
PILGRIM PINES CAMP

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT



pilgrimpinescamp.org 909 797 1821

Meet our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

The Pilgrim Pines board has been meeting once a month since September 2022.

Phil Jenkins- Board Chair

Rich Fluechtling- Treasurer

Candice Hubbard- Secretary

Rev Petra Malleis-Sternberg

Jenny Penner

Jennifer Folger

Meehan Rasch

Jackie Hernandez (new as of fall 23)

Myrna Bohan (new as of fall 23)

Brittany McAllister (new as of fall 23)

Personnel Committee: Chair, Jenny Penner

Facility Committee: Chair, Tom Mason

Program Committee: Chair, Rev. Ashley Hiestand

Fundraising Committee: Chair, Myrna Bohan

Marketing Committee: Chair, Candice Hubbard

We are so grateful for the dedicated service of all.

If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to the office and we will share your name with the committee at 909-797-1821.

"I became a special Ed teacher because of my experience with our amazing Pinester campers!"- Alumni Camper

Reflections from Board Chair, Phil Jenkins

So 2023 was the year we just needed to survive. There were ups and downs, but overall 2023 was a success! It was a success because we hosted guest groups in camp throughout the year plus we were able to host our Pilgrim Pines run events (Winter Camp, Spring Up to Camp, Summer Camp, and our Fall Event/Apple Pie Day). Finances have been tough as expected due to higher-than-expected maintenance and repair costs. Additionally, 2023 was the first year we were financially independent from the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

We still have much to figure out as we renew our focus on mission and ministry in 2024. There are program enhancements to make and many deferred maintenance issues to catch up on. With all that, our primary focus will be increasing our income through usage and donations. Basically in the coming 12-18 months, the camp needs to figure out a way to generate enough income to operate without ending up with a financial deficit each year.

So how can you help? Maybe you can be like my sister Laurie, who is a former camper, camp counselor, and summer camp staff member who has an adult daughter who has carried on that legacy. Laurie just recently set up a recurring monthly gift to camp to support the Sustainability Fund. This fund provides money that can be used to support operations and maintenance needs at camp. Another way you might consider supporting camp is by giving to the Campership Fund which offsets the cost of registration fee for campers to attend our Pilgrim Pines events.

You can also help by using the camp. Invite others to join you or your kids at camp events. You can bring up your church groups for a retreat or encourage other non-profit groups to have their events at camp. Contact Tracey and the office staff to schedule your event. There are also youth camp events and work camp events where you can give of your time and talents at camp. Finally, check out the items on the wish list and maybe you can help out with something there.

We have much to be thankful for and much work to do too. Thank you all for your support and I (along with the Pilgrim Pines Board) hope to see you on the mountain!

Mission and Vision

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 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.*
- Create a peaceful and healing community in which people learn to cooperate in an inclusive and diverse setting.*

Types of Guest Groups Served in 2023

Church Groups-	11
Music/Choir groups-	9
Youth Leadership groups-	4
LGBTQIA+ Ally Groups-	4
Other Religious Groups-	3
Service Groups-	3
Medical Groups-	3
Groups serving Foster Children-	1
Recovery Group-	1
Groups Serving those with special needs-	1
First Responders-	1
Pilgrim Pines Events-	6

*Reflections from the Executive Director,
Tracey Brown
What a first year it has been!*

At one point, in mid-summer, Justin (our facility manager) turned to me and asked “Do you ever feel like you are on one of those hidden camera shows??” I had to agree with this sentiment. There were times we expected someone to jump out and say “GOTCHA YA!!” just because of all the unusual and unbelievable things that happened this year, but we survived!

We survived a blizzard, more snow than we have ever seen at camp. We survived a hurricane, with so much rain, wind, and mud. We survived a giant infestation of earwigs with those creepy bugs everywhere! We made one repair to the propane system that ended up with no power to the Main lodge for 2 months and cost more and more to make right. We survived so many unusual things we could only shake our heads at some points, but we survived.

