

Greetings Pride Across the Ages 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 Patty Fox (she/her), 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 later!

Pilgrim Lodge Pride



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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 names (given names, chosen names, names that uplift and names that cause harm and oppression), and the importance of names in our own identities!

One special event to look forward to is a private concert by artist Spencer Lajoie on Saturday evening. This performance is only open to participants in Pride Across the Ages.

From their website information: “Out of Boston, Massachusetts, Spencer is a folk/pop singer songwriter, violinist, and vocal loop artist who has garnered a growing fan base around the world through live performances, live streams, and an ever-increasing loyal Patreon Community. Their dynamic acoustic arrangements and crystalline vocals are reminiscent of melancholic sixties folk songs - that's where Spencer's genre-bending begins. Resonant vocal loops spin these classic sounds into delightfully boppy pop songs that are both mesmerizing and haunting with their detailed, autobiographical lyrics.”

We encourage you to check out their full bio and additional information on their [website](#) or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this letter!

We will also have the opportunity to participate in a discussion run by the organization OUT Maine. The Executive Director, Susan Campbell will lead an open discussion about queer youth in Maine. Sue will provide a brief overview of OUT Maine programs, provide resources for LGBTQ+ youth and families, and create a space for folks to ask questions and share. Bring your questions!

Registration begins at 2pm and will run through 5:30pm on Friday August 4th.

(Registration will be extended to accommodate those traveling from farther away/ work schedules etc.) 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! Friday evening supper will be provided at 6pm. Please let us know if you are not able to arrive before 5:30 so we can plan accordingly. Our official programming will begin at 7pm with establishing camp norms, house-keeping items and introductory activities! Camp programming will conclude on Sunday August 6th around 2pm. **We ask that Campers plan to be journeying home by not 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 your deans or the camp office to request any specific housing needs! Cabins are reasonably equipped with electricity, a porch, single bunks and a bathroom with a 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 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. There will *not* be swim tests administered during this program as it is expected that a parent or guardian will accompany children to the waterfront. It is highly recommended that non-swimmers wear floatation devices while enjoying the waterfront. We provide life jackets as required for all boating activities.

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: Our time of worship together will incorporate images of God born of Queer Theology, and reflections meant to deepen our sense of being God’s beloved. Those who would rather worship in nature will have opportunity to “be amongst the trees (as Mary Oliver puts it) to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine” or in other ways that speak most to you (crafting, meditation, walking or exercise etc).

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 interfaith. This means that

people of all faiths, or no faith are welcome and accepted. 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!

COVID Guidelines: Campers are able to attend camp unmasked this season. Camp staff will provide more specific information about COVID protocols. If you are more comfortable masking, you are welcome to do so and your decision to do so will be affirmed. Please review the COVID-19 Pre-Camp requirements [here](#), or by scanning the QR codes on the final page of this letter!




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! 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 Fancy and/or Fabulous (gender affirming) outfit for the Dress-Up Dinner on Saturday
- Pillow & Pillowcase
- Bedding (sleeping bag or sheets+warm blanket)
- Stuffed Animal
- 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

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 healing, renewal, fellowship and good ol' camp FUN!

Your Deans,
Michelle Scribner
Rev. Patty Fox

Contact us at: info@pilgrimlodge.org

Guides and Forms	COVID-19 Information	Spencer Lajoie Information
		

A little about your Deans:

Michelle Scribner

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 roles though are as wife to my beloved Megan and mother to our two beautiful children (Tev- age 5, and Finn- almost 2) all three of whom will be joining me at camp this summer! 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 in their 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 BRAND NEW Pilgrim Lodge program!

Rev. Patty Fox

I am a mother, a partner, a daughter, a musician, a dog lover, a fisher woman, a puzzler and a tinkerer of household repairs. I am also a seeker of truth and love and healing. I began my journey professionally as a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary in 1992. I was ordained by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and served as chaplain in a variety of settings including a college campus, a shelter for survivors of domestic violence and a program for people living with HIV/AIDS. In 2003 I earned a Masters in Social Work and had a private practice as a pastoral therapist. I've worked in parish settings since 2008 with a brief hiatus while living and working at Gould Farm, a residential therapeutic community dedicated to helping adults with mental health and related challenges. In 2019 I transferred my ordination to the United Church of Christ. I began my work as the Associate Minister at the First Congregational Church of Camden April of 2022.

Although born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, I lived for many years in New Jersey. My wife Lisanne and I have two kids whom we adopted at birth. They are now young adults. Maya is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace University with degrees in Political Science, Urban and Africana Studies and Lou is studying Theater at the University of Southern Maine. We are thrilled to be living in Midcoast Maine along with our four-legged family members: Daisy, Percy, and River.