



**Pilgrim Lodge's mission is to emphasize spiritual and outdoor exploration, personal growth, and authentic self-expression in a safe environment and intentional community to affirm individual sacredness.**

November 2023

Dear Friend of Pilgrim Lodge,

One night in July, I sat on the floor of the Lodge in the middle of the campers. That night, campers who were completing their last full week shared reflections on what the experience of coming to Pilgrim Lodge has meant for them. I share with you some of their words because they speak to the "why" of Pilgrim Lodge better than any words I could offer myself.

*"My name is Keenan Campbell and I've been here for a very, very long time. Five years ago, during our icebreaker I was given the nickname "Soup." It's those simple things that create the families that we leave here at PL. That simple nickname gave me a unique experience of PL. I realized that **it doesn't matter where you are in your life or where the world is right now, this place is always here for you.** Being Soup is like a goal for me now outside of PL. I know that it is a version of myself that I can be, because I'm shown here that I can. I can be open and happy and enjoy my time. Every time someone asks why I'm disappearing for a week without my phone, I will never tell them that I'm going to church camp, because that doesn't do this place justice at all. I will always tell them that **I'm visiting family.**"*

*"I have a few pieces of advice for you, especially for the Middlers who have so many years left ahead of them. I urge you to take hold of every opportunity given to you here and not take a single second for granted. **Each moment in this space is so sacred.** I also hope that you challenge yourself to try new things because **there's nowhere as accepting as Pilgrim Lodge**, so never be afraid to push yourself here. **You're always loved when you're here** or anywhere else because **the PL community is always behind you.**"*

– Maddie Boucher

If you believe in creating opportunities for campers to realize the best version of themselves, to challenge themselves in a nurturing space, join me. If you believe in offering a consistent, environment where youth can count on a community, a "family," that gives them the confidence to navigate the challenges of our world, join me. If you believe in the mission of Pilgrim Lodge to manifest sacred moments, acceptance and abiding love for children, join me.

Donors are a vital part of making our mission possible! **Please consider a gift in an amount that is significant to you to join the cause.**

Thank you for joining me in this important work.

Elizabeth Charles McGough  
Director, Pilgrim Lodge

**I will support Pilgrim Lodge with a gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  one-time  monthly**

Name(s) as you would like to be recognized: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Credit card numbers are not stored after gifts are entered)*

**Donations may be made at pilgrimlodge.org/giving.** Checks should be made payable to Pilgrim Lodge. *For help with credit card and monthly gifts, stock transfer instructions, or to include a gift in your will, please call us.*