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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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## CHAPEL HAPPENINGS FALL 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you ever been asked what religion you are? Okay, I know, most of us prefer not to talk about faith for fear of controversy, or because we just aren't comfortable doing so. But sometimes we just have to have an answer. I have heard people say things like "I am Christian," which gives the other person a sense of our values and beliefs. Others might say "I am a Christian" and don't mind the evangelical overtones of that phrase. Still others find it works to say "I am a follower of Jesus," which points to one's commitment to discipleship. Among the countless other options, some just keep it simple with "I am a church-goer." There is no one right way!

As the chilly weather sets in, I am reminded of one way the scriptures offer us to think about our faith. I am thinking of the phrase to "abide in Christ." To be Christian means to *be* with, or *be in*, Christ. It describes the fullness, the closeness of the Lord to our daily life. Perhaps we won't say out loud to someone, "I abide in Christ," but as COVID-19 keeps us more at home this winter, it is a wonderful thing to remember that just as we spend more time inside our dwellings and with our dwelling mates, we also dwell with the Lord. "Abide" can also be translated as dwell, or remain.

What an antidote to living this winter with worry or boredom. The quieter lifestyle imposed on us can be a time to cultivate living with the Lord's presence.

Toward the end of his earthly life, Jesus tells the disciples to think of themselves as branches of a vine – with him as the vine. "Abide in me," he beseeches them (John 15:1-11). The Lord wants us to stay connected to him, drawing on the Lord in a deep, intimate, way, counting on God as our source for all of life, the energy and essence of the many ways we serve. Then the fruit we will bear will be all it should be.

With so much that is unpredictable in our world right now, it is good to remember we have security and purpose being firmly rooted and grounded in the love of God. Even if no one ever asks, we can affirm to ourselves that in every situation, we abide in Christ. Our home and our hope is with him.

I will be keeping you and your families in my prayers this season for health, safety, and silver linings to this challenging time. I also joyfully welcome you to worship on Sunday via Zoom. God still has things to teach and show us as a church, even in our virtual format. Any time we meet to praise, pray, sing, and gather around God's word, any time we may share our lives as Christians (or "church goers"!), God can grow us and bless us as strong, graceful branches of the vine. May we remain connected to Christ, and to one another, and faithful bearers of fruit for the world!

Peace,

Candy

## UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

[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)

Trustee Chairperson: Louisa Evans

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter

Candy's cell: 203-293-5470

### ***CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS***

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 10 – 1 pm

Tuesday 10-noon

Closed on Wednesday

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### **THANK YOU**

**TO OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR  
FLOWERS, FRESH VEGETABLES  
AND SOUPS THIS PAST SUMMER**

Anonymous Donors



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***THE BIBLE  
SHOULD BE TRUSTED  
NOT DUSTED!***

*FROM "Now Open Sundays" - Rev. Paul Sinclair*

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## **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)**

**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:**

#### **June**

In Memory of Gunther Fritze

Given by Anita Fritze

In Memory of Kevin Rafferty

Given by Union Chapel

In Memory of Peggy Cypherd

Given by Lisa Ireland

#### **July**

In Memory of Christopher Porter's birthday on July 23<sup>rd</sup> which would have been his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Given by Union Chapel

In memory of Richard B. Thatcher

Given by Jean Thatcher

In Memory of Herbert Schutz

Given by the Schutz Family

In Memory of Catherine Leslie

Given by Courtney, Jeff, Finlan and  
Tatum McDonald

## WORSHIP WITH US THIS FALL!



This September we will continue meeting on Zoom at 10 am. We are putting safety first at this time, and although we miss our sanctuary and our in-person gatherings, are grateful for this virtual platform where we can praise, pray, and hear God's word. Our services are also designed for conversation around a relevant question relating to current events. So we can share and continue to grow in faith.

To be added to our email list for the Zoom link and other information for Sunday, please email the office ([fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com)). We look forward to having you join us!



### **Fall Raffle? You bet!**

Laura Edwards has created a beautiful quilt for our annual Columbus Day weekend fundraiser. The quilt is

called "Blue-eyed Crab". Tickets are on sale at the Post Office on Saturdays thanks to Hailey and James and from Diane Dexter at the church office during office hours. The drawing will be held at 1:00 on the Saturday of Columbus Day Weekend. You need not be present and be sure to fill in your phone number on your ticket.

## Church Activity Calendar

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, activities will continue virtually until it is safe to meet.

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at noon, joint zoom Trustee/Deacon Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7, Zoom Library Book Club - Email Louisa Evans to be invited

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday – Senior Lunch - postponed

Saturday, Columbus Day Weekend Fair - postponed

Sunday Bible Bytes and Social Hour - postponed



### **"I Saw a butterfly flutter by..."**



### **Can you name this butterfly?**

This summer my garden hosted many monarchs, but then surprised me with this other beautiful winged insect, beige with dark markings. Email the church ([fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com)) if you know the name of this butterfly!

