

# UNITED METHODIST HOUSE NEWS

Box 115 Chautauqua, New York 716 357-2055

December 2015



*The United Methodist House in Chautauqua  
is open year round for retreats,  
rest and renewal and family gatherings.  
For information and reservations,  
please call 716 357-4045*



Being a grandmother of two preschoolers, I am hearing a lot of chatter lately about gifts. Our 4 year old grandson is so enjoying looking at toy catalogs and flyers that you can't help but smile. To be sure these little ones understand the season of gifting, we have many conversations about God's greatest gift to the world. They know that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

We at the United Methodist House are so fortunate to be on the receiving end of gifting. Yes, there are monetary gifts which help us maintain the House, fix the steps and shingle the roof. Those gifts are always welcome and much appreciated. But I think our most generous gifts come from the folks who step up to lend a hand. The last weekend in October there were about 15 people pitching in to ready the House for the winter season. Many of those folks are the same ones who volunteer their "hands" year round to keep things perking at the House as members of the Board of Trustees or its committees. As 2015 draws to a close, I want to say Thank you for your gifts to the United Methodist House. May the season remind us all to be gift-givers. Merry Christmas!

Brenda Baird, President of Trustees

## **Greetings from our United Methodist House Host Couple**

It's sometimes nice when things stay the same! While the Chautauqua community has been in heated controversy over the "new" Amphitheater, it is satisfying to know the United Methodist House will welcome another year with much the same appearance we have known and loved. It should be a dryer winter inside the House with the new roof above and a bit more secure approach to the House via the new steps, but our wonderful porch will welcome another season of guests as it has for years. We treasure each day there as we share delightful moments and conversations with YOU. We wish for you a safe and happy winter and look forward to meeting you again next summer.

Bob and Karen

## **Property Committee Report**

The last weekend in October, a hardy group of volunteers got together and put the United Methodist House into its full Retreat Season mode. We put stuff away, cleaned out the storage closets in the chapel, raked leaves, trimmed the perennials, put the window Air conditioners away. In short a lot of hard work. But, as always, we had fun doing this work. That is what making working at the United Methodist House such a joy, we get a lot of work done but we are not all that serious doing it. Please consider next June coming and assisting in getting the house ready for the summer season, you won't regret it.

Our two major retreat season projects have been completed; they were replacing the steps leading from the porch to the patio area and replacing the roof on the house.

The roof project went well. Our contractors discovered that the roof vent on the newer part of the house was not cut in properly, blocking the circulation of air in the attic area. They also suggested that we have foam sprayed on the rafters and decking to further insulate the attic. This was corrected, and hopefully, will help get rid of our ice problem on the various roofs. This project cost us \$28,630.00. As I am writing this we have received \$20,258.00 towards this project, so we still need a little bit more help here.

The other project was the replacement of the steps leading to the patio area. This project was to cost \$3500.00, however, after the Johnson brothers opened this area up, it became apparent that several other things needed repairs. The pier that helped support the column nearest the steps had moved quite a bit off its base and needed to be returned. On the other side, a portion of that support had also moved and needed repairs. Plus the joists under the decking and seven boards of the decking were rotting. All this has been fixed for a total cost of \$6,036.32.

If you watch any of the home improvement shows on HGTV you know this is what usually happens when you work with an older house. You start one small project and it blossoms into a much larger, more complex project.

We are currently waiting for the Johnson brothers to give us an estimate for the foundation of the turret end of the building. The stacked stone foundation has been moving for several years now and it is time to have this fixed. This will involve jacking the turret up and removing all the foundation and rebuilding it. We are not sure what all this will involve, but this is a quick summary as we see it.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of trustees and the Property and Finance Committees, we thank all who so generously contributed to the roof project. It could not have been realized without all of you.

Chuck Bolan, Property Chairman

## **Christmas Greetings from the Finance Committee!**

This past year has been a busy one for the UM House as a whole and our committee. There have been a number of capital projects in recent years which have required significant funding, usually through our normal income streams. This past summer we had a brief capital giving campaign to help defray the cost of the new roof. Response from friends of the UM House was nothing less than inspirational!

While room rentals are our primary source of income, gifts and bequests are critical to maintaining and expanding our ability to fulfill our mission at Chautauqua. On behalf of the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider a financial gift this year. It is much needed and will be gratefully received.

Mike Corey, Treasurer & Finance Chair

## Reservation Information for the Chautauqua Season

All rooms are filled for the 2016 season. A waiting list is maintained in case there are cancellations. Call (716) 357-4045.

Reservations for the Chautauqua Season may be made by any United Methodist or "Member" of the United Methodist House. "Members" are those who have financially contributed to the UM House in past years. Reservations can only be made by calling (716) 357-4045 after 9 am on **the first Monday of October** (United Methodists and Members) or after 9 am on the first Tuesday (everyone.) Reservations will be taken over the phone on a first come – first served basis. Messages for reservations will not be accepted.

Individuals may rent a room or the suite for only one week each season. A waiting list will be maintained in the event of cancellations. A week during the Season is from 3:00 pm, Saturday to 10:00 am the following Saturday. A reservation will be confirmed only if a \$200 deposit is received within two weeks. The balance is due in full before April 1. In the event of a cancellation, any funds paid will be returned only if the room can be re-rented.

### Weekly Room Rental Rates –Chautauqua Season

Boehm Room \$675 (This room is slightly smaller) - 2 people in twin beds

All other rooms \$775 (Four rooms) - 2 people in twin beds

Wesley Suite \$1,350 (Two room suite) - 4 people in twin beds and 2 people in convertible chair/beds

## Reservation Information for the Retreat Season (Off-Season)

Reservations for the retreat season are invited at any time up to 3 years in advance by calling (716) 357-4045. The retreat season is from Labor Day through May.

### Retreat Season Rental Rates for the entire house (United Methodist groups)

\$100 per day (day use only)

\$425 per two-night stay

### Retreat Season Rental Rates for the entire house (Non-Church groups)

\$600 per two-night stay

### Available Dates in 2016

3/11-3/13, 3/18-3/20, 4/1-4/3, 4/22-4/24, 11/18-11/20, 11/25-11/27, 12/2-12/4, 12/9-12/11, 12/16-12/18

### Available Dates in 2017

2/3-2/5, 3/3-3/5, 3/10-3/12, 3/17-3/19, 3/24-3/26, All of April 2017, 5/5-5/7, 5/19-5/21, 9/1-9/3, 11/17-11/19  
11/24-11/26, 12/1-12/3, 12/8-12/10, 12/15-12/17

### Available Dates in 2018

2/2-2/4, All of March, All of April, 5/4-5/6, 5/18-5/20, 8/31-9/2, 10/5-10/7, 11/16-11/18, 11/23-11/25  
11/30-12/2, 12/7-12/9, 12/14-12/16

## House Rules

Like all fine historic accommodations, the UM House is 100% non-smoking!

Only "seeing eye" pets are allowed.

As in all United Methodist facilities, alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

## *United Methodist House*

P.O. Box 115 14 Pratt Avenue  
Chautauqua, New York 14722



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U. S. Postage  
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## *The United Methodist House at Chautauqua*

*A year around center for retreats and renewal at Chautauqua offering a positive, radiant expression of United Methodist Christianity. Providing for spiritual refreshment, quiet renewal, friendship and fellowship!*

*The United Methodist House is centrally located at the heart of the Chautauqua experience. The United Methodist House is available year-round for church and family groups. Reservations for the Retreat Season (September – May) are taken at any time. Reservations for the Chautauqua Season are available starting on the first Monday of October of the previous year. For information and reservations call (716) 357-4045.*