# The Porch

Newsletter of the Presbyterian House
Chautauqua Institution
www.presbychq.org
716 581-0998 • P. O. Box 1007
Summer 2025

## Greetings and Welcome Back to The Presbyterian House for Our 2025 Season

*"Welcome one another as Christ as welcomed you, for the glory of God ."* Romans 15:33

Welcome! We are so glad you are here in body or in spirit!

What is the Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua? Is it a house? Is it a vacation destination? Is it accommodations at a resort? Is a historical building? Is it simply a place to stay at Chautauqua?

As far as I'm concerned, the Presbyterian House is so much more than a historic physical shelter which also happens to offer sustenance!

The Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua is a community of people both on the grounds of Chautauqua as well as scattered near and far. It is a community of past and present guests, staff, board members and visitors. It is a community where we practice the sacred gift of Christian hospitality toward one another by providing an open and warm welcome to all persons.

How do we practice Christian hospitality toward one another? Not only do we welcome, host and care for others, but we seek to do so with warmth, generosity, kindness, openness and love. In our practice of Christian hospitality, we hope to create opportunities for divine encounters, spiritual growth, and meaningful relationships.

This summer is our 142nd year of service on the grounds of Chautauqua. I urge you to take advantage of all the Presbyterian Association offers. You can do so by:

- Enjoying Coffee on the Porch each weekday morning between 10 and 10:45 am. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, lemonade, and the ever-popular mocha are available. As you enjoy your beverage, you have an opportunity to make new friends and renew old ones.
- Joining us for worship at 9:30 am each Sunday morning in the air-conditioned Chapel of the house. The services are led by Presbyterian clergy who come from all corners of our country. There is always something inspirational offered to the glory of God!

(article continues on the next page)

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**www.presbychq.org**

- Attending the Thursday evening Vesper service, which is a great opportunity for learning as well as spiritual sustenance and growth. It takes place each Thursday at 7 pm in the Chapel and is led by the house's Chaplain of the Week.
- Delighting in a quiet moment of reflection or conversation on the porch in the morning, noon or evening.
- Letting the Presbyterian House be your launching pad from which you take full advantage of all the 2025 Chautauqua Assembly Season. From the porch you have a front row seat to all the offerings in the Amphitheatre. How great is that? Moreover, the central location of the Presbyterian House on the grounds gives you quick and easy access to all that goes on at Chautauqua during the summer assembly.

Over the years, lifelong friendships have been formed over cups of coffee on the porch. All who cross our thresholds have met some amazing folk who touch people in ways that inspire and uplift. Truly we are a community of people near and far, past and present! I hope that your memories of past years at the Presbyterian house bring warmth to your spirit. If you are a guest or staff person at the house this summer, I pray that you will gain renewal and hope just by being here. If you are not a guest at the house this summer, I hope that you will find time to stop by, introduce yourself, and get a dose of the friendliness found at the Presbyterian House.

Again, a warm and hearty welcome to each and all!

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Betsey R. Crimmins, ACC, HPP, HR
President, Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua

Social life in Chautauqua around 1900

Presbyterian House
Built in 1889 • First Brick Building

*"There's no place like it. No resort. No spa. It is at once a summer encampment and a small town, a college campus, an arts colony, a music festival, a religious retreat, and the village square."*
– Historian and author David McCullough

The Pier on the Point
Chautauqua Institution



*Photos from The Social Project; The Chautauqua Institution Archives; Chautauqua Trail*

# *Welcome Back to Chautauqua for Our 2025 Season!*

## A Message from Our House Managers: Jo Wolfe and Kathy Taylor

**Jo Wolfe**

WELCOME! It is an honor to serve as the Manager of the Presbyterian House at Chautauqua. I grew up in Bradford, Pennsylvania where my father owned and operated Anderson's Diner. I got an early start to the world of coffee and serving customers. From my parents, I also learned how to treat employees as family. After a 37-year career in elementary education, I have returned to my early roots in food service and hospitality here at Presbyterian House. In the fall, winter, and spring, I go back to my home in Kane, PA and continue developing my customer service skills working part-time at the PA Wilds Conservation Shop at the Kinzua Bridge State Park.

**Kathy Taylor**

Kathy Taylor returns for the 2025 season as assistant manager and registrar. Kathy lives in Washington, DC and considers it a privilege to live in the nation's capital during the year and at CHQ for the summer season. She tries to take advantage of the many opportunities these geographic privileges afford. Kathy is an active member of All Souls Unitarian Church in DC and is looking forward to a Road Scholar trip to Sedona and the Grand Canyon in the fall.