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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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### Blessings to all

students returning to school this fall, virtually or in person. May God be with you and your families for safety and strength!



## THANK YOU FROM ISLANDERS FOR ISLANDERS

On behalf of the four churches of Fishers Island, heartfelt thanks to those who generously contributed to the Islanders for Islanders fund this season. This program is focused on helping sustain our year-round community, and with needs potentially greater this winter due to COVID-19, we are grateful to be prepared for situations that may arise. We recognize how much the support of the community helps us be a resource for our winter residents when needed. Thank you!

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## Catching Up with Verena Brooks and Little Pebbles

Many of us know of “Little Pebbles”, Verena’s ministry to orphanages in Guatemala. From the outset, the aim of Verena’s ministry— in partnership with husband Bob and others— has been to provide for the children’s practical needs, sending clothing and supplies several times a year. A few years ago, Verena also began a program teaching widows in the communities to sew so that they would have a way to earn income. More recently, this initiative expanded to include teens, training them in cooking and hairdressing so they have a way to support themselves once they leave the orphanages. The children are excelling at both!



In 2020, unfortunately, the pandemic has hit the country hard, and the orphanages are isolated, with workers not able to come and go. Verena’s efforts have been focused on making sure food reaches the buildings, as well as medication.

Verena is very grateful for the beautiful donations she has received in past years. And we are grateful for Verena’s care for “the least of these.” When Little Pebbles is able to resume its ministry in full, we will provide an update for those who may wish to participate in this mission. May God protect the children, and may God continue to open paths for Little Pebbles to reach the children with supplies and with love.





## Daylight savings HISTORY and REMINDER!

### “Fall back” on Sunday, November 1, 2020

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to sleep. Daylight Savings Time ends!

Here's a little history about daylight savings time. It was started with the Standard Time Act passed on 03/19/1918 to conserve fuel which was needed to make electricity during WWI. This act established the different time zones in the USA. The concept was unpopular after the war and was repealed in 1919 with President Wilson's veto. Daylight Savings became a local option. During WWII, President F. Roosevelt started "War Time" which was year-round daylight savings. From 1945-1966 there was no federal law so states could choose when it began and ended. Obviously, this caused lots of confusion. In 1966 the Uniform Time Act was passed. On 01/04/74 President Nixon signed the Emergency Daylight Savings Energy Act which Congress amended on 10/04/74 to establish February – October as Daylight Savings. In 1986 this was changed to the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October. In 2005 the Energy Policy Act was passed establishing DST starting the second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in April. **NO WONDER WE ARE ALL A LITTLE CONFUSED.** --Info from Wikipedia

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### 2020 Union Chapel Appeal Update

Many thanks to all who have donated funds to date to keep our church in operation through the pandemic. Thanks to a generous donor, we received a \$30,000 matching challenge grant, which has been met. Your continuing help allows us to continue to be responsive to the needs of the Island Community, and our budget needs include continued operating expenses and building upgrades. If you wish to support our mission, we thank you. Please make checks payable to:

**Fishers Island Union Chapel**

P.O. Box 192

Fishers Island, NY 06390

Please also partner with us in prayer for the safety and health of our Island, our behind-the-scenes workers, and for God's love to be a real presence through our church and all the churches of Fishers Island at this unprecedented time in our nation.



### STAY CONNECTED! GO GREEN!

Please send us your email address if you would like to receive Chapel Happenings electronically, and help us with environmental stewardship. Let Diane know by emailing her at [fichapel1@gmail.com](mailto:fichapel1@gmail.com), or phone the church at 631/788-7898.

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEW TREASURER GREG LANG



Greg Lang and his family (wife Grace, and two children) are seasonal residents of the Island who became Associate members of Union Chapel in July. We received them during Beach Church where they most often attend when they are on Island!

We are delighted to welcome them officially to our church, and we are also grateful that Greg has volunteered to serve as our Treasurer. (He was made a Trustee at the Annual meeting on September 20.)

On Labor Day weekend, Greg was already back at his regular job, but offered this testimony in to join with others who shared stories of faith at Beach Church that weekend. It is a beautiful witness to Christian fellowship, and we include it here to help you get to know Greg.

