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# FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

821 CRESCENT AVENUE, P.O. BOX 192

FISHERS ISLAND, NEW YORK 06390

[fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com)

[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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## SUMMER 2020

Dear Friends,

There is nothing like June weather on Fishers Island! At last the chilly spring has given way to warm air, blue skies, and lush, sunlit greenery. No wonder those of us who make an annual pilgrimage to Fishers like to arrive in time for June -- the start of all good things of summer!

This June, however, it seems world events would interfere with our usual idyllic experience. The Island is grappling with pandemic prevention, and even here we have been dealing in church and community with the recent horrific acts of racial injustice. There was a large but peaceful protest on our green a few weeks ago, a first such event for Fishers. The question is whether these things are disruptions, or are they potentially "good things" in some way?

Not good, of course, in terms of the losses -- but good because they have things to teach us, namely how human we are. The virus reminds us of our frailty; Black Lives Matter reminds us of our sin and brokenness. We feel our great imperfection as we acknowledge the threat of contagion, as we witness the killing of George Floyd on camera, and even feel remorse if we see ourselves in the assertion of protestors that white people just don't get it.

Feeling our vulnerability means that these historic events offer us a chance to enter more fully into the design for our lives God intends: dependency on God. Ultimately it is God who can provide the hope, healing, and unity we seek for our lives and for our world, and guide us to fulfill God's will. Jesus was not put off by the many serious needs of the people who came to him: the marginalized, the victimized, those who were sick. And through him their lives were transformed. No wonder Paul writes in a letter to Corinth that God's power is "made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9).

So our nation's struggles right now may be pressing in -- but for Christians, we may rediscover that through the grace of God this great moment of weakness holds the possibility of redemption.

I wish you each a very good (and safe!) summer in all the traditional ways -- and the assurance that good things will come as we turn more and more to God who loves us for help. May God's grace and peace be with you, your family, and your friends - in abundance this season. And hope to see you soon!

Yours in Christ,

Candy

## UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

[fichapell@gmail.com](mailto:fichapell@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

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter

Candy's cell: 203-293-5470



### CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS

During the pandemic office hours are intermittent and virtual...should you wish to contact us, please send an email to the church email (above) or phone us. Messages are checked frequently. Thank you!



## THANK YOU

### TO OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR FLOWERS AND SOCIAL HOUR JANUARY – MARCH 15, 2020

#### SOCIAL HOUR:

Diane Dexter

Anita Fritze

Sharon Patterson

Laura Edwards

Fran Roethgen

Sarah Malinowski



"Suffering produces endurance, and  
endurance produces character, and  
character produces hope, and hope does  
not disappoint us."

*Romans 5:3-5*



## 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 OR WILL BE LIT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

#### April, May, June and July 2020

-In Memory of **Frank Burr**, given by the Union Chapel members.

-In Memory of **Rev. Kate Latimer**, former pastor of Union Chapel who served us faithfully, given by the Union Chapel Members

-In Memory of **Rev. Kate Latimer**, given by Rev. Nina Schmid.

-In Memory of **Catherine Leslie**, given by Courtney, Jeff, Finlay and Tatum MacDonald.

- In Memory of **Miggie Bryan**, given by the Union Chapel members



### Our regular monthly events include...

Zoom – Joint Trustee and Deacon Meeting -  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at noon

Zoom Library Book Club - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 7 pm

Email Louisa Evans to be invited to session

## WORSHIP WITH US THIS SUMMER!



This June and following we will continue to be people of God who gather on Sunday - just with some adjustments to ensure everyone stays safe!

**The traditional 10 am service** will continue to meet on Zoom for the foreseeable future. Returning to our physical sanctuary right now would be delightful, but due to the inherent risks and other limitations during COVID-19 it is not possible. **Please email Diane for the link if you are not already joining in on our lively, interactive gathering with music, scripture, conversation, and prayer.** We will continue to monitor the situation to know when we might safely return to physical worship in the sanctuary. We look forward to that day!

**Beach Church** will meet on Dock Beach on Sundays at 8 am **with limited capacity**. Six spaces (a space may include one person or two people from the same household) will be open each service, so please sign up by emailing Diane with the dates you would like to attend and your name(s). Services begin on June 28 and so that no one misses

anything, the service will be **repeated two Sundays in a row. Best to sign up for every other Sunday; sign ups are now available through July 19.** We will assess the situation and determine if expansion is possible. Please bring your own chair and wear a mask.

Thank you for faithfulness to our safety protocols.

