



Cathedral of the Air, a nearly century-old chapel styled in Norman-Gothic architecture, stands out from its surroundings in Lakehurst, N.J., July 25, 2024. The chapel has provided a place of worship for service members and the surrounding community beginning during World War II to the present. (U.S. Air Force photo by Susan Moriarty)

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Operations for Personnel deputy chief. Though it was originally used for Roman Catholic services, Cathedral of the Air became nondenominational and remains so to the present day.

Howell has particular interest in preserving historical artifacts pertaining to the chapel and in possibly creating a small museum inside the chapel where these items can be on display for the public to enjoy.

"One of the cool things that has happened recently is Willet Studios, who did all but two of the stained glass windows in the Cathedral and have been involved since day one, came out and did an inspection of the windows and the out brief was good," Howell said. "They also transferred two legacy boxes of hand drawings of the windows dating back to the 1930s."

Howell was also instrumental in bringing back the first Sunday service held at the chapel in almost 10 years on June 23, 2024, with support from chaplains Lt. Cmd. Chad Haan and U.S. Air Force Col. Jonathan Hurt.

"The chapel has an organ, and I was worried after 10 years of non-usage it wouldn't be in good shape, but it sounded fantastic," Howell said. "Out of all the chapels on the joint base, it is the only one with a working organ right now."

Howell explained that he would like to see the chapel filled more often in ways the joint base or community finds useful.

In addition to worship services, there have been weddings, baptisms, retirements and other events held at Cathedral of the Air.

"The cathedral is integral to the overall heritage of JB MDL," said James Warrick, 87th Air Base Wing historian.

"The stories the stained glass windows tell provide a visual reminder of the earliest days of our Navy heritage and I am very happy we'll continue to have people appreciate the connection to our past for many years to come."

Upcoming services at Cathedral of the Air include Sept. 8 at 10 a.m., Nov. 17 and Dec. 22 (times to be determined). ★

**To reserve Cathedral of the Air, contact:  
Haan at [chad.haan@us.af.mil](mailto:chad.haan@us.af.mil).**

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