September 6, 2020

*Testimony from Greg Lang*

*I believe God works for good in all things, but I rarely pray for or find specific instances where I believe God has exerted special influence on the events in my life. I also have not been a big joiner of things in other churches, including our “regular” church in New York City. Grace winds up doing all the work to represent our family there. It is a fact, though, that this particular church community at Fishers Island Union Chapel, and particularly beach church, have made me feel ADOPTED and I strongly feel the influence of the Holy Spirit in the workings of FIUC as a part of Christ’s body...and on the events of my life. It may seem like flattery of all of you or even self-serving to give testimony about this at beach church itself, and the worldly aspects may seem trite. But the hospitality that has been displayed to me and my family by this community is, in my mind, a reflection of the grace of Christ, freely given as a gift. Tim and Sharon, Anita and her family, Harry and Ellen, Sheila, Louisa and the other Board members and, of course, Candy, and the wider congregation, have extended such strong Christian friendship to me concretely in so many ways but especially in inviting me and my family to be formally part of FIUC...this friendship stands out as one of the most important things that has ever happened to me. Testimony I have heard usually focuses on how God works on the heart of the giver of testimony. Well, for me, as someone who usually experiences God mainly through the readings and sermons, membership in this community has enabled me to feel much more fully what it means to be part of the body of Christ and to aspire to be, as part of this or any other church, an instrument of the Holy Spirit...as I believe you all have been... in things large and small.*

# Signboard Ministry

Union Chapel has been putting signboard messages on our lawn to the community during the COVID19 pandemic to publicly proclaim the hope we have in Christ with messages of encouragement to our community.

**We would love to have some of your suggestions!**

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. - *Galatians 5:22-23*



## A Seaside Baptism this summer!

We were thrilled to welcome into the family of faith Miss Emma, granddaughter of Anita Fritze during a Beach Church service in August. For security we won't provide specific names here, but her Daddy David held her as she received the sacrament, Liese and Emma's siblings looking on. Candy spoke the liturgy and sprinkled her with water from Dock Beach, which she graciously received and is now marked as Christ's own forever. A blessed event!

## QUOTES WITH A SMILE

When praying don't give God instructions –  
Just report for duty.

Give God what's right – not what is left.

Suffering with truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.

Wisdom has two parts

1. Having a lot to say
2. Not saying it

*From the International Teaching Ministry of Douglas Jacoby*

# DID YOU MISS THIS CLASS?

## Reflections on spiritual maturity

This August, Rev. Candy Whitman offered a virtual workshop on “Spiritual Maturity – A Subversive Presence in the World.” This was a series of seven short reflections based in the scriptures, followed with thought-provoking questions. In her introduction she stated, “Spiritual maturity: we don’t hear that term very often – but it is a goal of the Christian life....Becoming spiritually mature takes time and effort, and is pursued by those who know there is no public recognition or remuneration to be gained, simply the privilege of at last dwelling in the security of God’s love, and the joy of inviting others to do the same.”

The first reflection was “To such as these...” followed by questions such as: What child-like qualities have you been able to retain in your adult faith and what qualities would you like to recapture?

The second reflection was “Bearing Fruit” discussing the fruitfulness of our lives. Questions included: Have you ever been the recipient of another’s fruit-bearing and what quality do you work hard to display?

The third lesson was entitled “Morality and the Spiritually Mature”. It was based on Psalm I describing “the righteous person, the moral person, the one who walks closely with God.” Followed by questions and statements on which to reflect: Think about your choices lately, and how these have affected your spiritual life. Also has forgiveness been important lately and have you ever talked about this with others?

The fourth study was entitled “Generativity” – the concern for establishing and guiding the next generation, a key task of adults. Questions for thought included: Were there any spiritual mature people who were generative influences early in your Life? In what ways do you know work toward the betterment and faith of future generations?

The fifth presentation was “Putting Away Childish Things” based on I Corinthians 13:11-13. Today, wholeness and serenity is sought after through meditation and mindfulness in Christian life. Questions to ponder included: What “childish” things have you had to put away? What things might you still need to put away on the road to wholeness and what keeps you from feeling fully loved?

The sixth topic to ponder was entitled “Power”. It starts, “The desire to relinquish power and prestige in exchange for a life of humility and service is a desire the world does not understand.” The thought-provoking statements included: Consider what kind of power you hold now, and how it may be a blessing to God. Form a goal for the future.

The seventh topic was a movie night, where we were assigned the film “Babette’s Feast”. The movie is about a French cook who in desperate times goes to work for two sisters in a strict religious sect on the Danish coastline sometime in the 1800s. The movie showed examples of great spiritual maturity: the devotion of the sisters to their community, a soldier’s ability to heal old wounds, Babette’s love for her new family, and the culminating act of grace – and sacrifice - in preparing a spectacular meal for this ascetic community. Our discussion centered on what the movie says about grace, reconciliation, food, and Christ, and closed with the role of spiritual maturity in the movie.

I found, as a participant in these studies and Zoom discussions, wonderful topics to consider in these trying times for helping to develop spiritual growth and maturity. Thank you, Candy, for this gift.



- Diane D. Dexter