

## Family Camp 2024 - Dean's Letter

Hello Family Campers,

Well, it's almost time! Are you ready for Family Camp 2024?! Whether your family includes school age members or retirees or all the configurations in between, Beka and I are hoping that we can offer you relaxation and new people to meet and enjoy. At Family Camp, we become family!

If this is your first experience at Pilgrim Lodge we hope that it will be the beginning of a long relationship with our programs and spaces. Please remember that you need to **bring your own bedding** - sheets/blankets or sleeping bag (the beds are bunk beds), a **pillow** (this is my oft forgotten item), **toiletries**, and **towels**. The lake is a great place to swim, boat and we have kayaks, canoes, and a couple of paddle boards available for your use. We have life preservers of assorted sizes but if you have a favorite feel free to bring yours with you. There will be certain times when the waterfront will be open for swimming and boating and times for walking our trails and exploring our site.

Meals will be family style; you will most likely be paired with other family groups at various meals - unless your family group is 6 or larger.

If you have an activity or project that you would like to teach someone or share with the group please feel free to bring the supplies for that activity for our interest group time. We often have a "talent" show during the weekend so if you have a skit, dance or reading you'd be interested in sharing with our group please bring that too!

One of the things that Beka and I hope you will be able to do this weekend is leave your phones/electronics in your cabin (or at home) so that you can relax away from the beeps, bells, or pings which ordinarily take our attention away from relaxation! We will have a scheduled rest block after lunch each day to hopefully re-energize for the rest of the day/weekend.

Please plan to arrive between 5:30 and 7 pm on Friday night - bring a picnic to eat at Pilgrim Lodge or eat before you arrive. We'd like to start our evening program by 7:30. Our first meal together will be breakfast Saturday morning and our last together will be breakfast Monday. We will have a closing worship Monday morning before you leave.

As a faith-based camp program we gather twice a day to reflect on our blessings and find gratitude in our day and opportunities. If you have something you would like to offer - a reading or thought or song - as part of any of our gatherings please let me know [[kchoate3883@gmail.com](mailto:kchoate3883@gmail.com)]. We do have "themes" which we will work with at each gathering; many are Christian based but Sacred Gatherings can incorporate all ideas of blessings and hope for our world.

We look forward to seeing each of you VERY soon! Safe travels!!

Karen and Beka Choate