
FISHERS ISLAND UNION CHAPEL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

821 CRESCENT AVENUE, P.O. BOX 192

FISHERS ISLAND, NEW YORK 06390

fichapel1@gmail.com

www.fiunionchapel.org



"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Spring Ahead! 2019

Dear Friends,

Some years ago on Long Island I was at a restaurant with friends in early spring. Our server – according to her lilting accent -- was from Ireland. Before we ordered she explained that the steak on the menu had just sold out. And then she added with some exasperation, "I can't believe how many people order steak in Lent!"

Unlike our widespread celebrations of Christmas, Lent is a church event that has long been passed by in American culture, and sometimes even in the church. Let's face it: it seems to be one of those seasons only the very religious people would care about. Penitence and deprivation aren't enticing; we would rather focus on spring flowers and pretty Easter eggs! Yet when it is reframed, Lent can be seen as not so much a time of "giving up" but an opportunity to clear away the things that keep us from the fullness of life. In other words, as we anticipate God's forgiveness on Good Friday and the miracle of Jesus' resurrection on Easter, our Lent can reflect the process of cleansing and renewal that is key to spiritual strength.

That is why some people choose to "fast" during Lent from things that offer short term gratification but leave us empty in the long run: overeating, excessive internet time, binging movies. Alternatively, we can *take on* a new life-giving habit for the 40 days, such as volunteering for a worthy cause, adapting an environmental-friendly habit, spending time reading scripture or praying. Some might choose to declutter each week; some might intentionally refrain from all negative speech, I know someone who once abstained from impulse purchasing – and continued that long after Lent. Of course, the Spirit will lead us to choose what will be beneficial for us.

In ancient Israel, the people of God heard God say, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him..." (Deuteronomy 31:19b-20). This time of year, to choose life means to choose a Lenten practice that we can stick to and open the door to abundant life. On Sundays in church our worship will be designed to support Lenten spirituality.

May you enter into this holy season with hope, and emerge overflowing with God's grace and love!

Blessings,

Candy

UNION CHAPEL CONTACTS

Church office phone #: (631) 788-7898

New email: fichapel1@gmail.com

www.fiunionchapel.org

Minister: [Rev. Candace Whitman](mailto:Rev.CandaceWhitman)

candy@fiunionchapel.org

Moderator: Susan Renna

Trustee Chairperson: Louisa Evans

Deacon Chairperson: Laura Edwards

Administrative Assistant: Diane Dexter

www.fiunionchapel.org



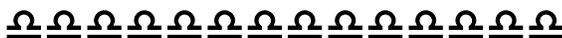
CHURCH BUSINESS HOURS

Monday, Thursday, Friday

10:00am – 1 pm

Tuesday – 10:00am – noon

Closed all other days



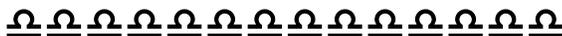
THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER ANGELS FOR FLOWERS AND SOCIAL HOUR JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2019

SOCIAL HOUR:

Anita Fritze Michele Klimczak
Sharon Patterson Laura Edwards

FLOWERS:

Christmas donations Michele Klimczak
Laura Edwards



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FAIR!

Join us for our traditional Spring Fair on Saturday, May 25th, 2019 from 10 am until 1 pm. Lunch, crafts, raffles ...if you would like a table or can volunteer, please call Diane at 631/788-7898.

The Open Book Group Winter Selection

THE SUN DOES SHINE

By Anthony Ray Hinton
with Laura Love Hardin

The Sun Does Shine is the remarkable story of Anthony Ray Hinton who spent 30 years on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Despite the racist system which sentenced and imprisoned him unjustly, Hinton left prison without rancor or bitterness.

“No one I have represented has inspired me more than Anthony Ray Hinton and I believe his compelling and unique story will similarly inspire our nation and readers all over the world.”

-Bryan Stevenson, *New York Times*
Bestselling Author

Our book discussion will take place after church on March 10.

REMINDER!



Set clocks ahead at
2:00 am March 10!

Daylight savings time, that weird bi-annual experiment on our sleep patterns is on its way. Yes, it still feels like deep winter, but it's almost time to spring forward. It will end November 3, 2019.



SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT PRAYER MAKES ONE

WEAK!



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**LIGHT THE STEEPLE
MINISTRY**

A soft light has been installed inside our “steeple” to be lit from sunset to midnight. The Trustees invite you to “Light the Steeple” in honor of or in memory of a loved one by donating \$25 to Union Chapel. Just submit the form below, and we will light the steeple on the appropriate week and print this remembrance in our newsletter.

LIGHT THE STEEPLE FORM
In Honor of or In Memory of (circle one)

Name

Given by

For the week of

Make check payable to and mail this form to:
Fishers Island Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers
Island, NY 06390.

**THE STEEPLE WAS LIT FOR THE
FOLLOWING IN JANUARY:**

For Ken Edwards in honor of his
80th birthday
Given by his children and grandchildren

In Memory of Ginny Beggs
Given by Constance White

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Milkweed for Monarchs

Seed packets are available at the church to grow this spring and provide needed food for monarch caterpillars on our Island! Help this beautiful butterfly make a comeback!



