Chautauqua INSTITUTION

2027 AT A GLANCE

2027 Summer Season

JUNE 26 TO AUGUST 29

For updates, visit **2027.chq.org**

Chautauqua Institution is excited to present a snapshot of our themes for the 2027 Season. We're also pleased to share an early preview of a number of programs within our unique mix — with many more announcements to come!

Help shape the 2027 Summer Season with your ideas and inspirations.
Visit 2027ideas.chq.org or scan this QR code.

See themes or programs you won't want to miss? Book 2027 accommodations at CHQaccommodations.chq.org

	Week Themes and Descriptions*	• CLS: Chautauqua Lecture Series • ILS: Interfaith Lecture Series	Highlights of the Chautauqua Mix*
Week One 6/26–7/3	**CLS: The American Constitution** For more than two centuries, the Constitution of the United States has served as both a blueprint for governance and a living document interpreted, contested and renewed by each generation and era of American life. The principles it established continue to shape debates — in the U.S. and globally — about rights, responsibilities and the meaning of democratic citizenship. Featured Voices: **Kate Shaw, professor of law, Univ. of Pennsylvania Carey Law School; co-host, "Strict Scrutiny" podcast** (7/2) **ILS: Religion and the Constitutional Experiment** From the earliest debates over religious liberty to contemporary questions about pluralism, conscience and public life, faith communities have helped shape the American constitutional story. The Constitution created a framework in which religion could flourish without establishment, allowing diverse traditions to contribute to civic life while preserving freedom of belief and practice. This week explores how religious communities have interpreted the promises and tensions embedded in the First Amendment, examining questions of church and state, religious freedom, moral responsibility, and democratic citizenship. Through conversations with scholars, clergy, jurists and public leaders, we will consider how faith traditions contribute to the common good while navigating an increasingly diverse and contested public square.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Rev. Kate Braestrup** INTERFAITH EVENING ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY **Children's School** **Fourth of July Parade** (7/2)
Week Two 7/3–7/10	**CLS: Applied Ethics in the Age of AI** Artificial intelligence is reshaping how we work, learn, govern and relate to one another. As algorithms increasingly influence decisions once made solely by human minds, questions of equity, accountability and moral responsibility have become central to the conversation about AI's role in public life. Featured Voices: **Chris Hayes, host, "The AI End Game" and "Why Is This Happening?" podcasts; host, MS NOW's "All In"** (7/5) • **Lisa D. Cook, governor, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System** (7/7) **ILS: Faith, Humanity and Artificial Intelligence** As artificial intelligence transforms society, religious traditions offer enduring wisdom about what it means to be human. Questions once confined to science fiction now challenge theologians, ethicists and spiritual leaders: What distinguishes intelligence from wisdom? How should power be exercised responsibly? What obligations do we owe one another in a technologically mediated world? This week invites exploration of how faith traditions can help shape an ethical future for AI by grounding innovation in human dignity, compassion, accountability and justice. Through dialogue among technologists, ethicists, theologians and policymakers, we will examine how spiritual wisdom can inform the choices that will define the next era of human development.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Rev. Heber Brown III** INTERFAITH COMMUNITY **Fourth of July Community Band Concert** ORCHESTRA DANCE SCHOOLS
Week Three 7/10–7/17	**CLS: Trust** Trust is the invisible infrastructure of human life — the foundation of relationships, institutions and democratic society. Yet in an era marked by polarization, misinformation and constant and often rapid change, trust has become both fragile and fiercely contested. Featured Voices: **David French, opinion columnist, *The New York Times*** (7/12) **ILS: Trust, Truth and the Bonds That Sustain Community** Trust stands at the heart of virtually every religious tradition. It shapes our relationships with God, with one another, and with the institutions and communities that give meaning to our lives. Yet many faith communities today face declining confidence, increasing polarization and growing skepticism toward authority and expertise. This week explores how trust is cultivated, fractured and repaired. Religious leaders, scholars, journalists and community builders will reflect on practices of reconciliation, truth-telling, forgiveness and covenantal commitment. Together, we will examine how faith communities can become laboratories of trust in a society increasingly defined by division and uncertainty.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Diana Butler Bass** CLSC **Gilbert King, author, *Bone Valley: A True Story of Injustice and Redemption in the Heart of Florida*** ORCHESTRA SCHOOLS EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
Week Four 7/17–7/24	**CLS: United We Swing: *A Week in Partnership with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra*** This week explores how the arts can unite us during moments of change — within our country, within Chautauqua, and within JLCO. As both organizations navigate leadership transition, we examine how cultural institutions can deepen their core missions while fostering innovation and welcoming the next generation of changemakers. Featured Voices: **Wynton Marsalis, managing and artistic director, Jazz at Lincoln Center** (7/19) **ILS: The Sacred Art of Improvisation** Jazz offers a profound metaphor for spiritual life. Rooted in tradition yet open to innovation, jazz demonstrates how individuals can find their voice while participating in a larger communal conversation. Like faith itself, improvisation requires listening, discipline, courage and trust. Inspired by the music and vision of Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center, this week explores the spiritual dimensions of creativity, artistry and communal expression. Through conversations and performances, we will consider how music becomes a vehicle for transcendence, healing, identity and hope, and how artistic traditions can unite people across generations and cultures.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Rev. Tracey Breashears Schultz** ORCHESTRA SCHOOLS OPERA EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

