

The History of Pilgrimage

The origin of the Pilgrimage Weekend is a post-World War II ministry of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain entitled "Cursillo de Cristiandad," Spanish for "a short course in Christianity." Protestant churches in the U.S. have adopted the format under various names: Episcopal Cursillo, Lutheran Via de Cristo, Methodist Walk to Emmaus, and the interdenominational Trés Dias. The Presbyterian version began in South Carolina.

In Virginia, the Evangelism Committee of the Presbytery of the Peaks helped start Cursillo weekends in the Presbytery of the James in 1991. People from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia participated in those weekends, and we began offering our own in 2002 with the help of the James community. These communities are all affiliated with Presbyterian Cursillo/Pilgrimage's national leadership. The original name Cursillo was changed by many communities to Pilgrimage so that, under the terms of the licensing agreement, we can include Christians from all churches. We celebrate the richness of sharing this ministry with brothers and sisters from many different churches.



Pilgrimage Weekend

August 3-6, 2017

A weekend that lasts a lifetime!

Interested in Attending?

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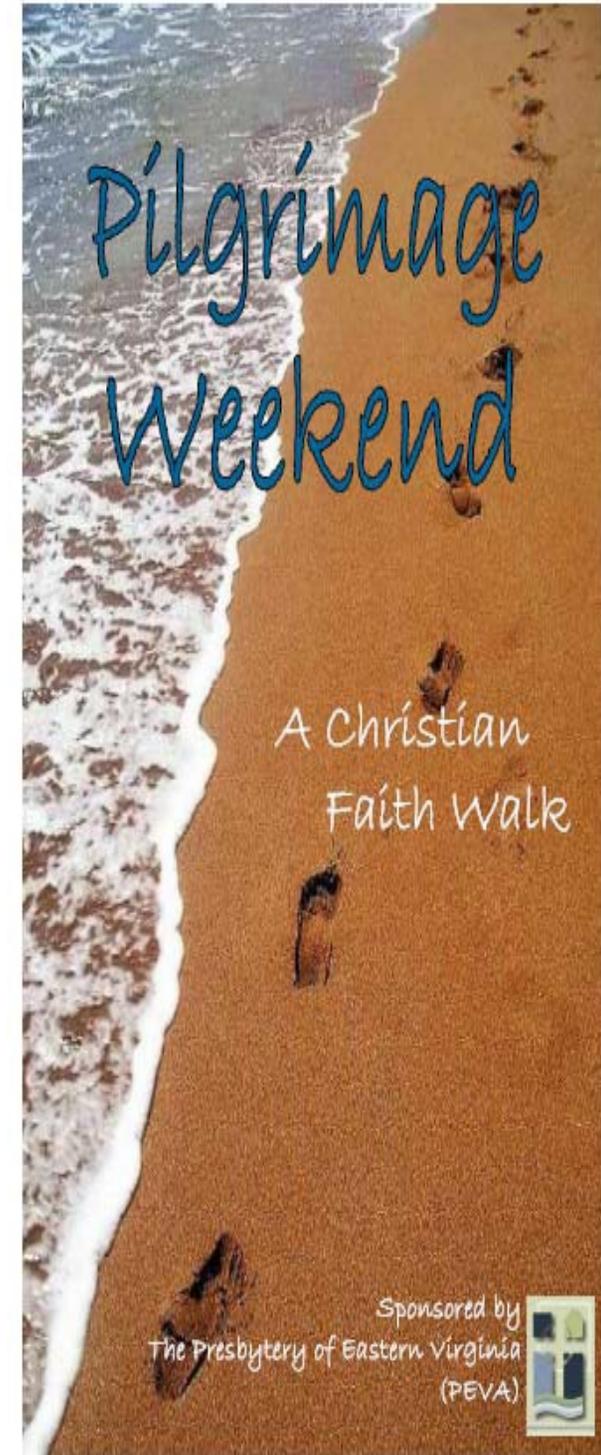
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What is a Pilgrimage Weekend?



The Pilgrimage Weekend is an opportunity to look at your life in the light of God's will for you -- a time to learn and reflect on your place in God's plan for creation.

The purpose of the weekend is to inspire, challenge, and equip individual Christians to bring about positive change in their families, places of work, communities, and churches. The weekend is not designed to convert participants from unbelief or from one Christian denomination to another. It seeks primarily to guide each Christian into a closer and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pilgrimage is three days of community and communion with other Christians for mutual spiritual enrichment and growth. It is a highly structured, purposefully designed method of refreshing the faith of individuals and, through those individuals, changing the environments in which they live and work. .

For three days, participants live together spending their time in worship, discussion, singing, and prayer. Discussions stem from talks given by clergy and laity on themes of God's grace and expectations, how they work in our lives, the different ways we respond to them, and how we live in God's presence.

The basic message of Pilgrimage is that Christianity is a way of life rather than a set of doctrines.

Who Should Attend?

The Pilgrimage Weekend is designed primarily for adult members of Presbyterian churches but welcomes all Christians. Both singles and couples are welcome. It is recommended that spouses attend together so that you can share the joy of the experience, but spouses will not participate in the same small group and generally will not be roommates.

To participate in a Pilgrimage Weekend, you need only complete an application (spouses are to complete individual applications), have your pastor sign it, and give it with \$75 to your sponsor. Anyone who has participated in a Cursillo-type weekend can sponsor you, but if you do not know such a person, contact Gale Péré, and a sponsor will be arranged for you.

Because many expenses are covered by donations from enthusiastic members of the Pilgrimage community, \$75 is your entire cost for the weekend. Confidential scholarships are available, so funding concerns should not prevent anyone from attending.

What Happens After the Weekend?

A person attends a Pilgrimage Weekend only once, yet the effect of Pilgrimage lasts a lifetime! Pilgrims want to share the experience with their families, friends, coworkers, and other church members. After the weekend, pilgrims can join reunion groups -- small groups intended to reinforce the teachings of the weekend, affirm friendships made on the weekend, and provide a place to share the Christian journey. Large gatherings called Ultreyas occur several times a year for sharing and for encouraging all who have attended Pilgrimage weekends.

