

The Big Moose Chapel Community News

*Serving Big Moose Lake
and all of the surrounding
communities since 1996*

BigMooseChapel.org

Spring 2021

**The Chapel is opening
July 4 and celebrating
the 90th anniversary
of the its dedication in
1931 • *Read on for details***

From the Pastor

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the get-well cards and personal contact I have received from many of you concerning my recovery from a fall last September and my resulting craniotomy to deal with a subdural hematoma. I am pleased to tell you that I am at least 90% on the way to my former self and ready for summer 2021 at Big Moose Community Chapel. And I am thrilled that we will be worshipping together in the Chapel. I need to see you face to face. I am fully vaccinated and looking forward to hugs with those of you who are open to that.

The Reverend Dr. Richard McCaughey

2021 Summer Sermon Series “Spiritual PDFs”

For over a year we have been in danger of drowning: from the raging currents of the corona virus pandemic, from the riptides of bitter division within our nation, from being in water over our heads for any number of reasons. The secret to avoiding drowning is to keep our heads above water. The way to do that is to wear a PFD (personal flotation device). The sermons this summer will focus on spiritual PFDs essential to weathering our present circumstances.

From the President of the Board of Trustees

This summer our season begins in celebration! After a year of being closed, the Chapel doors will joyfully open wide for all who come to worship. The Chapel also celebrates its 90th anniversary, which will be officially recognized on Sunday, August 1, and thematically honored throughout the summer.

My personal reflection of the past year is that like butterflies we are finally emerging from the enclosure of our cocoons. As the number of vaccinated people rises and the rate of COVID declines, we're gradually opening ourselves to a safer and less fear-driven world.

Worship procedures at the Chapel will likewise follow a gradual unfolding process. Modifications will be in place to adhere to the most current New York State and CDC guidelines. Our Worship Committee has worked diligently to ensure a safe and comfortable worship experience for everyone who comes. For those who can't attend in person, there will be a weekly video recording available on the Chapel's website.

Our own Reverend Dick McCaughey will return for his 22nd year with a new 10-week sermon series. He is overjoyed to preach in front of an in-house congregation this summer. I regret that our traditional Balsam Bee and Bazaar are again canceled this summer. The changing state regulations have simply not advanced quickly enough to plan these time-sensitive events. I can say with confidence that there will be a lot of enthusiasm around these activities when they make a comeback in 2022.

Activities such as baptisms, memorial services, weddings, Chapel tours, and music events will again take place. Go to the Chapel website for news and updates on all activities and events.

Despite being closed last year, the Chapel financial status and Manse and Chapel buildings and grounds remain sound and in good condition. For those who are able to come to the Chapel, take note of the new stone steps as you enter. The original steps were replaced this spring with carefully selected stone to match that of the Chapel's exterior. After 90 years, it is a fitting cosmetic lift in the Chapel's anniversary year.

The behind-the-scenes work that goes on during the off season should not be underestimated and deserves recognition. My sincere thanks to the Trustees, committee chairs, volunteers, and others who have committed time and energy into the life and operations of the Chapel.

It is truly a summer to celebrate and be thankful that the Chapel's doors are open in its 90th year, and we can again come together in fellowship.

May God bless our Chapel and all who seek to worship here.

Sara Burrows

Prayer Group

May we pray with you? The Chapel has an active and committed prayer group to lift up your concerns, prayer needs, or praise. Email any request to **BigMoosePrayer@gmail.com**. All requests are confidential and are not recorded or published unless you would like them shared more widely with the Chapel community.

The Big Moose Community Chapel, PO Box 209, 1544 Big Moose Road, Eagle Bay, NY 13331

Spring Trustee Meeting

The first meeting the Chapel Board of Trustees took place via ZOOM Tuesday, May 23. Nineteen of the twenty-one trustees were in attendance along with seven committee heads and Pastor Dick McCaughey. Opening the Chapel was the most pressing issue, and Worship, Finance, Treasurer, and Insurance committees reported first. Likewise, those reports are first here, with the other committee reports following in alphabetical order.

Worship Committee

Chair Barbara Morgan

The Committee had met several times and the following proposals were unanimously approved:

- Reopen for the summer
- No services in June
- Offer 2 services, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
- Vaccinated attendees will not be required to wear masks or social distance. We will not ask for proof of vaccination but instead will ask people to abide by the honor system.
- There will be a section of the Chapel in the back reserved for those who prefer to social distance.
- Barb Morgan and Judy Bean will be at the front door to help explain the protocols and answer any questions.
- The offertory plate will be in the narthex before and after services.
- Programs will be disposed of after one use.
- Communion will be offered in individual single-use kits that include juice and a wafer.
- The 9:30 a.m. service will be taped live and archived for viewing on the website.
- Ads will be in the local papers indicating that the Chapel will be open and following CDC and NYS guidelines.