***Reflects planning as of November 17, 2026** More confirmations to come. **Subject to change.**

	Week Theme and Description*	• CLS: Chautauqua Lecture Series	Highlights of the Chautauqua Mix*
Week Five 7/24–7/31	**CLS: Exploration and Confluence: *A Week in Partnership with National Geographic*** For more than 135 years, the National Geographic Society has brought our world into sharper focus through groundbreaking exploration, scientific discovery and vibrant storytelling that connects people across cultures and continents. Its Explorers illuminate the complexity and wonder of our shared planet. Featured Voices: **Brian Skerry, National Geographic Explorer; world renowned underwater and marine wildlife photographer** (7/28) **ILS: Wonder, Creation and the Spirit of Discovery** Exploration has always carried spiritual significance. Across traditions, journeys into wilderness, encounters with the unknown and experiences of awe have shaped religious imagination and invited deeper understanding of our place in creation. This week explores the relationship between scientific discovery and spiritual wonder. As explorers, scientists, storytellers and faith leaders share their insights, we will consider how curiosity can deepen reverence, how discovery can inspire moral responsibility and how encounters with the natural world can renew our sense of connection to one another and the planet we share.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Rev. Scott Black Johnston** ORCHESTRA SCHOOLS COMMUNITY **Airband** CLSC OPERA **Chautauqua Opera Company's *Cosi Fan Tutte*** (7/30)
Week Six 7/31–8/7	**CLS: Amna Nawaz and Friends: American Storytellers** The story of our nation is being written chapter by chapter and generation by generation. And it's not just the written word capturing that tale. Through our films, our food, our songs and more, Americans are telling that story in real time and answering big questions along the way. How does our past inform our future? How can our challenges animate our action? And how can we move forward with hope, as we craft the next lines of our shared history? Featured Voices: **Amna Nawaz, co-anchor, "PBS News Hour"** (8/2) **ILS: Stories That Shape a Nation** Religious traditions are sustained through stories. Sacred texts, testimonies, songs, family histories and communal memory all help shape identity and purpose. America's story, too, is a collection of narratives that reveal both our highest aspirations and our deepest struggles. This week examines the power of storytelling to create meaning, foster empathy and inspire change. Through conversations with journalists, artists, faith leaders and cultural voices, we will explore the stories that define communities, challenge assumptions and help individuals discover their place within a larger narrative of hope and belonging.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Chaplain Margaret Grun Kibben** COMMUNITY **OFN Run/Walk** (7/31) **Community Band Concert** **Old First Night Festival** (8/3) LITERARY ARTS **CLSC Recognition Week** ORCHESTRA SCHOOLS DANCE OPERA **Chautauqua Opera Company's *Cosi Fan Tutte*** (8/2)
Week Seven 8/7–8/14	**CLS: Celebrating Excellence: A Week in Partnership with The Pulitzer Prizes** For more than a century, The Pulitzer Prizes have recognized the journalists, authors, poets, dramatists, composers and photographers whose work deepens our understanding of the world and each other, and elevates the public conversation. Featured Voices: **Jonathan Eig, author, Pulitzer Prize-winning *King: A Life* (2025 CLSC selection)** (8/9) **ILS: Excellence, Vocation and the Pursuit of Truth in Partnership with The Pulitzer Prizes** Many faith traditions understand