

**This community affirms and promotes the Unitarian Universalist principles:**

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

### **Announcements (Cont'd.)**

#### **Adult Religious Exploration: Faith Like a River**

We will begin our *Faith Like a River* series on **Sunday, January 28, 2018**, with a session called: *Wading In: An Introduction*. The course is designed to be a drop-in discussion beginning at **9:00 am**. No registration is necessary. Please see the enclosed brochure for further information on this and other Adult Religious Exploration opportunities.

#### **CHURCH CANCELLATION PROCEDURES AND NOTIFICATION METHODS**

If the decision to cancel is made to cancel Sunday service we will: send out an email to all congregants, post notice on Facebook (both the public and private UUSMC pages), and post notice on the church website, [UUSMC.org](http://UUSMC.org). We are now linked with the local SnoWatch system. *SnoWatch* reports are broadcast on **1150 AM WDEL** and **93.7 FM WSTW** and are available online at [wdel.com](http://wdel.com) and [wstw.com](http://wstw.com). From now through March, if the weather calls for any kind of precipitation, please check the above media or call the church before heading out.

### **Upcoming events**

**Book Group**, Thursday, January 18

**Adult RE - Wading In: An Introduction**, Sunday, January 28

**Service Auction**, Saturday, April 14

#### **Mill Creek Professional Staff**

Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org)  
>>Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm, and by appointment  
Terry Vodery, Director of Religious Exploration [dre@uusmc.org](mailto:dre@uusmc.org)  
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director [music@uusmc.org](mailto:music@uusmc.org)  
Debra Damiani, Office Administrator [administrator@uusmc.org](mailto:administrator@uusmc.org)  
>>Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 am – 1 pm



Photo by Ethan Hoover on Unsplash

**January 14, 2018**  
**Rev. Gregory S. Pelley**

*We are a community that invites you to awaken to love.*

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek  
A Welcoming Congregation  
302-369-2712  
[www.uusmc.org](http://www.uusmc.org)

Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister  
Stephen Petersen, Worship Associate  
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director  
Terry Vodery, Director of Religious Exploration  
~ Order of Service ~  
January 14, 2018

♥ Please silence cell phones, and hold applause until the end of service.

Ringling of the Chime

Prelude *Like a Mighty Stream* Hogan

Welcome

Lighting the Chalice

Response:

*We gather this hour as people of faith, with joys and sorrows, gifts and needs. We light this beacon of hope, sign of our quest for truth and meaning, in celebration of the life we share together.*

Story For All Ages Rev. Gregory S. Pelley  
of *THEE I SING – A letter to My Daughters* by Barack Obama

Children to Religious Education – *Go Now in Peace* #413

Covenant

*Sacred is this place of acceptance, this home for the spirit. Here, all are welcome, with all our differences, who come in peace and with an open heart. We enter in celebration, to learn, to share, and to grow together in our Unitarian Universalist faith. Blessed be this gathering.*

\*Hymn *There's a River Flowin' in My Soul* #1007

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn *When Our Heart is In a Holy Place* #1008

Meditation

Offering *Oh, I Woke Up This Morning* #153

Sermon

**Dear Dr. King;**  
Tom Hartline; Dominick Volpe; Gladys Smith;  
Larry Stomberg; Manisha Antani

Postlude *Elijah Rock* Hairston

\*Unison Benediction

*May we go from here with Love in our hearts,  
Hope in our minds, Help in our hands,  
To live our Principles and give of our gifts,  
For those whose lives we touch, whose lives touch ours.*

**Welcome, visitors and guests.** We invite you to fill out a contact information card, and hope you'll stay with us after the service for coffee, tea, & conversation. We welcome you to all meetings and social activities. To discuss membership, please contact Maggie McLaughlin, [mmclaughlin13123@gmail.com](mailto:mmclaughlin13123@gmail.com), Eileen Selph, [caldwelleileen@hotmail.com](mailto:caldwelleileen@hotmail.com), or our minister, Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org). We hope you have found the service meaningful and our fellowship warm, and that you will be with us again.

