 NOVEMBER 24TH – MARCH 8TH

SOCIAL HOUR:

Anita Fritze

Laura Edwards

Diane Dexter

Fran Roethgen

Sharon Patterson

Louisa Evans

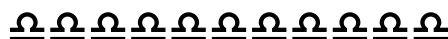
Candy Whitman

Sarah Malinowski

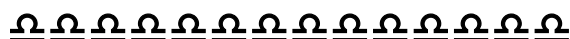
FLOWERS:

Ellen Parker

Christmas Flower Donations



**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.**



2020 Appeal for UNION CHAPEL

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!

To make a donation please make your check payable to:

Fishers Island Union Chapel

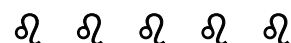
P.O. Box 192

Fishers Island, NY 06390



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGAN ON MARCH 8TH

**You will get this lost hour of sleep
when it ends on
Sunday, November 1, 2020!!!**



**KEEP LIFE MOVING FORWARD,
LOOKING BACKWARD IS ONLY FOR
TIME TRAVELERS" Rachel O Washington
(from a Dove chocolate wrapper)**

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

† † † † †

A PANCAKE SUPPER

STARTED THE LENTEN SEASON
AT UNION CHAPEL ON TUESDAY,
FEB 25TH - GOOD FOOD, GREAT
TOPPINGS AND WONDERFUL
FELLOWSHIP WAS ENJOYED BY
ALL WHO ATTENDED

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

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

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

LADIES COMMUNITY LUNCHESES

CIRCLE THE DATES:

Monday, April 6

Monday, May 4

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. This is a wonderful time of sharing stories and ideas with Island friends.

THE THREE CHURCHES GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE



The Three Churches Golf Tournament Committee has started meeting to plan for its Annual Golf Tournament on Sunday, May 17th, 2020. This tournament raises funds for the Fishers Island Churches. Last year over \$33,000.00 was raised which made it possible to make three donations of \$11,000.00 each to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, St John's Episcopal Church and The Fishers Island Union Chapel, UCC.

We are always looking for new committee members to help with new ideas and of course, manpower. Meetings are short and to the point. Volunteers are also needed on the day of the tournament. If interested please contact Laurie Finan (631-788-7412) or Diane Dexter (631-788-7526).

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUT WITH THIS IMPORTANT FUND
RAISER THAT HELPS OUR YEAR ROUND ISLAND COMMUNITY.**

EASTER FLOWERS



Help us decorate our sanctuary for the Easter season!

To contribute toward lilies and other spring 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 address is F.I. Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you!

GIVEN BY: _____

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

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION: _____

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as one of these.” (Matthew 6:28-9)