



Fishers Island  
Union Chapel

# Chapel Happenings

God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



Spring 2023

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends,

As I write this welcome message, I am looking out at a sunny view of West Harbor where a southerly wind blows. A dozen seagulls gather to float contentedly in the shallow water. They take turns flying up and soaring on the wind. My family and I have lived for a full year now on Fishers Island, and we enjoy the changing beauty of the seasons. It is a treat to observe the creatures that share this special place with us.

Fishers Island Union Chapel is a church for all seasons. We are your spiritual home, wherever you are. With our livestream option, you can join us for worship every Sunday at 10 am. I look forward to seeing you in person or online!

As Christians, we believe that God's love is fully shown in Jesus our Savior. Lent is a time to reflect on how he fulfilled his mission through wise teaching, miraculous healing, and courageous faithfulness. In his thirty-three years of life in Israel, he obeyed God's will completely. His death on the cross was a terribly sad ending. But God resurrected him to eternal life! The risen Christ invites us to find the joy and peace of new life as we share in fellowship with him and one another. May God bless you throughout this meaningful season. *Pastor Rosanna*



## LENTEN STUDY

The winner of the recent poll for this year's Lenten book study is *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects* by Jill J. Duffield (Westminster John Knox Press, 2020). In this engaging book, we are invited to reflect on how objects such as coins, shoes, towels, thorns, and stones were part of Jesus' experiences and how they relate to our faith today. We are meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays in March, from 10:30 am - 11:30 am Eastern. If you would like to join us, please email Pastor Rosanna for the Zoom link or check our website.

## SENIOR LUNCH



Our whole community is tremendously blessed by the Senior Lunch program led by Heather Burnham. With the successful completion of the church kitchen renovations, we restarted this significant ministry in November 2022. It has been going strong ever since! This is a wonderful opportunity to gather around tables in Fellowship Hall. A different local chef prepares the meal each month. We have enjoyed a lecture by Pierce Rafferty, Director of the Henry L. Ferguson Museum, and holiday songs by students at the Fishers Island School. This program meets at noon on the third Thursday through May and is open to everyone age 60+. For those who are staying safe at home or who are at work, a pick-up option is available. To make your reservation, please email [hfburnham@gmail.com](mailto:hfburnham@gmail.com) by Monday before the event.

We are grateful to Heather Burnham and her team of dedicated volunteers who work together to make it happen. Table decorations are arranged by Ann Banks and Ellen Pickett. Those who work in the kitchen to set up and clean up, or who serve beverages and dessert, are Matt Edwards, Louisa Evans, Amy Harris, Michelle Klimczak, and Tracy Brock.

### THRIFT SHOP

Spring will soon be upon us and the team at Union Chapel Thrift Shop is preparing for another busy summer! We are so grateful for all of the generous donations we have received each season. It is because of you that we are able to support some of the missions of Union Chapel. We hope while 'spring cleaning' you will consider us as a useful destination for your no longer needed items. Although we are not open, the outside bin is always there as a receptacle to receive donations. Thank you and please remember we do not accept any electronics.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

We are making plans for worship services in Eastertide and summer. Those of you who enjoy public speaking, or have musical gifts to share, please contact Pastor Rosanna to discuss opportunities to serve as a worship leader or musician.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Louise Packard (Chair), Greg Lang (Treasurer), Susie Brinckerhoff, David Burnham, Anita Fritze, Sarah Porter, and Janio Spinola

## BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE



With gratitude for our generous donors, architect Sam Fitzgerald, and the whole team at BD, the Building Committee is pleased to report on the ongoing renovations of both the Chapel and the Parsonage.

Over the last eighteen months in the church, we have removed asbestos tiles, shored up and then leveled the concrete slab beneath the floors, installed new flooring, painted the sanctuary, upgraded the HVAC system, and completely renovated the kitchen. In progress now is the creation of a new entrance vestibule with glass doors across from the Ferguson window, increasing a sense of arrival and welcome. In the coming months, we will remodel the Fellowship Hall with a large window and window seat, and install a handsome room divider to separate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall when desired. All of this work is intended to better support our church and community ministries.

Around the corner from the church, the Parsonage is also getting spruced up, with a new kitchen; a new bathroom upstairs that creates a primary suite; and a new laundry room in the basement. A new staircase with appropriate treads and a mudroom/vestibule are planned for the summer or fall. We are grateful to the Vestry of St. John's for currently renting its Rectory to Union Chapel as a home for the Andersons during the Parsonage renovation.

