

The Big Moose Chapel Community News

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Spring 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Coronavirus Pandemic was sweeping across our nation, bringing with it fear, uncertainty and unfortunate deaths in large numbers. We've all experienced and learned a great deal, but even as the pandemic wanes and our country begins to reopen, fear and uncertainty linger. While the Chapel's primary purpose is to serve as a place of worship and outreach, we are also responsible to operate in the best interest of our community and those who visit. And so, with regret and much sadness, I announce the Chapel's Board of Trustees unanimous decision to close the Big Moose Community Chapel for the 2020 summer season. This includes weddings, tours, lecture and music events, memorial services, the Balsam Bee and Bazaar. Memorial Woods Columbarium across from the Chapel will remain open for visitation.

The Trustees' vote to close came after weeks of prayerful discernment and deliberation. In a rapidly changing landscape, the Board had to make some difficult decisions, and envision alternative ways to operate. As a result, our Webmaster, Worship Committee, and many others combined their ideas, talents and efforts to create a virtual worship service to post on this website beginning Sunday July 5. Our long-time Pastor, Reverend Dick McCaughey, will officiate his ten-week sermon series from the Chapel pulpit, brought to

you here, in a weekly video recording. Past services will be archived for continued viewing. The Worship Committee has carefully planned the services to include some of the most beloved features of our traditional services, with music, and surprise elements planned in the mix.

Unfortunately, closing the Chapel also imparts some financial strain and impacts our outreach mission. Our webpage now includes a secure method to accept donations to allocate to the Chapel, outreach, or both. We hope, with support from our friends and community, to reduce those monetary losses.

The coming summer looks different from any we've known. We will surely miss joining in fellowship at the Chapel with familiar services, events and activities. But I am reminded that the life of the Chapel resides not in the building, but in its community of members and participants. While the Chapel doors are closed this summer, and we are physically separated, our ability to worship and remain connected to each other and our community can, and will thrive.

With peace and blessings,
Sara Burrows, President

FROM THE PASTOR

Is your skin hungry? Are you getting tired of yourself? Are you more irritable than usual? Are you feeling bored, lethargic and maybe even a bit depressed? How about anxiety? And are you gaining weight from stress eating? These are some of

the ancillary symptoms of living in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. If we are well, and our family is well, and we are not financially strapped, then we have nothing to complain about. But that does not mean we are not affected by this global phenomenon.

And now the chapel is closed for this summer. How we long for connection with each other. Our virtual worship and the website will help, but nothing replaces face-to-face, eye-to-eye, smile-to-smile and skin-to-skin. God does not spare us trouble. The promise is that we are not alone, and in God's presence we will find what we need to not only get through this pandemic, but to grow in spiritual stature, wisdom and strength—and to find joy where we can. May we all find ways to safely connect with one another this summer.

SUMMER SERMONS

“Transforming Emotional Lead into Spiritual Gold”

An Exploration of the Book of Psalms

We are all undergoing a major shift in our lives with the Covid-19 pandemic. What I want to address this summer are the dark emotions we are experiencing as we move through this. We often treat dark emotions as forces within us to be overcome, repressed, medicated or otherwise defeated. The Book of Psalms points the way through the alchemy of transforming emotional lead into spiritual gold, underscoring that God is with us always, sometimes in the darkest places

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

TRUSTEES' MEETING

The first meeting of the Chapel Board of Trustees took place Saturday May 23, by way of Zoom. It worked really well.

FINANCE Chair Robin Smith
Treasurer John View

The finance committee met on May 21. Bill Locke reported that for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2019, the Chapel portfolios are up 1.95% and calendar year to date they are down 3.96%, which is better than comparable indices.

In terms of Capital Expenditures, Dan reported that the \$20,000 allocated to repair the front steps should be completed in the next several months.

John View reviewed the budget and based on this budget we now have \$36,720 on hand and he expects to end the fiscal year with about \$7000, although there will be a P&L loss.

John also reported the Donate button on the website has already generated \$2600 in contributions and check donations have been arriving. John said if we can approach last year's \$18,000 plate income from this source, this would leave the Chapel in a relatively good cash flow position at the end of the September/August fiscal year

The committee proposed sending out a Covid-19 appeal letter in late June to remind people of the important outreach donations and the lack of a bazaar this year.

INSURANCE

Retiring Chair Jim Schunck
New Chair Peter Adams

Our insurance agents have recommended the following one-year changes: 1) increase property de-

ductible from \$2500 to \$5000; 2) lower umbrella policy to \$1 million; 3) skip annual "bump" in property coverage limits. These were adopted by the board and saved \$971 this year.

OUTREACH

 Chair Steve Schanely

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the Outreach Committee decided to be proactive, realizing that some non-profits may be in financial crisis. We convened, researched, and prioritized needs among our outreach partners in less than 1 week. This year's allocation will be distributed early and reflects significant changes. Some organizations did not need any funding, largely because they were not able to continue operations, while others need whatever we can give them.

