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*"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." Isaiah 43:19*

## OUR MISSION

Pilgrim Pines Camp and conference center, a ministry of the United Church of Christ, affirms persons of all ages, sexes, genders, gender expressions, sexual orientations, racial or ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic positions, intellectual, developmental, emotional, and physical abilities, or religious affiliation.

We seek to:

- Provide an inclusive and safe environment for personal and spiritual growth and to be accepting of a diverse population of opinions, beliefs, ideas and backgrounds.
- Nurture community by building personal relationships.
- Encourage care and concern for all of God's creation and encourage a sustainable world through modeling environmentally just practices.
- To seek to create a peaceful and healing community in which people learn to cooperate in an inclusive and diverse setting.

There is a huge new thing happening at Pilgrim Pines Camp! As of January 1, 2023 Pilgrim Pines is once again under UCC management with a new Board of Directors and Executive Director! It has been a great undertaking but one that we know will make our camp stronger and more focused on the mission.

There have been many challenges in these early months, not the least of which were weather related! The mud has stayed where it should so far. Many hands have worked to put the necessary measures in place and through storm after storm, they have held. While we are so glad for that news, there have been other challenges. We estimate we have leaks in the roofs of about 20 of our 30 buildings. Some are mild, some more urgent. We also have 8 heaters that are in need of replacement, with more coming soon.

Even with that difficult news, there are also great signs of hope. We see the signs of new growth all around. We have many blessings and reasons to celebrate. In only a few months we have accomplished a great deal. Perhaps the thing that brings me the most hope is that we have hired and re-hired the best staff! Each of them has stepped up and worked hard in whatever role they serve to make this transition work. We are quickly becoming an efficient team, and look forward to seeing what more we are going to accomplish together. Another blessing is our amazing volunteers who have worked so

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hard to make this new vision grow. The countless hours of meetings and hard work are yielding a great deal for our campers, facility and guests.

The grounds are looking better, one new heater has already gone into Main Lodge, roofers are coming to give us estimates on repairs, new shower curtains have gone up all over camp, new toilet seats are going in, parts of Jr. Lodge got deep cleaned and painted, Leadership Lodge got a new water heater, the cabins are getting deep cleaned, and so much more. Our food continues to get rave reviews and our guests are being blessed by outstanding service. Our Winter Camp numbers were up and the program team did an outstanding job planning a great camp for our youth. Behind the scenes, some less noticeable tasks are being done as well. Things like: establishing new insurance plans, working out new guest group policies, getting new camp management program in place, a new employee handbook, streamlining the summer camp registration process, working toward new accreditation with the American Camp Association and setting up all new banking are all a part of the foundation that will keep camp strong.

There is, of course, much more to be done. Years of deferred maintenance has caught up with us and there is hardly a surface in camp that does not need something. That is where you can help! Many of you have already stepped up and made donations to the new thing God is doing here at Pilgrim Pines and we are grateful. The need is great and it's going to take a team effort. Would you consider making a donation to camp to help us continue to not only grow but thrive? You can mail a check to 39570 Glen Rd. Yucaipa, Ca, 92399 or online at [pilgrimpinescamp.org](http://pilgrimpinescamp.org) (donate button at the top right) Your support will keep this momentum going and spring forth as a new creation!

Here are some other ways you can help!

- 1) Volunteer- whatever your skill set, you can find a way to help at camp and be a blessing for others.
- 2) Spread the word about our incredible Summer Camp options, registration for all camps is open now and camperships are available.
- 3) Invite any nonprofits and educational groups who are looking for an amazing place for a retreat, or event. Contact the office for more information about booking a retreat! Call (909) 797 1821 or email [office@pilgrimpinescamp.org](mailto:office@pilgrimpinescamp.org)

Even with all that is still needed we know with your support, we will get there. Thank you for all you have already done, and for what you will continue to do. I look forward to seeing what the next season will bring.

Tracey Brown

Executive Director, Pilgrim Pines Camp