Each season brings new staff working together to serve an average of 55 guests per week. This summer, our staff consists of a total of 36 individuals ranging in age from 18 to 85 years "young." There are 25 employees working each week to provide excellent meals, a sparkling clean house, and great hospitality. We welcome Connie Lawson as our new Head Cook. She has worked as an assistant cook for many years preparing breakfasts and the fabulous brown bag lunches and will now be cooking the main dinner meals. Sean Sullivan, our off-season building manager and season Sexton, has been working diligently making necessary repairs, painting the West Wing living rooms, and getting the house ready for opening Week 1. We are thrilled to have our past friends return and to meet the new guests to the Presbyterian House.

We look forward to meeting you on the porch!

Jo Wolfe
House Manager

Kathy Taylor
Assistant House Manager

*See how good, how pleasant it is for God's people to live together as one!* ~Psalm 133: 1

## 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***

## The Stephen Phillips Scholarship Fund

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship is a fund established by Mrs. Betty Phillips (pictured with Stephen) 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.

Application forms can be found on our website, if you have a minister to recommend for this scholarship for the 2026 season. *(See related story on page 6.)*

-Nancy Waassorp, Chair
Affordable Housing Committee

## Buildings and Grounds News

We are pleased to announce the following updates to our house:

- Elevator: new upgrades and repairs
- Awning: frame repair and a lovely NEW awning
- New fire alarm control panel
- More gutter replacements
- Wall repair and fresh coat of paint in the parlors
- All of the frame and railings in older part of the building have been newly painted and repaired.

*Sketch by Harrington Sandburg Architecture for 2004 PH update*

We look forward to a season with our house in good repair.

Submitted by Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, Marty Davis

### 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 five meetings per summer. Board of Trustee members are responsible for setting policies and may also serve on 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 revcurtislanepaul@comcast.net.

## Did You Get Your Brick? It Is Not Too Late! Here's How to Order!

Would you like to make your mark? Would you like to memorialize or honor someone? What better way than at the Presbyterian House! You may purchase a brick to add to our walkway. Order forms are available in the office at the Presbyterian House and on the website. Got questions? For answers, please contact Kathy Taylor at Kathy@presbychq.org or call 716-581-0998.

*"The cost for each brick is $250 imprinted with up to 3 lines of 14 characters per line."*

## 2025 Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Three young clergy families have been selected as the 2025 recipients of Stephen Phillips Memorial Fund Scholarships. This fund was established by Mrs. Betty Phillips in memory of her husband, Stephen Phillips, to enable Presbyterian pastors with young children to experience a week together at Chautauqua while staying at the Presbyterian House.
*(See related story on page 4.)*

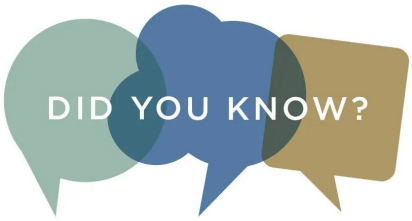
This year's recipients are:

- **Week 3:** Rev. Stephanie Sorge and her two sons, Isaac and Micah. Stephanie is Pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
- **Week 7:** Rev. Michail Wallace, his wife, Courtney and their three children, Theo, Neva and Nathaniel. Michail is Co-Pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church in Canton, Ohio.
- **Week 8:** Rev. Britney Knight, her husband and their three children, Naomi, Malachi and Lilah. Brittney is Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Erie, Pennsylvania.

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

If you have a young minister to recommend for this scholarship for the 2026 season, application forms may be picked up in the Presbyterian House during the summer or found on our website.

*"You don't choose your family.*
*They are God's gift to you, as you are to them."*
*—Desmond Tutu*




Q: What are the most popular drinks at our morning "coffee" hour?
A: According to an informal poll, mocha and hot chocolate.

Q: How can I recognize the service the staff has provided?
A: Make a donation to Presbyterian Association of Chautauqua. Mark on the envelope or check memo line of the check, STAFF RECOGNITION.

Q: What was the very first brick building built on the grounds of Chautauqua?
A: Built in 1889, the Presbyterian House was the first brick building on the Chautauqua grounds. This fact is questionable. 🤔

Q: What year was the Presbyterian House updated?
A: 2004. 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.

Q: Who is Isabella Macdonald Alden?
A: Isabella MacDonald Alden, author of the Pansy books ("*Four Girls at Chautauqua*," etc.), raised and donated money for the original house. The books are said to have given an important impetus to the success of Chautauqua in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Isabella also turned over the first shovel of dirt at the dedication of the house.

Q: What can one hear sitting on the porch?
A: Morning worship, the 10:45a.m. lectures, orchestra rehearsals and concerts, Sunday morning service, the Sunday afternoon concerts, the Sacred Song services.

Q: What helps the Presbyterian House keep their rates reasonable year-after-year?
A: Contributions to the House are used to keep our rates reasonable for all guests.