- There will be hand sanitizer at the front door to be used as people enter and there will be extra masks if needed.
- Sunday School will continue to be offered for the 9:30 service; children will either sit 3 feet apart with a mask or will sit 6 feet apart and can take their masks off if they do not move around.
- Weather permitting, there will be a coffee hour outside with one coffee server wearing wear gloves. A standing order of donuts from the Eagle Bay Donut Shop will be distributed with tongs by one person. Donations for the donuts will be requested.
- At this time there will be a choir. The Music Committee will look at regulations pertaining to singing in a choir or in a congregation.

As the summer progresses, the Worship Committee will work in conjunction with the Executive Committee to update and implement the re-opening plan in compliance with New York State regulations.

Finance

Chair Robin Smith

Robin Smith gave her view that it would be a good idea to do a special appeal letter again this summer as a way of strengthening the Chapel's finances. It was agreed that Robin would work with Mary Moore to develop an appeal letter thematically linked to the Chapel's 90th anniversary this year.

Bill Locke reported that, in line with the run-up in equity values this year, the endowment now totals approximately \$1.5 million, up about \$200,000 from this time last year. The bond market has not been as strong, but the overall situation looks favorable.

Treasurer

John View

In a written report, John expressed the view that the finances appear to be sound, without projecting a draw on the endowment this year. He feels it will not be necessary to do a special financial appeal this year given the current cash flow projection, but the Board decided to go ahead with the appeal letter in honor of the 90th anniversary of the Chapel.

Insurance

Chair Peter Adams

Peter Adams reported on the quotes that have been received for the Chapel's various insurance policies. He noted that he had uncovered double coverage for the Chapel's organ, and eliminated one of those coverages. Some of our coverages were reduced last year in light of the cancellation of all in-person events. He recommended that liability coverage be raised to its prior level of \$2 million, but that the deductible for property loss be continued at the amount of \$5000 that it was raised to last year. The motion passed unanimously.

Balsam Bee

Chair Mary Moore

Mary reported that the Balsam Bee is cancelled for 2021, but two new pillow designs are anticipated for 2022.

Baptisms & Memorial Services

Chair Barbara Morgan

Barbara reported that these services will fall under the same policies that are established for worship services. Families involved in these events will be asked to keep lists of attendees, in case they should need to contact people for tracing purposes.

Bazaar

Chairs Mary "Kiki" White & Barb Morgan

There will be no bazaar again this summer so next year should have lots of items and new ideas.

Chapel Tours

Chair Bob Scherfling

There will be Tuesday tours, as usual, beginning on July 6 and ending on August 31. There is already one group tour planned for July 20.

Communion

Chair Jerry Rutherford

Communion Sunday will be the first Sunday in August. Little packaged "communion kits" will be distributed to provide maximum sanitary protection.

Discretionary Fund

Chair Judy Bean

No funds were disbursed this year. Anyone who knows of a person or family in special need should let Judy Bean know. Needs and support are always kept confidential.

Facilities

Chairs Brian Johnston & Judy Bean

Brian Johnston reported that Lupini Construction Inc. is in the process of re-

placing the front steps with new stone carefully selected to match Earl Covey's original sandstone. Mary Moore suggested that photos of this renovation would fit nicely into publicity focused on the 90th anniversary of the building.

The Facilities Committee was asked to look into the possibility of recycling the used steps into other uses on Chapel property. Brian and Dan Conable will be doing a walk-around with Scott Lupini this week to scope out masonry work that may be needed over the next few years.

Rev. McCaughey reported that Levy Lumber took down a large dying maple at the Manse. Judy reported that Debby Sleeper is opening the Manse. John View has been working with the phone/internet at both the Manse and Chapel.

Flowers

Chair Ann Conable

Ann reported that we will work with Kate Russell at Mountain Greenery in Old Forge for the 2021 season. Please let Ann know if you would like to sponsor flowers for our worship services this summer. Arrangements are \$50, and checks should be made payable to Big Moose Community Chapel. It would be good to get requests in

early if you have a particular Sunday in mind. Contact Ann by phone at 315-357-2134 after mid-June or by email at bmchapelflowers@gmail.com. Linda Erion and Joan Robinson volunteered to help with the weekly delivery of the arrangements from Old Forge to the Chapel.

Gifts & Memorials

Chairs Connie Menand & Pat Sturges

Pat announced that Memorial Sunday will be August 8. Names of people to be remembered in the service should be submitted to Connie Menand July and August at camp: 315-357-2492.

Historical

Chair Dick Williams

This year we will be celebrating our 90th anniversary on the first Sunday in August.

Historical Lectures

Chair Craig Woods

Craig has not been in touch with Kate at the Historical Society, which has been closed. He thinks that it is unlikely that there will be a lecture series this year.

