

Hello Faith Foundations Camper (and Parents)!

It's time to get ready to spend a few days and nights at Pilgrim Lodge (PL)! Our program this year focuses on how we can live what we learn at camp and in church in our daily lives. We are really looking forward to introducing you to all the ways PL can help you discover more about yourself by making new friends, discovering new activities, learning about your faith through God, and how God is present in your everyday life! We are your Deans - Kevin and Karla Murphy - and we are looking forward to meeting all of you!

Registration is Sunday, July 15 from 3:00 – 4:30PM

New this year, we are sharing our camp week with another camp: Middler Spirit. Though most of our activities will be separate, we will be overlapping our registration time with theirs, and will be sharing meals and option time with them. We and the staff will make sure you are checked in with the right camp, and find the right cabin and counselor!

Some of the things you can look forward to during option time include: swimming, boating, crafts, nature cabin, interest groups and family time.

We have a very special invitation for your furry stuffed friends: Everyone needs to bring at least one special stuffed companion from home. These companions help personalize every bunk and are invited to accompany you to evening vespers and story time. If you have a hard time choosing which one to bring – bring two or three!!

Of course, remember to pack the basics, too: sleeping bag, pillow, swimming suit, a towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, clothes for the week, comfortable shoes and a bible. We do ask that you bring a pair of closed-toed-shoes (think sneakers), but you might only need to wear them once or twice. Also, be sure to check the weather for Gardner, Maine before you pack - the weather in Maine can change pretty quickly, and the temperature the day you pack may be different than what it is the rest of the week at camp! Finally, remember: please don't pack electronics or food in your bags - your iPad or Switch and mom's cookies will wait for you until you get back home.

Not sure what else to (or not to) bring? Check out the Parent and Camper Guide, on the forms page of the Pilgrim Lodge website: www.pilgrimlodge.org/forms

One of the most important things we do at camp is to focus our campers on a particular mission. The goal of our mission project every year is to spread the goodness and values that are important while we are at Pilgrim Lodge out to the rest of the world.

This year's mission will be helping the Maine Conference, UCC's Anti-Racism Resource Team. The Anti-Racism Team is a group of clergy and other members of the Maine Conference UCC committed to dismantling racism in all its forms. The team's main focus is to identify and provide Anti-racism training and education resources while acting as a communication hub, inspiring anti-racism advocacy in the Maine Conference UCC. They spend much of their time listening to the concerns of people of color in Maine and beyond, and they will be sharing some of the ways we can live our lives to help them combat racism right here in Maine. Financial donations to the team are helpful, or you can bring basic school supplies (notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers) to share with the team, and they will pass them along to New Mainers Resource Center, where they will be greatly appreciated.

We always try to do our best to care for God's world, so everyone is being asked to bring a reusable water bottle to camp. Make sure your name is clearly marked on it! Our goal for our camp is to not use a single paper cup!!

Camp will start Sunday, July 15 and Registration will be from 3:00 – 4:30pm (please don't come before 3:00, as we need time to get things ready for you). Please let PL know if you will be arriving AFTER 4:30 pm. Pack your swimming suit on top of your suitcase or wear it, so you can take the swimming assessment as soon as you check into your cabin and meet your counselor. If you arrive to your cabin after 4:20 on Sunday, you will be able to take your assessment the next morning.

The closing will come much too soon for most of us. Our closing program will start at 9:00am Wednesday, July 18th. It should run less than ½ an hour; we hope all parents can attend and it's important that the campers stay with their cabin group to share in this closing event until their counselors release the campers to the adults picking them up. Departure is between 9 and 9:30, and we have to be on-time so the PL staff can get our cabins ready for another enthusiastic group of campers!

We have a great volunteer team assembled and waiting to meet you and make your time at PL so great that you will want to come back to PL for years to come. By the end of camp you and your new PL friends will be making plans to come back together next year!

We can't wait to meet you and share all the great things PL has to offer!

Dean Kevin and Dean Karla