The funds for 2020 are allocated as follows:

Home Aide Service of Central ADK (HASCA) \$2,300; Hope House \$588.50; St. Anthony's/St. Bartholomew's food pantry \$2000; House of the Good Shepard \$800; Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services \$500; YWCA Mohawk Valley \$700; Hospice and Palliative Care (Oneida, Herkimer, and Eastern Madison Counties) \$400; Big Moose Ambulance \$100; Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Food Pantry \$200; Center for Family Life and Recovery \$300; North Woods Community Center \$200; Health and Wellness Fund \$500; Camp Mark Seven \$200; Central Adirondack Search and Rescue \$100; Community Transport \$200; and North Country Life Flight Inc. \$100.

Our allocation of \$9188.50 reflects a reduction of \$560.50 from 2019. This is the second consecutive year with a reduction. For now, that will meet our needs, but if additional funding is requested by any

of our partners, the Outreach Committee will evaluate the need and, if appropriate, come to the board to request additional funding. These are NOT normal times.

Hope House in Utica is scheduled to resume full-time operations very soon, and Big Moose Community Chapel is still scheduled to volunteer on August 20. With the priority being safety first, please email Steve Schanely at scschanely@twcny.rr.com as soon as possible to sign up. Between cooking and serving, we could use approximately 9 volunteers.

Thanks to everyone, volunteers and contributors, for enabling Big Moose Community Chapel to reach out in Christian love and care to the wider world. The committee members did an incredible job working quickly and efficiently to rise to the challenge of helping our outreach partners in a time of uncertainty. Thanks, team!

LEGAL Chair Bill Burrows

No legal activity, so no report.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Chair Judy Bean

No money has been spent.

MATHIAS MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND

Chair Meredith McCaughey

No report at this time.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair Richard Widdicombe

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

FACILITIES

Chairs Brian Johnston & Judy Bean

Brian Johnston reported that Lawrence Rieben and Sons, the company that installed the copper roof, took care of a leak in the belfry roof last fall. Lupini Brothers will replace the main steps, with assistance from Tom Thibado with the railings, in the third week in September. At that time, Scott Lupini will come up and Brian and Dan Conable will do a walk-around with him to come up with a refreshed multi-year plan for stonework maintenance. Brian will take care of getting the porch and a replacement railing painted at the Manse.

Judy reported that Debby Sleeper will be opening the Manse for Dick and Meredith by the end of June. Tom Thibado will have the water on in the manse in mid-June.

MEMORIAL WOODS

Chair Jeff Hadden

Memorial Woods has weathered the winter. Since the August 2019 Annual meeting, the remaining 3 niches of the original 80 have been reserved. A second set of niches have been ordered and expected to arrive in the next few weeks, with installation by Jeff Evans to be completed by July 4. Three niches in the new section have been reserved. In addition, 2 plaques were installed, and 3 plaques have been ordered and will be installed this summer.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

Chairs Connie Menand & Pat Sturges

The Chapel community lost a valuable and dear friend with the passing of Bob Binyon in December. As a member of this committee he handled the procurement and placement of the memorial plaques on Chapel pews. Due to the clos-

ing of the Chapel this summer we will be suspending this procedure but prepare a plan to resume as soon as possible. Memorial Sunday will be observed on August 9, 2020. Once again we will recognize and remember those in the Chapel community who have passed away in the last year. Although the service is part of the virtual experience this year, it continues to be an important part of our Chapel experience. If you are aware of anyone who should be included, or have questions regarding this service, please contact Connie Menand at cjramen@yahoo.com

BAZAAR

Chairs Barb Morgan & Mary White

There will be no Bazaar this year.

BALSAM CUTTING

Chair John Burrows

There will be no cutting of balsam this year.

BALSAM BEE Chair Mary Moore

The Balsam Bee is cancelled.

WORSHIP Chair Barb Morgan

There will be no in-person services this season including memorials, baptisms, and weddings. BUT there will be online services for July and August. Dick McCaughey will videotape 10 services from the Chapel in advance of each Sunday. This will be edited to include a prelude, postlude and occasional music with slides of the Chapel and lake. These videos will be posted on the Chapel website either Saturday or Sunday and past services will be archived for continued viewing. Rev. McCaughey will continue to provide counsel and solace for Chapel members via phone or social distanced in-person visits.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Chair Barb Morgan

Barb will be video taping Sunday school lessons with a reading and a craft project. This will be posted on the Chapel website.

MUSIC Chair Terry McSweeney

Much has happened in the past few months, culminating in the closing of the Chapel for the 2020 season. Our organists were individually contacted (Lisa Smith, Jennifer Evans, and Nick Steltzer), and each expressed deep concern for performing in the Chapel this summer. They were regretful that the Chapel will be closed but fully supported the Board's decision.

The Summer Music Series had four performances scheduled this summer. They have been cancelled, with each performer expressing a strong desire to perform next summer (2021).

It will be a different and challenging summer this year without the community and fellowship the Big Moose Community Chapel provided.

