BIG MOOSE CHAPEL COMMUNITY NEWS

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

FALL 2026

A Word from Weston

Summer may be over. We may be sad, but don't forget we're doing great! Seriously.

The news, politicians, and your insurance agent want you to worry about crime, inflation, global conflict, doom lettuce, and interest rates, but we're still drawing breath and eating lunch. This wouldn't be possible in Ray Bradbury's picture of 2026 as described in *There Will Come Soft Rains*. Bradbury figured by now we would have been decimated by nuclear war. A few lucky humans live on a neighboring planet, while ours is occupied only by automated robots.

Our world is far from the dystopia prophesied by the past or feared by the present. Antibiotics, seat belts, air-conditioning, and flushing toilets have increased our lifespans and improved our quality of life! Things may sometimes feel off balance, but we're still here. God is in control. Even during difficult times and in dark places, we can find glimpses of light and grace. So, let's give thanks!

We're doing great. Wear a smile and remind those around you that life is amazing, even in the winter.



Trustee President's Message

We had a truly wonderful season this year. Our sanctuary has been packed on Sundays, filled with energy, music, and the kind of shared spirit that reminds us why this place matters. The Balsam Bee was wildly successful this year — one of our best ever — and it showcased what this community can accomplish when we roll up our sleeves together.

Throughout the week, our Open Doors events have brought people in for conversation, connection, and a sense of belonging. Attendance has been strong, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. These gatherings continue to deepen our engagement with the wider community and strengthen the bonds among us.

One of the most encouraging signs this season has been the number of new faces stepping into volunteer roles. Whether it's helping with worship, pitching in on building needs, or supporting fellowship events, your willingness to serve keeps this chapel running. We are grateful for every hand offered.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to several individuals completing three consecutive terms of service as Trustees: Judy Bean, Katy Beltz, Susan Taylor, Barb Morgan, and John View. Your dedication, your time, and your steady commitment have shaped the operations and spirit of this chapel. We are deeply grateful for all you have contributed.

Thank you to everyone for your support, and for the love you continue to pour into Big Moose Community Chapel. This place thrives because of you — and we look forward to another year of shared ministry, shared work, and shared joy.

ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

August 23, 2026

A quorum of the congregation met in the chapel at 11:15 AM. The meeting was called to order and Kathryn Orbanek was elected to be presiding president. Clerk, Jenny Williams was in attendance by way of ZOOM.

The activities of the Board of Trustees and all the committees were submitted in written form to the President and posted on the Web site prior to this meeting.

President Kathryn called for questions or comments about these reports and there were none.

Bill Locke presented the slate of 5 trustees to be elected; paper ballots were distributed and then counted. All were elected.

New business consisted of discussion of the activities planning for the 100th Anniversary of the Chapel and the 85th Anniversary of the Manse. A collection of old hymnals are being given away for free and there were many takers as the meeting adjourned.

The following are the reports of the activities of the Chapel as submitted at the Annual Meeting.

Finance - Co-Chairs -Robin Smith & Dan Conable and Treasurer Mark Mayer

The Finance Committee met on July 9, with all members in attendance except Mark Mayer and Steve Schanely.

Bill Locke gave a report on the performance of the endowment through August. The total return is 6.9% overall with a return of 11.14% for equities alone. 59.28% is invested in equities, 37.15% in fixed Income and 3.58% in cash and equivalents. The total endowment balance is $2,062,474. The Committee unanimously approved continuing to have AFS under Bill Locke manage the Chapel portfolios.

The financial status of the Chapel is solid. In July we received three individual checks totaling $20,000, and year-to-date donations excluding special projects is $36,800. The special project well at the Manse is more than fully funded, although we have a “way to go” on funding the new fire pit. Expenses are on budget, and our cash balance on July 31 was $38,085 (including the $20,000 draw from the Endowment in June).

