

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Psalm 80: 1, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth!

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

the one whom you made strong for yourself.

Then we will never turn back from you;

give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Hymn 121 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Words by

Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt. in the *Glory to God* hymnal

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in
heaven. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly
judgment given.

2 For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

Prayer of Confession *

Gracious God, you are the faithful God, keeping your covenant of love to thousands of generations. We confess that sometimes we struggle to trust you and your wisdom in our life. You call us to step forward in faith, but we cling to what is familiar and comfortable. You are always at work in the world, but we struggle to see and discern your presence. Forgive us, Lord. By your Spirit, give us courage to follow you even when what you call us to do is unpopular. Teach us to be patient and persevere in the journey you set before us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament

Jeremiah 23:23-29

New Testament

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, 29-12:2

Sermon

"Faith Beyond Sight" Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Affirmation of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication ^

Living God, you are the architect of our lives and the builder of the church of Jesus Christ. When you speak, you bring into being that which fulfills your will. By your Word and Spirit, you teach us to be wise about matters we cannot imagine. Thank you for the privilege of contributing to the life and mission of this congregation. Use our gifts to inspire deeper faith, hope, and love among people in our community. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer (*trespasses*)

Hymn 529 "How Firm a Foundation"

Benediction

Postlude

* Adapted from a prayer by Virginia Bairby, provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025.

^ Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson for UMC Discipleship Ministries, August 2016.

Church Calendar

Saturday, August 16 **Thrift Shop** 10:00 a.m. - noon

Thanks to our volunteer team who lead this community resource.

Alcoholics Anonymous/AI-Anon 5:00 p.m.

To connect with the facilitator, email info@finyaa.org.

Sunday, August 17 **Beach Church** 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

We will gather at Dock Beach to praise God in the midst of creation.

Worship and Fellowship 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to worship God in person or via live stream.

Board Game Night 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a free dinner and have fun playing a new board game.

Tuesday, August 19 **Alcoholics Anonymous/AI-Anon** 6:15 p.m.

To connect with the facilitator, email info@finyaa.org.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 **Bible Study** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Author Jill Duffield will join us via Zoom as we conclude this book.

Thursday, July 31 **Tots Time** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Friendship is the theme of this gathering for toddlers and caregivers.

Knitting Group 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

In collaboration with the FI Library, we are happy to host this group.



FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL

August 17, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson
Pastor

Fishers Island Union Chapel (UCC)
P.O. Box 192
Fishers Island, NY 06390

631-788-7898

www.fiunionchapel.org

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson, Pastor

Laura Chapman, Director of Operations

Becky Walters, Administrative Assistant

Diane Dawson Dexter, Organist