FISHERS ISLAND
UNION CHAPEL

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Chapel Happenings

Summer 2023



Pastor Rosanna preaching on June 11, 2023

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Friends,

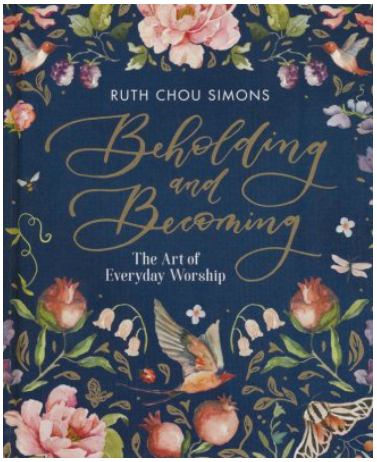
A warm welcome is what our congregation likes to share! This is true whether it's been a week since we last saw each other or a year has gone by. I look forward to welcoming you, no matter how much time has passed since you were with us. When Jesus launched his public ministry, he ventured to the other side of the Sea of Galilee to bring healing and a message of hope to people there. When he returned to Galilee, many people were gathered, eagerly awaiting his arrival. As a children's Bible rendered it, "Jesus is home-rejoice!" (Luke 8:40). Summer is a time for joyful reunions, and we invite you to return to Union Chapel.

Plans and preparations are coming to fruition in updated spaces for the mission of Union Chapel. I am also excited about leading our upcoming schedule of two weekly worship services, Beach Church at 8 am at Dock Beach and as always 10 am in Union Chapel and online through our live stream. May God bless you and give you a joyful summer.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Rosanna

BIBLE STUDY

We will discuss the beautiful book *Beholding and Becoming: The Art of Everyday Worship* by Ruth Chou Simons. A little bird suggested an early morning time would be a great way to start the day before other activities begin. We will meet on Wednesdays in July and August at 8 am. Join us at Union Chapel or online via Zoom as your schedule allows. Please email me for the Zoom link at rosanna@fiunionchapel.org.



WHY WE LOVE BEACH CHURCH
BY TRUSTEE GREG LANG



Grace and I, and our children, Diane and Calvin, love Fishers Island Union Chapel beach church and have been attending at Dock Beach early most summer Sunday mornings when we rent on Fishers. We are relative newcomers as summer residents of Fishers and spend our "regular lives" in New York City, where we attend an indoor church. I will give a few of the reasons to love the Union Chapel Beach Church service in the hope of convincing you to join us in this wonderful Fishers Island institution.

1. **Beach Church is brief.** At 30 minutes or less, you will begin your Sunday with a recharge of nature, contemplation and community while leaving the entire remainder of your Sunday to commune with Creation on the golf course, tennis court, at Chocomount, carousing with friends, etc. Grace and I both work in New York City during the week, so although it may seem sacrilegious, we prize the brevity of the service and the fact that it is early in the day.

2. **Beach Church is welcoming and ecumenical.** Over the years at Beach Church we have met longtime Fishers people, both summer and year-rounders. We have met people just passing through, people on-island to work or on-island visiting friends. We have met very traditional Christian believers who are regular church-goers, lapsed or occasional church-goers, people looking for community, Jewish folks and at least one Deist. A big turnout for Beach Church is 20 people or so. The small size of the group means if you are new to Fishers or to Beach Church, you may meet someone you have never met before. If you are a longtime Fishers person, you may see someone you haven't seen in awhile.

3. **Pastor Rosanna will make you think.** Given the brevity of the service, Pastor Rosanna's message is brief, too. Though Beach Church is brief, Pastor Rosanna's messages are pithy and meaningful. Last Summer, she spent a series of Beach Church services reading short passages from the nature journals of Jonathan Edwards. Many of you will know Edwards as the fire-and-brimstone American preacher of the 1700s. Pastor Rosanna explored the less-known, more sensitive, open and universalist side of this familiar historical figure through words recorded during his own nature walks 300 years ago. Pastor Rosanna is a scholar not only of the church but of wide-ranging subjects, and will appeal to people, like us, who appreciate a well-researched, intellectually curious message.

