

As I look out at the winter landscape of upstate New York, I see nothing but snow and gray skies. Nothing is moving, except the snow that currently is softly falling and the birds coming to my bird feeder. Other than the birds, the scene is rather monochromatic. While all seems quiet and dormant, biologists tell us that there is an undercurrent of activity. Underground microbial life is breaking down organic matter, getting the soil ready for spring. Roots remain active, storing nutrients and transporting water. Above ground, plants and animals are alive and protected by the snow. It may seem that the world has hit the pause button but that's hardly the case.

If you look at the Presbyterian House right now, it may seem that it too has hit the pause button. However, while the snow flies outside, a lot has been happening inside and behind the scenes. Read on!

Inside the house itself, repair and maintenance continue while long range plans for mechanical system upgrades are being made. The summer staff is being hired. The Chaplain's Committee is lining up the 2026 chaplains while the Communications Committee is preparing copy for *The Chautauquan Daily* and refreshing this website. The Nominating Committee is looking for new board members while the Development Committee is perfecting its use of some new software. The Endowment and Finance Committees are creating much needed policies while they update existing policies. Kathy Taylor, our Registrar, reports that the house is full each of the nine weeks of the 2026 season!

The improvements that we made to the quality of food that we served last summer did not go unnoticed by you, our guests. I am delighted to report that plans are in place to serve high quality, fresh food again this summer. I hope your mouth is watering right now at the thought of the delicious meals that are served to you three times each day.

Of course, the Presbyterian House would just be a building if there were no people. While the building provides shelter, the house becomes a warm, comfortable, and loving "home away from home" filled with guests and staff who bring their memories, wisdom, love, faith, and goodness.

If you are a current or former guest, we thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of the Presbyterian House. We look forward to welcoming you and serving you this summer.

If you are a newcomer to the Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua (aka Presbyterian House), we are honored and blessed that you have stopped by this website. Please stop by the House this summer! It would be a great joy to meet you and to share a cup of lemonade, tea, coffee or mocha with you on our porch.

No matter what, we are a warm and inviting community built on the practice of Christian hospitality. At the Presbyterian House, all are welcome! Wishing each of you the best, Betsey

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins,
President, Board of Trustees, Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua