

## PILGRIM LODGE

103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane West Gardiner, ME 04345

> 207-724-3200 pilgrimlodge.org

## PILGRIM LODGE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. TJ Mack, Chair

**Elena Barrantes** 

Kayte Ellsworth

Stacy George

Beth Havnes

**Andrew Hunter** 

Henry Hilton

Douglas Rhoda

**Emily Southard** 

## **DIRECTOR**

Elizabeth Charles McGough



Donate Online

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 2025

Dear Friend,

All summer long, I have the gift of watching what I call "camp magic" take place at Pilgrim Lodge; the community that campers build, the bravery they demonstrate, the exploring they participate in that leads to great growth. While it is fun to think of it as "magic," I truly know that what is taking place is the result of intention – the intention that our staff and volunteers invest in nurturing our campers to fulfill the goals of our mission.

August Costello, has been coming to camp for his whole childhood. This summer was his last as a youth camper. On his last night, August shared this reflection:

I've been coming to Pilgrim Lodge for years. At first, I would come for the games, the fun, the lake, but the past few years is when everything changed. I went from coming to camp to coming home; coming for the community and for my "family." For a long time, I felt invisible in my life and in the world, but here at Pilgrim Lodge, I am seen. I am known. I am loved. This place does not just see me, it makes space for me. I thought there was just one version of me walking around in the world, one piece of me, but now I know that's not true. Every person, every moment, every memory I've made at Pilgrim Lodge has become a piece of me. And in turn, I've left a piece of myself here, too. I'm a jigsaw puzzle of every leader, every camper, and every friend that I've laughed or cried with. Everyone has swapped a piece of their soul with mine. Everything about Pilgrim Lodge has become a part of who I am: the loons, the labyrinth, the laughter, especially the people. To me, soulmates are the people who make you feel safe, seen, and at home...They are anyone who ties themselves to us in a way that lasts, someone who holds space for us and loves us for who we are and who we're becoming.

It is my dearest hope that time spent at Pilgrim Lodge fills our campers with the knowledge that they are loved for their authentic selves, the affirmation that they are each sacred, and a connection to a community that extends beyond camp. Your donation will impact future campers in the way that August was impacted. Your donation to Pilgrim Lodge is an affirmation of our legacy of love.

Please consider a gift in an amount that is significant to you and be part of our legacy today.

Thank you for joining in this life-giving work.

Elizabeth Charles McGough, Director

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