4. **Community.** Most readers will already know that Fishers Island is one of the most hospitable places you can ever hope to find. Beach Church reflects this. A small group of regulars at the service may change a little, week to week, and is almost always joined by a few new people visiting Fishers or joining friends at the service. Many churches post signs or begin services with "All are welcome" and this has never been said more truly than at Union Chapel's beach church. You will have at least one real conversation before, after or even during the very informal service. If you are intimidated by church, this will be the least intimidating church you can imagine. If you have attended an indoor church every Sunday of your life, this will mark a new, wonderful level of informality.

(continued on page 5)



LAURA CHAPMAN

Laura Chapman is the new Union Chapel Sexton. She will help with the management of all maintenance and improvements being performed at our Chapel, Parsonage, and Thrift Shop. Laura is a third generation Fishers Islander. Her grandparents, Romeo and Josephine Abbondanza, moved to Fishers Island in approximately 1940, where Romeo worked as the Barber on Fort Wright, and Josephine sewed custom draperies and slipcovers for many summer residents. Laura's mother, Dorothy Mannetti, was the Hairdresser at the Tidal Wave during the 1970s and 80s. Laura spent her childhood summers on Fishers Island enjoying the IPP morning program, swimming lessons at Dock Beach, tennis lessons and riding the waves at Isabella Beach. She was also an avid distance runner in that time, winning the first Sea Stretcher 8-mile race (women) in 1980.

Laura and her husband, Michael were married in 1983. Both worked for the Federal Government and enjoyed traveling and experiencing new duty stations that included living in Chesapeake, Virginia, Honolulu, Hawaii, and San Diego, California, before settling back "home" to Stonington, Connecticut, in 2003, where they could once again enjoy summers on Fishers Island. While working full time, Laura earned her BSBA from Hawaii Pacific University. Laura and Michael are very proud of their two sons. Christopher (28) is a Chemist; Spencer (25) is a Data Engineer. The boys cherished spending their summers here with their cousins from Texas (the Mannetti's), and still look forward to connecting with them every summer. After over 30 years in the contracting field, Laura retired as Supervisory Contract Specialist/Contracting Officer with the Department of the Navy. She was responsible for soliciting, awarding, and administering a variety of contracts to include submarine repairs and modernization, architect-engineering services, military construction, and all types of facilities maintenance. After retiring, she and Michael decided to make Fishers Island their year-round home. Her experience with contract and project management will provide a smooth transition to the Sexton duties at Union Chapel.

Some of Laura's favorite island activities include bicycling on the Rec Path or walking her Parson Russell Terrier around the island with her friends. She is a regular at the FICC Fitness Center. She enjoys being an occasional substitute teacher at Fishers Island School and an Election Poll worker. In summer, Laura enjoys Yacht Club parties, boating with her family or having cookouts on Isabella Beach. "I love being part of this tight-knit community – it's just so great to see the smiling faces of friends everywhere you go!"

SERMON SERIES IN SUMMER 2023

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson will preach on connections between God's creation in the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels.

July 2	The Everlasting Light	Genesis 1, John 1
July 9	Dr. Clifford Anderson, Guest Preacher	
July 16	Living Lightly on the Land	Genesis 12:1-9, Luke 12:13-21
July 23	Blossoms in the Desert	Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 6:25-34
July 30	Strong as a Cedar, Sweet as a Fig	1 Kings 5, Luke 6:43-45
August 6	All You Shining Stars	Psalm 148, Mark 13:14-27
August 13	Leviathan and Little Fish	Isaiah 27, Luke 5:1-11
August 20	Dr. William Storrar, Guest Preacher	
August 27	Obedient Ravens and Nesting Birds	1 Kings 17:1-7, Mark 4:30-33
September 3	Watch Out for Behemoth!	Job 40, Luke 9:57-62

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR DR. BARBARA HOCH

Everyone in the community is invited to join us to give thanks to God for the life of Dr. Barbara Hoch.

Saturday, June 24, at 2:00 pm
Worship at Union Chapel
Reception to Follow in Fellowship Hall

THRIFT SHOP

Come find a bargain on Saturday mornings from 10am until noon through September 2.

Donations of new or gently used items are greatly appreciated, but we can't accept electronics.



GUEST PREACHER ON AUGUST 20

Dr. William Storrar will be our guest preacher on Sunday, August 20th. Dr. Storrar is a world-renowned theologian who has held positions at the University of Aberdeen, the University of Glasgow, and the University of Edinburgh before becoming the Director of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, New Jersey. He will be preaching at both services on Sunday, August 20th.

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS 2023

Truman Bidwell, Jr. in Memory of Katharine Bidwell

Susie and Peter Brinckerhoff in Honor of Merritt, Charlotte, Nate, and Emily, and in Memory of Nancy Gerry

Diane Dawson Dexter in Honor of Loving Family and Friends

Dave and Gail Edwards in Memory of Perry and Dot Edwards

Will and Diana Fiske in Memory of Ronnie and Pam Fiske, Bill and Nancy Fiske

The Fritze Family in Memory of Grayson, Mary, and Howland Murphy and Gunther Fritze

Louise Packard in Honor of Anne and David Burnham

The Porter, Soper, Mullen, and Arnold Families in Memory of Maxwell and Rachel Porter, Eliot, Marilyn, and Chris Porter, Charlie Arnold, and David Mullen

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

Frances Roethgen in Memory of Art Walsh

Kandi Sanger in Memory of Peter D. Sanger and Natalie DuPont Lyon

John and Mélie Spofford in Memory of Helen and Jerrold Bryce, Nancy and Stephen Kelsey, Margaret Spofford, and Nicholas Yerkes

MEDIA LAB FOR GOOD



Huge thanks to the senior class of Fishers Island School and their advisors! We are delighted that they volunteered to paint the room that will become the Media Lab for Good. It is wonderful that they worked together to help turn this new resource for our community into a reality.

To check out our promo video about the Media Lab for Good, and get details on the schedule of classes and events, visit the church's website at www.fiunionchapel.org

WHY WE LOVE BEACH CHURCH

(Conclusion of Greg Lang's article from p.2)

41° 15' 43" N, 72° 0' 26" W. I don't know what prompted the Creator of the Universe to make the island at these coordinates so special. But if you are here on a summer Sunday morning, why not be down at Dock Beach? The shallow water and sandy bottom of West Harbor along the western shore of the harbor out toward Hawk's Nest Point create a color to the water that you don't see often. During service, the ospreys will be in their nest out there near the point, or commuting across the harbor on their various errands. Birds will alight on the reeds along the back of the beach or on the lifeguard stand. During service a duck will swim by. The IODs at their moorings and the water around them will glitter in the morning sun. A wake from out in the channel will send little waves onto the beach or a little motorboat will putter by. A few feet from the gathered group, a kid who couldn't wait to get to the beach may splash along in the shallows. Significant portions of the Beach Church service are dedicated to moments of quiet reflection, and during these moments, the awesome reality of God's creation at these particular coordinates comes rushing in.

UNION CHAPEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

Fishers Island Union Chapel
P.O. Box 182
821 Crescent Avenue
Fishers Island, NY 06390

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage
PAID
EDDM Retail

LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, July 2, from 4:30-5:30 pm
Union Chapel and the Parsonage

Have you seen the new kitchen at Union Chapel? Admired the handsome glass doors of our entrance vestibule? Have you ever toured the Parsonage? Come see the transformation underway in both buildings and learn about the work that is still to come. You can also learn about the new Media Lab for Good and plans for summer programs. Children are welcome, and lemonade and cookies will be plentiful. We extend our thanks to all of our generous donors who have made the work to date possible. We are also grateful to Sam Fitzgerald, our architect, and Jay Roarke and the team at BD for their skill, craftsmanship, and collaborative approach. We look forward to seeing you!

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

(631) 788-7898
www.fiunionchapel.org

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson
rosanna@fiunionchapel.org

Chair, Board of Trustees: Louise Packard
louise.packard@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Becky Walters
becky.walters@fiunionchapel.org

Sexton: Laura Chapman
laura.chapman@fiunionchapel.org

@fiunionchapel @FishersIslandUnionChapel
@fiunionchapel @fiunionchapel