**Union Chapel
SPRING HIGHLIGHTS**

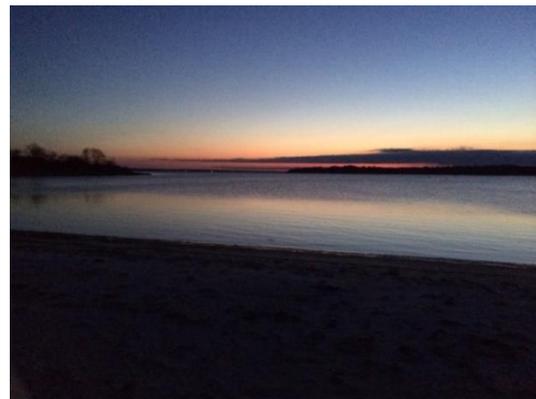
Tuesday, March 5, 6:00 pm
Community Pancake Supper

Sunday, March 10, 11:30 am
The Open Book Group discusses
The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray Hinton

Sunday, April 7 10:00
Easter Pageant – Children perform the story!

Holy Week
Events to be announced

Sunday, April 21, Easter
Sunrise Service, Dock Beach (Time TBD)
Easter Worship, 10 am, Sanctuary
Glenn Orkney, Organ



Dock beach at dawn.

**Our regular monthly events
include...**

Communion Sunday, 10 am - First Sunday
Ladies’ Potluck Luncheon, Noon - First Monday
Bible Study – Mondays, 3 pm, Parsonage
Church School –3 pm – Tuesdays
Deacons’ meeting – noon, Second Friday
Trustees’ meeting – Noon, Second Monday
Senior Lunch – noon – Third Thursday
Open Book Group – throughout the year
Library Book Club – 7 pm, Second Thursday

“Mary, Mary quite contrary,
how does your garden
grow?”

A list of “foods” to be planted in
church gardens

Peas (Presence, Promptness, Preparation, Purity)
Squash (Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism, Squash
Indifference)

Turnips (Turn up at
meetings, Turn up with a
smile, Turn up with new
ideas, Turn up with
new members, Turn up
with determination)

Lettuce (Let us practice the
Golden Rule, Let us be unselfish and loyal, Let us
be faithful to commitments, Let us obey the Great
Commandment)

- *Seen in Chapel Happenings, July 2006*



MISSION NEWS 2019

Union Chapel remains committed to financial support of needs on our Island, in the New London area, and other parts of the world that God has placed on our radar. Here is a summary of Missions giving for 2019.

Once again, a special Christmas offering of \$200 in December raised funds for **Heifer International**. This organization provides livestock to families in need around the world so they have a way to make a living. This year’s donations enabled us to purchase a share of a heifer, a flock of chicks, a flock of ducks, one goat and one pig. We are grateful to those who participated in this drive to make this meaningful assistance possible.

This year we expanded our giving in response to the serious issue of opioid addiction in our nation. We have directed donations toward **Phoenix House** on Long Island, an organization that helps prevent and treat addiction and supports people as they reclaim their lives.

The Deacons continue ongoing support locally and globally and extend in Christ’s name help, hope, and healing:

New London Urban Outreach, First Congregational Church; Lawrence and Memorial Chaplaincy; Safe Harbor; Wounded Warrior (New London Area); New London Meal Center, the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (funds and food drives), Wycliffe Translators, Yale Divinity School, Young Life Johnstown, PA, and the wide-ranging missions and ministries of the Connecticut UCC. As always, each year we take great pleasure in bestowing support upon a graduating Fishers Island high school student through the Katherine and Edwin Horning Scholarship. The amount in 2019 will be increased to \$1000.

We’re Streamlining Church Communications



Given the many venues the church uses today to communicate with members and friends, we will be reducing the size of *Chapel Happenings* from this issue forward

to meet our goal to be good stewards of our planet and our time. In addition to this quarterly mailing, please check out other ways we share timely information and news about events: the church website (fiunionchapel.org), “fishnet” (www.fishersisland.net), and our Facebook page!

We gratefully accept requests to send you *Chapel Happenings* via email. Please contact Diane at fichapel1@gmail.com. Thank you!

TALENT NIGHT 2019

On January 25 Union Chapel hosted a community dinner (Thank you, Amy Harris and crew!) and a Talent Show emceed by Aaron Lusker. It was packed house and the perfect mid-winter community energizer! Here are some highlights of our wonderful local talent of all ages, including some Chapelites and church schoolers! (Photos by Mitchell Kucsera.)



There's still room!
Join us for a trip to the Yale
Art Museum Sat., March 16th



As part of our Lenten reflection this spring, our church is taking a tour of some religious art at the Yale Art Gallery in New Haven. Call Diane at 788-7898 if you can join us! We will car pool that day, taking the 8:15 am ferry and returning on the 3:30, with lunch in the area. The tour is free (the museum does accept donations, however), and each of us will pay for our travel and lunch. Scholarships are available.

We hope you can participate in this meaningful way to consider aspects of faith through the eyes of artists. The guided tour will take place at 11:30 am.

**SILVER LAKE
SHINES AGAIN!**

We are excited to again provide camperships this summer to Island children interested in a fun, faith filled week at Silver Lake Camp. Last year was a big success.

If you need financial help with the camp fee, please contact Candy by **March 11**. If you can provide funds for a campership, please also let Diane know. We are grateful to be able to maintain this important connection to Christian Education and fellowship for our children each summer.

EASTER FLOWERS



Help us decorate our sanctuary for the Easter season!

To contribute toward lilies and other spring flowers, please complete the form below (legibly!) and send it in along with your donation. Checks may be made payable to Fishers Island Union Chapel. Our address is F.I. Union Chapel, P.O. Box 192, Fishers Island, NY 06390. Thank you!

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY, HONOR OR CELEBRATION OF: (circle one)

AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION: _____

