

Winter 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

As we begin a new year, I hope that you are healthy and happy. This is an excellent time to strengthen your sense of community.

When you feel sad or experience a loss, and when you are sick or going through medical treatments, may God encourage you personally and through our community of faith. I am glad to be your neighbor. At its heart, Union Chapel is a community gathered from all corners of Fishers Island. If you long for a community to share with you in the highs and lows of life, we would be happy to welcome you here!

Our faith teaches that God graciously offers us a fresh start every morning. Each week is a new opportunity when the living Lord Jesus meets us faithfully and speaks to us by his Spirit through Scripture and sermon. God's grace is abundant as we discover our life and the world put into perspective. We lift up our joys and concerns in prayer. We enjoy music as we sing praise to God. Join us in Union Chapel or via live stream for those who are away or need to stay at home.

People have been enjoying fun activities here at Union Chapel, including the annual Tree Lighting and Caroling, Senior Luncheons, and events hosted by Lighthouse Works. Many people worked together and revived the Fall Festival. With the help of our friends at Our Lady of Grace, we even managed to bring back the Christmas pageant after many years. We also introduced a greens workshop, which I hope will become a new tradition. This winter, I look forward to seeing you at our Pizza and Games Nights.

May God bless you and your loved ones throughout 2024!

Peace in Christ,  
*Pastor Rosanna*

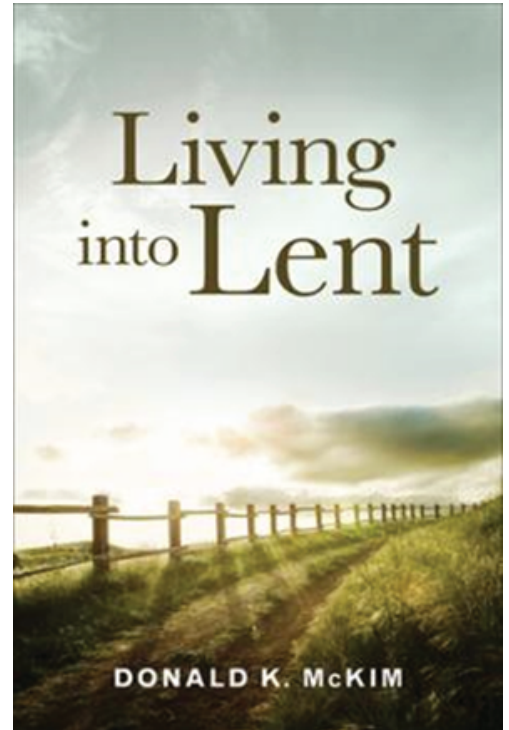


**Tree Lighting & Caroling on  
December 1, 2023. Thanks to David  
Burnham and his crew at Race Rock  
Garden Company for lighting the tree!**

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Would you like to draw closer to God this winter? Join us on Wednesday mornings during Lent, the six weeks of preparation that lead up to the celebration of Easter. We will meet in the newly redecorated Parlor and via Zoom on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

We will talk about *Living into Lent* by Donald K. McKim (Westminster John Knox Press, 2020). This thoughtful book will help us to reflect on our Christian identity, listen to God's Word and will, and engage in practices that deepen our experience of faith through discipleship. Author Don McKim is a renowned theologian and professor who relates the Bible passage to daily life. Each reading features Scripture, devotion, a theological quotation, response, and prayer.



WEDNESDAYS FROM 9:00 - 10:00 A.M. ON FEB 14, 21, 28, MARCH 6, 13, 20

## GENEROSITY ABOUNDS!



Greens Workshop led by Master Gardener Diana Fiske

If you have spent time at Union Chapel lately, you will have seen (and smelled!) a lot of fresh paint. Our building project continues to transform the chapel and there is more to come this winter and spring, including glass doors and a new large window and window seat in the Fellowship Hall, plus a new divider for separating the hall and the sanctuary. Over at the Parsonage, a basement room is becoming a finished laundry room, and we will add a new entrance vestibule at the front of the house this spring.

None of this would be possible without your generosity. Thank you! In October, we announced an \$80,000 matching challenge to finish up the fundraising for the building project. The response has been wonderful. I am delighted to report that through the generosity of so many, we have met the \$80,000 challenge and reached our \$825,000 goal for the renovation of the chapel and the parsonage. Thanks be to God, and thank you to everyone who made gifts! We appreciate your continued support of Union Chapel and its ministries both on and off Fishers Island.

As the Trustees plan for 2024, we are excited to put our renovated building to good use as an island resource by increasing our community programs. Our priorities include children, youth and families, as well as connecting with other interest groups in order to better serve everyone on Fishers Island. The Rev. Krysia Burnham, who is rebuilding our Board of Deacons, and her team are gathering ideas and would love to hear from you! (Send an email at [deacons@fiunionchapel.org](mailto:deacons@fiunionchapel.org).)

With gratitude always,  
Louise Burnham Packard,  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

## FISHERS ISLAND SCHOOL ENJOYS THE MEDIA LAB FOR GOOD

Fishers Island School 10th and 11th grade English students headed to the Union Chapel Media Lab for Good this fall to learn about recording and editing audio and video for their class projects. With the help of Pastor Rosanna and her husband Clifford Anderson, students learned about using the camera, lights, microphones, and green screen as well as the audio recording equipment and software.

While reading Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, 10th grade students spent several English class sessions creating a podcast centered around the immigration experience in the United States. Students were asked to consider both the positive and negative experiences of people who have left their home countries and come to America, just like two of the characters in Hosseini's novel. As the main part of their podcast project, students interviewed two island residents, Marlin Bloethe and Claudia Desimone, about their own immigration experiences to better understand how such a life change can impact a person and the people around them.



