The Porch

Newsletter of the Presbyterian House
Chautauqua Institution
www.presbychq.org
(716) 357-5011 • P. O. Box 94
Summer 2023

Greetings and Welcome Back to The Presbyterian House

"How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting." Psalm 147:1

This is a most exciting year as we **celebrate our 140th Anniversary at Chautauqua!**

Since 1883, the Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua has offered community and hospitality to guests from far and near! In 2023, we **celebrate** and give thanks for 140 years of extending God's love in tangible ways.

*We **celebrate** the lives touched and stories shared through conversations on our welcoming porch, open to all, for daily coffee hour.

*We **celebrate** journeys enriched through our comfortable accommodations, where guests find rest and renewal...whether physical, spiritual or emotional.

*We **celebrate** minds expanded through invigorating conversation around the dinner table or in late night discussions on the porch.

*We **celebrate** and give thanks for stimulating worship in our beautiful chapel where prayers are offered, sermons preached and voices are raised in song.

*We **celebrate** and give thanks for all the families who have received scholarships and been our guests, thanks to generous contributions from our supporters over the years.

We give thanks for God's abundant care for 140 years and we pray that with God's guidance, we can sustain and continue our ministry and mission for many years to come.

We hope you will help us ***celebrate! Join us for our Birthday Party*** on Wednesday July 26. (details inside) We would also be grateful for your contribution to support our 140th Birthday campaign as we seek to raise money for much needed building repairs, the installation of a permanent accessible ramp off the porch and for additional scholarships to deserving guests.

May you find God's peace and love in this special place this summer!

With hope and anticipation,
Cynthia Strickland
President, Board of Trustees
The Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua

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www.presbychq.org

Welcome Back to Chautauqua for Our 2023 Season!

Some Words from Our House Managers: Jo Wolfe and Sheena Mackenzie, and Kathy Taylor

This year we are pleased to share the House Manager role. Jo Wolfe, a former employee, is serving as Manager for the first half of the season. Sheena Mackenzie will be taking over for the second half. And thankfully, holding it all together all summer, Kathy Taylor will be returning as Assistant Manager.

Sheena MacKenzie

We continue to welcome everyone to our Sunday services at 9:30 AM in the Chapel. All are welcome to share in this time of worship. A warm cup of coffee and fellowship awaits you on our porch Monday-Friday following the morning service at the Amp and Sundays following the Chapel service. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to mingle with friends old and new and you are encouraged to invite friends to coffee hour. On Tuesday afternoons, at 3:15 PM, cool off with popsicles on the porch.

Jo Wolfe

Our buffet breakfast was a big hit last summer and will continue this coming year. We also invite our guests to enjoy the Friday hospitality hour. It is our sincere hope that guests will find their week or two with us as a chance to renew, rest, and rekindle friendships. We have a diverse full staff that is committed to serving you.

Along with familiar faces, you will also find some new folk. This year, we worked with Scott and Joyce Brasted as our Facilities Managers. With their assistance, we have made a number of repairs/upgrades in our physical plant, including the repair of our elevator and we look forward to the completion of a ramp to the front porch. These are all important, but expensive upgrades. We are incredibly grateful to our prior donors who enabled the establishment of an endowment which is making it possible for us to afford these repairs. As we celebrate our 140th anniversary, please consider making a donation so that we can continue to offer hospitality now and into the future. You will see more about anniversary celebrations elsewhere in the PORCH.

We look forward to meeting you on the porch!

Jo Wolfe and Sheena Mackenzie
House Managers

Kathy Taylor
Assistant House Manager

Kathy Taylor

A Brief History of The Presbyterian House

Presbyterian House then…

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

…and now

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 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
www.presbychq.org

Please join us as the Presbyterian House celebrates its 140th Birthday!

140 years of:
Cordial hospitality • Affordable housing
Weekly worship and vespers • Time to renew
Conversations over meals and on the porch
Gratitude for our generous donors and supporters
Opportunities to make new friends and greet old friends

Wednesday, July 26, 2023
4:00 – 5:30pm
Tickets are $40.00 (Available at the House)
Stop by and share birthday wishes at 9 Palestine Ave.

