



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.

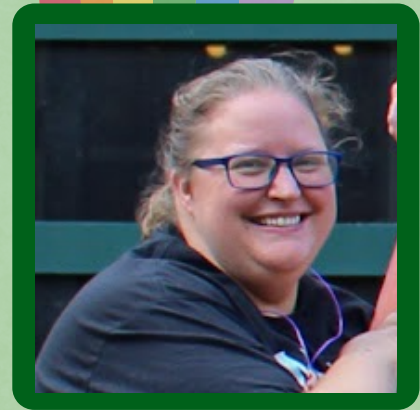
PRIDE ACROSS THE AGES 2026 DEANS LETTER

Check-in: August 7 @ 2-3PM

Check-out: August 9 @ 1 PM



DEAN SEAN PATRICK (HE/THEY)



DEAN MICHELLE (SHE/HER)

HELLO CAMPERS!

Our camp session is just around the corner and it is time to think about packing our bags, preparing our minds, and journeying to the shores of Lake Cobbosseecontee! We, Michelle Scribner (she/her) and Sean Patrick Coady (he/they), are your Deans for your camp experience, and we're excited to work alongside Pilgrim Lodge's staff to provide you with a respite from the busyness of life outside of camp.

A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR DEANS:

MICHELLE SCRIBNER (SHE/HER)

I am Michelle Scribner. Crafter, do-er, musician, dancer and dreamer. By trade, I am a first grade teacher. I currently work in the Rumford area but have worked in other areas of Maine and Massachusetts as an educator. I did both my undergraduate and graduate work at Lesley College and Cambridge MA, and while I loved the Boston area, was thrilled to make the move back here to Maine 10 years ago. My most important and favorite identity is being mother to my two beautiful children (Tev- age 8, and Finn- almost 5). I am a long time "PLer" and started coming to camp as a kid in the 90's. I fell in love with camp with my first taste and have lost track of the number of people in our camp community that have had an immense positive impact on my growth throughout the years, but I do know that the impact has been profound. Since my experiences as a camper I have had the opportunity to work on Summer Staff, Volunteer Staff, counseled, life guarded and deaned as well as been an adult camper! One of the most exciting moments last year was introducing the love of camp to my children for the first time participating in a formal Pilgrim Lodge program. I am called back to camp again and again and the essence of our beautiful Pilgrim Lodge campus and community are woven into my very soul. The Spirit is close at hand in this "thin" space. A mission of mine is to offer exuberant welcome to all those who seek this loving community that has pledged to take the, sometimes hard, but necessary steps to knock down walls and barriers to offering unconditional acceptance. Which is why I am absolutely thrilled to be involved in this Pilgrim Lodge program!

REV. SEAN PATRICK COADY (HE/THEY)

Hi there! I am Sean Patrick, a lover of merriment, mischief, and mysticism. I'm an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and am in my fifth year of living in Portland, Maine, and serving as pastor of South Freeport Congregational Church, UCC, in Freeport, Maine. It has been a joy to spend time at the stunningly beautiful Pilgrim Lodge over these years, including serving as a Counselor for Camp Pride for the past three summers. I'm originally from the South Shore of Massachusetts, where I grew up in a large, catholic family with Irish origins, hence my name. In my undergrad years, I studied business at Villanova University (in the greater Philadelphia area), including a semester abroad in Paris, which continues to be my favorite place on earth. After college, I spent a year in Phoenix, Arizona, working in refugee resettlement, which changed the trajectory of my career towards the nonprofit realm. I lived in Los Angeles for five years, working at Progressive Christians Uniting, and meeting the love of my life, Steven Belnavis. We eventually moved to New Haven, Connecticut together, so I could attend seminary at Yale Divinity School; for my final semester, we lived abroad in Tübingen, Germany. Before moving to Maine, I served a congregation in Wellesley, Massachusetts for three years. Steven and I have a three-year old Mini Bernedoodle named Dora, who will be very sad to miss out on Pride Across the Ages!

PRIDE ACROSS THE AGES WILL BE AN EXPERIENCE WHERE CAMPERS OF ALL AGES:

- ♥ Find a safe space to be fully themselves, explore identity, and share their stories.
- ♥ Find affirming space for conversations around spirituality and love for self and others.
- ♥ Experience the fun of being at camp!



What to Expect: Our camp program is a condensed version of a week-long camp experience. Be prepared for lots of “traditional” summer camp activities including swimming, boating, arts and crafts, songs, games and “outdoorsy” fun. We will have opportunities to share time of Sacred Gathering together, engage in intentional conversation as well as times to just be goofy. In addition to all of our classic “campy” activities we will be exploring ways we are connected to one another. Some special activities to look forward to include tie dying (please bring a white shirt!), costume or dress up dinner (bring your favorite costume or gender-affirming “fancy outfit”), and a PL “Dance Party.”



Registration begins at 2pm and will run through 5:30pm on Friday, August 7. Registration may be extended to accommodate those traveling from farther away, navigating longer work schedules, etc., just let us know by contacting the camp office. **Please do not arrive before 2pm, as we will still be busy preparing for your arrival.** When you pull up to Pilgrim Lodge you will be greeted by camp staff, directed to unload your luggage, and invited to check in with the deans. You will then have unprogrammed time to settle into cabins and hang out around the boardwalk. **At 5:30 we will gather for an all camp Welcome Tour to get to know our shared space for the weekend.** If at all possible, please arrive in time to participate. The welcome tour will conclude with supper at 6:15pm. Our official programming will begin at 7pm with establishing camp norms, house-keeping items, and introductory activities. Camp programming will conclude on Sunday August 9 at 1pm when we’ll depart camp.



Housing: Campers will be housed in cabins based on family units, or for smaller units or individuals, based on gender inclusive preferences. Please contact the camp office to request any specific housing needs. Cabins are reasonably equipped with electricity, a porch, single beds, and a bathroom including a hot-water shower.

Multi-Age Camp Model: What makes Pride Across the Ages a unique and special program at Pilgrim Lodge is that it is open to campers of ALL ages! Because of this, you may notice some differences from other camp programs (both at Pilgrim Lodge and elsewhere). We ask that you be mindful of the variety of ages present at our program. Adults are responsible for the supervision of their children AT ALL TIMES for the duration of the program UNLESS care has specifically been given to camp staff for an activity.

Our program does not have a counseling staff for supervision of children.

Technology: We understand that technology use is often an integral part of our daily lives, and that for many of us completely “unplugging” is not possible due to responsibilities beyond our camp boundaries. That being said, we ask that you restrict your technology use as much as possible during our time at camp as we create an intentional “in-person” community with the individuals around us. With our technology comes the ability to take pictures. There are lots of fun things to photograph at camp (the PL sunsets are legendary!). Please obtain permission from individuals (and guardians) before photographing OR sharing pictures to social media - and save the social media for when you get home.

Faith and Worship: Pride Across the Ages is open and accepting of all faiths and spiritual beliefs. This means that we welcome and celebrate people of all faiths, or no faith. We are sensitive to the fact that many LGBTQIA+ folks have been, or are, hurt by involvement and influence of religious organizations. We want you to know that Pilgrim Lodge is a safe place for everyone. Both Pilgrim Lodge, and the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, are Open and Affirming of LGBTQIA+ identities and celebrate diversity. The backdrop of our camp has Christian symbols (crosses, fish, biblical quotes) and our programming will have a spiritual tone; however, there will be no attempts to convert or indoctrinate anyone to a particular faith. All of our camp activities are considered “challenge by choice,” so if something does not feel like a good fit, please feel free to adapt your participation to meet your needs and know that you are welcome to discuss your needs with camp staff or us, your deans. Throughout the weekend, we will gather periodically for “Sacred Gatherings,” which will primarily be led by Sean Patrick, who is an ordained UCC minister. These gatherings may include biblical text references and music from the Christian tradition, as well as secular poetry and contemporary music; we welcome your suggestions for what you would find meaningful in our Sacred Gatherings and we would love to include other faith traditions if campers are willing to lead! **Please communicate to us if there is anything we should know about your spiritual journey and hopes for our Sacred Gatherings.**

What to Bring: We bet you are ready to pack your bags! Pilgrim Lodge is located in Central Maine and is subject to varying weather, even in summer months. We encourage you to keep an eye on weather forecasts for our time at camp AND pack for the unexpected. The temperature on the lake can get cooler than you might guess, and Maine weather is notoriously unpredictable! Based on this information you should include:

- Warm sleeping clothes (for possible cold nights)
 - Warm daytime clothes (just in case)
 - A rain jacket or poncho (just in case)
- At least one pair of closed-toe shoes like sneakers, hiking boots, etc.
 - A white shirt to tie dye
- A fancy and/or fabulous (gender-affirming) outfit/costume for the Dress-Up Dinner
 - Pillow & pillowcase
- Bedding (sleeping bag or sheets + warm blanket)
 - Stuffed animal/comfort item
 - Towel for swimming and showering
 - Soap & shampoo
 - Toothbrush & toothpaste
 - A notebook & pen
 - Water bottle
 - Book(s) to read
- A sacred text (whatever this means for you)
 - Flashlight
 - Bug Spray and sunscreen
- Money for store merchandise
 - Medications
- Supplies for your art: musical instruments, paints, etc.
- Pride Swag: flags, t-shirts, etc. All identity pride flags encouraged



What NOT to Bring:

- Alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs
- Weapons (including pocket knives), fireworks
- Pets (contact the office in the event that a camper utilizes a service animal)
 - Jewelry, valuables, handheld games

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.**

We are so excited that you have made the choice, the leap of faith perhaps, to join us at camp! Thank you for being a part of something a little unknown and for helping to make it fabulous! If you have any questions, concerns or needs - please reach out to us.

We can't wait to have a weekend of renewal, healing,
fellowship and good ol' camp FUN!

YOUR DEANS,
MICHELLE SCRIBNER & REV. SEAN PATRICK COADY



LINK TO CAMPER GUIDE WITH FULL PACKING LIST

SEE YOU AT CAMP!



Questions? Email or call Pilgrim Lodge:
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