Mathias Memorial

Chair Meredith McCaughey

No report at this time.

Membership

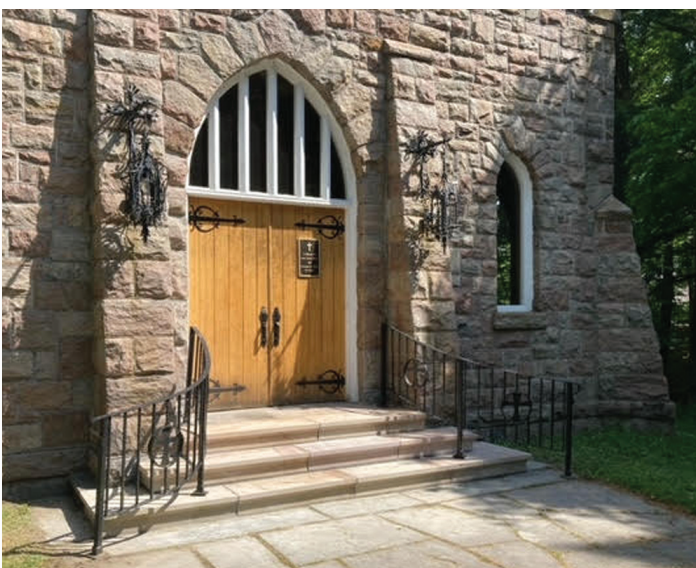
Chair Richard Widdicombe

The directory is updated on a regular basis by contacting Richard at richard.widdicombe@gmail.com. He asked people signing up for email to also give their address for the data base.

Memorial Woods

Chair Jeff Hadden

No report at this time.



The Chapel's new sandstone steps, 2021. Courtesy of John View.

Music

Chair Terry McSweeney

Terry reported that he has secured an organist for all dates except August 15. The Summer Music series has four performances scheduled this summer. Terry is working on the final dates, each being on a Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Returning this year will be Dan Berggren, Peggy Lynn and Dan Duggan, Nook and Crannie (Ann Carey and Matt Mielnick) and a new performer, Scott "Guitar-boy" Sileo. Terry will provide more information and be sure to check the website for dates.

Newsletter

Chair Martha Widdicombe

There will be a Spring newsletter.

Nominations

Chair Martha Widdicombe

Barb Getty and Bob Scherfling have completed three terms and therefore must step off the Board for at least one year. Dick Shore has asked to step off the Board. We will need to elect three new Trustees at the annual meeting. Please submit any and all ideas for potential Trustees.

Outreach

Chair Steve Schanely

The first meeting of the committee will be at 11:15 on July 11 at the Chapel. Anyone with a suggestion for a group or groups we should support should get that information to Steve Schanely. The amount available for outreach has trended down over the last couple years. This is something that we may want to focus on in the future.

Pastoral Search Committee

In 2019 Rev. McCaughey notified the Board of Trustees of his desire to retire at the end of August 2023 after serving as Pastor for 25 years.

A timeline for a transition process was adopted, and President Sara Burrows appointed a Search Committee that included the following members of the congregation: Judy Bean, Bill Burrows, Jr., Dan Conable, Terry McSweeney, Joan Robinson, Lorraine Schunck, and Miyako Shanely.

Bill Burrows reported at this Spring meeting that the seven-member Committee has had eight meetings to date and conducted a survey which had more than 100 responses to provide demographic information and inform the Committee about what congregation members particularly value in our worship and the life of the Chapel.

Lorraine Schunck and Miyako Schanely have crafted a job description with input from the Committee and others, and Dan Conable has updated and amplified the Chapel profile developed for the last pastoral search in the 1990s. Both documents will be presented for adoption at the August Trustee meeting. This will tee off the formal search process, which will continue through June 2022. The Committee will then have about a year to screen candidates and come up with a recommendation to the congregation.

Bill was asked how the Committee will publicize the opening. He said that there will be an applicant packet available on the Chapel website, and that the Committee is looking into various sites where jobs for ministers are posted. Rev. McCaughey has some suggestions as to how we can get the word out, once we are at the point of soliciting applications. No applications are being accepted at this time because the transition is still three years away, with the new pastor expected to be installed in the summer of 2023.

Public Relations

Chair Mary Moore

An ad has been placed in the 2021

Seasonal Guide published by the "Adirondack Express," and the Chapel will also run a weekly worship ad throughout the season highlighting dates, Reverend McCaughey's sermon series observation of CDC and NYS COVID rules, some special events the availability of services via the website, and the website address. Separate to that ads will also promote the four Summer Music evenings. News releases will cover the Chapel opening, Summer Music events, and other events, which need publicity during the season. Worship and Summer Music posters are printed and will be hung in 17 local sites.

