

Discovery

Imagine With Us

Our theme this summer will be Imagine. Ferry Beach, like many retreat and conference centers are imagining a summer of fun and a campus filled with people safely enjoying the beach, the salty sea air, the delicious food and the awesome community.

We are asking you to Imagine with us, after a year of world-wide challenges, how to re-invent our communities in order to really honor our diversity. Ferry Beach will be asking all of our members and other participants to practice radical hospitality: new ways to welcome the other into our hearts. We want everyone associated with Ferry Beach to Imagine a World that Works for All of Us, not just some of us.

This will require each of us to use the best of our Imaginations, overcoming years of conditioning and history. We need to challenge our assumptions, our stereotypes, our pre-judgements and act from a place of critical humility. Stepping out of our “pre-scripted” roles and ideas will not be easy.

To help, we will be offering a program each week using material from Ibram X. Kendi, historian, who wrote, *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*.



IN THIS DISCOVERY

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Summer Registration Open

Registration for our summer programs is open. With the positive news lately about COVID-19 vaccine distribution and the state of Maine's reopening plans through the spring and summer, we have new hope of what our summer might look like!

Yes, there will be masks, we will still be practicing social distancing and using advanced cleaning methods, but we will be in a much different place than we were just one year ago.

If you are thinking of coming to Ferry Beach this summer, we encourage you to do so! See our summer schedule at ferrybeach.org/schedule and sign up online or by calling **207-282-4489x1**.





Love is in Need

"If love and peace you treasure, then you'll hear me when I say, Love's in need of love today...Hate's goin' round breaking many hearts, stop it please, before its gone too far." Stevie Wonder

Against a backdrop of more than half a million deaths due to COVID and a rise in violent extremist acts from white supremacy groups killing Capitol police to police across the country killing black people to vitriolic language in the halls of government, we have survived a year, primarily isolated in our homes. Breathe. Love's in need of love today.

We are stubborn: At Ferry Beach we fed 300 and 340 people respectively in a partnership with Age Friendly Saco. Small not for profit groups found refuge in our buildings when schools were closed. And we started a small take-out program that has brought joy to many people who cannot dine in restaurants because of the pandemic. In the summer and fall small groups visited, keeping distance and masking up.

At Ferry Beach on-line we are singing and learning to play an instrument and writing and quilting and exploring our connection to the moon and transforming and creating community. Outside we are snowshoeing and telling stories around the bonfire and practicing ritual and sharing food and laughing in our masks.

Individually, family by family, the world stubbornly goes on. Babies are born, friends move away, an elderly parent gets sick, a car breaks down, a house burns, someone gets a new job, a bone is broken, a quilt is finished, a knitted hat is started, birthdays come and go, friends and family call and the rhythm of our lives doesn't stop for the violence or the half million deaths or the isolation. And we don't know how to make sense of it all. But we are feeling humans who occasionally think. And so, we feel this hole. Love's in need of love today.

The backdrop is so loud. In the past there were in-person events to get a warm hug from a friend or family member, there were quiet dinners and lunches with people who reminded us that we all go through hard times, but there is a light at the end. An arm around us at the end of a hard day is replaced by an air hug. There were rituals like religious services and singing and ball games and movies and house parties. Who knew that touch and proximity and singing were so very important?

We knew. We know. Love's in need of love today: the drumbeats of violence and isolation have taken their toll. Let's make a plan together. Love is in need of love today and tomorrow and the next day.

If you can get out and walk with friends, do that. If you can sit at the end of your driveway with neighbors, do that. Call your friends. We at Ferry Beach are creating conferences and workshops and events for the spring and summer where we can gather in one another's holy presence. We love. Every day. Join us.

BOARDwalk

Greetings from your Board of Directors!

We Directors were joined by many Ferry Beachers in offering a hearty “Goodbye” and “good riddance” to 2020. The year, packed with substantial challenges, was also rich with examples of perseverance and dedication to Ferry Beach values and mission. We have immense gratitude for a membership and management that has ensured the continuation of Ferry Beach programs and facilities.