Susan and Jay Taylor gave a report on their meetings with Lucy Popkess and Lauren Wright from Genesis, a non-profit raising consultancy, regarding a potential Capital Campaign in connection with the anniversaries of the Manse next year and Chapel in 2031. A lot of useful advice was provided by them, and in subsequent discussion with the Committee, including, importantly, defining the need for funds, including long term plans for the upkeep and capital investment needs of the Manse and Chapel and possible investment in growing the Chapel congregation, a thorough study of giving trends and expenses, and of the endowment returns, uses of funds, distributions, etc. Also, importantly, the Trustees will need to be thoroughly educated on the finances of the Chapel. It was suggested that the quiet phase of a possible campaign not begin until 2028. Depending on the size of a campaign, an outside consultant could be advisable, particularly in the area of Legacy giving.

Outreach Policy. The Committee addressed John View’s suggestion from the July meeting that, rather than implementing the policy approved at the July meeting to have the flexibility of budgeting Outreach at a minimum of 25% of the prior year’s Sunday plate with a target of 50%, that the Outreach budget be decoupled from the previous year’s Sunday plate. This could mean budgeting Outreach for the coming year based on various factors including the Outreach Committee’s assessment of the needs of the community, historical Outreach budgets, and income and expenses from the prior year and needs anticipated for the year. The Committee’s recommendation will be presented to the Trustees.

The Committee discussed the Balsam Bee, the Guide’s dinner and the Bazaar as fundraising events. The Committee recommends a review of income and expenses for the various Bazaar activities to facilitate planning and budgeting the next Bazaar, and is gathering data to support that effort.

Bazaar – CoChairs, Kiki White & Michael Eastwood

We will have a Bazaar in August 2027 and will be meeting with all the booth chairs as to what their needs are. If you’d like to bring your talents to this terrific event, all are welcome. We will find the right spot for you. Connect with Kiki White at (315)-345-7599 or bmccbazaarkikiwhite@gmail.com OR Michael Eastwood at (315)-357-2916 or eastwoodm@gmail.com

Balsam Bee – CoChairs, Mary Moore & Mike Rankin

The Balsam Bee was held August 1 and enjoyed wonderful and steady attendance with new Saturday morning hours starting at 9 a.m. and the Bee ending at 1:00 p.m. Special thanks to Lorraine Schunck for the suggestion of morning hours, which the committee has called a great success and is our new Bee tradition. Guests were arriving by 8:45 and estimates put attendance at well over 100. The best estimate is that 310 new pillows were stuffed and sewn and around 40 "vintage" Chapel pillows were restuffed and sewn--some of those coming from as far away as Colorado and Vermont and some from as close as Inlet and the North Shore of Big Moose Lake. Restuffing is definitely something we'll offer at the next Bee.

Thanks to everyone who cut balsam, worked the grinders, stuffed, sewed, sold pillows at the Bee and afterwards and most importantly, to everyone who shared Chapel hospitality with Bee guests. Thank you to all who took home stuffed pillows to sew and return so pillows are available for sale after the Bee-as long as supplies last.

If anyone has any concerns, criticisms, suggestions, or thoughts about how the Bee can celebrate the Chapel's 100th anniversary please contact me If not in person, I can be reached at BigMooseMittens@gmail.com.

The next Bee is scheduled for July 29, 2028, and we respectfully request that no other events be scheduled to conflict with set-up or the Bee itself.

Chapel Tours – CoChairs, Betsy Hadden & Bruce Steltzer

Big Moose Community Chapel continued to open its doors to visitors through tours during the 2026 summer season. Tours were offered from July 7th until September 8th, during which the

history of the chapel and current church life is shared with guests. In addition, a special tour was once again provided in July when a group from AARCH visited Big Moose and included a stop at the chapel and manse as part of their tour.

Communion – Chair, Jerry Rutherford

Sunday, August 2, individual prepackaged servings were distributed as those worshiping entered our Chapel. The Chapel was very full as well as the side worship room. This service was filled with joy and blessed messages to take with us in our hearts.

Discretionary Fund – Chair, Judy Bean

No checks have been needed.

Facilities – CoChairs, Susan Rimato & Elaine Nelson

Chapel Updates:

Walkway repairs: Sunken and shifted slates at the side entrance walkway were removed, the base was prepped, and the slates were releveled to address a potential trip hazard for the congregation.