Sunday School

Chair Mary Moore

Sunday School will run as usual at the 9:30 service, observing CDC and NYS COVID rules. We'll make a gift to any toddler of a first age-appropriate Bible as the Chapel has done for a few years.

Sunshine

Chair Judy Bean

A total of 59 cards have been sent over the past year.

Sympathy: John View & Lorraine Schunck, Jim & Kristen Schunck, Larry & Karen Schunck for John's son Sean; David & Susan Hostage, Laura Hostage for Joy Hostage; Sara & John Burrows and Nancy Carpenter for Sara's father, David Carpenter; Chuck Michels for his sister Lilian; Phil Kurtz for his wife Linda; Mary Moore for her father-in-law.

Get Well: Richard McCaughey, Nancy Carpenter, Jennifer & Bob Fitzgibbons, Barb Kelly, Mary Moore, Jerry Rutherford, Kristen Schunck.

Thinking of you: David Carpenter, Tom Clark, Vernon & Marcia Lee, Barb Kelly, Lawson Rutherford, Olga & Charlie Adams, the Jaenke family, Marlene Humphrey, Bernt & Mary Hopfert, Donna & Tom Hartz, Annette & Art

Eyre, Jean Dena, Frank & Grace Carey, Bill Burrows, Doug & Bonnie Bennett, Sue Beeching, Fran Finch, Jane Barlow, Mr. & Mrs. James Autentrith, Linda Danforth, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kreidler, Pat & Ron Williams, Ida Winter, Mary Williams, Libby & Tom Wolf, Bonnie & Don Unsworth, Gail & Tom Tobin, Jane & Bob Wilson, the Nettleton Family, Skip & Joy Moss, Charlie Mahaffy, Ellie Reed Lewis, Prissy Lee, Vernon & Marcia Lee, Maureen VanSlyke.

Ushers & Refreshments

Chair Phyllis Sanzone

As we look forward to in-person worship again, we are in need of ushers and coffee hour hosts. Ushers will greet and seat people as in the past. As explained earlier in the newsletter, coffee hour hosts will not be required to bake this year, so you can't use that as an excuse! You will still make the coffee and set up coffee hour outside. You will also have to pick up the donuts (not pay for them) at the Donut Shop in Eagle Bay or arrange for someone coming from that area to do it for you. And you will serve the coffee and donuts. Detailed instructions for either ushers or hosts are available on request or at coffee hour. As usual, if you have problems with the stairs or carrying the urns of coffee, there are people available to help with this. To request a specific week or for more information, please contact Phyllis Sanzone at pjsanzone@gmail.com or 315-335-4597 (call or text message).

Website

Chair Susan Taylor

- Creation of a Christmas Service video that was posted on our website. This video has been viewed 205 times.
- Posted information from the Pastoral Search Committee to our website.
- Sent "email blasts" about the Christ-

mas Service, the Pastoral Search Committee's work, and news about the cancellation of the Bazaar. We currently have 118 email subscribers.

- Currently, at the direction of the Worship Committee, in anticipation of the 2021 summer season, I have begun to research:

—The possibility of live streaming the 9:30 service each Sunday. We are hoping to use the camera equipment that was installed a couple of years ago to do this.

—Recording the 9:30 service each Sunday (using the camera equipment) to post and archive on our website. (Last summer, we used the Chapel iPad to record. This worked well when the pews were empty. This will not work with people in the pews. The new audio/visual system should be better.)

—Reservation systems to post on our website if it is necessary to limit the attendance at services. (Looking at and testing EventBrite at the moment.) Dan Conable, Jay Taylor and I will be going into the Chapel over Memorial Day weekend to test livestreaming and recording using the camera equipment. The biggest challenges we have: Will our system easily post to YouTube/Vimeo/Facebook (or the like) for livestreaming? Will our recorded services record and post smoothly to the website? Will we have a crew of volunteers who will be willing to be trained to operate the equipment to make the live stream possible? If we need to make a reservation system for attendance, what rules will be posted for making those reservations?

Weddings

Chair Joanne Carey

There was an article with a nice write-up about the Chapel in Utica's ACCENT



From the dedicatory pamphlet, August 2, 1931. Courtesy of the Holmes family.

magazine in their February. 2020 special bridal issue. I have a copy if anyone wants to view it. Season 2020 had 7 weddings scheduled. All said and done we issued 5 refunds and 2 were rescheduled.

Season 2021: 4 weddings are scheduled with the first being the end of July. We also cancelled a Memorial Day wedding due to not being open yet.

Season 2022: 1 renewal scheduled; 1 renewal pending. I will reach out to my committee upon my return. We will need to adhere to CDC and state guidelines whatever they may be near the wedding dates, and I will need to share these with the wedding couples.

Important Dates for 2021

August 1 Communion Sunday
90th Anniversary

August 8 Memorial Sunday

August 22 Annual Meeting