



Pilgrim Lodge

Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

Women's Spring Weekend 2024

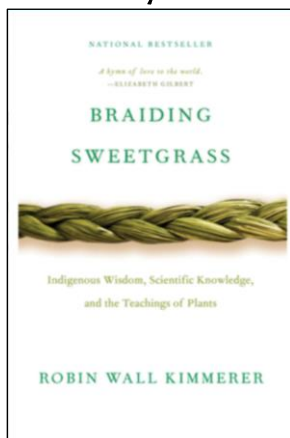
Where will you be the first weekend in June (actually May 31st this year!)? If you've received this letter that means you will be joining us at Pilgrim Lodge! This is the weekend when women gather to enjoy a weekend full of grace and spirit on the shores of Lake Cobbosseecontee.

For those of you who may be attending for the first time, Welcome! Please do your very best to stay for the whole weekend ~ for your sake as well as the community as we gather together.

Hi! We are your Deans! the Rev. Joyce Long & the Rev. Diane Wendorf,
UCC Ministers, and yes...we're sisters!

We are excited to be sharing this weekend Camp together with all of you. There will be opportunities to reset and relax, kayak and canoe, meet up with old and new friends, try out a simple art or craft project, and time to enjoy the spirit and grace of nature. As always, we will try very hard to carry on the wonderful traditions and sacred rituals of our beloved weekend, and at the same time offering something new to inspire our spirits.

This year the book we've chosen for inspiration and conversation is:
"Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.



Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.

Don't be intimidated by the size of this book! It's a wonderful slow read... "a hymn of love to the world." We will direct you to particular chapters that may be of special interest. For example: "The Three Sisters" pg. 128-140 "Maple Sugar Moon pg. 63-71.

Some details to know:

As always, we will be taking a group photo! Our T-Shirt color for this year's photo is **GREEN! Green for Spring, for green-leafy-sprouting things, for Life in nature.**

Things to Bring:

- Bedding or a sleeping bag (don't forget the fitted sheet to cover the mattress!)
- Towels & personal items, bug repellent and sunscreen. Clothing that can be layered, swimwear, rain gear & a flashlight.
- A Fun Item (something you made? A trash to treasure item you've been meaning to give away...) to share for the Yankee Swap... this was so much fun last year...let's do it again!
- If you have special dietary needs or special food, they may be left in the kitchen fridge.
- Please remember to send in your payment to the PL Office at least two weeks prior to camp. You do not need a doctor's signature but we do need to have you complete and submit the health form (it can be printed here or completed in your UltraCamp account).

Things NOT to include: drugs, alcohol or pets. (Service animals are welcome but we need to know in advance.) Pilgrim Lodge is a tobacco free zone as are all Outdoor Ministry sponsored events.

Regarding Cell phones: disconnecting from the world is part of the joy/challenge of a retreat event. If you need to keep cell contact, please keep phones on silence and use them privately so as to respect everyone's experience.

Schedule and Program:

Our time together will begin with supper on Friday May 31st and ends with brunch on Sunday June 2nd. You may arrive at camp any time after 4pm on Friday, May 31st to get settled in your cabin and start enjoying Pilgrim Lodge! Dinner will be served at 6pm on Friday Night. Please let us know if you will need to arrive at a later time.

~Di will be offer one or two simple crafts for those of you who enjoy making things with your hands and hearts.

~Joyce will lead gentle, prayerful Yoga. Bring your own mats or borrow one from PL.

~And Yes, of course, there will be morning swim!

~If digging in the dirt is what brings you joy, there will be opportunities for that as well! Perennials, Annuals, all are welcome.

*If you have special housing requests please let us know at the emails below.
So now that's all there is to it! Just come, enjoy and relax with us at Pilgrim Lodge on Lake Cobbosseecontee. Bring a friend as well!

We are very excited, as always, and look forward to seeing all of you.

~Sisters with you, Joyce & Diane

Joyce's Cell: 207-240-3378 (also text) or Di's Cell: 207-206-4942

OR email us to: rejoycewme@yahoo.com nothingsinister55@gmail.com