

Fall 2024

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

We extend a warm invitation to all members of the Fishers Island community to join us at Union Chapel. Our doors are open to everyone, regardless of where you find yourself on your spiritual journey. We believe each person's path is unique, and we welcome the opportunity to walk alongside you, learn together, and grow in faith as a community.

This summer, we were delighted to host various worship and fellowship events. Our Bible study, "Exploring the 'I Am' Sayings of Jesus," provided deep insights, while Beach Church offered a refreshing outdoor worship experience. Guest musicians enhanced our 10 a.m. services, and the overnight movie marathon featuring J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" and "The Fellowship of the Ring" brought us together for an engaging exploration of Christian themes in literature.

Beyond our chapel walls, I had the privilege of presenting the Katherine and Edwin Horning Award at the Fishers Island School Graduation and leading the Prayer of Invocation at the annual Town Board Meeting with Town of Southold officials. It was also a profound honor to conduct memorial services for cherished community members. We continue to hold in our hearts the families and friends of those who have passed into eternal life.

Fall is here, and Union Chapel is alive with possibility. I'm truly excited about our full slate of activities — from quiet moments of reflection to lively gatherings that'll have you laughing with new friends. Whether you're looking to dig deeper into your faith, try your hand at something creative, or just enjoy good company, there's a place for you here.

I'd love to see you drop by, even just to say hello. Remember, our doors are open to all - longtime members, curious visitors, and everyone who finds themselves on Fishers for any reason. There's something special about coming together as the days grow shorter and the trees turn golden.

So come as you are. Bring the kids, invite a friend, or just come by yourself. As the leaves fall around us, let us reflect on the words of Psalm 145:9: "The Lord is good to all; God's compassion is over all he has made." I hope you experience the truth of this promise in the coming days.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Rosanna



Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

When a Door Closes, God Opens a Window

by Rev. Krysia Bereday Burnham

I have never loved that cliché but it's the best way to describe how God has made a way for me to pursue a plan of doctoral study over the past four years.

In 2019, I learned about a program called Community Scholars at Boston University's School of Theology. These non-credit classes are for people doing ministry who want to become transformational leaders. A year later, I audited Pastoral Care and Leadership, taught by the Rev. Dr. Robert Allen Hill, Dean of Marsh Chapel, Chaplain to the University, and Professor of New Testament and Pastoral Theology. We began the class in person and finished on Zoom mid-pandemic, learning about different models of pastoral care in church and elsewhere. Dean Hill told us to take "an hour a day, a day a week, and a week a month" to rest and recharge and to build some downtime into our lives. That idea seemed wise.



Invigorated by that first class, I applied to the D.Min. program. From 2021-2023, I took Transformational Leadership, Contextual Analysis, Sabbath Practice, Research Methods, and Space, Place, and Change in Worship. For each, I read about 100 pages per week, wrote posts on our online classroom "blackboard," worked in small groups, wrote papers, and produced presentations.

In summer 2024, my plate already full, I considered quitting. Our program director counseled me, and I decided to stick with it. She suggested I take a class on Spiritual Care and Social Justice, which directly applied to my professional development. The instructor was Dr. Eunil David Cho, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care and Counseling and co-director of the Center for Practical Theology. He won his students' hearts when he said: "Please know that in this class, we cultivate a space of non-perfection. I get that you all work in ministry and have lives. I'm giving you extra grace these first two weeks, and there will always be more grace..." Amen to that!

In the current term, my Dean approved my choice of advisor, Dr. Claire Wolfeich. Her research is on Christian spirituality; religion and public life; theology and practice. This is a major approved milestone. I'm thrilled. After this semester, I have two classes left. It is possible to finish my coursework by the end of 2025, at which point I could research and write the thesis. My topic is how to call upon expressive, healing arts such as writing to improve chaplaincy practice for grievers and anyone in a life transition. I'm thinking of designing a half-day retreat that will be a collaboration with other change-makers in the arts and spirituality.

I don't have a crystal ball. But as we say at First Church in Cambridge, "the Way knows the Way." Like all of us, I'm on a path and each day I try to do a little bit more towards reaching my goal. And I pray that other possibilities open in due time. After all, God's got this.

I am grateful to the Union Chapel community for its ongoing spiritual support as I deepen my understanding in the field of grief care, and continue to be awed by the healing power of Hope.