A bid is in hand to continue this work — removing all remaining cracked and sunken stones, prepping the base, and releveling — and we are awaiting a second bid before proceeding.

Electrical: The 60 A subpanel in the Chapel kitchen was replaced with a 32-circuit, 100 A main breaker panel. Carbon monoxide detectors were also installed.

Stone repointing: This project will continue this fall and is roughly three-quarters complete. While on site, the crew will also inspect the capstone to help identify the source of a small leak; they will need to rent a lift to examine the capstone.

Door refinishing: The Chapel's wooden doors — a focal point of the building — need refinishing due to water staining on the lower sections. A bid is in hand to refinish the double doors and the single side-entrance door so they match, and we hope to secure a second estimate soon.

Grill/fire pit: We anticipate beginning construction of a new grill and fire pit for the Guides Dinner, a favorite Chapel tradition.

Tree removal: A large dead tree in the parking lot has been identified as a hazard. Qualified, insured tree service providers are assessing the job this week.

Manse Updates:

New well: A new dug well has been installed at the Manse, resolving a long-standing concern about water supply. The project was fully funded by two generous Big Moose Chapel congregants.

Window replacement: The Manse's original wooden windows are in significant need of replacement or repair. We would like to begin this project soon but will need to fundraise, given the number of windows involved.

Upstairs toilet leak: A leak required pulling the upstairs toilet, replacing the floorboards, and installing a new toilet. The leak also damaged ceiling panels below, which will need to be replaced.

Break wall / waterfront: A bid is in hand for improving the break wall and waterfront area, and we are awaiting a second bid this fall. This is not considered urgent but is something to consider for the future.

Fellowship – CoChairs, Betsy Hadden & Joanne Carey

The Fellowship Committee hosted two events this year. The first was Muffins at the Manse on Saturday, July 18th. It was a cool, misty morning with 28 people in attendance. Thank you to Weston and Jenny for opening up the Manse.

The second event was an Ice Cream Social with lawn games on Friday, Aug. 7th. We served 68 folks, and some came back twice! The weather cooperated until the very end. The lawn games encouraged folks to hang around and socialize. It was a fun event.

Flowers – CoChairs, Gayle Stankiewicz & Susie Nettleton

Flowers continue to be managed by a team this year: Gayle is the primary contact person, monitors the online requests, payments and ordering of altar flowers. Joan Robinson picks up the arrangements, brings them to the chapel and returns the vases each week. Susie Nettleton created and tended the beautiful outdoor planters. We also have help from other volunteers when needed.

Flowers are provided by Mountain Greenery. Arrangements continue to be $65 per vase. This year we continued the new option to sponsor an outdoor planter. To date all vases and planters have been paid for by donors and all remaining Sundays have donors. In the event no flowers are donated we would use the flower budget to purchase a vase. We continue to work with the webmaster to improve the online request and payment process while maintaining the option to pay by check.

The committee requested a budget of $1700. Most of costs are covered by donations of flower sponsors.

The budget also provides for funds to cover Sundays with no donors, delivery charges when flowers can't be picked up, cost of the plants for the outdoor planters and other contingencies. As of July 31, no budgeted funds have been spent.

Gifts and Memorials – CoChairs, Kathryn Orbanek & Sarah Winch

Enhancements were made to the BMCC Gifts Policy and Privacy Policy. The Gifts & Memorials Committee Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were updated to allow the Trustee Chair of the Gifts & Memorials Committee to have visibility to donors for the purpose of providing thanks and being the liaison with the donor for any specific asks related to their gift. The Gifts Chair will also work across committees to align

committees to a proposal regarding any proposed designated gifts. Trustees will then approve acceptance of a designated gift ensuring the related accounting, responsibility and communications is established both within the Board and with the donor.

Five new plaques were commissioned over the winter, and were installed this summer season in the Sanctuary. The Pew Plaque Directory will be updated to include their locations.

Please share knowledge of any community member passings so we may remember them next summer at our Memorial Service the 2nd Sunday in August. Please contact Sarah Winch with input.

