

# UNITED METHODIST HOUSE NEWS

Box 115

Chautauqua, New York

(716) 357-2055

December 2021

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*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*

## Message From Our Board President

The year is coming to a close, holiday time is upon us, and 2022 is almost here. It is a great time to reflect and dream.

In my parish, our seasonal focus is “Time to Come Home.” Four words express the longing of our heart, to come to a place we feel at home. We seek normalcy and the ability to, once again, experience the beauty of life, including our lives at Chautauqua. Last year, we saw some windows open. This coming year, we look forward to throwing open the doors of welcome with vibrancy. It is time to come home, home to the United Methodist House.

None of us knows the future, but we want to walk boldly into whatever it may be. So, the Board is planning for a wonderful summer season, and the opportunity for off season rental of our home. There will be new faces and familiar ones; cherished traditions and creative experiences; opportunity and welcome.

Whether you plan to be with us in the 2022 season or not, we hope you will join us in celebrating, supporting, and praying for the gift of hospitality we offer from a very special porch and a very special home. It’s time for family, time to come home to the United Methodist House.

Peace, Rev. Chuck Smith

## From the Finance Committee!

This past year the UM House, despite COVID-19, was able to show a small profit. This was due in part because we were able to mostly fill our rooms, despite Chautauqua Institution running a modified season, with lower-than-normal attendance. We have been able to meet our regular expenses and financial obligations as well as fund some capital improvements.

Beyond room rentals, which are our primary source of regular income, capital project contributions, gifts and bequests are critical in continuing 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. They are much needed and will be gratefully received.

For all of us, COVID-19 creates uncertainty. We all hope and pray that the worst is behind us and that 2022 brings not only a splendid summer season, but health to all!

Mike Corey, Treasurer & Finance Chair

## Greetings From Our United Methodist House Host Couple

Dear Friends of UMH,

As the new hosts of the UMH, we look forward to meeting and greeting each of you on the porch this coming summer. Karen and Bob Douds were gracious hosts for many years, and we will certainly do our best to emulate them.

Although our “home” is in Houston, Texas, for many years we have considered ourselves unofficial residents of Chautauqua and the United Methodist House. We have spent each summer since 2002 on Lake Chautauqua, have been affiliate members of Hurlbut Church most of that time, and have spent countless hours on the UMH porch.

We address this note to “friends” as we hope to become friends with each of you as we experience shared events at the house. It has been said that friends are gifts we give ourselves and in that sense we both look forward to giving ourselves many gifts in the summers to come at Chautauqua Institution’s United Methodist House.

In this time of “waiting,” the advent readings abound with metaphors of “home.” The UMH is our home and yours, and until we meet you there, we wish you all good tidings and the blessings of hope, peace and joy this Christmastide.

Jan and Mike Yauch

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### From the Property Committee



It was so great to see so many able to use our porch this summer. It almost felt normal, or as close as it could be this year.

This year we had to replace the clothes dryer and worked on one toilet and one sink. It was better than we thought it might be after having the house not used for over a year.

We had two great work weekends in the Spring to get the house ready for the summer season. The cleaning staff had worked extra hard to make sure all the rooms and common areas were in tip-top shape. As usual, we had one work weekend in the fall to get ready for winter. My thanks to all who came to the work weekends. We were able to accomplish a lot. The Fall week end was a little cold and wet, so we were not able to do any of the painting that we’d hoped to get done. One project we wanted to do was to repaint sign in the front lawn, but that will have to wait until spring.

This year we had a new bench donated to the house by Douds’ family in honor of Bob and Karen. It was a thoughtful and practical gift that is appreciated and will be well used. Bob and Karen, we will miss you.

Thank you to the Property Committee, the Methodist House Board, and to all of you for your support and help in funding the improvements to the House. Thank you also for allowing me serve on the Property Committee.

Pam and I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year full of God’s richest blessings.

Conrad Howard



## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual Meeting was called to order by Brenda Baird on July 14, 2021, at 4:00 pm.

The United Methodist Chaplain of the Week, Jeff Edwards, opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the 2020 annual meeting were accepted as presented.

Finance Chairperson, Michael Corey, gave the financial report. The United Methodist House has a profit of \$10,000.00 for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2021. This profit is accounted for by revenue in April for summer season deposits and low expenses due to the COVID-19 shut down. \$10,000.00 had been withdrawn from the United Methodist House Endowment Fund; the finance committee is hoping to replenish the Endowment fund with that amount. Currently, the United Methodist House has a balance of \$180,000.00 in its endowment. The finance committee recommended the following budget: \$90,300.00 in income and \$62,960 in expenses. There are no planned capital projects and the finance committee accounted for an increase of repairs/expenses due to increased use of the United Methodist House. The Finance Committee made a motion to accept the budget; the motion passed.

Property Chairperson, Conrad Howard, presented the Property Committee's report. A new fire alarm system, which will be monitored 24 hours a day, was installed. While the United Methodist House was empty, the property committee had people who checked on the house each week. The gas dryer was replaced. The Fall Work Weekend will be October 28-29, 2021. The goal for this upcoming year is to keep the United Methodist House going. Conrad offered thanks to Brenda, Karen, Bob, Debbie, Cindy Peacock, and the cleaning crew for their continued work on behalf of The United Methodist House.