**Today's music** is performed by the Mill Creek Choir, directed by Kristen Tosh-Morelli, with Pam Allenstein, pianist.

**Religious Exploration** In celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are having a multi-generational worship service.

**Potluck Lunch Today!** Everyone is invited to remain with us after the service to enjoy good food and fellowship as we gather for our monthly potluck lunch.

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

**Mill Creek Book Group Meeting** Everyone is welcome to join us as we recommence our book discussion group. We will briefly review our procedures and make changes if necessary. We don't have a current book chosen so we will have mini-discussions of books we have recently read. We will also welcome suggestions for new books to read. Join us on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the MacArtor Library.

**What are Chalice Circles?** Designed to augment and strengthen Sunday's spiritual experience, Chalice Circles are small groups that provide an environment where people are encouraged and supported in the sharing of stories, experiences and ideas in order to deepen relationships and develop a richer spirituality. We have four Circles that meet in the evening – and a daytime circle which is open to new members. Contact Joanne Knowles for more info, 302-239-2021 or [joannebchn@aol.com](mailto:joannebchn@aol.com)

**Save the Date: Service Auction**

**Saturday, April 14, 2018**

**Join the team! Contact Rev. Greg:**

[minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org)

## ***Listening to Our Lives***

This class is designed for those who wish to engage seriously and open-heartedly with the perennial religious topics such as: inspiration, God, community, suffering, death, spiritual practice, living our gifts, and salvation. Rev. Greg will lead the group meeting on **Wednesday** evenings from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** beginning **February 21 through April 18**. Enrollment is limited to a minimum of 8, maximum of 12 participants who commit to attending all nine sessions.

Please contact Rev. Greg to sign up, or if you have questions: [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org)

## ***Theology Through the Lens***

Join Rev. Greg for a seven-part course that explores traditional theological categories through photographic assignments and reflections. Based on a curriculum developed by Rev. Laurie Stuart, we will use Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker's works, "Under Construction: Knowing and Transforming Our Unitarian Universalist Theological House" and "A House for Hope" to ground ourselves in the theological claims of Unitarian Universalism. But the real work of this course is to creatively connect heady theology with photographic imagery. For example, what does soteriology look like in our everyday life? To answer that, we have to know what soteriology references, and then creatively think about how that idea manifests in our world. Dr. Parker uses the metaphor of a house, so we will prompt participants to capture images that illustrate what we think of as our theological foundation, our church, our salvation, our theology of where we come from and where we are going, how we are called to embrace our neighbors and how we speak about our sense of the elemental forces that permeate our lives.

You do not need to consider yourself a photographer, or even particularly creative to participate. You need not consider yourself a theologian to participate. All that is required is a curious, adventurous heart and something to take photographs with.

Dates for the class are still being worked out, but we expect to begin in **mid-April**.

Contact Rev. Greg if you're interested, [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org)

# **Adult Religious Exploration Winter/Spring 2018**

**The Mill Creek Adult Religious Exploration Program exists to awaken us to the power of love by using the richness of stories to encourage one another in an ongoing process of spiritual growth.**

## ***Faith Like a River***

Do you love history? Unitarian Universalism has a long history that shapes our current identity. History is often viewed as a linear progression where events follow events and actions occur in reaction. But history is not straightforward. This program guides you to explore the dynamic course of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist history—the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage.

This series will be divided into 5 four-part sections to be held over the course of this year, with three in the spring and two in the fall. Topics include UU Identity, Diverse Community, Institutionalism, Freedom of Belief, and Prophets and Social Justice. An introductory session will be held at the beginning of each section. This is a drop-in discussion held **Sundays from 9-10:15 am** in the MacArthur Library. No registration or commitment is necessary. Facilitators will rotate.

