

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 we, as people of faith, long to be part of something bigger than ourselves – and we can't wait to welcome you 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, July 13 from 12:00 – 2:00PM

This year, we are sharing our camp week with another camp: Camp Pride! Though most of our activities will be separate, we will be registering after they are already up and running, and will be sharing meals and option time with them. We and the staff will make sure your check-in goes smoothly, and that you find the right cabin and counselor!

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 Gardiner, 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. And, don't forget to pack masks that are comfortable for you, just in case we need them!

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 will be focused on the ways we can help with the humanitarian crisis created by the war in Ukraine through the UCC Ukraine Relief Fund. Our programming will talk about what it might be like if any of us ever had to leave our homes unexpectedly, and how we can help people in that situation. Gifts. (cash donations only, this year) given by the campers will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, our camp will join the global UCC, as we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

Camp will start Wednesday, July 13 and Registration will be from 12:00 – 2:00PM (please don't come before 12:00, as we need time to get things ready for you). Please let PL know if you will be arriving AFTER 2:00 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 2:00 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 9am Saturday, July 16th. 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 and 9:30, 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