We celebrate the new coat rack handcrafted by Jack Nettleton for our side room entrance. Last summer, after the beautiful new floors were finished, there was concern expressed about raincoats and umbrellas. Jack offered to craft something that would allow those wet items to be handled. It's a spectacular piece of craftsmanship!

Historian - Chair, Barb Morgan

In anticipation of the Chapel's 100th anniversary in 2031, the members of the committee have developed 3 major projects to be completed over the next 5 years. The first project is to identify both in the Chapel and in the community, historical documents and artifacts especially related to the building of the Chapel. Items will be photographed and catalogued. Our second project is to create a "Ken Burns style" video of the construction of the Chapel using the historical documents and artifacts. The video will then be presented in the summer of the 100th anniversary. Finally, the committee wishes to find better ways to display historical items so they can be appreciated by all. If you have any photos or documents that you think would be of interest, please contact Barbara Morgan at bigmooseloon@gmail.com.

Mathias Memorial – Chair, Miyako Schanely The Mathias Memorial Endowment Fund was established in memory of Fred and Cleta Mathias to perpetuate the strong music program of the Big Moose Community Chapel, to encourage talent in the arts, and to subsidize Chapel Musical performances. Since 1999 the fund has supported the studies of 23 students in a wide variety of disciplines in music and the arts and has also subsidized musical performances at Big Moose Community Chapel and other nearby venues. This summer one of our awardees, Lily Slaton Barker-Wong returned to play for Sunday worship as well as to present a recital during our Summer Music Series. The Mathias Endowment committee has been proud to support Lily's musical journey over the past couple years as she completed a Master of Music in Violin Performance at the University of Oregon. At her recital, we were honored to present her an award for the coming school year as she begins pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Viola Performance at UO. In keeping with the missions of the Fund, the committee allocated resources as follows:

$250 to Scott Rutledge for trumpet accompaniment and performance during worship on Sunday, July 5.

$250 to Jake Slaton Barker-Wong for piano performance during worship on Sunday, July 26.

$1000 to Olivia Phaneuf for studies at UCLA toward a Doctor of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance.

$1000 to Lily Slaton Barker-Wong for studies at the University of Oregon toward a Doctor of Musical Arts in Viola Performance.



Membership/Database - CoChairs, Richard Widdicombe & Bill Burrows

Since 1996, this database has been run on Claris FileMaker Pro and is maintained with frequent updates by Richard Widdicombe. Various information is kept including name and home address, home phone, email, lake location if relevant etc. It is possible to tag people in the database to produce lists of Choir members, Trustees, separate people with only emails, or only physical mailing addresses etc. Mailing labels can be produced as well as name tags.

We gather new names usually by people filling out our printed yellow cards. These are either dropped in the collection plate or mailed to the Administrator. There are instructions on the card for people to enroll separately in the electronic email list. These people then may receive weekly informational blasts. This is optional.

The Chapel uses the U.S. Post Office to send several physical mailings each year: two Newsletters, an Annual Appeal letter etc. By doing this, we can regularly detect changes of addresses and update our files.

Changes in email addresses are problematic and depend upon people to alert us to their new email.

For 30 years Richard Widdicombe has been the keeper of the Master File, a mirror file is kept by Bill Burrows, Jr. Changes and corrections are also contributed by Judy Bean, Mary Moore, and Mark Mayer.

As of 17 August 2026 there are 406 Family addresses recorded. This is an increase of 26 names since 2025.

Memorial Services – CoChairs, Kristina Wikander Love & Linda Keener

We held a lovely memorial service for our dear Fran Knorr on July 25. The service was well attended with the chapel comfortably full. The choir sang an Irish blessing,

Memorial Woods – Chair, Jeff Hadden; Barb Getty administrator

The Memorial Woods Committee is pleased to report:

1. Status of Niches, Plaques, Structure and Grounds: Plenty of available niches for the foreseeable future. Need to add space for additional plaques ASAP. Structure is in excellent condition; no near-term maintenance or capital improvements noted. Grounds are in good shape; need to clear the path and refurbish benches.