However, we also accomplished so much! The best part was finding and hiring almost all new staff! We are so grateful for the hardworking folks that God has helped us to assemble here. We have quickly become a great team and are working well together. We survived our first visitation as new management from the American Camp Association and PASSED!! We are so proud to say we are once again an accredited camp! That was a great deal of work by many people! We have been blessed by so many amazing volunteers and staff who make our programs happen! Thank you to all who helped make this year a great one. And we would be nowhere without all our many donors who stepped up time and time again to help.

Now it is time for us to move beyond just surviving. We are now working to be more proactive than reactive. We are working to begin thinking beyond the next emergency as to how we can begin to thrive. This first year was survival, now we want to move to thriving.

Repairs & Upgrades Made This Year

(in no particular order)

- Fixed a propane leak. That led to a water break, that led to an electrical break! (ask staff about this one- it's wild a story!)
- Reroute of rain to prevent mud from sliding
- Replaced one heater in the Dining Room
- Replaced one heater in Main Lodge
- Water heater fix in Upper Camp shower house
- Water heater replacement for the Apartments
- Replaced roof on Craft Lodge
- Replaced window seals on Craft Lodge
- Replaced staircase on Craft Lodge (will be completed in early 2024)
- Kitchen 'refresh' w/new paint, new lighting, and fixed sliding doors
- Upgraded plugs in cabins
- New toilet seats for just about every toilet in camp
- Temporary supports for the balcony off the dining room
- Removed 10 dead or dangerous trees and did several limb trims
- Health Center remodel (to be complete in early 2024)
- Dining Room microphone and speaker repair and upgrade
- Pool patches and repairs
- Faucet in Leadership replacement
- Dumpster fencing repaired and painted
- 2 new low ropes course elements added
- Maintenance shop clean out and removal of junk
- New shower curtains for every shower in camp
- Paint and refresh of Jr. Lodge bathrooms
- New shower knobs in Leadership
- New smoke and CO2 detectors in all cabins
- Sewer pipe fix and replacement for Upper Camp cabins
- Removed a hive of bees in Jr. Camp bathhouse
- New desktop computer, and 2 printers for the office
- Upgraded the phone system to an internet phone
- New camp management system for reservations and registrations
- Overhaul of 3 utility vehicles
- Sewer fix at Hill House

A Few Year One Stats

*65 Different Guests
Groups served*

*"I love all the food!"
-Camper*

22465 meals served

*30 volunteers helped at
summer camp*

*"Pilgrim Pines is my
home away from home.
It is where I feel
accepted for who I am
and who I want to be."
-Camper*

*"I never eat dinner with my
family around the table at
home. It's actually pretty
great to talk and laugh
together without having to
rush to my baseball game."
-Camper*

241 summer campers

Campership Donations Utilized

*Winter camp-\$3,213 Spring Camp- \$100
Summer Camp- \$28,884 Fall Camp- \$3,400*

American Camp Association Accreditation!

One of the biggest accomplishments of 2023 was our new ACA accreditation. Pilgrim Pines programs had been accredited before the pandemic and the Pilgrim Pines facility had been accredited by the previous management company. As a board and staff, we made the big decision to take on the challenge of accrediting both the program and the facility in our first year taking back the management at camp.

This meant the camp would have to meet over 260 standards ranging from risk management, to program integrity, to safety, and much more. This team effort was a massive undertaking and was even more challenging as there was very little from the past that could help us. However, we knew it would be the best thing for our campers, guests, and staff. On July 11, 2023 we had our visitation and got to show off all our hard work.

And it paid off! This past November we got official word that we are once again accredited by the American Camp Association. We can proudly display the ACA logo on all of our materials. This assures to all who come to Pilgrim Pines that we are held to the highest industry standard. Thanks to all who helped us to accomplish this goal!

“The counselors here are so awesome!” -Camper

Celebrating The Pines Programs!

Winter Camp!

Winter camp is the best way to start a new year and 2023 was no exception! We had 47 campers attend, our theme was “REST!”. We got the chance to explore what it means to rest. We saw examples of how nature takes time to rest and took time to slow down. It was a great camp with a valuable message!



Spring Up To Camp!

The spring event was a great time for all. We had about 50 guests attend and we raised just over \$9,000.00 in campership donations. Not only that, we had several important projects completed all around camp. It was a great weekend of camp support!



Summer Camp!

