

Summer 2025

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Summer greetings to you! A day spent in the beautiful setting of Fishers Island is a gift to be cherished. As you look around and see the lush greenery and vibrant flowers, take in the vistas across the glorious Sound, hear the sounds of waves and birdsong, notice lively creatures and admire magnificent sunsets, may your heart be filled with gratitude. Each day is unique, holding new opportunities. May we make the most of the time and thank God as we go.

We at Union Chapel offer many ways for you to connect with friends and grow in faith this summer. I hope you will join us for worship at 10 a.m. in our air conditioned sanctuary, with coffee hour afterward in Fellowship Hall. Starting July 5, we will also gather on Dock Beach at 8 a.m. for Beach Church. Check out our full calendar of activities on pages 3-4 and join us when you can.

The summer also brings times to gather for memorial services. As we remember beloved family members and friends who have died, we thank God for the blessings we experienced through knowing them. It is sad to say farewell and we will miss them. This past year, our wider community has lost dear neighbors and friends who died young, in their forties and fifties. It is difficult to work through the pain of loss.

As Christians, we believe that God sent his Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world. Jesus taught about the kingdom of God and did awesome miracles. Since Jesus is both human and divine, he took upon himself the sin of the world in his death on the cross. He willingly died in our place, in order to bring us forgiveness. God raised Jesus in the resurrection on Easter. He overcame death and is alive forever! Now we can be close to God and live a new quality of life. We have hope for our future: we will live forever in the kingdom of God. Everyone who has died who loves the Lord is now alive in heaven, praising God forever. May you be comforted by this good news.



**Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson**

*Join us for Pastor Rosanna's Installation Service on June 15. See page 2 for details.*

## A Community Celebration on June 15: Pastor Rosanna's Installation Service

On Sunday, June 15, at 10:00 a.m., Union Chapel and the New London Association of the United Church of Christ will hold a worship service that will include the Installation of the Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson as our Settled Pastor. Union Chapel welcomes the entire Fishers Island community to join us for this milestone event.

Pastor Rosanna moved to Fishers Island in December 2021 to serve a three-year appointment as "Designated Term Pastor." Last fall, a Discernment Committee composed of leaders in the congregation, with input from more than thirty members and friends of Union Chapel, looked back with gratitude on all that the Chapel accomplished in those three years, noting how effectively Pastor Rosanna has nurtured our growth in faith and vitality, provided pastoral care during difficult times, and worked to build our programmatic life, from Bible study to the media lab to the board game cafe, and to be a visible presence outside the church, developing relationships throughout the community. The committee was also enthusiastic about the contributions of Pastor Rosanna's family – her husband Dr. Clifford Anderson, the director of the Divinity School Library at Yale University, and their son Theodore, who is completing ninth grade at the Fishers Island School. In February, the congregation voted unanimously to call Pastor Rosanna to the role of Settled Pastor.



The Installation on June 15 will feature the Rev. Isaac Lawson, Area Conference Minister for the South Central region of the United Church of Christ, as Guest Preacher, and Chris Geist as guest organist. All of the island churches have been invited to participate in the service as have other island organizations. A festive reception will follow in the courtyard.

For those who cannot attend in person, Wes Walters will stream the service through Union Chapel's website, [fiunionchapel.org](https://fiunionchapel.org). We hope that you will join us in person or online as we celebrate and give thanks to God for guiding us to this joyful season in the life of our community.

We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Isaac Lawson as the Guest Preacher on June 15. Rev. Lawson is our Area Conference Minister in the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ. He has served in this role working with pastoral transitions and committees on church and ministry for the past four years. Having discerned a call to return to local church ministry, he will conclude this role at the end of June and begin a new chapter of his ministry in a different conference. We are grateful that he will preach the sermon at this special worship service.



**The Rev. Isaac Lawson**



# SUMMER 2025 SPECIAL EVENTS

## JUNE 14

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Memorial Service for Deanna Lynne Miller Ross at 11:30 a.m.

## JUNE 15

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Service of Installation at 10:00 a.m. in Union Chapel and via live stream

The New London Association of the United Church of Christ invites you to this special worship service in which the Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson will be installed as our settled Pastor. The Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Isaac Lawson, Area Conference Minister for the Southern New England Conference. Christ Geist will be the guest organist. A reception will follow.

## JUNE 21

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Memorial Service for Roberta Elwell at 2:00

## JUNE 22

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Guest Preacher: Betty Edwards Johnson, Lay leader, Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, Cedar Park, Texas

## JULY 13

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Guest Preacher: Rev. Marcus Corey, Executive Minister at Loon Mountain Ministry in Lincoln, New Hampshire.

## JULY 20

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Guest Preacher: Dr. Clifford Anderson, Director of the Divinity Library at Yale University.

**Board Game Café Sundays June 29, July 27 and August 17 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

This is a fun time to gather with friends and family to learn a new board game and enjoy a free dinner in Fellowship Hall.



# WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

## SUNDAYS

**Beach Church on July 5 through August 31 from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.**

Our outdoor worship service called Beach Church meets at Dock Beach. It is a time to pray and praise God in the midst of creation. Please bring a beach chair or towel to sit on.

**Worship and Fellowship at Union Chapel from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

We welcome you to join us for this meaningful time of preaching, prayer and singing. We offer a live stream through our website. We use Vimeo, so no link is needed. We have fellowship at coffee hour after worship.

## TUESDAYS

**Alcoholics Anonymous at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.**

We are happy to sponsor this important year-round group. To connect with the facilitator, email [info@finyaa.org](mailto:info@finyaa.org).

## WEDNESDAYS

**Bible Study from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

We meet in a hybrid format in the church Parlor and via Zoom. On June 4, we begin our study of Jill Duffield's new book, *Appreciate These Things: Eight Ways of Cultivating Compassion*.

## THURSDAYS

**Tots Time from 10:00 -11:00 a.m.**

Parents, grandparents, babysitters or nannies and toddlers are welcome to drop by to share in conversation and play time. Patti Norton, a retired pediatric nurse, leads this fun gathering. We provide coffee or tea and cookies. Thrift Shop 10:00 a.m. to noon, June 14 through Labour Day weekend.

## SATURDAYS

**Alcoholics Anonymous at 5:00 p.m.**

We are happy to sponsor this important group that meets year-round. To connect with the facilitator, email [info@finyaa.org](mailto:info@finyaa.org).

## BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

When Union Chapel decided to remove asbestos floor tiles back in the spring of 2021, we had no idea that we were beginning a four-year project to completely renovate our building and make substantial upgrades to our Parsonage. But here we are, about to enter the final phase of work, which is scheduled to begin in June.

We have accomplished so much! New flooring and a shored up concrete slab underpin so many transformed spaces at the church – the Media Lab, the Parlor, the brand-new kitchen, the light-filled Fellowship Hall and the handsome new entry through the mahogany and glass double doors.



*Construction will begin soon on the new Fellowship Hall window*

This summer we will complete the project with the installation of a big picture window in Fellowship Hall, a wooden divider to separate the church from the hall, and new ceiling plaster that will absorb sound when the hall is filled with people chatting. Stop in and watch the magic happen!

Generous donations have made all of this and the work at our Parsonage (new kitchen, new bathroom, and a reclaimed basement) possible. Although we had hoped to have concluded our fundraising, we are not quite done yet for all the usual reasons – inflation and rising costs, increased scope when we saw opportunities to improve the building that we hadn't previously planned, and the discovery that our 60-year-old building would need more shoring up than we expected.

This spring we set out to raise \$300,000, and already a number of wonderful donors have stepped up to help. We invite you to join them to make this project a community-wide effort. Whether you have worshiped on a Sunday morning, attended a funeral, enjoyed Senior Lunches or a Board Game Café, you know that the Union Chapel welcomes all.

More information and a donation link is on our website at [fiunionchapel.org](http://fiunionchapel.org). Thank you!

### UNION CHAPEL CHURCH COUNCIL

- Clifford Anderson
- Rosanna Anderson (Pastor)
- Susie Brinckerhoff
- H.P. Bunaes
- David Burnham
- Krysia Burnham
- Mere Doyen
- Anita Fritze
- Greg Lang
- Louise Packard (Chair)
- Sarah Porter
- Janio Spinola

### UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

- ☎ (631) 788-7898
- 🌐 [www.fiunionchapel.org](http://www.fiunionchapel.org)
- ✉ @fiunionchapel
- ▶ @fiunionchapel
- 📷 @fiunionchapel
- 📺 @FishersIslandUnionChapel

- ✉ **Minister: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson**  
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- ✉ **Church Council Chair: Louise Packard**  
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- ✉ **Director of Operations: Laura Chapman**  
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## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

### Easter Flowers Gifts Remembered:

Harris & Elsie, Rosemary & Art, Nancy & Henny  
Frank & Marie Burr, Frank & Grace Burr  
Margaret & Walter Thompson  
Grayson, Mary and Howland Murphy  
Gunther Fritze, Mariel Goss  
Anne & David Burnham, Harry S. Parker III  
Meredith Moody, Lisa Cook Reed, Dee Ross  
Eliot, Marilyn, and Chris Porter  
Maxine & Charlie Arnold  
Wendy Smith & Chip Arnold  
Asher James Lee Wilson  
Maxwell & Rachel Porter, Jack Soper  
Edwina Sanger, Grant Sanger, Peter Sanger  
Stephen Sanger, Morgan Sanger  
Prince & Princess Francis Schwarzenberg

### SPRING FAIR - THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who baked, volunteered, and shopped at our Spring Fair on May 24. Together we raised nearly \$2,000 for Union Chapel's ministries and had a wonderful time.

