

# THE PORCH

Newsletter of the Presbyterian House  
Chautauqua Institution  
[www.presbychq.org](http://www.presbychq.org)  
(716) 357-5011  
P. O. Box 94  
Summer 2022



## Greetings and Welcome to The Presbyterian House

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever." Ps. 107:1*

Welcome back, friends!

With grateful hearts, we once again open the doors of the Presbyterian House, with deep appreciation for all those who help to make our mission of hospitality a reality!

\*We are thankful for our guests, new and returning, who bless us with their presence and contribute so much to our community by sharing their love, their stories, their faith and their gifts.

\*We are thankful for members of the Board of Trustees, who give of their time and expertise, much of it behind the scenes, as they attend to details, big and small, of running the House in the best possible way. Their work is shared on the reports inside these pages.

\*We are thankful for our wonderful Staff who, with a smile on their face and love in their hearts, attend to the needs of our guests week after week!

\*We are thankful for the support of so many friends who have faithfully contributed to our ministry.

\*We are thankful the worst of Covid seems to be behind us, even as we remember all those whose lives have been affected by this pandemic. We pray for a healthy summer at Chautauqua!

So with thankful hearts, let us gather once again this summer as we share community and conversation in this sacred space.

With gratitude,

Cynthia Strickland, President

The Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua

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[www.presbychq.org](http://www.presbychq.org)



## A Word from Our Manager, Sheena Mackenzie

I am excited to return to the Presbyterian House this year as the House Manager following the retirement of Merrilee Harrington. As I write this, we are still dealing with the COVID pandemic. As a result, I want to reassure you that we have taken steps to ensure that your visit to the Presbyterian House is as safe as we can make it. All guests five (5) and older must be fully vaccinated in line with what we require of our staff. We will of course provide a warm welcome and our customary hospitality.

You will see new faces as well as some familiar ones among our staff this summer. Kathy Taylor will be joining me as Assistant Manager and Kathy Heglund will head up our kitchen staff again. There have been a few changes since last summer, including new carpeting for the dining room. Our faithful

Facilities Manager, Jim Kullberg, has been busy, including working to get an upgrade to our Wi-Fi, installation of the carpeting, and overseeing the building during the winter months.

We will be hosting one of the Chautauqua Dialogues each week, which will be held in our Chapel on the lower level of our House. Of course, we welcome everyone to share in our Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Additionally, we provide a welcoming cup of coffee on the porch Monday-Friday following the morning service at the Amp and popsicles on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Please come join us; make new friends or reconnect with long-time friends.

I look forward to meeting you on the porch!

Sheena Mackenzie  
House Manager

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## Welcome Back to Chautauqua for Our 2022 Season!

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### The Voice Behind Presby House Reservations: Kathy Taylor

After a couple of years hiatus, I am so happy to be back doing Presby House reservations for the 2022 summer. I've spoken with many old friends and met several new friends who I'm looking forward to meeting in person.

As I receive and review updates from Chautauqua, it looks like the summer is shaping up to be as exciting as ever. Interesting speakers, inspiring preachers and some pretty cool entertainment. It is fun to be looking forward to another summer at Presby House and I am really happy to have the opportunity to work with Sheena in the office and around the house.

If you are not staying at the house, do stop by and say hello.

Kathy Taylor  
Assistant Manager



## Presbyterian House Building and Grounds

Facilities Manager, Jim Kulberg, reports that several improvements will be completed for guests in this 2022 Season.

- New carpeting in the dining room and first floor hallway and new flooring in the coffee prep area off the living room
- Improved Wi-Fi for better coverage for the whole house including staff areas
- Addition of handicap grab-bars and securing of towel bars
- New self-illuminating exit signs.

Improved safety and better communications will enhance the house and the comfort of all guests and visitors.

This season there will be an emphasis on curating and featuring the unique history of the Presbyterian House with recognition of the contributions of decades of dedicated women.

Look for a special tribute to the contributions of Isabella McDonald Alden – “Pansy”. She turned over the first shovel of dirt to build the original house in the early 1880’s.

Presbyterian hospitality and Christian fellowship have had a special place at Chautauqua for 139 years.

~Jim Kullberg, Building Manager

## A Brief History of The Presbyterian House

The Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua, New York has been active since 1883.

The construction of the Presbyterian House, the first brick building on the grounds, was begun in 1889, expanded in 1908 and designated an Historical Site in 1987 by the Philadelphia Presbyterian Historical Society. In 1927,

### *Presbyterian House then...*



the Mary Willis House was willed to the Association by Mrs. O. G. Franks and occupied until 2004, when the house was sold.

To meet the need for more affordable housing, a process was begun in 1999 to expand the existing Presbyterian House. A hospitable environment, in which a multigenerational group of people could experience Chautauqua was the goal. The expanded Presbyterian House was completed and opened in June 2004. The Mary Willis

### *...and now*



House Wing is part of this expanded facility.

Guest charges are kept to a minimum through contributions to the Association from faithful members and friends. No support is received from any board of the Presbyterian Church.

