



Aspen Chapel  
*a spiritual home for everyone*

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021 By the Numbers

**52** Sunday Services

**45** Connect! Participants

**1,000+** views of services on YouTube

**8** Art Gallery Shows

**75** Average number of people watching live each Sunday

**230th** Consecutive Art Gallery Show

**3,000** Podcast downloads

**\$10,899** Donated to 8 non-profits by the Chapel Art Gallery in 2021

**165** Average number of people listening or joining weekly

**\$30,437** Given to non-profits by the Aspen Chapel Art Gallery since 2018



# Dear Chapel Friends,

2021 was a positive, turnaround year for the Aspen Chapel. This recovery - from 2020's pandemic-sparked layoffs and debt-financed new roof - is to the credit of countless volunteer hours and loyal donors. We still have more work to do to become financially and operationally sound in service to our community.

The '21 financial year ended with: expenses under budget; a loyal community of donors supporting all Chapel programs (with thanks to improved stewardship communications); and a positive surplus (without a year-end-deficit scramble). The surplus will help with first quarter "lumpy" giving and to invest in improvements for all programs.

Our traditional programs – Art Gallery, Connect! and Music – were reimagined. They received more financial independence and responsibilities; raised new sources of funds; and hit new activity records. We have re-engaged laid-off employees in new ways with plans for yet more improvements.

We still have challenges and unknowns for 2022. The building's trustees have both financial and legal challenges. Housing for the Veseys is a chronic problem. The ongoing pandemic, "zoomification" of gatherings, and turbulent economic conditions are all present.

A key question going forward is: what is our economically-viable, focused, strategy? As Rilke might advise: "We must all live with and into this strategy question with hopes that a best answer will emerge."

For now, though, let's take a moment to celebrate the positive changes in 2021 coupled with thanks to you and all who have stepped up with renewed contributions of time, talent and treasure! This Annual Report outlines this year's growth and successes, none of which would have been possible without your support.

With Gratitude,

**Bruce**

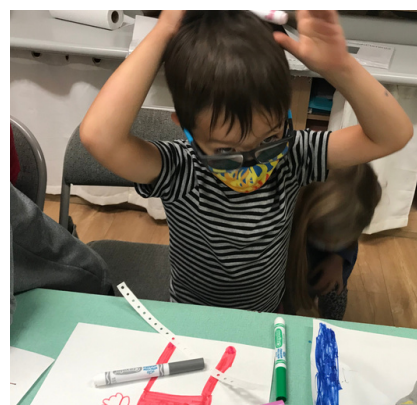
Bruce Merrifield, Administrative Board Chair

## CONNECT!

The Connect! 15-week program finished for the school year on March 1st and the response by the students and parents exceeded our wildest dreams! Thank you for promoting the social and emotional well-being of children in our community by supporting Connect!

- 45 elementary children enrolled this school year
- 100% of the students from session 1 continued into session 2
- \$1,000 in scholarships have been awarded
- **Session 1 Theme:** Exploring Kindness
- **Session 2 Theme:** Building Resiliency
- **Session 3 Theme:** Strengthening attention and Self Awareness
- In addition to Mimi and Elaine, Connect! employed 4 veteran teachers and welcomed 2 high school and 2 middle school volunteers

***"We love the sense of community around shared values, and appreciate having adults in their lives in this unique way. That extra layer of emotional support benefits the whole family, not just the child."***  
**- Parents of Connect! Participant**



Help fund these upcoming sessions!

**Navigating Emotions**

**Learning About and From One Another**

**Interested in supporting the Connect! program?**  
**Checks can be made out to Aspen Chapel - Connect!**

# High School Senior Scholarships

Over the past 15 years, the Aspen Chapel has awarded 68 scholarships to high school seniors. Congratulations to the three seniors awarded scholarships in 2021: Eva McDonough, Oliver Semple and Landon Kiker.

**Scholarships are awarded to students for their service and leadership in our community, and help ease the cost of high education as they go on to college. If you are interested in contributing to the High School Scholarship Program by April 1, donations may be made online or via mail. Please include "scholarship" in the note or memo line.**



Graduation Day for Scholarship recipient, Oliver Semple

## Art Gallery Update

138 artists participated in Art Gallery shows and 24 were new to the gallery. The Aspen Chapel Art Gallery partnered with seven local nonprofits, including two new partnerships: Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, Huts for Vets, A Way Out, Aspen Valley Land Trust, Lift-UP and a repeat show with Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter and Holiday Baskets.



