

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 talks about how our names – both how others call on us, and how we call out to others – help define how we find our place in the world. We can't wait to call your name into the big family that is known as Pilgrim Lodge! 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, 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 Wednesday, June 21 from 2:00 – 4:00PM

This year, we have most of the camp to ourselves, as one of the first camps to arrive at Pilgrim Lodge! We'll be using the cabins closest to the lodge and dining hall for the first time in many years, and it's extremely exciting to think of all the ways we will be able to enjoy all that camp has to offer! There will be a small group of lifeguard training participants sharing meals with us toward the end of the week, but their use of the camp won't affect our programming in any way.

Because of our drop-off time, please be sure you eat lunch **BEFORE** you arrive at camp! We won't be having dinner until after 6:00!

Some of the things you can look forward to include swimming, boating, crafts, nature cabin, interest groups and family time. Oh – and, of course, ice cream. Ice cream is \$1.50 this year, and we will have two ice cream times – please make sure you include money for ice cream in your camper's store account!

Please thoroughly review the COVID-19 guidelines that accompany this letter and are linked from the top of every page of the PL website, <https://pilgrimlodge.org/>. There are important instructions in that document which everyone **must** follow in order to attend camp!

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 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 phone and mom's cookies will wait for you until you get back home.

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 at camp is to not use a single paper cup!!

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 gifts will be split evenly between two organizations: Daisy's Children, and Talented Youth Community Fellowship of Uganda. Gifts (cash donations only, this year) given by the campers will help both organizations by following the "platinum rule" of treating people the way they would like to be treated. Daisy's Children is a group that provides nutritional, educational, and medical support to impoverished children in the village of Concepcion del Norte, Honduras. The Talented Youth Community Fellowship of Uganda focuses on the resilience, strength and joy of black LGBTQ+ Youth in Uganda. Both groups will be part of our mission programming during our week of camp.

Camp will start Wednesday, June 21 and Registration will be from 2:00 – 4:00PM (please don't come before 2:00, as we need time to get things ready for you). Please let PL know if you will be arriving AFTER 4:00 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 4:00 on Wednesday, you will be able to take your assessment during swim time later that afternoon.

The closing will come much too soon for most of us. Our closing program will start at 9:30am Saturday, June 24th. It should run less than ½ an hour; we hope all parents can attend, though 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 9:30 and 10:00, 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