

Ferry Beach Retreat
for
Memorial Day Weekend 2025
Friday, May 23 – Monday, May 26

First Parish in Concord
First Parish in Lexington &
Follen Community Church



First Parish in Concord, First Parish in Lexington, and Follen Community Church will have a retreat together at the Ferry Beach Retreat and Conference Center in Saco, Maine over Memorial Day Weekend. For many years, First Parish in Concord and First Parish in Lexington have enjoyed our retreat together, and for the first time the Follen Church will join in. (They had previously had retreats at a camp in Brewster on Cape Cod, but that facility is now permanently closed.) The joint 3-congregation Ferry Beach Retreat Committee is busy making plans together for our weekend!

Families, couples, and singles of all ages are welcome and encouraged to attend! Here's some info to get you started thinking about joining this year's retreat weekend.

The Ferry Beach campus is in Saco, Maine, right on the beach. There are a variety of housing choices, with the majority of rooms being in three dorm buildings. Bathrooms are shared in the dorms and rooms have 1- 4 beds in various configurations. There is one dorm floor that is ADA accessible. There are three cottages (houses) that can sleep 2-8 people, who decide to rent the full cottage together; three cabins that sleep 1-4, and there are four rooms that are like basic motel rooms in one building, two of which are ADA accessible (these accommodate 1-2 people). A large campground is also available for tent or RV camping.

You'll be able to choose your lodging type and place (dorm, cabin, cottage, or camping) when it's time to register. To see photos and layout of the campus and lodging choices, explore the website <https://www.ferrybeach.org>, and for lodging specifically, go to <https://www.ferrybeach.org/lodging.html>.

Do note: The prices given on the Ferry Beach website are NOT the prices we will have for our weekend. Our prices are at the end of this document. Also, do not try to register now via the Ferry Beach website nor by calling the registration office. Our Retreat Weekend registration will have its own special webpage for registration and we will let you know when it goes live, likely in late March or early April.

Our weekend begins on Friday evening with check-in starting at 4:00pm and goes until Monday around noon. Some folks choose to arrive on Saturday morning instead of Friday evening.

(If the weather is good, folks are welcome to stay longer on Monday, but will not have access to rooms after check-out at 10:00am. There will be restrooms still available in two buildings. Also, there will be breakfast on Monday, but no lunch offered.)

Activities:

The weekend is mostly an R&R weekend with ample opportunities for connecting with UUs from our three congregations. There are a number of activities planned by the joint Planning Committee and others happen organically on the spot. For example, on Saturday and Sunday evenings, there will be a Social Hour before dinner with folks gathering on the Dining Hall porch. Folks are welcome to bring wine or beer to that, but must take care that only those 21 or older have some. (There is no storage for wine or beer by Ferry Beach, so you must keep it under your own control at all times.)

Possible activities throughout the weekend may include a bird walk, sand structure contest, croquet tournament, volleyball, basketball, tennis, time on the beach, sitting on the big porches, Bingo, bracelet making, a very popular with all ages “Rock Talk,” scavenger hunt, playing board games, singing (bring your *Rise Up Singing* book and your guitar, if you like) and a campfire with s’mores. Some folks bring their bikes to explore the area or drive to nearby towns and attractions. On Sunday night there will be a Talent Show in the Gayla Theater – singing, skits, dancing, and other performances are welcome. We are a loving audience to all ages! Let the Planning Committee know if you’d like to offer an activity or help with something!

Lodging and Meal Costs for Memorial Day Weekend Retreat (Friday – Monday):

Lodging – for 3 nights, cost is per room or cottage

For an explanation of each type of lodging, see www.ferrybeach.org/lodging

- Dorm room – \$90/night (no matter the configuration, 1-4 beds)
- Metz cabin, full cabin – \$145/night
- Kelley Cottage, full cottage – \$345/night
- Morris Cottage, full cottage – \$345/night
- Claflin Cottage, full cottage – \$345/night (no heat available in this cottage)
- Cross Cottage (for each of 4 private rooms) – \$125/night
- Camping – Campsite \$45/night, Small RV site \$50/night, Large RV site \$55/night

Linens: \$45 per bed in Dorm buildings and can be ordered when registering. You don’t have to order linen sets, but then you need to bring your own bedding or sleeping bags, pillows, and towels for dorm rooms. Linens (bedding, pillow, bath and hand towels) are included with all Cabin and Cottage lodging.

Meal Plan – 7 meals, cost is per person

Note: Pre-prepared foods are prohibited in the dining hall (e.g. take-out meals) but packaged foods are permitted (e.g. bag of chips).

Meals are prepared by Ferry Beach staff and served in the DeWolfe Dining Hall. (There is no meal offered on Friday evening, but folks can bring their own or stop at a restaurant on the way up or in the area, etc., as desired.) Meals included are breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday and Sunday, and breakfast and lunch on Monday. You register for the meal plan at the same time that you register for lodging. There will be vegetarian and vegan options at each meal and if listed in your registration, they can accommodate a number of special dietary needs (e.g. lactose intolerance, gluten free, nut free). Please note that there will be an option to pre-order and pay for a lobster dinner during registration for anyone in your party who wants one. This must be done with your registration, no lobster orders onsite. (If you don’t want lobster, there will still be a full meal for you, included in the price of your meal package.) The DeWolfe Dining room will not be open Friday evening, but the Dolphin Room (meeting room in Quillen) will be available for gathering at any time.

7 meals = 3 meals on Saturday & Sunday, plus Breakfast on Monday

- Adults (18 years +) – \$119 (for 7 meals)
- Youth (9-17 years) – \$98 (for 7 meals)
- Children 8 years and younger – free

There will be a place in the Ferry Beach online registration form to indicate any dietary restrictions or preferences (e.g. allergies, vegetarian, etc.)

Additional Fee: In addition to the fees for lodging and meals, Ferry Beach will collect an added fee with your registration that will come to our congregations to cover the cost of various materials, activities, Social Hour snack platters and soft drinks, and lifeguard coverage. Therefore, when you register with Ferry Beach, the following fees will be included in your bill:

- \$25 per Adult (age 19+)
- \$15 Youth (9-18 years)
- Free for Children 8 years and under

If you have questions about Ferry Beach, especially if you have never attended before, feel free to contact your co-chairs:

First Parish in Concord: Darien Smith (darien@smithquest.com)
First Parish in Lexington: Deb Weiner Soule (djweiner101@gmail.com) or
Elisabeth Jas (svenjas@msn.com)
Follen Community Church: Jill Reurs (jreurs@icloud.com)
Caroline Walters (cwalters1963@gmail.com)
Joyce Pulcini (pulcinjo@email.gwu.edu)

We are excited to welcome you to Ferry Beach for our Retreat Weekend!!