

Support the Chapel Challenge

Help provide a place for peace and reflection for DelVal students

The Ida M. Block Memorial Chapel History

Donated in memory of Ida M. Block by her husband and family in 1899, the Ida M. Block Memorial Chapel is one of the oldest buildings on Delaware Valley University's campus.

DelVal founder Dr. Joseph Krauskopf was good friends with Block, who was a well-known leader in Jewish community organizations, charities and the local community. Open and accepting of different faiths, Block insisted on a strict rule of non-sectarianism in her philanthropy. Because of this, a non-denominational chapel was dedicated in her name on campus. Block dedicated her life to service.

"Do all the good you can for people while they are living, don't wait until they are dead," said Block. "Flowers are for the living. Strew them where they will brighten someone's life."

Dr. Krauskopf provided regular non-denominational services for DelVal's students of all faiths at the Ida M. Block Chapel during his time as president.

Dr. Lance Sussman, a rabbi and DelVal Emeritus Trustee, has studied Dr. Krauskopf's beliefs and the Chapel's history.

"Krauskopf wanted to bring people together under science, progressivism, universalism, rationalism...so he created a chapel on the campus that was not meant to be, in my opinion, exclusively a synagogue, but rather a place of worship and contemplation for all people," said Dr. Sussman. "He regularly came up from Philadelphia by train and met with the students on Sundays and would give a discourse on universal themes and whatever was on his mind. The Chapel is still there and is a symbol of his universalism and his belief in the cooperation of faith and science."

The Chapel was once located behind what is currently the Mandell Science Building, but was relocated to stand near the Feldman Agriculture Building in 1966. At that time, the school added landscaping and stairs to the chapel. However, there have only been minor renovations to the interior since the chapel was built.

125
YEARS

DELAWARE
VALLEY
UNIVERSITY

"Do all the good you can for people while they are living, don't wait until they are dead." -Ida M. Block



The Chapel's Restoration Needs

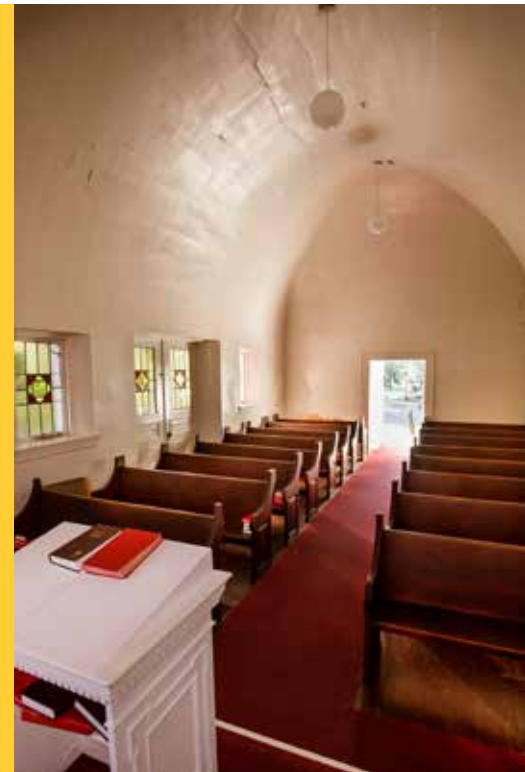


The Ida M. Block Chapel is showing its age. The roof, walls, and foundation need significant structural reinforcement, and the electrical, plumbing and heating systems need to be upgraded. The building does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for accessibility for people with disabilities.

In efforts to make the building more comfortable and accessible to all students and community members, the Chapel will need several upgrades, many of which are to become ADA compliant.

CHAPEL NEEDS INCLUDE:

- ▶ Replacing carpeting and pews
- ▶ Engineering to make the inside and outside of the building accessible
- ▶ Updating heating and air conditioning systems
- ▶ Replacing fire safety equipment
- ▶ Prepping and painting the interior wood trim, walls, ceilings, windows, doors, and podium
- ▶ Removing and disposing of hardwood at entrance
- ▶ Removing doors and painting and refurbishing existing columns
- ▶ Constructing and painting of new doors and columns
- ▶ Completing concrete and outdoor masonry.



DeVal would like to update the Chapel to give students a welcoming place for mental clarity, meditation and spirituality.

The Chapel's Importance to DelVal

The Ida M. Block Chapel is a significant part of the University's rich history and a welcoming symbol of diversity and inclusion. Since its creation, the Chapel has been used by DelVal students as a non-denominational place of spirituality and a space for mental clarity. The Chapel is also being used by DelVal Greek Life for gatherings and by IMPACT, a faith-based student club. IMPACT offers non-denominational services where students share life experiences and stories of overcoming challenges in inspirational sermons.

"The Chapel on the DelVal campus was and is a place for students and faculty to find sanctuary and a safe place to explore their faiths," said Reverend Joshua Massey '16, associate pastor at LifeStream Church of the Nazarene. "I had the privilege of leading a weekly Sunday gathering there during the school year, pre-pandemic. We would gather and, at times, we needed to bundle up in our winter hats because the Chapel had no heat. We spent time praying with each other. Numerous lives have been touched by that little building."

DelVal continues to exemplify the teachings of Rabbi Krauskopf and his belief in the importance of the acceptance of diverse worldviews. His core values of honoring a diverse community that celebrates individuals, regardless of religious and philosophical traditions, race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, or ability, are still at the heart of the DelVal community today. We strive to create a campus culture of inclusivity.

Students today are facing challenges such as the pandemic, social and political difficulties, and societal issues. College students face many stressful situations that can feel overwhelming, especially in the age of social media.

The National College Assessment Survey, sponsored by the American College Health Association (ACHA), reported that 56.9 percent of students experienced feelings of overwhelming anxiety within the past year. A third of students reported experiencing those feelings within the previous month. Anxiety is one of the top concerns for students who seek counseling.

At DelVal, the goal is to use the chapel to offer a comfortable place for students to relax and engage in mental and spiritual self-care.

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The Chapel Challenge



As part of our 125th Anniversary celebration, we are raising funds to restore the Chapel. We have the opportunity to jump-start the renovation of the Chapel due to a generous challenge match from Mr. Richard (Dick) Millham, a member of DelVal's Center for Learning in Retirement, community philanthropist, and member of the Doylestown Historical Society. **Mr. Millham has pledged \$40,000 to the Chapel renovation contingent upon DelVal raising \$40,000 through fundraising.**

Please consider donating to the Chapel Challenge as we encourage students to prioritize their inner peace this year. The Chapel may be used for student faith-centered groups, organized meditation, peaceful reflection and social justice discussions. We want the Chapel to serve as a safe place for people with different views to come together for civil discourse. DelVal is committed to making the Chapel a place for peace and healing in stressful times for the community.

It is our goal that the restored chapel will become a place of peace and contemplation for everyone.



Help carry on the legacies of our founder and of Ida M. Block by investing in a healing space for DelVal students.

delval.edu/ChapelChallenge



There are naming opportunities starting at \$500.

For information, please contact Rachel Mauer at rachel.mauer@delval.edu or 215.489.2977.