Lee Mount offered the Communications Report. Chris Redmond will continue to care for the United Methodist House website. Bob Douds will need a successor to take his place keeping the United Methodist House Facebook page up to date. The Communications team will need a new editor for the newsletter and will need to elect a new chairperson of the committee.

Brenda reported for the Ministry Committee as there is no official chairperson. The chaplains for the 2022 summer season have been selected. In the United Methodist House Bylaws, the Ministry Committee acts as the personnel committee; this function will need to resume moving forward in order to bring the United Methodist House into compliance with its bylaws.

Karen and Bob Douds offered the Host Couple's Report. The house is "popping along." Karen was told that The United Methodist House had the highest percentage registration rate of all the denominational houses. None of The United Methodist House programs have been canceled. Each week throughout the season, Karen and Bob have been receiving gifts from the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist House.

Brenda recognized Karen and Bob Douds for their work as the host couple.

Brenda presented the Nominations Committee Report. The following trustees are coming off the board this year: Brenda Baird; Lee Mount; Carolyn Stow who was unable to be at this meeting; and Carmen Perry (by virtue of her ex-officio position). Brenda presented gifts to Lee and Carmen. Michael Corey presented Brenda with notes that had been written by Board members and with a special gift. The Board of Trustees members for the class of 2024 are John A. Jackson; Paul Sweet; and Clara Wilder.

Brenda called for a motion to accept the nominations for the class of 2024; Roger moved; Lee seconded; the motion carried

Brenda named the following nominees for officers of the Board of Trustees:

Chuck Smith – President

Barry Lewis – Vice-President

Cindy Hinsdale – Secretary

Michael Corey – Treasurer

Brenda asked for a motion to accept these nominees as officers; Lee moved; John seconded; motion carried.

Brenda adjourned the meeting with a reading of "Bear Says Thanks" at 4:45pm.

**Rooms for the 2022 Chautauqua season have almost all been rented.  
Names may be added to the waiting list.**

Any United Methodist or “Member” of the United Methodist House may make reservations for the Chautauqua Season. “Members” are those who have financially contributed to the UM House in past years. Reservations may 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	Slightly smaller room	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 <u>&amp;</u> 2 people in convertible chair/beds

**Available Dates for the 2022 Season**

Week 1                      6/25-7/2/22                      2 rooms

**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-United Methodist groups)

\$600 per two-night stay

**2022 Retreat Season Available Dates**

January 2022

Friday 01/21 – Sunday 01/23/22

Middle of the weeks available

March 2022

Friday 03/25 – Sunday 03/27/22

Middle of the weeks available

April 2022

Friday 04/01 – Sunday 04/03/22

Friday 04/08 – Sunday 04/10/22

Friday 04/15 – Sunday 04/17/22

Friday 04/29 – Sunday 05/01/22

November 2022

Friday 11/04 – Sunday 11/06/22

December 2022

Friday 12/02 – Sunday 12/04/22

Friday 12/09 – Sunday 12/11/22

Friday 12/16 – Sunday 12/18/22

**2023 Openings**

Several weekends

Middle of the weeks

## United Methodist House Trustees

### Class of 2022 (Chautauqua Community)

Mike Corey      maccpa7@gmail.com  
Conrad Howard      pamconradhow@yahoo.com  
James Metzger      bj12m@hotmail.com  
Chuck Smith      pastorchuck65@gmail.com  
Cindy Hinsdale      auncindy2005@hotmail.com

### Class of 2023 (Western PA)

Roger Brumagin      firstaid@velocity.net  
Barry Lewis      bl643lewis@yahoo.com  
Mike Paine      mapaine744@gmail.com

### Class of 2024 (Upper NY)

Clara Wilder      cewilder1954@gmail.com  
John A. Jackson      jajackson17@yahoo.com  
Paul Sweet      paulksweet@gmail.com

### Ex-Officio

Carmen Perry      carmenperry10@yahoo.com  
Suzanne Block      suzanneblock@unyumc.org  
Dennis Swineford      servall57@gmail.com  
Deb Caruso      debbiecaruso99@gmail.com

### Host Couple

Mike & Jan Yauch      yauch65@gmail.com

### Retreat Season Hostess and Financial Secretary

Debbie Caruso      debbiecaruso99@gmail.com

## House Rules

Like all fine historic accommodations, the United Methodist House is 100% non-smoking. As in all United Methodist facilities, alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Only "service" animals are allowed.

## Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting:	To Be Determined
Work Weekends:	To Be Determined
Board Meeting:	July 13 @ 3 pm
Annual Meeting:	July 13 @ 4 pm

## About the United Methodist House

The United Methodist House is located at 14 Pratt Avenue, directly behind the Chautauqua Amphitheater. It was built in 1888 as a Methodist Episcopal Headquarters for approximately \$4,000 (\$100,000 today). The original trustees included Chautauqua founders John Vincent and Lewis Miller. Over the years the house has been lovingly maintained, repaired, and enlarged thanks to the financial support of many persons.



*United Methodist House*  
P.O. Box 115 14 Pratt Avenue  
Chautauqua, New York 14722



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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.*

UMHouse.com

UMHouse.blogspot.com

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