

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

Spring 2024

Dear Friend,

Pilgrim Lodge campers leave changed by the experience. There are so many ways that camp can influence the course of a life story. Here's how camp impacted Laura's story:

Laura went to Pilgrim Lodge for the first time before she entered 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Her parents had never been to camp, but her church, State Street Church, offered to send her, so they took a chance. Pilgrim Lodge has been a defining force in Laura's life ever since.

*"It was a place where I could just be me. I had friends in high school, but I had really close friends at camp, and I only saw them once a year. The lack of judgment or expectation gave me the space to 'be.' The experience helped to plant the 'Who is the true Laura?' seed that continued to grow."*

Laura's camp friends gave her the confidence to try leadership opportunities available through Pilgrim Lodge, and she became a representative to the National Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

*"When I think about the leadership I did in high school, it didn't happen at school, but through PL. If you trace back from who I am today, I attribute so much of that to Pilgrim Lodge. I think it was because I was in a space that said, 'You be you.'"*

Laura believes in the impact of Pilgrim Lodge so fervently that she invests in camp in many ways. She is a volunteer on the Pilgrim Lodge Leadership Team. She donates annually and has written Pilgrim Lodge into her will. She invests in sending her friends' children to camp.

A former counselor, dean, and staffer, Laura supports programming like Counselor-in-Training opportunities for campers to grow into leadership and Climate Justice Camp, which equips youth to engage in a climate-changed world. Laura is building a legacy for another generation of campers to benefit from a program that fosters authentic self-expression in a safe environment. Laura has supported a family friend, Lydia (age 10), in going to camp. Here is what Lydia says,

*"Once I get to PL, I love getting to eat ice cream every day. I also like learning about church. I like eating and preparing my oatmeal the way I like it. I like getting to see my PL friends and staff from previous years. Also, I like getting to make new friends, too. This is one of the few things I get to do every year, and I love it."*

In solidarity with Laura's commitment to the mission of Pilgrim Lodge (or Lydia's love of camp!), **please consider a gift of significance to you to help us kick-start the season!** Your support on behalf of campers today plants the seeds that manifest in years to come.

Thank you for joining me in this important work.

Elizabeth Charles McGough, Director



**PILGRIM LODGE**

103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane  
West Gardiner, ME  
04345

207-724-3200  
pilgrimlodge.org

**PILGRIM LODGE  
LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Rev. MARRAINE KETTLELL,  
Chair

Laura Barrantes

Andrew Hunter

Rev. TJ Mack

Stephanie Michaud

Kayte Ellsworth

Beth Haynes

Sean Rogers

**DIRECTOR**

Elizabeth Charles  
McGough

I will support Pilgrim Lodge with a gift of  \$35  \$50  \$100  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  a monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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