2. Projects completed during the reporting period:

Annual Spring clean-up in advance of Memorial Day Weekend

Considered increasing price of niches/plaques and decided to keep the price the same

3. Projects underway by the Committee:

Adding more plaque space (near-term); Consideration of updates to the brochure and the website (near-term); Increased maintenance of the "Memorial Woods Trail", and consideration of refurbishing the benches in the woods and adding appropriate trail markers (medium-term); Consideration of where to add additional niches (long-term)

Music – CoChairs, Miyako Schanely & Terry McSweeney

Music plays a vital role in the life of the BMCC community, and this year has been no exception! Our weekly worship has benefited from the dedication and talents of our faithful choir members, superb accompaniment from Jennifer Evans Fitzgibbon, and inspirational performances from guest musicians.

The Summer Music Series comprised six performances this season, drawing listeners from both within and well beyond our Big Moose Community. Dan Berggren kicked off our series, followed by Mad Agnes and Peggy Lynn. We featured a Mathias Memorial Endowment violin recital by Lily SlatonBarker-Wong, where she highlighted music and techniques that shaped her musical journey. Finally, performances by Ann Carey and Penny Bianco closed out our busy season on a high note.

We look forward to offering celebratory music at the Christmas service in December and to a vibrant 2027 season!

Newsletter – Chair/ Editor, Martha Widdicombe

Newsletters have been sent to the congregation since 1996. This printed newsletter of Chapel activities is mailed to all of those listed with addresses in our database. There is always a message from the Pastor and a message from the Trustee President. The life of the Chapel is directed by the Board of Trustees and its committees accompanied by all the volunteers who give of their time and talents. Before the annual meeting each committee chair presents a written report of their activities to the president. They are then posted on the website. At the annual meeting committee chairs may add any additional information for the members of the congregation in attendance. These reports are all included in the newsletter along with highlights of important dates and special events that may be coming up in the future.

Nominations – CoChairs, Bill Locke & Bill Burrows

Criteria for Trustees –

Availability, demonstrates hard work and initiative, participation in worship services, and a willingness to help in Chapel and Trustee activities.

Trustees Judy Bean, Barb Morgan, Susan Taylor, and John View needed to go off the Board having served three consecutive terms. Five trustees were elected.

Dan Conable and Kathryn Orbanek will continue and three new trustees were elected at the Annual meeting, Sara Burrows, Louise Greaves-Tunnell and Sarah Winch. At the Trustee meeting following the Annual meeting Kathryn Orbanek was elected President, Bill Locke, Vice President, Mark Mayer, Treasurer, and Jenny Williams (non- voting) Clerk.

Outreach – CoChairs, Kathryn Orbanek & Bill Keener

Outreach Donation Baskets are located in the Narthex this summer, collecting goods for the Old Forge Library Food Pantry. They received a grant to remodel their space and the news article included a list of their greatest needs. As you attend chapel the remainder of the season, please consider donating to this cause with non-perishable foods, toiletries or laundry products. Old Forge Library Food Pantry Greatest Needs List: cooking oil, mayonnaise, canned chili, hearty soups and stews, canned fruit such as applesauce, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, mouthwash and canned pasta. Feedback from an employee of the Library, who also sings in our choir, is that the donations received so far this summer are greatly appreciated. The demand is very high. A total of $12,730 from the Summer 2025 plate will be distributed to local agencies this September 2026. Those final allocations will be in the spring edition of the newsletter.

Consideration of information about BMCC Outreach posting information on the website is a topic to be decided this fall.

The Outreach budget for 2027 will be planned as a line item in the operating budget next year, so this is the final year that a percent of the plate will be allocated. Our process will switch from getting a dollar amount and splitting it out across agencies to leaning into understanding our agencies' strategies and anticipated needs to submit a budget request like all other committees do in the budgeting process. This should streamline our processes and allow us a greater opportunity to understand and help needs going

forward. This summer, under the stewardship of Anne Dew, the Outreach Committee is piloting youth making the calls to agencies to inquire about how they serve the community and how a donation would be used in their mission.

Public Relations – CoChairs, Mary Moore & webmasters Susan Taylor & Vicky Menand

The committee oversees the year-round creation and placement of advertising, specific printed materials, press releases, and e-communication about Chapel events. 2027 deadlines will be communicated soon. Any questions should be sent to Mary Moore at BigMooseMittens@gmail.com.