It was a great summer of “Radical Dreaming!”. We had 241 campers come to grow at our camp this summer. There were all the important camp traditions of singing, dancing, playing, and learning. We are so grateful for all who help support our campership fund and the many who volunteered to help kids at camp!



Fall Fun for All and Apple Pie Day!

We had more than 200 guests come to enjoy the beautiful fall colors that weekend. Our time was well spent reminiscing about our beautiful camp and dreaming of its future together. Along with that, we raised over \$8000.00 for our Raise the Roof Campaign. That allowed us to fix the roof on Craft Lodge!



THANK YOU!!

to all who donated in 2023!

(listed in no particular order)

John Forrest, Candice Hubbard, William Johnson, Jeanne Halverson, Katy Swanson, Heather Chambers, Tracy and Matt Balin, Nicole O'Keefe, Martha Boesch, Victoria Ford, Glenn Trost, Shirley Washington, Mary Humme, James Manley, Mary Yonan, Jennifer Penner, William Moremen, Linda Wilson, Trisha Pappas, Joyce Kirk-Moore, Natalie Shiras, Aileen Jayne Wallace, Kathleen Young, Melody O'Keefe, Elizabeth Frank, Terry Hager, Jim Howard, Kathleen Greider, Cynthia Azarcon, Audrey Turner, Lisa Williams, Andrew Rozendal, The Seyms Family, Phil Jenkins, Scott Klar, Sabra Gibson, Tim McNaughton, Virginia Bergfalk, First Congregational Church Santa Barbara, First Congregational UCC SanBernardino, Sandar Saares, Redlands UCC, Shang Tian Chuang, Robin Heckendorf, Slovene National Benefit Society, Melanie Brossus, Tom Mason, Meehan Rash, Tracey Brown, Susan Shotts, Petra Malleis-Sternberg, Carol Griley, Ally Johnson, Brittany and Scott McAllister, Claire Mitchell, Clare Caldera, Nurse Donna, Dean and Kristie Langlely, Erin Beardemphl, Ewan Scott, Lily Penner, Marilyn Yutani, Matt's Imports, Shade-River Roberts, Katherine Panwicz, Matt Palmeri, Laurie Jenkins, Kathleen O'Neal, Gregory Suematsu, Lorraine Fox, Elizabeth and Frank Ttee, AJ Johnson, Karen Walsh, Jules Wood, Martha Staib, Jude Johnson, James & Chrissy Siva, Mary Melcher, Tom Mason & Gina Nessel, Joette Orman, Julie Philip, Michelle Lampert, Heather Chambers, Laura & Ryan Thomas, Melissa Phillips, Phyllis & Eric Wood, Carol Farmer, Jean Rasch, Susan Kolderup, Abigail Flores, Jude Johnson, Chelsea McTigue, Laurel Capesius, James Nixon, Jennifer Sparks, Sarah Halverson, Wally Hoeger, Laurie Jenkins, Eric Smith, Kristin Booth, Debbie Brokar

(Our sincere apologies if we missed your name. Please let us know at execdirector@pilgrimpinescamp.org)

Giving comes in many forms!

For decades, Pilgrim Pines Camp has been dedicated to providing an inclusive and safe environment for personal and spiritual growth and to be accepting of a diverse population of opinions, beliefs, ideas, and backgrounds. A beautiful place where everyone is welcomed just as they are. Pilgrim Pines relies on the generosity of our donors. Every donation, whether monetary, time volunteered, or of labor to Pilgrim Pines, regardless of size, directly impacts the lives of all we serve and the continued success and growth of our camp.

We hope you will join us in advancing the mission of Pilgrim Pines!

Please consider making a reoccurring or one-time donation:

CHECK: Please mail to Pilgrim Pines
39570 Glen Road, Yucaipa, CA 92399

ONLINE: <https://onecau.se/pilgrimpines>



This is what your donations can do!



Dear First church,
Thank you for my campership
money. I loved being junior for the
first time. My favorite food was s'mores
I loved the polar bear swim.
I really liked visiting the Nature
conserrancy. Thank you for helping
me go to camp.

♡ Bethany
Morales



*Thank you for all the
love and support
this year!*

*We are excited for
2024!*