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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](http://www.unionchapelmv.org)

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*Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.*

July 18, 2021

# Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.



The Reverend Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr. has served as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens (FBCLG) in Somerset, New Jersey since November 1990. His pastoral ministry focuses on spiritual growth, educational excellence, economic empowerment.

As a pioneer of faith-based community development, Dr. Soaries' impact on First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens (FBCLG) and the community has been tremendous. In 1992, he founded the Central Jersey Community Development Corporation (CJCDC): a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that specializes in revitalizing distressed neighborhoods. In 1996, Soaries founded the Harvest of Hope Family Services Network, Inc. (HOH). This organization develops permanent solutions for children in the foster care system.

From 1999 to 2002, Dr. Soaries served as New Jersey's Secretary of State, making him the first African-American male to do so. He also served as the former chairman of the United States Election Assistance Commission, which was established by Congress to implement the "Help America Vote Act" of 2002.

In 2005, Dr. Soaries launched the dfree® Financial Freedom Movement. The dfree® strategy teaches people how to break free from debt as a first step toward financial freedom. dfree® was featured in a 90 minute CNN documentary "Almighty Debt." He is author of the books "Say Yes to No Debt: 12 Steps to Financial Freedom", and "Meditations for Financial Freedom – Volumes 1&2."

Dr. Soaries currently serves as an independent director at three companies: Independence Realty Trust, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York and Ocwen Financial Corporation.

Dr. Soaries earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Fordham University, a Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary.

Dr. Soaries resides in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey with his wife, Donna, and twin sons.

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## Welcoming Our 2021 Season Guests

- 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 B. Soaries, Jr. 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](http://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 loving memory of Samuel Barnes.

From Beth Vought, Jennifer Barnes Allgood and all his loving grandchildren.

Also in loving memory of Joyce and Leonard Harrill.

From Kim and Perry Patterson

*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](mailto:contact@unionchapelmv.org).*

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## Celebrating 150 Years

Stop by the kiosk after service or visit [www.unionchapelmv.org](http://www.unionchapelmv.org) for commemorative items now available.

Ornaments  
Hats  
T-Shirts  
Commemorative Posters

Cash, Check & Credit Cards Accepted

## Day of Service

*Union Chapel and the Island Food Pantry are hosting a Day of Service to support Martha's Vineyard. Join us August 7, 2021*

*8am to 12pm  
(Meet at Union Chapel)*

## Union Chapel Giving

*For easy giving,  
text GIVE to 508-812-7444 or visit  
[www.unionchapel.org/giving](http://www.unionchapel.org/giving)  
for more ways to give today.*

# Sunday Morning July 18, 2021

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Give Me Jesus*

Richard Billingham

Prelude on *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

David Kid-

well

INTROIT

*This Is The Day*

words: Psalm 118: 24  
music: Les Garrett

TRUSTEE GREETINGS

Rev. Aliya F. Browne

\*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 adventure. 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

#647 *We Have Come to Join in Worship*

*Holy Manna*

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 8:5-13

ANTHEM

*Give Me Jesus*

African American Spiritual  
(arr. Hall Johnson)

Ava Brown, soprano

PRAYER

\*OFFERTORY

*The Storm is Passing Over*

Charles A. Tindley  
(arr. William Peek)

Brad Austin, baritone

\*DOXOLOGY

#34 *Old 100th*

SERMON

"*Amazing Faith*"

Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr.

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, New Jersey

\*HYMN

#51 *How Great Thou Art*

O Store Gud

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Psalm 75*

Emma Lou Diemer

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

**Brad Austin, baritone**, moved to the Vineyard from the West Coast in 1986, and continues his career in construction and design today. He is blessed to live with his daughter and granddaughter in Oak Bluffs, with two other grown granddaughters on the island as well. Brad has been the bass soloist in the Union Chapel quartet since 2007. He has been active in musical theater and dramatic productions on the island, having appeared in approximately 15 productions, including favorite roles as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*, the Tinman in *Wizard of Oz*, and Doc in *West Side Story*.

**Ava Brown, soprano**, is currently a senior at Oberlin Conservatory of Music majoring in Classical Voice. Ava has a large repertoire and performs classical, spirituals, and even jazz music. In 2019, Ava performed with the Chicago Summer Opera program as a cover for the role of Susanna in “The Marriage of Figaro;” she also performed in several opera scenes. In February 2019 she performed with the Indianapolis Opera in Concert under the direction of Maestro John Schmid. In 2018, Ava earned 1st place in the National Schmidt Competition and was also awarded the American Choral Directors Association Award. Ava has won multiple gold medals and performed in competitions and concerts in the Midwest and East Coast. During Ava's high school years, studied at Indiana University, Butler University, and Boston University's Tanglewood Institute.

## Music Notes

The arrangement of ***Give Me Jesus*** heard as this morning's anthem was composed by Hall Johnson (1888 – 1970). Johnson was a gifted composer especially celebrated for his choral works and arrangements of spirituals. Music composed and arranged by Johnson and performed by the Hall Johnson Choir was featured in over thirty Hollywood films. ***The Storm is Passing Over*** was written by Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley (1851 – 1933), composer of many familiar gospel hymns including *Stand By Me* and *I'll Overcome Someday*. Rev. Tindley was the founder and pastor of the East Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia which grew to become one of the largest African American congregations in America. After his death, the church was renamed Tindley Temple United Methodist Church. This morning's **preludes** are settings of familiar hymns; the **postlude** is Dr. Diemer's meditation on lines from *Psalms* 75: “We give thanks to thee, O God; we call on thy name and recount thy wondrous deeds.”

## 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.