

Prayers from Chautauqua's Interfaith Family

No. 16 • *From the Traditional Chautauqua Opening Weekend*

Prayer for Chautauqua

Gracious God, mindful of your vision for your people everywhere, we look forward to the place we call home.

We give thanks for Miller and Vincent's vision for our Sacred Grove, a haven for heart and mind, a place where roots are put down and life is shared.

WE CELEBRATE COMING HOME.

We thank you for the place that was, from the start, made universal as to creeds; a place not undenominational but all-denominational; a place where we can experience the Sacred through Creation, through the living of Life.

WE CELEBRATE THE SPIRITUAL.

We celebrate the place where we share a common commitment: to the arts, to matters spiritual in Nature, to constant improvement, and to each other.

WE CELEBRATE COMMUNITY.

We thank you for the place where we can not only follow serious pursuits, but also have a good time, let loose, and relish life.

WE CELEBRATE JOY.

We thank you for the place where people search for greater levels of knowledge, understanding, sensitivity, and openness.

WE CELEBRATE BECOMING PEOPLE WILLING TO LISTEN TO EACH OTHER.

We thank you for the place of century-old trees shading gingerbread cottages, of gardens and birds, of barking dogs and stalking cats, and biblical thunderstorms, and the Miller bells chiming over a moonlit lake.

WE CELEBRATE THE BEAUTIFUL.

We thank you for the place of growing diversity in age, religious background, life choice, philosophical leaning, and family status.

WE CELEBRATE THE HUMAN.

We thank you for the place where musicians lift the soul, painters excite the eye, dancers defy gravity, actors conjure reality, and poets ennoble the human spirit.

WE CELEBRATE CREATIVITY.

We thank you for the place that informs and impacts our life; that makes us leave as better people than when we came.

WE CELEBRATE VALUE.

We thank you for the place where some of us dance in a certain new way, a traditional way, and some of us learn to dance in a new way, different from others.

WE CELEBRATE LETTING GO AND GROWING.

WE THANK YOU FOR THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF CHAUTAUQUA.

It is ours both to hold close and to share without reservation.

AMEN.

—Jared Jacobsen

Beloved Late Chautauqua Organist
and Coordinator of Worship and Sacred Music
2001 (revised 2004)