### We mourn the loss of **Frank Burr, Jr.**

beloved church member who graced us with beautiful singing, and who blessed Fishers Island with his generosity and many spiritual gifts. May God's peace and joy surround you in your heavenly home.

02/20/37 - 04/20/20

## Fall Raffle? You bet!

Our fall events are yet to be determined, but not our fall raffle! Laura Edwards is already hard at work creating a beautiful quilt for our annual Columbus Day weekend fund-raiser. Stay tuned for information about buying chances to win. Here she's at work on what's to come...a quilt featuring many distinctive doorways on Fishers Island!





## A SEASON FOR SPIRITUALITY

New opportunities to grow in faith this summer

The protocols on Island this summer will impose a certain amount of "time apart" for all of us. So in that spirit, you are invited to go with the flow and participate in a lightly-structured, contemplative program for individuals focused on our relationship with God in nature (the July module) – and God's grace to us through different life stages (August).

The modules comprise meditations, reflections, spiritual exercises and prayer to engage with throughout the week, along with podcasts, film and other resources to enrich your exploration in the Spirit. Each module will conclude in a Zoom meeting with Candy so that we might share our experiences in fellowship. Other zoom meetings during the module are possible.

Please register on the church website if you wish to participate. Look for that link and more information by June 25. There is no charge, but you will receive materials and links once your name is on the list with your email and answers to some simple questions. The church website is [www.fiunionchapel.org](http://www.fiunionchapel.org) by June 25. I hope you will consider participating as a way of marking this quieter season as one with possibilities for deep spiritual growth.

We are saddened by the passing on June 12 of

**Miggie Bryan**

faithful member of Union Chapel who loved the Island and was loved in return. We are grateful for Miggie's service to church and community. She will be deeply missed.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR EASTER FLOWERS!

Because of COVID-19, Union Chapel was unable to fill the sanctuary Easter morning with friends as well as lilies and beautiful spring flowers. For an alternative, we are accepting donations to purchase bulbs that will bloom next spring and many years after. We will plant these this fall in a newly created bed at the church. Please join us in bringing a blessing during this difficult time into being. Please send your donation to **Fishers Island Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390** with **"Bulbs"** in the bottom memo line of your check.

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# LOOKING FOR GOOD USED GOLF BALLS?



Email Union Chapel at [fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com) to set up a time to look them over and pick them up in the church office. Have a check made payable to FI Union Chapel Thrift Shop. Thank you!

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## STAY CONNECTED! GO GREEN!

Please send us your email address if you would like to receive Chapel Happenings electronically, and you wish to be included on Candy's periodic emails to Union Chapel family and friends during this time of pandemic. Let Diane know by emailing her at [fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com), or phone the church at 631/788-7898.



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We wish to remember with gratitude our former pastor

**Rev. Kate Latimer**

who died in March of this year in Carmel, California.

We send our thoughts and prayers to her husband Arthur and family. The steeple has been lit in her honor.



# Signboard Ministry

## Messages to our community during the COVID19 pandemic

Our signboard has permitted us to publicly proclaim the hope we have in Christ with messages of encouragement to our community. Some of these have been suggested by community members – thank you for your caring and creativity!, (We are always open to your suggestions!) Diane, others and myself have received much positive feedback on these upbeat or wise words. Here is a sampling of what we have posted since March. Thanks, Tim Patterson, for adding sign-changing to your list of sexton duties each week!



## Have you considered croquet?

Dust off the old set in the garage! It's perfect for a time of social distancing....the game is the same as always, and you can just adjust by standing a little farther apart. Here are some kids from our church school learning how to use a mallet. They have played many times and always had a 'ball'! Thanks to Amy Harris for letting us use their set.



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## Thank you for your support

Our annual appeal is underway and we wish to thank each of you who has sent in a gift to Union Chapel. Your contributions enable us to serve God on Fishers Island in numerous and creative ways as well as keep up with maintenance and improvements in our facility. During this time of pandemic, unemployment, and the righteous outcry against racial injustice, we seek to more than ever to be an anchor in uncertain times, a community of faith and love as witness to the hope of Christ. We truly value your partnership as we walk in the Spirit together. Thank you!

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## JOKES AND QUOTES

"The current era is bad enough without having to feel guilty that we aren't learning Greek and painting watercolors of daffodils. If you brushed your teeth today and showered today and ate something and spent ten minutes NOT looking at the news, then well done, it's an achievement." *Matt Haig*

"No one has ever become poor by giving." *From memneon*

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."  
*From Theodore Roosevelt*

"Coronavirus has proved that everything around us is temporary."  
*From Seashell Michelle*