



# 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.*

## SENIOR HIGH 2025 DEANS LETTER

Registration: July 13 @ 2-3PM in the Lodge  
Pick Up: July 19th @ 9:30AM at the Dining Hall



Dean Andrew (he/him)



Dean Emily (she/her)

## HELLO CAMPERS!

Hello and thank you for joining us for Senior High week at Pilgrim Lodge! We are your excited deans, Andrew and Emily, and we hope this letter finds you well. Come join us in being part of the continuing legacy of Senior High!



**Meet Andrew:** Andrew Hunter (he/him) teaches high school history at the Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset, Maine. He enjoys listening to podcasts while mowing the lawn and taking baby Phoebe (named after the bird) on walks. He is a longtime Pilgrim Lodge camper and is realizing that “The Garden Song” might be edging out “Waltzing with Bears” for the title of greatest song in the PL songbook. Maybe. Look for him in a canoe or identifying species in a spare moment.



**Meet Emily:** Emily Southard (she/her) is the summer residency manager for Hewnoaks, an artist residency and retreat space in Lovell, Maine. A lover of both art and nature, at camp she’s as likely to be caught making friendship bracelets as steering a canoe. She loves singing along (loudly and offkey) to every PL song but especially “Little Red Wagon.” When not at camp in the summer, she can be found hiking mountains, eating as many ice cream cones as possible, and learning the rules to soccer (go Hearts of Pine!).

*Andrew and Emily are both members of the Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team.*





## Who are Senior High campers?

They are upperclassmen who carry on treasured traditions. They are younger-now-older siblings, relatives, or friends who grew up with stories of Senior High and are eager to make their own memories. They are our treasured first time campers who bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the community. They have no one relationship with church or God or faith. They are musicians, artists, athletes, and nature-lovers. They are, in short, everyone you can imagine! Above all, they are passionate and thoughtful about the issues of the world, and they are fierce friends who know how to show up for one another. Whether you've been to Pilgrim Lodge a hundred times or this is your first time joining us, we are so ready to welcome you with a seat at the table and a place in the choir. Here, you are a part of the family!

## What can you expect at Senior High?

At Senior High you will find a group of inspiring teens and caring adults who share the same radical idea: that a robust community built on thick relationships can be built in a week, and that through the power of community transformative growth is possible. To that end, authenticity is key, which means developing a space in which everyone feels a sense of belonging and can show up fully as themselves. Not only does this honor each person's diverse individuality, but enables greater collective strength. And we have some seriously awesome campers and volunteer counselors and deans!

If community is the goal, what are the means? Well, the wisdom of PL teaches us that nothing builds relationships and connections like ice cream cones and silly songs about yodeling Austrians! This summer we will engage with one another through fun games and activities, sleepy midday bunk times, and dress up dinners. We will cultivate connections with the natural world through swimming, boating, and time in the woods. And we hope to activate the mind and heart with quiet reflection, meaningful conversation, and spiritual fellowship. In particular, this summer's chapel and family group curriculum is called "Another Way." We hope to use our imaginations to consider how our communities and ourselves could be different, and the relationship between personal transformation and collective change. In particular, Senior High (and Middler Spirit) are interested in journeys (pilgrimages...one might say) as a vehicle for this transformation. There might be a *camino* involved...





Part of building such a grounded community means being present in the moment, and all campers will go without cell phones for the week of camp. But don't worry, you can still send regular mail and can receive letters and printed emails as well throughout the week (your families can set this up through UltraCamp). We hope this week is a chance to do something different and embrace face-to-face, intimate, and intentional relationships. Reject the FOMO and bring other ways to connect with your fellow campers and counselors!

Knitting circle on the Lodge porch? Schooling some fools with your favorite board game? Leading an interest group with a sport of your choice?

**Please email [camp at lhoffman@pilgrimlodge.org](mailto:camp@lhoffman@pilgrimlodge.org) if you'd like to partner with an adult in facilitating an interest group and making sure it happens!**

Your packing should reflect these various activities. We encourage you to bring things that are important to some aspect of yourself: maybe an instrument, favorite pastime, or craft (perhaps something that you could feature in the end-of-camp talent show?!). In addition, you should, of course, plan on bringing clothes that can get dirty, swimming gear, and the clothes you feel most comfortable in, whatever that means for you. Don't forget clothes for our "fancy dinner" later in the week and any goofy outfits! Special for this summer, please also bring a pebble or rock (no bigger than a ping pong ball) from your yard/street/neighborhood. You'll find out why...

As we have the past three years, we will be sharing Pilgrim Lodge with the Middler Spirit (middle school age) camp. This has been a lot of fun, including both good-natured competition (anyone remember who won capture the flag on the island? Or the West Gardiner Olympics?) and meaningful collaboration. Who knows what this year will bring? (well, we do, but it's a surprise...). In sharing the space, we try to strike the balance of being good neighbors, working together, but also retaining the unique identity of our own community. So while we will, for instance, eat meals at the same time and share Option Time activities, for the most part the camps will operate separately. However, we are in the incredible position to be role models for the next generation of Senior High, and inspire them to dream big (and get jealous) of our awesome community.





That last point brings us to an important opportunity for this summer. As with every week of camp at Pilgrim Lodge, on the last evening we will have a **talent show/coffeehouse/open-mic night!** Everyone should feel invited to use this opportunity to share a poem, song, skit, etc. However, we want to extend a special invitation to our post grads (folks who just graduated high school) to share a “senior speech.” These are in part a reflection on your summer(s) at camp and an offering of any advice you’d give to underclassmen. This is a true capstone experience to a camp career of any length, and we are excited to hear from this year’s crew. **We can’t wait to learn and grow with you as we share the best week of the summer!!**

Best wishes,  
Andrew and Emily





# **PILGRIM LODGE SUMMER 2025 MISSION: MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION & MAINE MOBILE HEALTH PROGRAM**

This year, Pilgrim Lodge is supporting two Maine-based organizations dedicated to supporting our immigrant neighbors:

The mission of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC), is to improve legal, social, and economic conditions for immigrants in the state of Maine.

The Maine Mobile Health Program (MMHP) is one of the organization of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition. The mission of the Maine Mobile Health Program is to improve the health status of Maine's seasonal workers and their families.

\*An option to make a donation to our Summer 2025 mission organizations will be available at registration. We will collect donations in the form of cash, check, or tooth brushes!

*During this session of camp, don't forget to bring:*

- An instrument, favorite pastime, or craft
- clothes for our "fancy dinner" later in the week and any goofy outfits!
- please also bring a pebble or rock (no bigger than a ping pong ball) from your yard/street/neighborhood

*[Link to Camper Guide with full Packing List](#)*

## **SEE YOU AT CAMP!**

Questions? Email or call Pilgrim Lodge:  
lhoffman@pilgrimlodge.org 207-446-8303