



July/August 2022

Dear Sisters of the Women's Fall Retreat Weekend –

Blessings to all of you during these hot and humid days of summer! My name is Pam Burnham and I, along with Char Corbett, will be the Deans for this retreat. Char and I are very excited to bring us together to experience Pilgrim Lodge this coming September 16 – 18th, just as summer ends and autumn begins. The sacred and peaceful place of Pilgrim Lodge is the perfect gathering place for us to embrace the mystery of this liminal time. It's especially meaningful to come to this place once again for the fall weekend

since it's been three years since we've been able to witness the changing colors of the leaves in community. Praise God!

A little about Pam and Char: Dean Pam Burnham has been doing Women's Fall Weekend for about 6 years, as well as has been a counselor, staff member, and camper here at PL. She really appreciates planning and executing these types of events. Out of a deep faith tradition and love for outdoor ministry she is teaming up with a "mission partner", Rev. Char. We both have travelled to Puerto Rico twice to do repair work due to hurricanes affecting the island. Pastor Char has led retreats, service teams and special events for many years and currently serves as the full-time Pastor at Second Church in Newcastle since 2017. Prior to this she served 10 years as the Associate Pastor at First Church in Windsor, CT. Pastor Char is also a chaplain for both the Bremen Fire Department and Miles Hospital in Damariscotta.

This year's retreat theme is, "*This is Our Prayer.*" We offer this retreat with you in mind, as we know that we all have shared longings that come from the human heart that want expression, particularly with God. We also recognize that Christians have many different ways of praying: biblically, historically and presently. Through Bible stories, spiritual practices, conversations, free time, centering activities and community worship, we'll explore some of the possibilities with the purpose of discovering a deeper connection to God and each other in a nurturing and casual way. It's your Deans' prayer that through this special weekend together, we will also empower each other to build up the beloved community of God, where everyone is invited, loved and celebrated for who they are!

Things to Bring:

Bedding/sleeping bag (don't forget a fitted sheet for the mattress!)

A towel and washcloth, Toiletries

Layered clothing

Rain gear, heavy sweater/light coat

Swimwear, flip flops, towel, and sunscreen

Flashlight & Bug repellent

Bible, journal, devotional and reading material or your knitting/crocheting.

Yoga mat (optional)

Please leave home: drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, pets. Service animals are welcome with notice.

Regarding cell phones: unplugging from the world is part of the joy/challenge of a retreat. If you need to keep cell contact, please keep your phone in silent mode and use it privately so as to respect everyone's experience.

Special housing needs: Please let us know at the email below, as well as registering note that you wish to be in the same cabin as "camper name", and that will help with all things at camp.

Retreat Payment: Please be sure to make your payment at least two weeks prior to the retreat for planning purposes.

Health Form: You do not need a doctor's signature, but we do need to have you complete and submit the health form. **Please also list any allergies** so that the kitchen knows and can accommodate, but if you have very restrictive needs please know that you can bring food items from home and we will keep them frozen or refrigerated.

Our time together will begin with supper at 6PM on Friday, September 16 and ends with breakfast followed by some worship time on Sunday, September 18. If you so desire **you can come a day early** (Thurs) and hang out in that sacred place with a few others. You will be on your own for meals on Thursday, but of course you can bring your own, order and grab etc. This is a wonderful way to "decompress" and enjoy the quiet, trails, loons, and time to yourself to do what you wish! The charge for the additional night is \$35.00 – payment will be collected at camp in the form of cash or check.

Our program on Friday begins with the meal at 6pm, so **Friday arrivals between 3-5pm** are encouraged to arrive with plenty of time to get settled into your assigned cabin and start enjoying Pilgrim Lodge. Please let us know if you will be arriving later. Also, please do your best to stay for the entire weekend – for your sake as well as the community we gather as for the weekend.

Please let Pam and/or Char know if you are interested in assisting with worship or in other ways that will enhance our retreat experience together. On Saturday, in addition to spiritual practice options, we will be offering a time for arts and crafts. We know many of you love having something to do with your hands and artistic spirits.

Finally, to live into our theme, "This is Our Prayer" during the retreat, we'll be hearing directly about Pilgrim Lodge's 2022 Mission offering, "Global H.O.P.E. Ukraine Relief effort. As part of awareness for migrants and refugees Global H.O.P.E. The Global H.O.P.E. team of the United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries brings together the UCC's refugee and migration ministries, volunteer engagement, disaster response and recovery, and sustainable development support. The acronym H.O.P.E. makes clear the team's vision: Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment. Participants will be encouraged to make a contribution to this important ministry of the UCC. To donate or learn more before the retreat, visit:

<https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/>

<https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/>

We pray that you will come, bring friends and family members, encourage your sisters, daughters and granddaughters (19 and older) to participate in this retreat, intended to offer respite and reflection to nourish your spirits. Come, enjoy and relax on Cobbosseecontee Lake. As you can see, we are working on a fabulous weekend full of fun, worship, a few "arts" type offerings and wonderful food, conversations, and *LAUGHTER!!* More details in the schedule and a few surprises are in store as well. We want this to be one of the biggest camps of the summer, so register NOW and let's do this BIG! We are excited to lead this retreat and to fellowship with you and look forward to seeing you there! Your sisters in faith, *Pam Burnham and Rev. Char Corbett*

Contact Info:

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