



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 2025 DEANS LETTER

Check-in: August 8 @ 2-3PM

Check-out: August 10 @ 9:30AM



Dean TJ (She/They)



Dean Michelle (she/her)

HELLO CAMPERS!

Our camp session is getting closer and it is time to think about packing your bags, preparing your minds, and journeying to camp! We, Michelle Scribner (she/her) and TJ Mack (she/they), are your Deans for your camp experience and we are excited to work alongside Pilgrim Lodge's summer staff to provide you with a respite from the business of life outside of camp! You will read a bit about us below!

Meet Dean Michelle:

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 7, and Finn- almost 4). 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!



Meet Dean TJ:

In 2010, after many decades of management work (window fashions factory, retail sporting goods, and retail lumber and hardware), I answered the call to go to seminary. This new adventure was scary and wonderful, all at the same time. I attended Bangor Theological Seminary part-time for three years, and earned my Master of Arts in Theology as part of the last graduating class of the seminary when it closed in 2013. I then continued my journey to achieve my Master of Divinity credentials through multiple paths which included online course work, classes at Boston College and Andover Newton Theological School, a Chaplaincy Intern Program at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, as well as Independent Studies and Mentored Practice internships with local ministers. During these years, I had incredible support from my spouse Patricia (Pat) and from the family that I worked for as Manager of E.L. Spear Lumber and Hardware, in Rockland, Maine.

In 2019, I was called to be the Settled Minister of the Union Congregational Church of Hancock, Maine. I was ordained on September 19th, and began serving my congregation and the wider community on October 1st.

I am a relative newcomer to Pilgrim Lodge Camp and am so glad to have found this wonderful place that now feels like home to me. In 2021, I began volunteering as a counselor for Middler Spirit Week. That same year, I joined the Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team, and was also a camper at Lighten Up Loosen Up weekend with my Hancock UCC church members. I have been back as a Middler Spirit counselor every year since 2021, and I look forward to that week all year long. Last year, along with my spouse Pat and members of my congregation, I enjoyed my first Family Camp weekend.

I am looking forward to meeting each of you and discovering what it is that you love about Pilgrim Lodge.



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 “out-doorsy” 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 “fancy clothes” and a PL “Ball” following dinner!



Registration begins at 2pm and will run through 5:30pm on Friday, August 8th. (Registration will be extended to accommodate those traveling from farther away/ work schedules etc.- please 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 arrive at camp you will be greeted by camp staff, directed to unload your luggage and check in with the deans. Additional time before supper will be spent settling into cabins, and un-programmed down time with your family unit - or meeting new friends! At 5:30 we will be participating in 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! Friday evening supper will be provided at the conclusion of our Welcome Tour, around 6pm. Our official programming will begin at 7pm with establishing camp norms, house-keeping items and introductory activities! Camp programming will conclude on Sunday August 11th around 2pm. We ask that Campers plan to be journeying home by no later than 3pm.

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 bunks and a bathroom and shower with hot water.

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 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 (wait until you see a PL sunset!). 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: It is important to note that while Pride Across the Ages is housed at Pilgrim Lodge and part of the Maine United Church of Christ programming, our camp program is open and accepting of all faiths and spiritual beliefs. This means that people of all faiths, or no faith are welcome and celebrated. We want to be sensitive to the fact that many LGBTQ individuals 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 all. Both Pilgrim Lodge and the United Church of Christ recognize LGBTQ identities and celebrate diversity. While the backdrop of our camp has Christian symbols (crosses, fish, biblical quotations), and our programming will have a spiritual tone, No attempts to convert or indoctrinate anyone to a particular faith will take place. All of our camp activities are considered “challenge by choice”. If something does not feel like a good fit - please always feel free to adapt your participation to meet your needs and always feel welcome to discuss those needs with camp staff or us, your deans!

Our Sacred Gatherings will be led by Michelle Scribner and Rev. TJ Mack, an ordained UCC pastor. These gatherings will include ideas and symbolism, Biblical text references and music of this Christian tradition. We will also draw from secular poetry and contemporary music and welcome your suggestions for what you would find meaningful in our Sacred Gatherings. We will try to communicate the content of our service in advance and campers are welcome and encouraged to make participation choices that are comfortable and affirming for them. Alternatives to our Sacred Gatherings will be offered (such as guided meditations, poetry exercises, or labyrinth walks), or campers can create their own spiritual space. We would love to share other traditions if campers are willing to lead! Please communicate to us if there is anything we should know about your spiritual journey and preferences!

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 right on the lake can get cooler than you might guess, and Maine weather has already shown us some unpredictability!

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



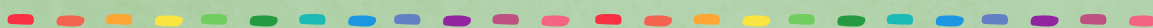
PILGRIM LODGE SUMMER 2025 MISSION: MAINE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS COALITION & MAINE MOBILE HEALTH PROGRAM

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.

*During your time at camp, an option to make a donation to our Summer 2025 mission organizations will be available at 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 GREAT! 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. TJ Mack

SEE YOU AT CAMP!



Questions? Email or call Pilgrim Lodge:
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