

August 12th, 2016

Dear Family Campers,

Labor Day is quickly approaching and we will soon be enjoying a very special weekend at Pilgrim Lodge! For many this will be a homecoming, as kids and kids at heart who have come to PL throughout the years return to the boardwalk, cabins, and lake that we love. For some it will be a personal family reunion, as well as a 'PL Family' reunion, as we gather in the chapel and lift our hearts, voices, and prayers together. And for some, this will be a brand new welcome into the PL Family, as those who have stepped forward in faith to come and join in the blessings of this extraordinary opportunity to create community in a sacred space.

First things first, Arrival: **Registration will be in the main lodge on Friday, September 2nd between 5:00 and 6:30 pm for all families.** If you are a first time family to Pilgrim Lodge, arriving on the early side will give you a better opportunity to settle in, plenty of time to ask questions and to create your family's poster, which will proudly symbolize your family group and adorn your cabin for the weekend. You may want to pack a family picnic or eat on the way as a meal will not be served on Friday evening. Also, if you would like to bring a community snack to share for the weekend you may do so (non-sugar please). On Friday evening we will start our formal program at 7:00 to 8:30, which will consist of meeting our awesome staff, PL expectations, "getting to know you" activities, and vespers. Departure: Monday morning, optional lunch available.

This year's camp theme is "Courage in Community" and we'll be using the curriculum from this summer's regular camp season. Throughout our weekend we will be learning about the courage it takes to live as a person of faith in our world. We'll explore some amazing biblical stories, participate in activities, and share our own experiences. We will see and show how God helps give us the courage to make changes in our own lives, families, communities, and world! For all the kids who attended this summer, try to think of your favorite parts of what you learned or did, and we'll make sure to share those with the grown ups!

This weekend is of course also a time for families to relax and spend time together, in the "thin space" that is Pilgrim Lodge, so there will be ample free time for families to recreate and relax, swim and sing, as well as our traditional family camp activities. There are many outdoor activities planned, so please bring clothing appropriate for all weather conditions including sneakers/closed toed shoes for our field games.

The Mission Project this year is Daisy's Children. What began as a chance meeting of three children who lost their mother Daisy, to malnutrition has grown to become a source of nutritional food, potable water, education, and medical intervention for 100 children in Concepcion del Norte, Honduras. This mission provides many vital services to the children and families of Honduras. Because of the food, water, shelter, regular meals, and other necessities

Daisy's Children provides, many of these children are alive today. Please bring a thoughtful monetary donation and change the world with courage! Please see more at <http://daisyschildren.org/> and on Facebook!

As for special events, we will be having our cookout with S'mores on Saturday evening, as well as the traditional "moonlight labyrinth walk" for the Middler-aged youth. Please bring a flashlight for both of these ventures. We plan to have a "dressy" dinner on Sunday night (dressy for Pilgrim Lodge, that is...no tuxedos or ball gowns required!) Later that evening, we will hold our Annual Talent Show. Anyone can be a part of the show-- in fact, the less talent you think you have, the better—and we strongly encourage all to participate. Bring along whatever talent(s) you may have as a family or as an individual. Playing musical instruments, singing songs, dancing, juggling, and funny skits are just a sample of offerings in the past. And, there's always the classic "I'm a Little Teapot" if you nothing else!

There will also be times allotted for "interest groups," so come prepared to share a talent or interest of your own! Interest groups in the past have included: belly dancing, hip hop, basketball, soccer, ping pong tourney, manicures on the boardwalk, scrapbooking, American Girl doll parties, and more! In addition to interest groups we will be sharing crafts/creative activities. Please bring supplies (if required) for your favorite craft or other creative endeavor to share with 5 -10 other campers.

Just one more important note: We will be in need of volunteers! If you would like to help during family camp, we will be looking for volunteers for a few of the activities including vespers, and one male and one female chaperone for the Senior High Island Overnight. We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon. If you have questions prior to camp that this Dean's letter does not answer, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us.

See you all very soon at Family Camp!

Your Deans,  
Arin Hilton & Tom Beesley

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## **IMPORTANT INFO**

### **A Few Housekeeping Notes for Family Camp**

1) Regarding cell phones: disconnecting from the outside world is what we're all about here at Family Camp and it's part of the joy of being on retreat. If you must use your phone, please keep it on silent and use it privately to respect everyone's experience.

2) If you have special dietary needs, special food and drink can be left in the kitchen refrigerator. It would be great to let the kitchen staff know ahead of time by calling the office. Please don't bring drugs, alcohol, tobacco or pets. (Service animals are welcome but the PL office needs to know in advance.) Please call the PL office at 724-3200 with any of these needs or questions.

3) Every camper will receive a photo of all the people in their camp session. CD-ROMS of digital photos from your camper's week can be purchased at the camp store. If you pre-order a CD on arrival you will save the cost of postage.

### **WHAT TO BRING:**

- Casual relaxing clothes
- Warm clothes for cold days and nights
- Warm sleeping clothes
- Rain gear
- Shorts
- Jeans/pants
- Sweatshirts/Lightweight Jacket
- Bathing suit
- 1 nice outfit (not too formal)
- Sleeping bag and/or bedding
- Pillow
- Bathroom/Toiletries: towels, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, floss, comb/brush etc.
- Beach towel
- Comfortable sneakers/hikers
- Shower shoes/beach shoes
- Medications
- Flashlight
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol please!)
- Sunscreen (non-aerosol please!)
- Water bottle with camper's name written on it
- Bible
- Notebook and pen
- Musical instruments, board games, books, etc.