Funds raised will support the maintenance of our historic house, improving accessibility, and fund scholarships

Can't join us but wish to make a gift that will ensure another 140 years of welcoming guests?
Here's how:

- Make checks payable to The Presbyterian Association and mail to the above address

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

Popsicles on the Porch!

Every Tuesday afternoon at 3:15 p.m.
A great place to be "cool" on the porch
with Popsicles and fellowship!

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*"Popsicle Fun Facts**

- Invented by accident in 1905 by 11-year old Frank Epperson, who was mixing a drink with a stick on his porch and accidentally left it outside on a freezing-cold night.
- First named Epperson, then shortened to Epsicles; they sold for five cents apiece. Later changed to Popsicle in 1923 after his kids began calling them "pop's sicles."
- Like Kleenex, the word Popsicle which is a registered trademark that has become synonymous with its product.
- Popsicle sticks are made from birch wood.
- Cherry is the most popular Popsicle flavor. August 26 is National Cherry Popsicle Day!

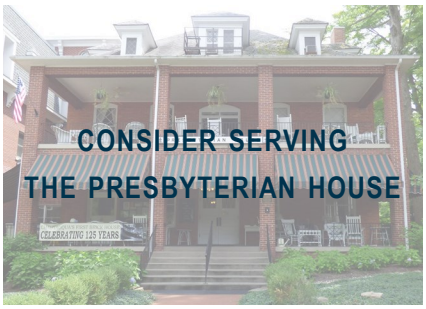
**npr.org; popsicle.org; blog.fillyourplate.org*

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.

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 can one hear sitting on the porch? Morning worship, the 10:45 a.m. lectures, orchestra rehearsals and concerts, Sunday morning service, the Sunday afternoon concerts, the Sacred Song services. This year will include Cornel West, Rev. Neal Presa (former moderator of GA) Rev. Craig Barnes, Rev. Michael Curry, Bob Woodward, Eboo Patel, Chanticleer, Frankie Valli and Patti LaBelle.
- 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) or John Morgan, (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 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

Class of 2025

Bruce Archibald
JoAnn Borg
Bill Dawson
Wendy Heinz
John Morgan
Curtis Paul
Jay Summerville

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 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 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/. Find reservation forms for next season, nominate a chaplain for 2024, find out how you can give to the Legacy Fund, and become a member of the Presbyterian Association.

2023 Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Association

Thursday, August 3
4:00 p.m.
Chapel of the Presbyterian House

Reception to follow
in the lower patio garden.

Mark Your Calendars to Join Us on the Porch

Weekly Opportunities to Worship & Fellowship Together
at The Presbyterian House

SUNDAY	MONDAY-FRIDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
9:30 a.m.	10:15—10:30 a.m.	3:15 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Morning Worship	Coffee on the Porch	Popsicles on the Porch	Evening Vespers
PH Chapel	PH Porch	PH Porch	PH Chapel

Nominate a Chaplain for the 2024 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. Laura Blank**
Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock, PA

Week 2: **Rev. A. David Paul**
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Zelienople, PA

Week 3: **Rev. Dr. Brian Blount**
President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA

Week 4: **Rev. Marcella (Marci) Glass**
Calvary Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, CA

Week 5: **Rev. Jennifer Rodriguez**
First Presbyterian Church, Ossining, NY

Week 6: **Rev. Chris Currie**
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, LA

Week 7: **Rev. Amy Lincoln**
Flemington Presbyterian Church, Flemington, NJ

Week 8: **Rev. Caroline Gillette**
First Presbyterian Union Church, Owego, NY

Week 9: **Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia**
Presbytery of Philadelphia, More Light Presbyterians, Philadelphia, 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.

This summer we have three young families who will be experiencing and enjoying Chautauqua thanks so this wonderful scholarship. Application forms may be picked up in the Presbyterian house during the summer or found on our website, if you have a minister to recommend for this scholarship for the 2024 season.

-Alice Hood, Chair
Affordable Housing Committee

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
DONATE TODAY.