



**VILLAGE
CHAPEL**
of Bald Head Island

COVID-19 PLANNING AND RESPONSE GUIDE

July 27, 2020

INTRODUCTION & GOALS

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:6-7)

The goal of this guide is to assist The Village Chapel of Bald Head Island (Chapel) family during the Covid-19 pandemic. Included is an explanation of Chapel planning and preparedness efforts as well as information on ongoing Chapel ministries and outreach efforts. The guide is designed to be flexible and adaptable. Priorities and expectations are continually re-evaluated as new information becomes available.

With a unique culture and history, the Chapel has no full-time minister or denominational hierarchy on which to rely. Both human and financial resources are limited. The Board President and a five-member Board of Trustee Executive Committee (“EC”) are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Chapel.

During this pandemic, Chapel goals include adhering to the mission and vision while meeting the needs of our Chapel family, protecting our staff and volunteers, serving the vulnerable in our community and, ultimately, a safe return to in person worship services and activities.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.
(Proverbs 16:9)

In early May 2020, the Chapel Board President, in accordance with Chapel Bylaws, appointed a committee of board members along with the volunteer property manager and administrator to address the Covid-19 situation and the Chapel responses. This committee, optimistically named The Summer 2020 Committee (“S20”), was charged with developing plans and making recommendations to the EC.

The S20 meets regularly, and agreed at the first meeting to be guided by John Wesley’s three rules: do no harm, do good, attend to the ordinances of God. Recommendations to date include the below:

May 17, 2020 S20 Recommendations (unanimously approved by the EC)

1. Signage will be placed outside the Chapel advising of occupancy limits, mask and social distancing requirements, and a cleaning disclaimer
2. No in-person Chapel services will be held in June
3. No live group singing will occur until further notice
4. No children’s programming will occur this summer
5. Office will re-open for staff on June 15, 2020 with restrictions

- a. When Chapel construction is completed:
 - i. Deep clean the Chapel & the office according to CDC guidelines
 - ii. Staff will be allowed to set up as needed prior to opening
 - iii. If more than one person in the office, masks and social distancing required
 - iv. Only staff members are allowed in the office
 - b. When the office re-opens:
 - i. Only staff may access the restroom
 - ii. No one other than staff is allowed past the threshold into the office
 - iii. Masks are required when staff interacts with visitors
 - iv. The door from the Chapel to the office is to remain locked, and the door into the office is to remain closed
6. When in-person services resume:
- a. Sunday services limited to one, time is TBD
 - b. Once a week cleaning according to CDC guidelines.
 - c. Greeters will be selected and thoroughly briefed on requirements.
 - d. Collections will be placed in the alms box.
 - e. Bulletins can be found online, and attendees are encouraged to use smart phones
 - f. Social distancing required
 - g. Masks required
 - h. A plan for live streaming will be developed
7. Special events protocols:
- a. Weddings – one is scheduled in late June and will be allowed if they adhere to restrictions
 - b. Baptisms and funerals will be considered on a case-by-case basis

June 13, 2020 S20 Recommendations (unanimously approved by the EC)

1. Given continued Covid-19 uncertainty, the Chapel should suspend in person services at a minimum until the Sunday before Labor Day, September 7, 2020.
2. One wedding is scheduled at the end of June, and the family agreed to Chapel Covid-19 restrictions. There are at least two weddings scheduled in August, and those have also agreed to comply. The committee recommends allowing these small weddings to continue.
3. The committee also recommends not allowing short-term rental of the condo as the associated expenses and potential damages could outweigh any financial gain. (This decision was later revisited and revised.*)
4. Board President and Administrator will discuss the office situation.

**After receiving a generous offer to manage the condo rental at no charge, the S20 recommended the EC accept the offer. (Recommendation unanimously approved.)*

July 17, 2020 S20 Recommendations (Approved by the EC with one abstention)

1. The committee reviewed proposals received from the community and individual board members and recommends as follows:
 - a. Any public gatherings of any size, inside or outside, should continue to be cancelled, postponed or moved online
 - b. Allow private services, if Chapel guidelines are followed (similar to current Wedding guidelines)
 - c. Encourage further development of various ministries
 - d. Encourage further development of Chapel outreach efforts
 - e. Revisit if a positive trend develops in COVID related metrics used by the NCDHHS
 - f. Ideas and suggestions encouraged, and those should be sent to S20 in care of Mary Jo Walker at maryjowalker.bhi@gmail.com
2. Staff, if they so desire, may return to the office on a limited basis. Work from home continues to be advised.

MINISTRIES

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.”
(Psalms 96: 1-3)

1. Ladies' Bible Study
 - a. Meets bi-weekly, first and third Tuesdays of each month
 - b. Hybrid format including in person (socially distanced) and Zoom
 - c. All women are welcome
 - d. Current study *Into the Light – Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*
 - e. Currently under consideration
 - i. Working with Chapel Outreach team to help with Food Pantry donations
 - ii. Participation in a religious rally in September 2020
 - f. Contact Kay Menk for more information - kgmenk@gmail.com
2. Men's Bible Discussion Group
 - a. Meets weekly via Zoom
 - b. Open to all men
 - c. Contact Dick Johnston for information - erj@bellsouth.net
3. Evening Bible Study
 - a. Presently on annual summer break
 - b. All are welcome - couples or singles
 - c. Meets on Tuesday evenings

- d. Currently planning for the fall
- e. Contact F.A. McLeod for information or to be a part of the planning efforts – faatbeach@aol.com

4. Roman Catholic Rosary

- a. Each Wednesday at 10:30 via ZOOM
- b. All are welcome
- c. Contact F.A. McLeod for information - faatbeach@aol.com

OUTREACH

*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
(John 15:12)*

1. Supporting our Community - each month the Chapel supports the SOIIF Food Pantry in Boiling Springs
2. Ringing of the Chapel Bells - the Chapel joined Southport churches in ringing our bells on Fridays in June to honor the frontline COVID healthcare workers
3. Southport Elementary Teacher Wishlist - requests donations of paper towels, hand sanitizer and individual pencil boxes
4. On-island Outreach – supports BHI families in need with meals and wellness checks as requested
5. Prayer Chain – prayer requests may be placed in the prayer box located in the Narthex or by contacting Judy Brawner at judybrawner1@gmail.com
6. Project with Streetreach organization currently in the planning stages.
7. For more information, assistance, or to join the Outreach team, contact Sherry Roese at Sherroese@aol.com

SOURCES CONSULTED

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
(Colossians 4:2)*

The S20 relied on information from governmental sources, medical experts, health authorities, faith based organizations and local churches when making recommendations to the EC. A few of the resources on which the S20 relied are listed below.

Brunswick County Coronavirus Information

<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/alert-ticker/information-on-coronavirus/>

The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

<https://www.episdionc.org/coronavirus/>

Humanitarian Disaster Institute at Wheaton College

<https://www.wheaton.edu/academics/academic-centers/humanitarian-disaster-institute/>

<https://www.reopeningthechurch.com/home>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

North Carolina Baptists

<https://ncbaptist.org/covid-19-resources-information/>

North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church

<https://nccumc.org/coronavirus/>

North Carolina Covid-19 Information

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/>

Southport and Brunswick County churches, including but not limited to Southport Baptist, Trinity UMC, Sacred Heart Catholic, Southport Presbyterian, St. Philips Episcopal

Wisconsin Council of Churches

<https://www.wichurches.org/>