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UNION
CHAPEL
1870-2020

150 years of worship

Interdenominational

“as a place of worship for the summer community”

Union Chapel is listed in
the National Register of Historic Places
55 Narragansett Avenue, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts

www.unionchapelmv.org

508-338-7089 | contact@unionchapelmv.org

Reverend Susan Sparks

July 11, 2021

Reverend Susan Sparks



As a trial lawyer turned standup comedian and Baptist minister, Susan Sparks is America's only female comedian with a pulpit. A North Carolina native, Susan received her B.A. from UNC and was President of her Senior Class. She received a law degree from Wake Forest University.

After ten years as a lawyer moonlighting as a standup, she left her practice and spent two years on a solo trip around the world, including working with Mother Teresa's mission in Calcutta, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, and driving the Alaska Highway. Upon returning home, she entered Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where she earned a Master of Divinity and wrote an

honors thesis on humor and religion. Susan is currently the senior pastor Madison Avenue Baptist Church and the first woman in its 170-year history.

Susan is also a professional comedian touring nationally with a Rabbi and a Muslim comic in the "Laugh in Peace Tour." Her work with humor, healing and spirituality has been featured in O (The Oprah) Magazine, The New York Times and on numerous media networks including ABC, CNN and CBS.

A nationally syndicated columnist with GateHouse Media as well as a TEDx speaker, Susan's first book, *Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor*, was named one of the best spiritual books of 2010 and has sold over 25,000 copies. Susan is the recent recipient of the University of North Carolina "Habey" Award for the Arts presented to Susan by comedian and alum Lewis Black.

Coats Guiles, Broadway Producer, best described Susan as a cross between Joel Osteen, Ellen DeGeneres and Nancy Grace.

Welcoming Our 2021 Season Guests

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|-------------|---|
| July 4 | President Valerie Smith, Swarthmore College |
| July 11 | *Rev. Susan Sparks, Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York, New York |
| July 18 | Rev. Dr. Deforest Soaries, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, New Jersey |
| July 25 | Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale, Hope Christian Church, Decatur, Georgia |
| August 1 | Rev. Arthur Jones, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Plano, Texas |
| August 8 | Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Illinois |
| August 15 | Rev. Dr. Howard John Wesley, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia |
| August 22 | Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Murriel, Cascade United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia |
| August 29 | Dr. Scott W. Sunquist, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, Massachusetts |
| September 5 | Rev. Dr. Aliya F. Browne, Vice President of the Union Chapel Board of Trustees, Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts |

All services will be streamed and available for watching on Facebook, YouTube and through our website www.UnionChapelMV.org

**denotes virtual visit, available for viewing from Union Chapel*

Announcements

Today's floral arrangements on the altar are placed in the chapel

in memory of Helen Jennings, her husband Robert E. Jennings Sr. , and her daughter Stephanie (Dee Dee). Helen was the songbird of Union Chapel. She loved this church, the parishioners, the Oak Bluffs community, and especially her Union Chapel music family. As she dedicated 40years of summer service here, her voice, her song, and her spirit lives on.

Also in loving memory of Miriam & Ed Trayes and Ruth & Clyde Harding.
From Ed, Mary, and Amanda Trayes

*If you are interested in putting flowers in the Chapel for service,
you can either, stop by the kiosk after service, contact Heidi Bryan
214-549-7235/508-687-9725 or email contact@unionchapelmv.org.*

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Celebrating 150 Years

Stop by the kiosk after service or
visit www.unionchapelmv.org for
commemorative items now available.

Ornaments
Hats
T-Shirts

Commemorative Posters

Cash, Check & Credit Cards Accepted

Day of Service

Join Union Chapel on
August 7, 2021
for a day of service supporting the
Island Food Pantry
from 8a to Noon.
(Shuttle leaves from Union Chapel)

Union Chapel Giving

For easy giving,
text GIVE to 508-812-7444 or visit
www.unionchapel.org/giving
for more ways to give today.

Sunday Morning July 11, 2021

PRELUDE *Fugue in E flat Major (St. Anne)* Johann Sebastian Bach
INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God* Daniel Iverson

TRUSTEE GREETINGS Brenda Bryan

*INVOCATION
"God of hope, we have sensed your spirit walking with us as we open a new door
in our lives, felt your urging when we were reluctant to say yes to a new adven-
ture. Come among us today. Open our eyes to truth wherever it may be found.
Allow us to hear the siren song of knowledge and understanding."

