

Pilgrim Lodge Family Camp 2023 Dean's Letter

Hello friends!

I hope you are all enjoying your August so far. I know for me, August is always the month where I try to hurriedly finish all the summertime activities before the weather turns and I'm expected to be back at work planning for Advent and the program year ahead. As part of that, August always seems to bring some unexpected news. One of which is - surprise - I'll be your dean for Family Camp this year with my mom, Karen, providing some support.

It's been at least 10 years since I last attended Family Camp and I am very much looking forward to returning and spending time with all of you at Pilgrim Lodge, one of my favorite places in the world.

For those of you who are new to Family Camp, welcome! You can expect to be placed in a cabin with your family and to have meals with your family and other families (depending on how large your family is). The rest of your time over the weekend will be fairly open and relaxed and we encourage you to make some new friends.

For everyone, please plan to arrive at Pilgrim Lodge on Friday, September 1 between 5:30 and 7pm. We will not be serving dinner, so bring a picnic with you or eat before you come. Our program will start on Friday night at 7:30pm with a welcome and vespers service. Please plan to depart Pilgrim Lodge after our morning chapel service on Monday, September 4, which should end around 11am. We will not be serving lunch on Monday so plan to eat on the road or when you arrive home.

One of my favorite activities during any Pilgrim Lodge camp is the talent show. We welcome you to show off your weird, wacky, and wonderful talents. I've witnessed some amazing singing, fun skits, and cool magic in previous years. No talent is too weird or too small!

You are also welcome to bring any favorite activities with you for our free times. Bring your knitting, 15,000 piece puzzles, trivial pursuit, books, board games, etc. You just might find a new friend joining you on the porch while you're knitting that sweater you've been meaning to finish. I'm hoping the weather will cooperate and I can get one last swim or kayak in before it gets too cold.

Please let me or PL staff know if you have any concerns or special accommodations and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Peace, Beka (and Karen) Choate