



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.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CAMP 2026 DEANS LETTER

Arrival: September 4 @ 5:30 PM (dinner on your own)

Departure: September 7 @ 11 AM



Deans Andrew, Mollie, Leo, & Eleanor

HELLO CAMPERS!

Hello and welcome to Family and Friends Camp 2026! We are so excited to join you on the shores of Lake Umbagog this Labor Day Weekend. We'll be gathering with folks of all ages and family configurations from across Maine and beyond for a spirit-filled, fun weekend at Pilgrim.

We're excited to return to Pilgrim Lodge for another weekend of Family and Friends Camp! We were Deans last summer, and before that campers, and past staffers. Deans Eleanor (7) and Leo (4.5) are thrilled to return to the boardwalk, swimming, ice cream time, and the echo in chapel. When not at camp, we live in Denver, CO, where Mollie serves a local UCC church, Andrew works as a pharmacist, Eleanor is starting 2nd grade and Leo is going into his last year of preschool. We love to swim, hike, make music, and participate in our local neighborhood community!

Our love for Maine runs deep, our two dogs are Katahdin and Cobbie (that's right, short for Cobbosseecontee!)



We're looking forward to gathering around the campfire at PL to enjoy a little bit more of summer together. This weekend will be full of opportunities to play, sing, create, rest, deepen spiritually, and enjoy ice cream time. We will have time in our units and groups we came with, as well as opportunities to meet and become friends with new folks. The weekend is a short time at camp, but filled with meaning-making and fun. Family and friends weekend is an intergenerational, all-ages time at camp. We will have daily chapel and vespers services, which we'll be inviting you to help plan or participate in as you'd like. We'll have favorite camp activities like the water carnival, fun evening program, campfire with singing and labyrinth time.

Unlike other sessions of camp, there are no counselors! This means adults will be responsible for supervising kids. There will be a few times when Camp staff will help us offer some kid only time, with adults having separate programming. Family and Friends weekend is a time to be together with those you came with, while making new friends. We are hopeful that you'll fully participate in all of the programming and we are supportive and understanding of when folks need to just take a break as well.



If you have a special skill or offering you'd like to share as an interest group during free time, please do! This could be a craft/art, teaching a game, making a song together, leading a ping pong tournament or hike. If your offering needs specific supplies, please bring those special supplies to lead your interest group.

We'd also invite you to bring storybooks to read in your cabin before bed. As parents of young kids, we know the joy of reading before bed, and believe no one is too old to be read to. Pilgrim Lodge also has many to choose from.

Just a note about cell phones. They are great! And they can be kind of terrible.

We all know this. Camp is a delightful space to take a break for a bit. We'd encourage everyone to take breaks from phones (while understanding they're your camera etc). Camp policy is all kids under 18 need to leave phones at home or in cabins.

Alumni Day is back on Sunday for a second year, after great success in 2025. We will be welcoming PL alumni into parts of our programming on Sunday, and that group will have some of their own programming as well.

pilgrimlodge.org

Scholarships available!



Pilgrim Lodge ALUMNI DAY

1PM Arrival and Legacy Photo Opportunities

**2:15PM Nostalgic Crafts +
Shaving Cream Wiffle Ball**

3PM Ice Cream Time!

3:30PM Waterfront Open

4PM Celebrating 70! Sacred Gathering

5PM Waterfront Open

6:15PM Cookout + Campfire with Vespers

7:30PM Classic Camp Dance

9PM See you next time!

If you've ever been to camp, you're invited!

PILGRIM LODGE SUMMER 2026 OUTREACH PROJECT



Speaking Place
IHTOLEWESTULTIMOK



Wabanaki Public
Health & Wellness

***An option to make a donation to the Summer 2026 outreach project will be available at registration and in the camp store.**

A FEW ITEMS TO CONSIDER BRINGING:

- Storybooks to read in your cabins at night
- Snacks (and a critter proof container to put them in)
- Life jackets or swimmies for children under 6
- Musical instruments for chapel or just to play
- Board games & cards for free time
- Supplies if you'd like to offer an interest group (leading an activity during free time)
- Something to tie dye!

**WE ARE GETTING SO EXCITED TO JOIN YOU AT
PILGRIM LODGE IN JUST A FEW WEEKS!**

[LINK TO CAMPER GUIDE WITH FULL PACKING LIST](#)

SEE YOU AT CAMP!

Questions? Email or call Pilgrim Lodge:

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