All of this work has to date been made possible by early, generous gifts from donors who recognize the importance of Union Chapel to the spiritual and relational health of the island community, particularly the year-round population. Our initial budget of \$630,000 has risen to \$750,000 due in equal parts to inflation and increased scope. To date we have raised just over \$500,000 and hope to secure commitments for the final \$250,000 by June 30, 2023. We invite gifts of every size and welcome pledges paid over two years. If you have questions about the project, all members of the Building Committee would be delighted to discuss it with you: Susie Brinkerhoff, David Burnham, Anita Fritze, and Louise Burnham Packard (Chair). Questions about ways of giving (DAF and IRA gifts, gifts of securities, ACH, etc.) can be directed to Louise at 781-405-9350 or [louise.packard@gmail.com](mailto:louise.packard@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The Ahrens Family in Memory of Betsey Tracy, Jim  
Tracy, and Anne & Ed Ahrens

Susie and Peter Brinckerhoff in Honor of Merritt, Charlotte, Nate, and  
Emily and in Memory of Harris and Elsie Parsons

Charles Clarke in Memory of His Mother, Evelyn Clarke

Diane Dexter in Celebration of Family and Friends

Robert and Louisa Evans and Family in Memory of Samuel D. Parkinson, William W.  
Parkinson, Katherine Townsend, Paul G. Evans, and Paul R. Evans

The Goss-Gruner Family in Celebration of the Fishers Island Community

The Porter, Soper, and Arnold Family in Memory of Maxwell and Rachel Porter, Eliot, Marilyn  
and Christopher Porter, and Charlie Arnold

Sarah Porter and Family in Memory of Lisa Reed and Meredith Moody

Sarah Porter, Marilyn Mullen-Pierce, and Sarah Mullen in Memory of David J. Mullen





## UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

☎ (631) 788-7898

🌐 [www.fiunionchapel.org](http://www.fiunionchapel.org)

**Minister: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson**

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**Chair, Board of Trustees: Louise Packard**

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## HOLY WEEK EVENTS

10:00 am - April 2	Palm Sunday Worship
5:30 pm - April 7	Good Friday Prayer Service
6:00 am - April 9	Easter Sunrise at Dock Beach
10:00 am - April 9	Easter Service at Union Chapel



Retirement Party for Diane Dawson Dexter  
at Anita Fritze's House

## WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2023

At Union Chapel's Annual Meeting on January 22nd, the congregation approved a balanced budget for 2023 with a new line item! The Trustees have approved the development of a Media Lab that will become the foundation for youth ministry and a resource for the island. The idea is to create an environment for young people to work with adults to develop skills in new media and to gain confidence with these modes of communication to create messages to promote peace, environmental sustainability, religious discovery, and interfaith understanding. In his letter of support for the project, Dylan Gauthier, Program Director at Lighthouse Works, wrote, "Organized by Pastor Rosanna and her husband Clifford, I am certain that this lab will become a vital resource for the island on the whole, as well as a vibrant space for learning, creativity, and experimentation at the heart of Union Chapel. I can think of almost nothing more exciting and stimulating for the island's youth, and think it would be a great asset to the broader community." We agree! Look for the lab to take shape in the coming weeks and if you would like to volunteer to help, please let Pastor Rosanna know.

The budget projects continued strong revenue from the Thrift Shop (thank you, volunteers and shoppers), the Fishers Island Churches Golf Classic (another round of thanks to those volunteers and supporters) and annual appeal revenue of \$125,000, a 25% increase from 2022, but a return to 2020 levels. We will send our appeal letter out after Easter and welcome gifts at any time mailed to P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you so much for your generous support.

Together we look forward to a Spirit-filled year, with the building project continuing to transform the experience of our building, the new Media Lab taking shape, and islanders of all seasons feeling increasingly connected to and welcomed at Union Chapel.

Louise Burnham Packard  
Chair, Trustees

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**EASTER FLOWERS**



**Help us decorate our sanctuary  
for the Easter season!**

To contribute toward lilies and other spring flowers, please complete the form below and send it in along with your donation. Checks may be made payable to Fishers Island Union Chapel. Thank you!



Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory, Honor, or Celebration of (circle one)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution \_\_\_\_\_