FALL 2024 CALENDAR UNION CHAPEL

Special Events

Fall Fair
Saturday 10/12 10 AM-1 PM

Sunday School Organizational
Gathering for Families
Sunday 10/20 9 AM

“Belle” Movie and Library Book Group
Wed., 10/23 5-8 PM

Halloween-Themed Sunday School
Sunday 10/27 9 AM

Bagel Making Workshop
Saturday 11/09 10 AM-noon

Tree Lighting and Caroling
Saturday 12/07 5 PM

Community Christmas Pageant
Sunday 12/08 10-11 AM

Greens Workshop
Sunday 12/08 11 AM-noon

Cookie Exchange and Christmas Movies
Sunday 12/15 5:30-7:30 PM

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday 12/24 5-6 PM

Monthly Activities

Senior Luncheon
Thursdays 10/17, 11/21, 12/19 noon-1:30 PM

Intuitive Collage
Sundays 10/13, 11/03 2-3 PM

Board Game Café
Saturdays 10/26, 11/16, 12/07 5-7 PM

Weekly Activities

Worship 10AM and Fellowship 11 AM
Sundays Hybrid

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tuesdays, Saturdays 6:30 PM Hybrid

Bible Study Group
Wednesdays 9-10 AM Hybrid

“How to Pray”
Wednesdays in October, November

Advent Bible Study
Wed. 12/04, 12/11, 12/18 9-10 AM

Tots Time
Thursdays 10-11 AM

Letter from the Trustees

Fall is off to a fast start at Union Chapel and the Trustees have a lot of news to share.

In September, we expanded the monthly Trustees meetings to include key leaders of our ministries. Our new Church Council now includes Mere Doyen (Youth Ministry), Patti Norton (Tots Time), Cliff Anderson (Communications), HP Bunaes (Finance & Data) and Krysia Burnham (Deacons). We hope to continue to grow the Council and church leadership in the months ahead.

We have also launched a visioning process and invite you to sign up to attend a listening session – a small group opportunity to wonder together what Union Chapel can offer the congregation and the community in the next three to five years. Thank you to David Burnham, Scott Reid, Louisa Evans, Willard Soper, Krysia Burnham, Betty Edwards Johnson and Louise Burnham Packard for volunteering to facilitate these sessions. We want to hear from everyone who is part of the larger Fishers community, so please send an email to trustees@fiunionchapel.org and we will find a time for you to join a group in person or on Zoom.

The visioning process coincides with a discernment process as Pastor Rosanna nears the end of her three-year “designated term” as Pastor, a time during which Union Chapel has literally been reborn. We emerged from the pandemic. Worship draws a consistent congregation in person and online. Our buildings are renewed. We have a new staff team. Our media lab engages all FI high school students. And our calendar has filled with activities year-round. A Pastor Discernment Committee is meeting this fall with Pastor Rosanna to ensure alignment between the vision that emerges in our listening sessions and Pastor Rosanna’s gifts for ministry. Thank you to Diane Baker, Anita Fritze, HP Bunaes and Louise Burnham Packard for serving on that committee. We hope to have clarity about next steps in time for our annual meeting in January.





Again, please be in touch about participating in a listening session, join us for worship, and don't miss the Fall Fair or any of the activities coming up this fall.

UNION CHAPEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Community Call to Prayer

by Nette Head

In our Union Chapel weekly Bible Study group, we discuss our individual spiritual paths and practices. A call to prayer is a meaningful practice; in different traditions, it's a reminder to take a moment to reconnect with yourself and your community. Whether it's through bells or announcements, this daily signal helps people step away from stress, focus on what really matters, and find some inner peace and balance. Here on Fishers Island, we have a built-in reminder each day at noon, thanks to our horn. Union Chapel's Bible study group invites all members of our congregation and community to join us in a daily call as a moment to pause and reflect.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith formation for children and teens is a very important part of their development. We want them to have a steady moral foundation and to develop their identity as people who are loved by God and capable of contributing their talents for the betterment of society. We hope that we have enough commitments from families to re-launch Sunday School as a one-room schoolhouse in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. All parents and grandparents, along with children and youth, are invited to an Organizational Gathering for families on Sunday, October 20, from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m. The following week, Dr. Clifford Anderson will lead a Halloween-themed discussion for teens about Ryan J. Stark's new book on Monsters, Philosophy, Religion and the Paranormal on October 27 at 9:00 a.m.

TOTS TIME



This fun playgroup is for all tots and their parents, grandparents, or caregivers. Patti Norton leads our "Tots Time" program on Thursday mornings. Patti is an RN who has a background in maternal and child healthcare. She is a Fishers Island native who has fond memories of growing up here. She is the grandmother of Casey and Lukas Norton and Bella and Griffin Harris. Patti returned to Fishers after retirement from her career of several decades, including in Framingham Massachusetts, Vanderbilt University Hospital and in Evansville, Indiana. Patti is knowledgeable about the whole span of care for maternal and pediatric care. She enjoys teaching and would like to share helpful information regarding topics such as children's nutrition and safety during the holidays.

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CHRISTMAS

Help us decorate our sanctuary for Christmas

To contribute toward poinsettias, 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!

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