

Planting Seeds, Growing Hope 2018

Drop Off: Sunday, July 8, 2018, 2:00-4:00 PM
Pick Up: Saturday, July 14, 2018, 9:30-10:30 AM

Dear Campers,

Hi there! Our names are Liz, Marcia, and Allie and we are the deans of the week called “Planting Seeds, Growing Hope” from July 8-14. We bring along the amazing counselors and plan the activities that make our week at camp so fun and special. We prepare all winter and spring to be ready for our time together. Now all we need is YOU! We can’t wait to see you at camp!

All three of us went to summer camp for the first time when we were your age, so we know what it’s like to get ready for your first week ever, and how exciting it is to return if you’ve been before. We loved camp so much that we’ve never stopped going! There are lots of activities that campers who come to Pilgrim Lodge love: we have swimming and boating, crafts, nature exploration, singing, ice cream time and worship services. At “Planting Seeds, Growing Hope,” we also have some fun traditions that are unique to our week at camp. We grow our own plants to care for during the week, we make tie-dye t-shirts and have a dress up dinner in costumes. Every afternoon, we have “Mystery Hour” when anything could happen...games of kick ball, slime-making or theater games. There is something for everyone!

Many of our activities will relate to this summer’s theme for the week: “Beyond Belief” that will provide the chance to explore our relationship with God, who created each one of us, and the teachings of Jesus that guide us in our everyday lives. The week will be full of “God moments” – times when we can connect to the God we believe in, to others, to ourselves, and to God’s creation.

Throughout our week we will also participate in activities that will help us learn about this summer’s mission project, the Maine Conference UCC’s Anti-Racism Resource Team (ARRT), a group that is working to raise awareness and address racism in Maine. As we explore our theme of “Beyond Belief,” this mission will help us to learn how to be good neighbors to people of all colors and backgrounds and to stand up for what is right in our communities. To support this summer’s mission, campers are encouraged to bring an offering (turned in at the time of registration) that will go to support four projects of the ARRT:

- Gedakina Gedakina/Sweet Land Farm project in Starks, Maine
- Lewiston 21st Century in Lewiston Middle and High Schools
- Mano en Mano in Milbridge, Maine
- New Mainers Resource Center in Portland,

You can also bring a tangible offering – we will be collecting basic school supplies: notebooks, pens, pencils and erasers for new Mainers at the New Mainers Resource Center, which provides classes and networking that help immigrants overcome barriers to entering the workforce. Alternately, you can bring a canned good or non-perishable food item that will go to support migrant farmworkers as they arrive in Maine to help with this year’s harvest. There are many ways to support our neighbors! You can see more about this summer’s mission on the PL website at: <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/summer-camp/mission-project/>.

On Thursday night we will have our annual “**Unbelievable!**” CELEBRATION! Maybe you’re a superhero, a unicorn, or a hot air balloon! Whatever you choose to dress up as (bring a costume from home or create something while you’re at camp), we want it to be simple, silly, and especially fun.

On Sunday, July 8, the day you come to camp, please arrive between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. When you first arrive at PL, you will be greeted by camp staff who will show your driver where to unload your bags, park the car, and find us to get signed in for the week. You’ll then check in with the camp staff, the nurse, and then us! We’ll be waiting to greet you and tell you what cabin you will get to stay in. You can then head to your cabin, meet your counselor, and set up your bunk...and the fun begins! Your family can stay and help you get settled into your cabin until 4:00.

On Saturday, July 14, the last day of camp, your family will **pick you up between 9:30 and 10:30 am. Beginning at 9:30 we will be having a special closing program in the lodge** that your families are invited to attend if they wish. They'll get to hear about what made our week together so special.

In addition to the list of things to bring that you received when you registered, **please bring a plain, white, cotton t-shirt** and we'll make it *beautiful*. (If you missed the packing list, go to your Camper Guide: <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-Parent-Camper-Guide.pdf>)

So pack your suitcase (don't forget your favorite stuffed animal to make your bunk cozy!), get excited, and we'll see you at camp on July 8th. We can't wait to meet you and spend a great week together at Pilgrim Lodge!

See you soon!

Deans Marcia Charles, Liz Charles, and Allie Rimkunas