



Pilgrim Lodge

Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

Pilgrim Lodge is a multi-generational summer camp and retreat space centered on the spirit of extravagant welcome. Ours is a ministry of inclusion: no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, all who come in love have a seat at the table. We believe in providing space to slow down the rapid pace of modern life in order to tend to community.

CAMP PRIDE 2025 DEANS LETTER

Registration: June 22nd @ 2-3PM in the Lodge
Pick Up: June 28th @ 9:30AM at the Dining Hall



Dean Skyler (they/them) Dean Cassie (she/her)

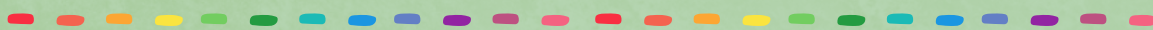
HELLO FABULOUS CAMPERS!

Camp Pride is just around the corner and we are so excited to welcome you to Pilgrim Lodge! We hope that you will enjoy your week on Lake Cobbosseecontee to the fullest. Before you start packing, here is some important information, as well as tips and helpful reminders to make our week together fun, safe, and full of PRIDE!



Meet Skyler: Dean Skyler is thrilled to be returning to the boardwalk for their seventh year at Camp Pride! Their favorite parts of camp are fancy dinner night and sacred gatherings, and you can often find them sitting on the porch with a cup of coffee. Outside of camp, Skyler works as a flight attendant and loves adventuring outdoors with their friends and family.

Meet Cassie: Dean Cassie can't wait to welcome all the campers and counselors for her second year as a Camp Pride dean (after three years as a counselor). She's especially looking forward to crafting and conversation on the lodge porch, floating in the lake, and hitting the floor at our camp dance! When she's not at camp, Cassie is an ELCA pastor in central MA. She just got married in May 2025 - and you might even find her spouse on our counseling team...



Housing at Camp Pride: Cabin assignments for Camp Pride are done by grade/age and not by gender. This means that you will likely be housed with campers of different genders – and maybe you'll finally be in a cabin where gender doesn't matter! If you have any questions or concerns about this housing structure, please feel free to reach out to us about this.

Swim Attire: We ask that everyone, regardless of gender identity, to cover both their waist and chest areas when down at the waterfront. This helps ensure that everyone is more comfortable during swimming time, including those in our community who are transitioning. Please note that, for safety, no binders are allowed to be worn into the lake.



Cell Phones: The focus of our week will be on forming intentional community with those physically present at camp with us. However, we recognize the importance of being able to stay connected to family and friends. Cell phones will be allowed in the morning before breakfast on Tuesday-Friday. During other times counselors will place phones in a lockbox for safe keeping. In addition, Camp Pride has a safety policy of not posting photos online until the camp week is over. After camp, please be conscious of posting photos of other people on social media, and always ask permission before posting your camp friends online!



Interfaith Approach. Camp Pride is an intentionally interfaith community with people of all faiths and no faith welcome. This means that there will be several times throughout the week to consider spirituality and celebrate different faiths from LGBTQ+ perspectives. Sometimes this will look like exploring specific faith traditions that our campers and counselors come from (for example: Judaism, Protestant and Catholic Christianity, Wicca, Islam, and others), and sometimes we will ask our community to reflect on spirituality more broadly (for example: what does it mean for something to be sacred? How do you feel connected to the wider world?). We also fully recognize that some LGBTQ+ people have been, and are, wounded by involvement with religious organizations. No attempts to convert or indoctrinate anyone to a particular faith will take place, although the week will have a spiritual tone. Pilgrim Lodge *is* owned and operated by the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, so there are Christian symbols (crosses, fish, etc) around the camp. Pilgrim Lodge and the Maine Conference affirm LGBTQ+ identities, and so do our Camp Pride counselors, who come from a variety of faith backgrounds and traditions.