Once again this year it's been a great pleasure to work with the Chapel's crack website team Vicky Menand and Susan Taylor to coordinate e-blasts and other communications and to keep the website supplied with timely, accurate, and attractive information. Please see the Website Committee report for the impressive e-stats the Chapel enjoys. Likewise, working with Barb Morgan, Reverend Williams, and Miyako Schanely to supply materials for and to promote Worship, Open Door, and Summer Music events and to direct invoices for approval and prompt payment to Mark Mayer and Meridyth Burrows is a well-oiled machine. Their attention to meeting--or beating--deadlines is very appreciated. Publicity and Website also work with the Membership Committee to make it easy for newcomers to sign up for Chapel communications, either print and/or electronic. The committee looks forward to working with Finance on the Annual Appeal. The committee appreciates all efforts to meet deadlines as publicity and other schedules need to be planned and met throughout the entire calendar year. All publicity, print, and promotional needs and materials should be submitted to Publicity for proper scheduling, vetting, design, review, and release to the appropriate outlet. Schedules are key to the work of the committee, and we're grateful for information received in a timely manner. Our media outlets definitely appreciate the Chapel as a good customer in our press release timeliness, thoroughness, and advertising purchases. As a tourist and vacation community, the Town of Webb and by extension the Chapel are very lucky to have the Adirondack Express as a local weekly paper and their annual publication of the free summer guide which reaches thousands of visitors.

Quilt Raffles – Coordinator, Mary Moore

A queen-sized quilt from the Pointed Pine quilters in Old Forge is being raffled in the 2026 season. The winner will be drawn on the last Sunday in September. Thanks to Linda Keener as our link with the quilters and to all who handle ticket sales at Summer Music programs, Tuesday Tours, on Sunday morning, and other times the Chapel is open. Judy Bean and Mary Moore will coordinate thank-you baked goods for the quilters in August.

Sunday School – Chair, Mary Moore

Sunday School welcomed new and returning Sunday Schoolers in 2026, and several young people from Sunday School helped Steve Schanely with bell ringing at the start of worship.

Sunshine – Chair, Judy Bean

Since May Judy has sent cards to the following:

Thinking of You: Mr. and Mrs. Dave Longworthy; Luke Langworthy; Regina Scarafile; Rev. Tim Lanham; Jay Taylor; Jean Dena; Donna and Tom Hartz; Doug and Bonnie Bennett; Steve and Jan Park; Chris Grauert; Bob and Marguerite Scherfling.

Get Well: Judy Allen; Ann Conable; Phyllis Sanzone; John Barrendse; Beth Kellogg.

Sympathy: Peggy Lynn (husband); Mr. and Mrs. Cam Hickey (father); Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bureau, Miss Alyssa Carey; The Nettleton Family (brother); The Conable Family (daughter);

Graduation and Have a Good Year at College: Eve Winter

Happy 90th birthday: Jane Wilson

Ushers/Refreshments - CoChairs, Linda Martin & Sara Burrows

As always, a big thank you to everyone who stepped up to either serve as an usher or help host the coffee hour this summer. It was great to see some new faces helping to make the experience of worship at Big Moose Chapel more enjoyable! And we couldn't get by without those dedicated members who do one or the other (or both) every summer! A special thanks also to those who help with table set-up, carrying coffee urns and clean-up to help things go more smoothly. A very special thank you to Phyllis for her many years of dedication to this committee.

Volunteer Coordination – CoChairs, Steve Shanely & Susan Taylor

This year there were no special requests for volunteers. Volunteers for ushers, coffee hour hosts and flower donations were filled. The Event/Volunteer Table was busy. Having chapel events at the table attracts people, and once they are there it seamlessly leads to generating volunteers. Thanks to all committee members and volunteers for making this a successful chapel season. Any special requests for volunteers for the 2027 season can be emailed to me at scschanely@twcny.rr.com.

Website – CoChairs, Vicky Menand & Susan Taylor

Working in conjunction with the Publicity/Communications Committee, the Website Committee continued to support the sharing of Chapel information. The Publicity/Communications Committee developed a summer email schedule highlighting the season's events. Together with the Monday "Coming This Week" email, this kept Chapel members informed

on a timely basis. The Website Committee works hard to distribute pertinent information about Chapel life once a week; occasionally, a committee chair requests a separate mailing about their committee's activities. Each such request is carefully weighed to respect our subscribers' inboxes.

We continue to encourage new Chapel members to sign up for email communications through the Chapel website and in-person at the Chapel. We've seen strong growth as a result — about 30 new subscribers since May 1, 2026. Emails now reach an average of 254 recipients, with a 99% delivery rate and an 82% open rate. (Religious organizations typically average around a 30% open rate.) Of those views, 80% occur on desktop computers and 20% on mobile devices.

The website would not be nearly as beautiful without the artwork and skills of Mary Moore.

Weddings – CoChairs, Joanne Carey & Susan Taylor

The Chapel hosted 3 weddings and 1 renewal for the 2026 wedding season. It continues to be a beautiful venue for those couples who want an Adirondack setting. Thank you to my committee members who help to host weddings

Worship – Chair, Barb Morgan

Format of Service

We made three changes this year to the format. The first was to add to the reading of the gospel a phrase used by past Chapel minister Rev. Fred Mathias. We now begin each reading with "Listen for the word of God." We also decided not to have acolytes light the candles during the prelude as it became a distraction. Young people are now invited to help ring the bell at the start of the service. Finally, the committee added a blessing of the niches ceremony which immediately follows the Memorial Service.

No changes were suggested for next year.

Increased Attendance

Attendance continues to increase and the committee has noticed we are gaining members from the Inlet community. The side room the 3rd week in July was filled to capacity.

Minister's Corner

This year the Chapel offered 2 presentations by Weston, one on baptisms and one on memorial services. Only 2 people attended the presentation on baptism, but with our current demographics on the lake, we anticipated a larger attendance for the presentation on memorial services.

Recommended Dates for 2027 Services

Proposal to the Board:

Sunday Service June 20th to Sept. 26th - One service at 10:00 am Christmas Service Dec. 19th at 4:00 pm

Minister Performance Review and Recommendation to Trustees

The committee reviewed the minister's performance based on three criteria: Sunday services, pastoral care and additional activities.

Proposal to the Board:

Based on his Annual Performance Review, the Worship Committee recommends that the Board call Rev. Weston Williams to service for the Chapel in the summer season of 2027.

Old Hymnals

In the basement of the Chapel are quite a few old hymnals that are no longer used. The committee including Miyako Schanely, Music Chair, discussed what to do with them.

Proposal to the Board:

The Worship and Music Committees recommend that the Board deaccession the hymnals so they can be given away for free.

Chapel China

Susan Taylor had a lengthy discussion with the director of the Old Forge Historical Society (Kate Lewis) regarding a Society exhibit around Earl Covey. Kate wondered if the Society could borrow some of the Chapel's china.

Proposal to the Board:

Members (Barb Morgan, Susan Taylor, Betsy Hadden) of the Board of Trustees recommend that the Chapel donate one set of china (to consist of a dinner plate, a soup bowl, coffee cup, a saucer, a monkey dish, a sugar bowl and a creamer) to the Old Forge Historical Society.

Prayer Group

The group is privileged to receive requests to share joys and concerns throughout the year. All communication is confidential unless specified to share with the larger Chapel community. The dedicated email is BigMoosePrayer@gmail.com.

Open Doors

A big thanks from Open Doors to Noel Sherry, Judy Bean, Bill Burrows, Jr. for sharing their time, and enthusiasm. A special thank you to Steve Schanely, Jay Taylor and Susan Taylor for helping with the lecture series. We're always looking for OD programs, workshops, and tech help, so please don't hesitate to reach out to Barb Morgan, Judy Bean, or Mary Moore to discuss ideas and opportunities.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday

DECEMBER 13, 2026

4:00 PM

Rev. LeonVanWie







The Big Moose Community Chapel, 1544 Big Moose Road, Eagle Bay, NY 13331 or bigmoosechapel.org