**Section One:** UU Identity (Reason as a Religious Source, Covenant, Polity) January 28-February 18

**Section Two:** Diverse Community (Religious Tolerance, Globalization, Multiculturalism) April 8-April 29

**Section Three:** Institutionalism (Unitarianism, Universalism, Consolidation) May 13- June 10

For more information, contact Karen Rege [karenrege@gmail.com](mailto:karenrege@gmail.com)

## **Waking Up White**

As James Baldwin says, “If I love you, I have to make you conscious of things you don’t see.” This is one of the ways we awaken to love. *Waking Up White* is a four-week workshop to be held all the **Sundays in March from 12:00pm-2:00pm**. In the series, we will explore our experience of growing up white and entering into a society where the privilege and experience of being white is part of a story of being only partly awake. This will be a deep and challenging workshop, but will be framed by reflections on our common read of Debby Irving’s book, *Waking Up White*.

We will provide a simple lunch for you in conjunction with the workshop. For our first session on March 4, please let Mary know so she can provide adequate food. Also, you will need to have read chapters one and two. These are short and very readable, but will provide the basis for our conversations.

The workshop will be facilitated by Mary Higgins. Attendance at all four sessions is requested so we can build a community of confidence and depth. If you have questions, please contact Mary at 610-932-2696 or [marychulakhiggins@gmail.com](mailto:marychulakhiggins@gmail.com)

## **World Religions Through Their Scripture- Part One: Religious Literacy**

Join us for an experiment in connection as we begin a multi-part series on world religions. This introductory session will help you learn tools to better understand how religions function in human affairs and to interact constructively with peers from diverse religions, worldviews, regions of the world, experiences, and perspectives. The new format offers a combination of a free four-week course online with Diane Moore, director of the Literacy Project at Harvard Divinity School, and an in-person discussion with members of the UUSMC team at a local coffee shop. Dates will be **mid-March through early April**. Times to be determined by participants. Details are forthcoming as they become available.

If you are interested in participating, please contact either Rev. Greg, [minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org) or Karen Rege, [karenrege@gmail.com](mailto:karenrege@gmail.com) by February 28th so we can provide you with a link to registration for the online course.

## **Shared Pulpit Workshop**

You have a story. Each of our stories is part of a larger narrative of being human in this world, in this time. One of the most powerful spiritual practices we have is in the sharing of our stories and reflecting on the ways those stories awaken us to love, illuminate our humanity, connect us to the holy and ineffable - and common - experience of life.

We invite you to join Rev. Greg for a **Shared Pulpit Workshop**, which will guide you in developing your story into a sermon and worship experience that you may share with the congregation.

Using a series of small group meetings, this program aims to deepen connection and trust among you — the seeking minds and caring hearts of Mill Creek. The workshop contains advice, tools, and a process designed to equip you to be even more skilled, confident leaders (because anyone brave and curious enough to share their journey publicly with a congregation is, in fact, a leader). Along the way, you’ll discover your authentic voice by writing a sermon to deliver to the congregation.

This program is pulpit-and-pew tested, producing dozens of graduates who report that it transformed their relationship to their congregation and to Unitarian Universalism. As a participant, you don’t need to think of yourself as a writer. You don’t have to know what you want to say. You don’t even need to be a visible leader in your congregation. As you and five to seven others navigate your way through the eight sessions — under the guidance of Rev. Greg - you are invited to do three things:

- commit your time and energy to the program — including doing the required writing between sessions
- create and uphold a group covenant so that those in your group can risk being vulnerable
- trust that the first two steps will reveal your voice and truth.

The workshop will meet on **Saturdays from 9:00 - noon**. **Tentative dates are March 3, March 17, March 31, April 14, April 28, May 12, June 2, June 9.**

Go to: <http://bit.ly/2ztNgZe> to sign up, or contact Rev. Greg ([minister@uusmc.org](mailto:minister@uusmc.org)).