FLOWERS Chair Ann Conable

Pots of flowering plants will be displayed near the doors to the chapel by mid June.

To give those in the chapel community who would like to commemorate important events, memorialize loved ones or celebrate an anniversary, we have a new protocol for chapel flowers this year. We will ask our florist, Kate Russell, of Mountain Greenery in Old Forge, to continue to create arrangements for our weekly worship. She will send a picture to be included in our virtual worship service. Flower donors will send in a message about the flowers that will also be included in the worship service. The donor will have the

choice of picking up the flowers from Mountain Greenery or having the flowers delivered to a local business or person in need of cheering up.

Anyone interested in providing flowers for our services should send an email to **bmchapelflowers@gmail.com** including the date you would like, the message you would like to be read, your choice of what to do with the flowers, and your phone number. Please call or email Ann Conable after June 15 at 315-357-2134 if you'd like to do this by phone or have any questions. A check for \$50 made out to Big Moose Community Chapel can be sent to Ann Conable, BMCC Flowers, PO Box 268, Eagle Bay, NY 13331.

This information will also appear on our website and those who have donated flowers in the past will be contacted to see if they would like to take part this year.

COMMUNION

Chair Jerry Rutherford

Communion will be a part of the video-taped service on August 2 with viewers providing their own bread and "wine."

WEDDINGS

 Chair Joanne Carey

There were originally 7 weddings scheduled. Three have requested refunds, one has rescheduled at this time, and there are three weddings on the books for 2021.

SUNSHINE

 Chair Judy Bean

Cards and notes were sent to:

9/19/19 Tom Hartz Thinking of You
9/25/19 Tom Clark Award Congrats
10/2/19 Tom Moore Thinking of You
10/8/19 Thinking of You to: Joy Hostage, Ida Winter, Jean Dena, Frank and Grace Carey, Vernon and Marcia Lee, Bob Binyon, Bill Burrows, Jerry and Lawson Rutherford, Olga

and Charlie Adams, Fran Knorr, Mr. and Mrs. James Autentrith, Charles Mahaffy, Sue Beeching, Doug and Bonnie Bennett, Bill and Betty Hydon, Jon and Linda Martin, Mary Williams, Beth and Brett Long, and Jane Barlow.

10/22/19 Doug Bennett Get Well
10/24/19 Vernon Lee Get Well
10/26/19 Sharon Petrides Happy Special Birthday
11/1/19 Bernie Clark Congrats for Community award
12/8/19 Gail and Tom Tobin, Stacy and Chris Lake Sympathy for Bob Binyon
12/20/19 Mrs. Hank Wightman and Kip and Karen Bruyn Sympathy for Hank Wightman
1/17/20 Tom Moore Thinking of You
1/22/20 Olga Adams Get Well
2/4/20 Tom Moore Thinking of You
2/6/20 Jane Bicknell Sympathy (husband), Cathy Bicknell Crabtree Sympathy (father)
2/15/20 Pat Sturges Thinking of You
3/10/20 Tom Moore Thinking of You
3/22/20 Sharon Petrides Get Well
3/28/20 Mr. and Mrs. Colin McCaughey Birth of Baby, Dick and Meredith McCaughey birth of grandson
3/31/20 Paul Littman Sympathy (father)
4/22/20 Ham White Get Well
5/3/20 Tom Moore Thinking of You
5/7/20 Pat Williams Get Well
5/14/20 Nancy Pratt Get Well

CHAPEL TOURS

Chair Bob Scherfling

No tours this year.

HISTORICAL

 Chair Dick Williams

Next year is our 90th anniversary.

NOMINATIONS

Chair Martha Widdicombe

Martha is asking for names of potential Trustees. The criteria to be a Trustee are: Availability; demonstrates hard work and initiative;

participates in worship services at the Chapel and shows a willingness to help in Chapel and Trustee activities. We are particularly looking for young people to become involved. Send Martha an email with any and all suggestions at **Martha@widdicombe.com**

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chair Mary Moore

We are exploring weekly space ads in the "Adirondack Express" inviting all to the Chapel's e-worship services via the website July 5-Sept. 6.

WEBSITE

 Chair Susan Taylor

Sue has been working with Dick McCaughey and the worship committee to develop a plan for the online worship services. She has established a YouTube channel to post our online worship services. It will be "unlisted" and only accessed through a link on our BMCC website. Currently Sue is planning to have the weekly portions of services recorded on Friday and posted to Google Drive. From there she will thread it together with iMovie and then post it to the YouTube channel in time for a Sunday morning online worship.

We are requesting group photos of Chapel friends and family to enhance our virtual worship this summer. Please get permission from everyone in the photo to have it included in our online worship service. Please send photos in an email to Susan Taylor at **bmchapelwebmaster@gmail.com**. Thank you.

IMPORTANT 2020 DATES

August 2 Communion Sunday
August 9 Memorial Sunday
August 23 Annual Meeting

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