*From the Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua website*

This Summer the Presbyterian House  
is connecting generations of ALL ages with



## Popsicles on the Porch!

Every Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.  
A great place to be “cool” on the porch  
with Popsicles and fellowship!

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*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when kindred dwell together in unity!”*

Psalm 133:1

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### Consider Becoming a Member of the Presbyterian Association

For just \$20 not only will you receive a free PH coffee mug, but you will be supporting our vibrant community of faith, which encourages hospitality and fellowship at our daily porch coffee hours and offers affordable housing on the grounds. Please stop by and join us....all are welcome!

### Welcoming Volunteers to Serve as Trustees

Would you be interested in serving or recommending someone to serve as a trustee of the Presbyterian House? Trustee terms are limited and staggered, therefore there is a frequent need for new members. Terms are generally three years, and there are about four meetings per summer. Board of Trustee members are responsible for setting policies and may also serve on two sub-committees of the board. Consider volunteering to be a part of the long and rich history of this denominational house at Chautauqua.



Please join us for 10:15 a.m. weekday coffee on the porch. Further information is available there from current board members or the House Manager. Emails of interest may also be sent to the Nominations Committee at [harleynelson37@gmail.com](mailto:harleynelson37@gmail.com).



# A Community of Presbyterians at Chautauqua

## Our Mission

### A HOUSE . . .

“Building on the history begun in 1883 to welcome Presbyterians to Chautauqua and to house missionaries for summer institutes, the Presbyterian Association

- includes all persons in our welcome,
- provides excellent weekly accommodations and meals at prices made affordable by generous donors.”

### AND A COMMUNITY . . .

“Creating a Presbyterian presence through worship, study and hospitality, the Presbyterian Association

- shares our beautiful and functional facility,
- contributes financially to Chautauqua Institution and surrounding community,
- works in cooperation with denominational houses and religious communities.”

The famous Presbyterian Mocha Coffee along with other drinks attract many visitors to the porch every weekday morning between morning worship and the 10:45 a.m. lecture in the Amphitheater.

In support of our mission, the Presbyterian Association

1. Provides affordable accommodations – all guest stays are subsidized.
2. Maintains the historic 1889 Presbyterian House at 9 Palestine Ave.
3. Welcomes a Chaplain of the Week who leads a Sunday worship and Thursday Vespers.
4. Offers hospitality to Presbyterians and others on our porches and living spaces.
5. Underwrites an annual afternoon lecture at the Hall of Philosophy.
6. Extends our facilities to the broader Chautauqua community that support our values.
7. Serves the community by providing an accessible facility with proximity to the Amphitheater.

## Did You Know?

- According to an informal poll, mocha and hot chocolate are the most popular drinks at the morning “coffee” hour.
- The HVAC system is a large-scale geothermal heat pump with thirteen 330-foot wells drilled in the street between the addition and the Athenaeum.
- When the addition was built, it was the most energy efficient building in all western New York, and the Presbyterian Association received a very large grant as a result.
- Isabella Macdonald Alden, author of the Pansy books (“Four Girls at Chautauqua,” etc.), raised and donated money for the original house. She turned over the first shovel of dirt at the dedication of the house. The books are said to have given an important impetus to the success of Chautauqua in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- What one can hear sitting on the porch?  
Morning worship, the 10:45 lectures, orchestra rehearsals and concerts, Sunday morning services, the Sunday afternoon concerts, the Sacred Song services. This year these will include Fareed Zakaria, the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush (interim pastor at Woods Memorial in Severna Park, Md.), the Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, (president, Sojourners), Father Greg Boyle S.J. (aka “G Dog” - founder, Homeboy Industries), “Carl Reiner: Celebrating 100 Years of Comedy,” NYO Jazz, Salman Rushdie, Matthew Whitaker and an Evening with Rhiannon Giddens and the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra
- Contributions to the House are used for keeping our rates reasonable for all our guests.
- Three Presbyterian House chaplains were later tapped to be Chautauqua Institution Chaplains. They are The Rev. Dr. Bill Carl, former President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; the Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary; and the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, interim at Woods Memorial in Severna Park, Md.
- Built in 1889, the Presbyterian House was the first brick building on the Chautauqua grounds. {This fact is questionable}
- The Presbyterian Historical Society has recognized the house as a Presbyterian and Reformed Historical Site.



# The Legacy Society of the Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua



It was wonderful this past season to hear voices in our halls, in the parlors, on our porches, around the tables in the dining room. The pandemic had retreated enough to allow us to have a mostly familiar time to be together, though we missed our Canadian friends.

As we look forward to this season, the House again welcomes all. We don't know if any restrictions will be on the Assembly or the House for that matter.

But we will gather as we can to be part of a congregation founded on love and faith.

The House again this past year had to rely on substantial help from the endowment. It is well managed but ultimately dependent on generosity of others, primarily in the form of bequests to provide for the House and scholarships for young ministers with families.