Q: What society has recognized the Presbyterian House as a Presbyterian and Reformed Historical Site?
A: The Presbyterian Historical Society

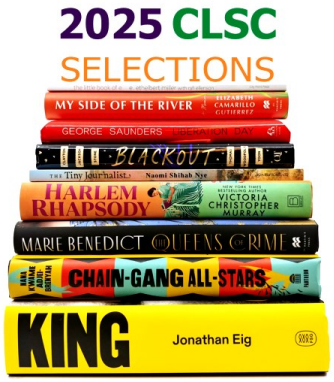
## Chautauqua Trivia

The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC), founded in 1878 by Methodist Bishop John Heyl Vincent, is one of America's oldest continuously operating book clubs. It was founded to promote self-learning and study, particularly among those unable to attend institutions of higher learning. Over 8,400 people enrolled the first year.

With the success of its program of planned reading, book selections and local circles, the CLSC became a prototype for book clubs, study groups, and university extension courses. Reading Circles multiplied around the country and by the turn of the century, over 10,000 circles had been formed.

Each summer, the CLSC chooses at least nine books of literary quality and invites the authors to Chautauqua present their work to an audience of approximately 1,000 readers.

For more information about this year's reading selections, visit www.chautauquabookstore.com



## Presbyterian Association Board of Trustees

**Class of 2025**
JoAnn Borg
Steve Brown
*Bill Dawson
Carol Broad Greetham
Wendy Heinz
*John Morgan
Curtis Paul
Jay Summerville

**Class of 2026**
*Betsey Crimmins
Mary Davis
Diane Hess
*Alice Hood
Bruce Johnson
Judith Rietz
*Cynthia Strickland
Dede Trefts

**Class of 2027**
*Paul Burkhart
William P. Follansbee
*Debbie Grohman
*Louise Musser
Pete Pedersen
Jill Rose
*Mary Lee Talbot
*Nancy Waasdorp

**Ex Officio**
Kathy Taylor
Jo Wolfe

*Second Term

# 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 Dede Trefts, (dtrefts@yahoo.com)

***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

## Mark Your Calendars to Join Us in the Chapel and on the Porch at The Presbyterian House

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

### 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 2026, find out how you can give to the Legacy Fund, and become a member of the Presbyterian Association.

### 2025 Annual Meeting of the Presbyterian Association

**Thursday, July 24**
**4:00 p.m.**
**Chapel of the Presbyterian House**

**Reception to follow**
**in the lower patio garden.**

NEW!

### A Time for Denominational Lemonade & Cookies!
### Tuesdays, July 15 and August 12
### 3:30-4:30pm

**We look forward to seeing you on the porch of the PH for a light refreshments of cookies and lemonade while enjoying a time of fellowship with one another. Everyone is invited!**

## Nominate a Chaplain for the 2026 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.

## 2025 Season Chaplains of the Week at Presbyterian House

**Week 1 – June 21 to June 28**
**Rev. Casey Carbone**
Director for Congregational Connection Hudson River Presbytery NY

**Week 2 – June 28 to July 5**
**Rev. Melissa Lopez**
First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air, MD

**Week 3 – July 5 to July 12**
**Rev. Carol Howard**
Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford, NY

**Week 4 – July 12 to July 19**
**Rev. Rev. Dr. Garrett Bugg**
Wycliffe Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA

**Week 5 – July 19 to July 26**
**Rev. Blair Moorhead**
Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA

**Week 6 – July 26 to August 2**
**Rev. Dr. Alexandra Hendrickson**
Director of Religion and Spiritual Life, Lafayette College, Easton, PA

**Week 7 – August 2 to August 9**
**Rev. Brian Ellison**
Executive Director of Covenant Network of Presbyterians, Kansas City MO

**Week 8 – August 9 to August 16**
**Rev. Sabrina Slater**
Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Spencer, NY

**Week 9 – August 16 to August 24**
**Rev. Dr. Timothy Boggess**
First Presbyterian Sarasota, FL

### *Wondered What Chaplain of the Week Entails?*

- ⇒ Lead Sunday morning worship service: 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel of Presbyterian House.
- ⇒ Lead a devotion or Bible/topic study hour on Thursday evening: 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel of the Presbyterian House.
- ⇒ Greet at the morning coffee hour, Monday through Friday, following the amphitheater devotional service: 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. (approximately) on the porch of the Presbyterian House.
- ⇒ Returning thanks at each meal.

# 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.

# PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE PRE-REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER 2026

## June 21—August 24, 2025

Name:_____

Email:_____

Phone:_____

**Indicate type of room:**

Single/private bath_____

Single/shared bath_____

Double_____

Suite_____

Family_____

**Indicate Preferred Week/s** (indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice)*

Week #1 _____

Week #2 _____

Week #3 _____

Week #4 _____

Week #5 _____

Week #6 _____

Week #7 _____

Week #8 _____

Week #9 _____

Comment(s): _____

***No more than 3 choices, please.**

**Forms can be dropped off at the Presbyterian House Office or emailed to Kathy Taylor, Assistant Manager and Registrar, at kathy@presbychq.org.**

**Please keep in mind submitting a pre-registration form does not guarantee a room, nor does it obligate you to a room reservation if your circumstances change.**