Despite the shut-ins of summer, fall and winter, we have seen NEW Ferry Beach programs and offerings. Please check out the Ferry Beach website regularly at ferrybeach.org. For example, we hope you’ve seen news about the online programs now offered, not to mention Ferry Beach’s new “Sunday Take-out” food service! While the on-campus store can’t operate right now, the online Ferry Beach store remains open for business: ferrybeach.org/store

Forward into 2021: Having recently completed its annual strategic planning retreat (online this time), the Directors are busy targeting tasks and projects around vital issue areas such as governance, membership development, and philanthropy. Our work included settling on Board meeting dates and prioritizing needs and aspirations. The Board and management are hopeful for a return of on-campus conferences and activities this summer. The Directors are aided by Executive Director Cathy Stackpole in monitoring public health developments as we proceed to and through the Spring.

As we proceed with projects and consider an appropriate summer theme, we encourage everyone to keep watch of developments – the best info sources are the Discovery newsletter and regular visits to the Ferry Beach website at ferrybeach.org. Those online sources are also important for news about upcoming events and dates for special projects, the Annual Meeting, the summer, and more.

The Board of Directors emerges from and depends upon an engaged membership, with members being the lifeblood of everything we do. The immense generosity of our members has played a major role in keeping Ferry Beach vital during the pandemic. With an ambitious set of target projects, the Board may outreach this year for member volunteers to assist on key projects, within reasonable time constraints. Consider your own commitments and please watch this space and the website for news of any such outreach.

Meanwhile, we hope ALL Ferry Beachers remain safe and well.

Sincerely,
Ron Willett
Secretary, Ferry Beach Board of Directors



Youth Camps Return!

Ferry Beach will be offering our COVID-safe version of youth camps this year from June 27-July 3 and from July 4-July 10. Youth camps are open to youth who are entering 4th-12th grade.

Some things to know:

We will have limited capacity based upon double occupancy in dorm rooms.

Youth may NOT sign up for more than one week.

Masks will be required of all campers at all times. Youth should come with several masks that are comfortable to be wearing all week.

Youth will be in small groups of 8-10 campers and will do all programming in those groups. Two adults will be assigned to each group.

Groups will also be determined by sleeping spaces, keeping campers in groups with those with whom they spend the most time.

Most programming will occur outside, on porches and in smaller (distanced) groups inside.

All current COVID Safety Protocols will be strictly followed.

All campers and counselors must meet the criteria to visit Maine, and agree to Ferry Beach rules and guidance.

Read our the full protocol for 2021 Youth Camps at ferrybeach.org/youthcamp

Discovery

MARCH 2021

GAYLA
ADULT

ADULT RETREATS

Explore a craft, learn a skill, meditate, play, hike, relax on the beach, share conversations with other adults, write, take photographs, join a support group, quilt and much more. Make new friends or come with a group. Adult weeks are packed with fun, friends and a variety of content. Come with a friend, a partner, or escape by yourself. You will always feel welcome at Ferry Beach.

YOGA
ADULT

CHORAL FEST
ADULT

PADDLE POWER
ADULT



CIRCLES OF LIFE
FAMILY



FAMILY CAMPS

Ferry Beach is the perfect venue for the parents and caregivers who want to be with their whole family for vacation but don't want to cook, clean or be the social director all week! With the beach in one direction, the dining hall in the other, and age appropriate activities for every family member, all the ingredients for a fabulous time are here. Ferry Beach offers the best in family getaways. We are an open and affirming community and welcome all families!!



YOUTH CAMPS

Ferry Beach is a place where kids can discover, explore, and take action. The coast of Maine is alive with life's transformations and is a wonderful place to grow and change. Youth entering 4th-12th grades share the campus in three age appropriate camps organized by volunteer leaders, many of whom are parents, teachers, and other kid-friendly supporters. Our youth camps are welcoming to those in minority communities & LGBTQ+ affirming. All of our staff must pass a robust background check!



RE WEEK
FAMILY

FUUTURES
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 10-12

FAMILY & FRIENDS
FAMILY

COMPANY OF WOMEN
ADULT

CIRCLE OF MUSIC
ADULT

DIFFERENT DRUMMERS
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 7-9



KFTE
YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 4-6



learn more about our programs at
ferrybeach.org/summer