LORDS PRAYER
*HYMN #84 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past (verses 1, 4, 5, 6)* St. Anne

SCRIPTURE Amos 5:22-24

ANTHEM *Bird Upon the Tree (from Juno)* Marc Blitzstein

PRAYER

*OFFERTORY *Quando corpus morietur (from Stabat Mater)* Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

*DOXOLOGY #34 *Old 100th*

SERMON
"Let Righteousness Roll Down Like a Harley on Full Throttle."
Reverend Susan Sparks
Madison Avenue Baptist Church

*HYMN # 663 *God's Holy Ways Are Just and True* Lasst uns erfreuen

*BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE *Second Overture in Solomon* George Frideric Handel

William D. Peek, Jr., Organist and Director of Music

*Please stand if you are able.

History of Union Chapel

In the early days of Oak Bluffs, visitors travelled by steamboat to Lake Anthony (Oak Bluffs Harbor) and the campground area surrounding a large tent that was the site for Methodist revivals. The worshippers in the “camp meetings” had become very concerned about the influx of summer visitors who spent their time at the beach, walking on Circuit Avenue, relaxing and having a good time. To them, camp meetings were to be serious, highly religious and separate from the worldly influences.

In a 1958 history editorial in the Vineyard Gazette, it was reported that the new community of the Oak Bluffs Land & Wharf Co. was being called “ungodly.” To further prove the disdain felt by the worshippers in the campgrounds, in 1867, the camp meeting organizers erected a seven-foot picket fence around the campground that closed each evening at 10:00 PM.

As the summer population grew, the developer (Oak Bluffs Land and Wharf Co.) realized that vacationers were lacking a place to worship, and contracted to build a church. Union Chapel was built in 1870 as a non-sectarian worship space in an area dominated by the Methodist summer camp meeting known as Wesleyan Grove.

The architect commissioned for the project was Samuel Freeman Pratt, a renowned local architect. The chapel was built in a beautiful octagonal shape on a small rise of land called Chapel Hill at the intersection of Circuit, Narragansett, and Samoset Avenues. Mr. Pratt is estimated to have designed twenty-two structures in the young town of Oak Bluffs including the gateway to the Wharf and the Seaview Hotel.

The chapel took one year to build, completing in 1871, seating 800 with a spire reaching an altitude of 96 feet, and a final construction cost of \$16,000.

The chapel was open to its first service in August, 1871.

Visit Martha's Vineyard Museum

Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Union Chapel
at the Martha's Vineyard Museum.

Eight Sides & Many Faces: 150 Years of Union Chapel

June 30th, 2021 through September 2nd, 2021

Our Soloists This Morning

Becky Williams, soprano, is a Martha's Vineyard native who performs regularly on the Vineyard as a soloist and choir member. Favorite highlights have included the role of Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* and Olive in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with the Island Theater Workshop, as well as soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* at the Whaling Church. Becky also sings and plays keyboard with “The Convertibles,” a jazz combo. She manages the island's music store, Island Music, in Vineyard Haven where she also teaches piano and voice.

Martha Hudson, alto, has sung with the Union Chapel Quartet since 1994. She received her BFA in Vocal Performance from Carnegie Mellon University, and two Masters Degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University. She studied music and performed in New York City before coming to the Vineyard in 1992 to work as a Special Education teacher in the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools. Her favorite musical experience is singing with her daughter Becky Williams.

Music Notes

The ***Fugue in E flat Major*** is the closing movement of Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685 – 1750) *Clavier-Übung III*, published in 1739. Bach often employed numerology in his compositions. This is a triple (three section fugue) in the key of three flats; the number three is Bach's homage to the Holy Trinity. It is often called the *St. Anne* fugue because the opening subject sounds like the hymn tune *St. Anne (O God Our Help in Ages Past)*. ***Bird Upon the Tree*** is a modern day parable. It tells the story of a bird whose foot is caught in its own nest. A strong and dangerous storm comes, but in the end, the bird is freed by the storm. The song is from Marc Blitzstein's 1959 musical *Juno*, based on Sean O'Casey's play *Juno and the Paycock*. Blitzstein (1905 – 1964), was an important American composer, best known for his leftist musical *The Cradle Will Rock*. ***Quando corpus morietur*** is from the Italian baroque composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's (1710 – 1736) celebrated *Stabat Mater*. The words translate: “When my body perishes, grant that my soul may be given the glory of Paradise. Amen.”

Union Chapel Organ

Over the course of the last two years, our 1924 Austin organ has been completely rebuilt by the Spencer Organ Company of Waltham, Massachusetts, thanks to the generosity of many members of the Union Chapel community. The organ will be formally dedicated on the evening of August 4 with a recital by Alcee Chriss III, widely regarded as one of the leading young organists of our time.