**Thank you to our generous Art Gallery Sponsors. The Aspen Chapel Art Gallery, shows, and proceeds paid to other non-profits is made possible with the support of our season sponsors, foundations, businesses, and 26 individual donors.**

**Thank you to the Gallery Curators and committee members who make each art show possible!**

Michael Bonds / Co-director  
Tom Ward / Co-director  
Amy Beidleman / Curator  
Greg Watts / Curator  
Doug Graybeal / Curator  
Kathy Honea / Curator  
Sam Louras / Curator  
Molly Peacock / Curator  
David Floria



## January

**Cook up a Storm:** For several years, Aspen Chapel partnered with Aspen Homeless Shelter on Martin Luther King Day to cook a special meal for those experiencing homelessness in our community. And 2021 was no exception! In January, eight Chapel friends came together despite the pandemic to provide home cooked meals for those who needed it.

## April

**Special Guests:** Chapel friends gathered in April to hear special guest Cynthia Bourgeault and listen to Karen Coordes play the organ. This was the beginning of the re-imagining of our music program.

## February

### "Happy Trails" Opening and PPP loan:

Curated by Amy Beidleman, the Aspen Chapel Art Gallery opened the "Happy Trails" exhibit which featured eight local artists and benefited the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers. The Aspen Chapel also received critical funds in February through the SBA's Payroll Protection Program.

## May

**Live Services:** After months of virtual-only services, the Aspen Chapel once again opened it's doors – literally – to everyone in our community. Nicholas called on our community to return to the Chapel and not turn him into a *televangelist!*

## March

### Reflecting on the Pandemic:

On March 20, the Spring Equinox, the Aspen Chapel joined with the Aspen Jewish Congregation (AJC) and communities across the Roaring Fork Valley for an event to gather and reflect on the first year of the pandemic. Members visited one of the 15 participating places of worship or connected virtually.

## June

**Musical Wonders:** The Aspen Chapel community heard from two special musical guests in June, as our music program continued to gain strength. John Ramo performed with his guitar in hand and Heidi Curatolo played her violin. Chapel friends gathered in person and online to share in the musical wonders.

# Highlights from 2021

## July

**Summer Guest Speakers:** The Chapel welcomed a series of guest speakers starting in July for our Sunday Services: "Know Yourself" with Lexie Potamkin, "Aspects of Love" with Ritter Gaylord, "Roadside Assistance for the Spiritual Journey" with Barbara Owen and "It's What's Inside that Counts" with Gregg Anderson.

## August

**English Garden Parties:** We held our annual English Garden parties on August 17 - 19. Around 100 community members gathered to connect with and support the Chapel. Together we enjoyed food, drink and conversation while raising nearly \$60,000 to support the Annual Fund. In August we also hosted a Sunday Service featuring Mack Bailey that supported his organization, Music Therapy of the Rockies.

## September

### CONNECT! Program Re-launch:

After a hiatus during Covid, Connect! resumed programming in September 2021. The program is once again promoting the social and emotional well-being of youth in our community. We are thrilled to have this program up and running again!

## October

**Pet Church:** The Aspen Chapel revived a long-standing tradition of blessing all animal comers at a special church in the Chapel Garden. Critters of all shapes and sizes came to receive their blessing. The local Animal Shelter also participated in the event, bringing pets that needed to not only be blessed, but adopted.

## November

**Housing for the Homeless:** On November 1, Chapel opened its doors to those experiencing homelessness in our community. In partnership with the Aspen Homeless Shelter, we were honored to provide a warm and safe place to sleep for anyone who needed it during November and December.

## December

**Santa Sacks:** In addition to the spectacular Christmas services and Lessons & Carols, Santa came early to the Homeless Night Shelter at the Aspen Chapel. Our community donated much needed items such as warm winter clothing and supplies, food, and of course, chocolates and sweet treats.



# Funding Highlights

Thank you for your support. The Aspen Chapel is fully funded by the generosity of individuals in our community!

**378** Donors contributed to the Aspen Chapel in 2021

**92%** of funds raised were from individual donors

**58** Circle of Giving donors providing evergreen and sustainable support

**8%** of funds raised were from foundations

**129** New Supporters

**\$2,801** raised for High School Scholarships

**205** Consecutive-year donors

**\$6,250** raised for Connect!

**168** Donors who gave more than once in 2021

**\$68,802** raised for the Art Gallery

## Aspen Chapel Giving Circle

*Like "Sustaining Membership" programs at other organizations, the Chapel's Circle of Giving is simply a commitment to give an annual or monthly gift in any amount. The program grew out of a desire to create an evergreen fund that enabled the Chapel to create sustainable budgets each year with committed annual funds on the books.*

Thank you to each of the 58 Circle of Giving members in 2021! We truly would not be where we are without your support. If you are interested, **you can join the Circle of Giving at whatever level works for you.** Go to our website ([AspenChapel.org](http://AspenChapel.org)) or contact us to learn more about joining!

## Save the Date

for our Summer Garden Parties

**August 16 & 17, 2022**