excellence not merely as achievement but as a response to calling. Whether expressed through scholarship, journalism, literature, music or public service, the pursuit of excellence reflects a commitment to truth, integrity and the flourishing of humanity. This week invites reflection on vocation and purpose. What does it mean to devote one's gifts to something larger than oneself? How do creators, scholars, journalists and leaders sustain courage and integrity amid complexity and uncertainty? Through conversations with distinguished thinkers and storytellers, we will explore excellence as both personal discipline and public service.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Rabbi Ed Feinstein** COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ORCHESTRA CLSC INTERFAITH
Week Eight 8/14–8/21	**CLS: On Living Well: A Week Curated with Dr. Sanjay Gupta** As a celebrated neurosurgeon, journalist and global health communicator, Dr. Sanjay Gupta has spent his career translating cutting-edge medical science into practical wisdom for living well. His life's work illuminates and celebrates the connections between body, mind, environment and community. Featured Voices: **Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Chief Medical Correspondent, CNN** (8/20) **ILS: Wholeness: Body, Mind and Spirit** Religious traditions have long recognized that human flourishing involves more than physical health alone. Well-being emerges through the integration of body, mind, spirit, relationships and community. In a culture often marked by anxiety, isolation and exhaustion, ancient spiritual practices may offer fresh pathways toward resilience and meaning. This week explores the intersection of faith, health and human flourishing. Drawing on insights from medicine, neuroscience, psychology and spirituality, we will examine practices that nurture holistic well-being and strengthen the communities that support healthy lives. Together, we will ask not simply how long we live, but how well we live.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP **Rev. Teresa L. Fry Brown** COMMUNITY CLSC **Diane Ackerman, author, *A Feast in Every Sense: The Mystery, Marvel, and New Science of Our Senses*** SCHOOLS **Music School Festival Orchestra** ORCHESTRA
Week Nine 8/21–8/29	**CLS: Turning Roots Into Rock: *A Week in Partnership with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame*** Rock and roll didn't start plugged in — it started unamplified and deeply rooted. Before it could shake arenas, rock was shaped in churches, juke joints, front porches and dance halls. It emerged not as a sudden spark, but as a powerful convergence of traditions, innovations and voices. Featured Voices: **Jason Hanley, vice president of education and visitor engagement, Rock Hall. Greg Harris, president and CEO, Rock Hall** **ILS: Gospel Roots and the Sound of Liberation** Long before rock and roll transformed popular culture, spirituals, gospel music, blues traditions and sacred folk songs gave voice to hope, resistance, longing and joy. These musical traditions carried religious convictions into public life and profoundly shaped the soundscape of modern America. This week explores the religious roots of one of the world's most influential art forms. Through conversations with musicians, historians, clergy and cultural critics, we will trace the spiritual currents that helped give rise to rock and roll and examine how music continues to serve as a source of identity, protest, transcendence and communal memory. The week concludes with a celebration of the enduring relationship between faith, freedom and song.		ECUMENICAL WORSHIP COMMUNITY **Chautauqua Food Festival** EVENING ENTERTAINMENT