Article and Photos by Ms. Jess Hall,  
English Language Arts Teacher

From there, the sophomores spent time editing their interviews, recording their scripted material, adding in musical interludes and sound effects, and reviewing and finalizing their podcasts. The skills they have developed from utilizing the equipment at the Media Lab for Good will extend beyond any class project and will allow them the opportunity to record other podcasts, music, and films – really anything their imaginations can come up with!



## PIZZA AND GAMES NIGHT

People of all ages are invited to join us for free pizza and games in Fellowship Hall on selected Friday nights from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. This is a fun activity for youth and families. Bring your favorite game, or enjoy a variety of options in our growing collection. We recently added Azul, Double Bananagrams, and Wingspan. New games may be led by the person who brings them or by watching a brief YouTube tutorial.

RSVP to Pastor Rosanna at [rosanna@fiunionchapel.org](mailto:rosanna@fiunionchapel.org) by noon Friday with the number of pizza slices you would like.

FRIDAYS - JANUARY 19, FEBRUARY 9, MARCH 8, MARCH 22, APRIL 26 AND MAY 17

## FALL FAIR

A dedicated group of volunteers, local artists, and gardeners worked together to bring back the Fall Fair. We also had plants for sale, pumpkin painting, face painting, and school spirit items. Local businesses contributed as well, such as coffee from Island Hardware, and the Beach Plum and the Library provided gift baskets for the raffle. Thank you to everyone who participated!



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On Sunday, December 17, Pastor Rosanna Anderson and Gina Scumaci from Our Lady of Grace collaborated to bring back the tradition of the Fishers Island Christmas Pageant. We were happy to have delightful angels and several talented shepherds. Scripture readers included Hailey Myers, James Myers, Theodore Anderson, and two members of Our Lady of Grace: MaryBeth Guimeres and Gina Scumaci. Diane Dexter played beautiful Christmas carols and people from the wider Fishers Island community attended the festive event. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas and the last week of Advent. Special thanks to Vicki Rogers, who baked three kinds of cookies for our party! We look forward to continuing the pageant next year, and the churches will continue to partner on other events in 2024.



## SENIOR LUNCHEON

Senior Luncheons are held on the third Thursday of the month from October through May. Most are held at the Union Chapel, unless otherwise noted. We serve lunch in person at noon. If you need a vegetarian option, please let us know ahead of time. Please RSVP to Heather Burnham at [hfburnham@gmail.com](mailto:hfburnham@gmail.com) or call (860) 617-3264. We need your reservation by Sunday afternoon so we can get a head count to the cook by Monday morning. All islanders over 60 are welcome.

The Senior Luncheon Committee is always looking for volunteer chefs and entertainment ideas. Island organizations are invited to host. Guest speakers are most welcome. Let us know if you want to get involved for next season. To volunteer to cater the meal one month, help serve, or ask questions, just contact Heather Burnham.

THURSDAYS AT NOON ON JANUARY 18, FEBRUARY 15, MARCH 21, APRIL 18 AND MAY 16

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2023



In celebration of Emmanuel, God is with us! by Leslie O. Goss

In celebration of Thomas McCance on his 90th birthday by Harry and Ellen Parker

In honor of Merritt, Charlotte, Nate, and Emily, and in memory of Harris and Elsie Parsons and Nancy Gerry by Susie and Peter Brinckerhoff

In memory of Betsey Bourne Tracy, Jim Tracy, and Ed and Anne Ahrens by the Ahrens family

In memory of Pat and Richard Baker and Wallace Boutilier by Diane and Jim Baker

In memory of Katharine Bidwell by J. Truman Bidwell, Jr.

In memory of Lee Ferguson, Martha Ferguson, Nancy Murphy, Anne Burnham, Brad Burnham and Joan Burnham by David and Heather Burnham

In memory of Evelyn Clarke by Charles Clarke

In memory of Katharine Townsend, Paul G. Evans and Paul R. Evans by Bob and Louisa Evans

In memory of Samuel D. Parkinson and William W. Parkinson by Bob and Louisa Evans

In memory of Pam and Ronnie Furse and Bill and Nancy Fiske by Will and Diana Fiske

In memory of Gunther Fritze, and Mary, Grayson and Howland Murphy by Anita W. Fritze

In memory of Elizabeth and Richmond Guimaraes by MaryBeth and George Guimaraes

In memory of Anne and David Burnham by Louise Packard and Murray Metcalfe

In memory of Maxwell and Rachel Porter, Eliot, Marilyn and Chris Porter, Charlie Arnold, and David Mullen by the Porter, Soper, Mullen and Arnold families

In memory of Lisa Cook Reed and Meredith Moody by Sarah Porter



## UNION CHAPEL ON YOUTUBE

Do you know that Union Chapel has its own YouTube channel: @fiunionchapel? We record Pastor Rosanna's sermons every Sunday morning and post them to our channel by Sunday afternoon. If you missed the service, you can view the recorded version anytime on your phone, smart television, or computer by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/@fiunionchapel>. Don't forget to subscribe, comment, share, and click the little bell to be notified whenever a new sermon appears. With a library of nearly fifty sermons and growing, you'll have lots of inspiring messages to keep you going throughout the week. Be sure to give us a like by clicking the thumbs-up button!



## HOLY WEEK EVENTS

**Palm Sunday Worship** 10:00 a.m.

Union Chapel and via live stream

**Good Friday Prayer Service** 5:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunrise Service** 6:00 a.m. at Dock Beach

**Easter Sunday Worship** 10:00 a.m.

Union Chapel and via live stream

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Fair on Memorial Day weekend,  
Saturday, May 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

## UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

☎ (631) 788-7898

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

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## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Fishers Island, NY 06390