The Legacy Society's purpose is to continue to secure the House's future by encouraging people like you to consider it in your estate plans. If you do, please let us know.

We can give you more information including a codicil template that can easily be completed and attached to your will. We would also like to honor you with a personalized brick on the entrance to the House. Please contact Chris Martin, ([csmprov@aol.com](mailto:csmprov@aol.com)) or John Morgan, ([jmorgan@mywpc.org](mailto:jmorgan@mywpc.org)).

Members of the Estate Planning Subcommittee are:

*Chris Martin, Ralph Leatherman, Bruce Archibald, and John Morgan.*



*We welcome our house guests and their friends to enjoy any one of our 4 porches. Another choice is our updated outside patio, a wonderful space to enjoy your early morning coffee, bag lunch or an afternoon ice cream.*

*Marty Davis, PH Board Member*

## Presbyterian Association Board of Trustees

### Class of 2022

Bruce Archibald  
Marlie Bendiksen  
Marty Davis  
Bill Dawson  
Diane Hess  
John Morgan  
Susan Vande Kappelle

### Class of 2023

Kathy Birkett  
Betsey Crimmins  
Maureen Emerling  
Nelson O. Horne  
Alice Hood  
Alan Nelson  
Chris Martin  
Cynthia Strickland

### Class of 2024

Paul Burkhardt  
Debbie Grohman  
Margaret Minor  
Louise Musser  
Amy Riley  
Mary Lee Talbot  
Meg Viehe  
Nancy Waasdorp

## Presbyterian House Development

Since 1883, we have been sustained by the generosity of generations of Chautauquans. These gifts have enabled us to provide affordable housing, while creating a Presbyterian presence on the grounds through worship, study and hospitality.

We also offer financial aid to Presbyterian clergy families who would be unable to visit without assistance.

As we strive to build on the foundation laid before us, we are reminded of the words from Psalm 100, "*For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations*".



## Stay Informed of Presbyterian House News and Activities

### • Signup to receive Our Email Correspondence

We encourage you to stay connected to Presbyterian House by signing up for our email correspondence list. Go to [presbychq.org/contact-us](http://presbychq.org/contact-us) and sign up today.

### • Follow Us on Facebook

Presbyterian House has a new Facebook page. This is a great way to see the activities going on and share pictures of your experience. [facebook.com/Presbyterian-House-of-Chautauqua-NY-102082122027974](https://facebook.com/Presbyterian-House-of-Chautauqua-NY-102082122027974) and follow us today!

### • Check Out Our Website!

There is so much you can learn and do on the Presbyterian House website page at [presbychq.org/](http://presbychq.org/). Find reservation forms for next season, nominate a chaplain for 2023, find out how you can give to the Legacy Fund, and become a member of the Presbyterian Association.

## *Mark Your Calendars to Join us on the Porch*

### Weekly Opportunities to Worship & Fellowship Together at The Presbyterian House

SUNDAY	MONDAY-FRIDAY	TUESDAY
9:30 a.m.	10:15—10:30 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Morning Worship	Coffee on the Porch	Popsicles on the Porch
PH Chapel	PH Porch	PH Porch



## 2022 Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Association

Thursday, July 28

4:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Presbyterian House

Reception to follow  
in the lower patio garden.



## Nominate a Chaplain for the 2023 Season

To nominate an ordained Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament for a week as chaplain for the Presbyterian House go to <https://presbychq.org/nomination-form> on the Presbyterian House website.

You may also pick up a nomination form in the office. This must be a first visit to the grounds for the nominee.



## Chaplains of the Week at Presbyterian House

- Week 1:** **Rev. Shelli Latham**  
Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, Atlanta GA
- Week 2:** **Rev. Dr. Amaury Tañón-Santos**  
Schenectady Community Ministries , Schenectady, NY
- Week 3:** **Rev. Dr. Roger Rabey**  
Highland Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA
- Week 4:** **Rev. Guy Griffith**  
Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville TN
- Week 5:** **Rev. Dr. B. DeNeice Welch**  
Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA
- Week 6:** **Rev. Jane Anabe**  
Presbyterian Church of La Porte, La Porte, IN
- Week 7:** **Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis**  
Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Heights, OH
- Week 8:** **Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye**  
Scipioville Presbyterian Church, Auburn, NY
- Week 9:** **Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge**  
General Presbyter, Pittsburgh Presbytery, Pittsburgh, PA

## The Stephen Phillips Scholarship Fund

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship is a fund established by Mrs. Betty Phillips in memory of her husband to enable young Presbyterian clergy families to experience a week at Chautauqua while staying at the Presbyterian House. Families selected receive room and board at the Presbyterian House, gate tickets for the pastor and spouse, and enrollment for the children in Children's School, or Boys Club and Girls Club according to the children's ages.

As a part of your contribution to the ministry of the Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua, please consider a gift to this special scholarship fund. The scholarships are not only a gift to these young families, the families are also a gift to us all, blessing us in many ways by their presence among us.

**DONATE TODAY!**

-Alice Hood, Chair  
Affordable Housing Committee