



Our Sacred Space
Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center Newsletter

SEASONS

Published Quarterly
Volume 6, Issue 4
November 2015

Changing Seasons –looking back and forward...

As Our Sacred Space begins its ninth year of existence, we take the opportunity to reflect upon the many changes that have occurred as we initiate development of our future. The changes have taken place in both the outward appearance of Pilgrim Heights as well as the programming and events occurring on site. None of this could have occurred without the dreams and efforts of the initial OSS governing board, the founders and donors from all over the state, and the leadership on site of Ann Reinhardt (Graham). With Ann's leaving, we take time to review.

Major facility improvements and upgrades have taken place. These include the following:

- Completion of the shower house for the Oak cabins
- Construction of the Breim conference room in Four Seasons
- A new roof for the Four Seasons building, the office, and a number of the Oak cabins
- New windows for Hickory building and the office
- Replace furnaces in several buildings
- New floor in the office and new paint for walls and floors in Four Seasons and Autumn House.
- Upgrades in beds and mattresses

Multiple visible changes have been completed on the Pilgrim Heights' grounds. These include:

- Wild flower gardens on both sides of Fellowship Lake
- Creation of a Children's Garden which provides program opportunities and fresh produce
- Development of an Outdoor Nature Explore Classroom.

Scheduling events year round has been a positive challenge. One of the most important items in programming has been the continuation of the programming of the United Church of Christ summer camping program, as well as retreats, workshops and programs for youth and adults of all ages throughout the calendar year. In addition, a nature-based Day Camp was added to the summer schedule. Through the diligent work of the OSS staff, Pilgrim Heights' recognition is growing in the Tama and Marshall County. As a result, Pilgrim Heights commonly hosts weddings, receptions, family reunions, meetings for a variety of organizations, and space for personal retreat and renewal.

In summary, the changes have been exciting. As we move forward into the next phase of development, there will be changes in staffing and programming as well as enhancements to the existing facilities. As we bid farewell to Ann Reinhardt, the Executive Director's position will remain vacant while the OSS board continues its future planning. Rev. Dave Mears is living on site and has assumed the day to day operations. Lynnette Harwick will continue her administrative duties and facilitating event planning. Ashley Gratopp will direct kitchen and housekeeping activities. We all look forward to meeting your needs in the future.

We take this time to thank Ann Reinhardt for the countless hours of work she has amassed during the past nine years and wish her well as she continues on life's journey.



Throughout the fall season, Pilgrim Heights, has welcomed so many volunteers who have given so much time and talent to the site. We are so grateful for all of the volunteers who come and are willing to work on projects around the grounds. Recently we have welcomed the following groups:



The CEW volunteers have been working on the Nature Explore Classroom, the steps at the outdoor chapel, painting in Four Seasons and Autumn House, mowing, tree-trimming, helping with laundry and cleaning and in the garden.



A group from AmeriCorps was on site for two days and worked around the outdoor chapel, on the challenge course, cleaning and on the Nature Explore Classroom.



The Men's Retreat did a great job in the residence painting and hanging new storm doors as well as working on the Nature Explore Classroom.



The folks from Alden and Jewell were here to help with fall clean-up on the grounds and to do some cleaning.



John Boyle was here putting in new electrical service to the Oak Cabins.



And the Pilgrim Heights board members have been helping in the kitchen, doing laundry and cleaning, ironing linens and cleaning the carpets in Autumn House, Hickory and Four Seasons.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!



The Nature Explore Classroom is coming along and will be ready for kids in the spring.

Connect with us online:



Darrel is working hard on getting the swim dock rebuilt for summer! Thanks Darrel.

Cabins are still available to adopt. For more information about the Adopt-a-Cabin program at Pilgrim Heights, go to <http://pilgrimheights.org/how-to-help-out/adopt-a-cabin/>

This fall we have hosted the following United Church of Christ congregations. It was wonderful to see old friends and show-off the facilities, especially the new shower house. We heard lots of great memories from days at camp gone by!

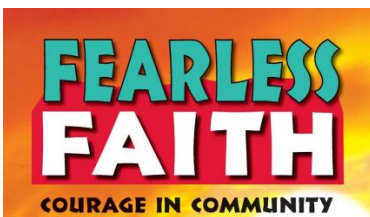
We welcomed to Pilgrim Heights:
Ripley United Church of Christ, Traer
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Belle Plaine
Hope United Church of Christ, Hiawatha

Thank you to the volunteers that have helped out in the kitchen the past few months. From CEW members to our very own board members, it has been very much appreciated. Pilgrim Heights catered five weddings in the past two months, and several other small to large events that have been held at our facilities. The feedback from the groups has been extremely positive. I could not have done it without my kitchen staff and the volunteers that were involved with these caterings. The kitchen will stay busy during the winter with the Women's Retreat, Christmas parties, and the Winter Youth Retreat. ---Ashley



Kitchen Wish List

- 4 to 8 slice toaster
- Large whisks
- Coffee makers
- Large mixing bowls (8 quart)
- Medium to large cutting boards (not wood)



The theme for summer camp 2016 is

Fearless Faith, Courage in Community.

We're looking for dedicated lovers of Pilgrim Heights to take advantage of the opportunity to FEARLESSLY volunteer to dean a session of camp!

- You will have the opportunity to impact lives and grow your own faith!
- You will be supported by on-site staff!
- We can help you tailor a camp that includes your unique gifts and talents!
- And ... you will get three great meals a day!

Be **FEARLESS** and call me to discuss how YOU can be a camp Dean!---Dave

Pilgrim Heights lost a friend when on September 15th, 2015 Jared Parker, age 36, of Omaha, Nebraska, formerly from Newton, Iowa died as a result of injuries from a motorcycle accident. As a youth and young adult, Jared served on the Pilgrim Heights summer staff team and as a camp counselor. During that time he helped design and create the existing challenge course for Pilgrim Heights. Those experiences helped lead him to a career in camp management. He was serving as Director of the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center. His family has asked that gifts given to Pilgrim Heights in his memory be directed to maintaining and upgrading the Pilgrim Heights Challenge Course.



The Ultimate Gift Winter Youth Retreat–

Monday, Dec. 28th 10:00 am –Wednesday, Dec. 30th

1:00 pm

Sledding, Challenge Games, Campfire and s'mores, night hike...and friends!

<http://pilgrimheights.org/attend-our-events/retreats/winter-youth-retreat/>

Coming Summer 2016 Fearless Faith – Courage in Community

Be **FEARLESS** and call Dave to discuss how YOU can be a part of the summer! We are recruiting leadership at this time. Please consider volunteering your time for a few days to weeks.

New and Improved Summer Day Camp– the Nature Explore Classroom will be ready to integrate into the Summer Day Camp. Areas for messy materials, climbing/crawling, musical instruments, art in nature, rock pit, and garden will give the children new and exciting areas in which to grow and learn.

Holiday Parties– book now for all your party needs

Christmas, Year End, New Year Beginnings. Is your family or work group planning an event and need space to make it unique and successful?

<http://pilgrimheights.org/attend-our-events/retreats/holiday-party/>

Challenge Events– book your group to learn and grow together

Check for times still available

Communication, problem solving, trust building and teamwork in safe environments. Inside and out activities available year round.

<http://pilgrimheights.org/plan-your-events/meetings/adventure-challenge-initiatives/>

You won't want to miss spending time at Pilgrim Heights Camp & Retreat Center



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