Out as You Want to Be: Camp Pride is for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. Some people will have been “out” for years, loud and proud, while others may have just come out or may still be questioning. And some will be allies! Camp Pride is for everyone working on their own personal journey, whatever that means, and all are welcome in our camp community.



Medications, Health Forms, and Accommodations: We have a wonderful support staff, including a nurse, social worker, and chaplain (as well as our wonderful cabin counselors) who are ready to support you and your needs! If you will need any special accommodations throughout the week, please don't hesitate to reach out so that we can make your transition into camp as smooth as possible. We heartily encourage all guardians to submit health forms earlier than the first day of camp, so we can best serve the camp's med schedules and prepare for any extra needs.

Pilgrim Lodge Community: Pilgrim Lodge is a rustic camp in central Maine. There are reasonable amenities on site - each cabin has electricity, running water, its own bathroom, and bunk beds - but come prepared to be close to nature. The Pilgrim Lodge community is based on a system of mutual respect, courtesy, and celebration of our differences as well as what brings us together. Additionally, we have expectations about how we treat ourselves and others while in community at Camp Pride. If you feel that you are not able to get through a week without harming yourself or someone else, this community might not be the best place for you at this time.



Arranging Travel Plans: Check-in will happen between 2 and 3pm on Sunday, June 22. It is important that campers arrive at Pilgrim Lodge no later than 4pm, as programming will begin promptly at that time. Pick-up will be at 9:30am on Saturday, June 28. Families and guardians are welcome to join us for a closing circle at that time!

If you are coming to Maine by plane or bus and need to schedule pick-up or drop-off, we ask you to write to info@pilgrimlodge.org as soon as plans are finalized, so as to facilitate communication. The ideal time for flights into Portland (PWM) airport are ones arriving before 2pm on the first day of camp, and leaving between 11am to 1pm on the last day of camp, to allow for pickup and dropoff to the airport.

A comprehensive travel document can be found at <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Transportation-Information-for-Parents.pdf>

Please don't hesitate to write to info@pilgrimlodge.org if you have questions after reading that document.

What to Expect:

During the week, here are some of what you might do as a camper:

Sing a song at a late night ukulele jam session, learn more about different faiths, go boating, ask questions, write a poem, jump into the lake, get crafty, walk a meditation labyrinth, learn about LGBTQ+ history, tie-dye a t-shirt, make friends from around the country, attend a dance, remember that it's okay to cry, read a book on the porch of the lodge, eat ice cream, play capture the flag, plan a sacred service, hang out by the campfire, dress up in your most fabulous outfit for fancy dinner, have time to figure stuff out about yourself, take a deeeep breath, and have so much fun!

PILGRIM LODGE SUMMER 2025 MISSION: MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION & MAINE MOBILE HEALTH PROGRAM

This year, Pilgrim Lodge is supporting two Maine-based organizations dedicated to supporting our immigrant neighbors:

The mission of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC), is to improve legal, social, and economic conditions for immigrants in the state of Maine.

The Maine Mobile Health Program (MMHP) is one of the organization of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition. The mission of the Maine Mobile Health Program is to improve the health status of Maine's seasonal workers and their families.

*An option to make a donation to our Summer 2025 mission organizations will be available at registration. We will collect donations in the form of cash, check, or tooth brushes!



During this session of camp, don't forget to bring:

- A Fancy and/or Fabulous (gender affirming) outfit for the Dress-Up Dinner on Thursday
 - A sacred text (whatever this means for you!)
- Plain white t-shirt/bandana OR plain black t-shirt/bandana for tie-dye OR reverse tie-dye
- Supplies for your art: musical instruments, paints, etc. (We will have a coffeehouse/talent show for campers to share their art with one another at the end of the week.)
- Pride Swag: flags, tshirts, etc. All identity pride flags encouraged. (If you don't have any, don't worry—we'll make some).

[Link to Camper Guide with full Packing List](#)

SEE YOU AT CAMP!



Questions? Email or call Pilgrim Lodge:

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