

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.)

Family Promise Host Week – Tuesday & Thursday, January 28 & 30

WHAT: Family Promise of Northern New Castle County is a non-profit organization that works to prevent and end homelessness by engaging an interfaith hospitality network. Mill Creek is a support congregation in this network and we are committed to assist in this effort a few times a year by providing meals for families currently receiving assistance.

HOW: We donate, prepare and help serve meals a few times a year at the host congregation, St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Stanton. This is a meaningful and rewarding way to engage in the needs of our local community and live the UU principle: *The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*

You can help in one or more of the following ways:

- prepare a salad, healthy side dish and/or dessert
- donate healthy food items for the meals
- help serve the meals at St. Mark's Church

For more details and to offer your support, contact Chitra Vaidy, cvaidy226@gmail.com or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway!

Upcoming events

Roe vs. Wade Commemoration Service, Wednesday, January 22
Family Promise Host Week, Tuesday & Thursday, January 28 & 30
The Artist's Way ARE class, Thursday, February 6
Shared Pulpit ARE class, Saturday, February 8
New UU Workshop, Sunday, March 1
Listening to Our Lives ARE class, March 11
Service Auction, Saturday, May 16



Photo by Miltiadis Fragkidis on Unsplash

We
Who Believe in
Freedom

January 19, 2020
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

Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director
~ Order of Service ~

Prelude *Deep River/ Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*
arr. Lowell Everson

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 *What If...* by Thierry Lenain and Olivier Tallec
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 *I Know I Can* #1015

Reading

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn *When Our Heart is In a Holy Place* #1008
Verse 2 only, no repeat

Meditation

Offering *Ella's Song* Bernice Johnson Reagon

Sermon ***We Who Believe in Freedom*** Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Postlude *Uma Familia (We Are One Family)* Jay Althouse

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 Tracy Morgan, tracymorgan2000@verizon.net, or our minister, Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, 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 under the direction of Kristen Tosh-Morelli, with Savannah Klumpp, pianist. *Ella's Song* is from the powerful, spiritual black women's a cappella group *Sweet Honey in the Rock* and was composed as the title song in the film *Fundi: The Story of Ella Baker*. Its text is taken from statements by Ms. Baker, especially regarding the search for missing black men during the Mississippi Campaign in 1964. The arrangement of the African American spirituals *Deep River* and *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* is one of our choir's favorite pieces. *Uma Familia* is Portuguese for "one family" and its Brazilian samba feel embodies the mixing of international cultures.

Religious Exploration The morning our Youth will attend the full worship service while the Chalice Children and Roots & Shoots Friends will report to their classrooms after the Story.

Share Our Plate For the months of January and February we will be donating half of our undesignated plate offerings to Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive healthcare, sex education and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide.

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

****2019 Annual Giving Statements Available in the Gathering Space****

Social justice meeting today after service – all are welcome to join us today in the MacArto Library for a meeting to discuss several upcoming events.

Share Our Warmth Continues The Social Justice committee plans to keep the collection of cold weather clothing items open during the winter months, and are focusing on the following:

- blankets & comforters
- **men's** socks, gloves and hats
- **adult sized** coats (used & in good condition acceptable)

Thank you for your continued cooperation. See any member of the SJC with questions or contact the church office administrator@uusmc.org

Read what past participants have to say about the rewarding **Listening to Our Lives** class:

"Attending this class has been the most impactful thing I've done since joining Mill Creek 25+ years ago. The self-reflection, discussion, and sharing within our group has helped me progress in leaps and bounds on my spiritual journey. I have a deeper sense of the "why" of church for me and a beloved community which I cherish."

"I signed up for the Listening to our Lives class to do something about the creeping emptiness of retirement and the loss of a clear purpose which my mother's care provided. The class created a safe and trusting space for me to listen to my inner voice, in the quietness of a beloved community. It was designed to slip us into deeper inner work with the help of carefully selected readings, homework and class discussions. I still reach out to the class notes I made and the reading materials as I continue this very rewarding work."

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.

Coffee Shop Theology-- The 7 Principles

Stay warm this winter with coffee/tea and drop in for a discussion about each of the Unitarian Universalist seven principles: what they are and how we can apply them more directly in our lives. Beginning in mid-January, we will spend two weeks discussing each principle. In the first week, we will spend time deconstructing the meaning of the principle. In the second week, we will focus on the challenges each of us face living out that principle. Workshop leaders will rotate.

Duration: now through April 19th

When: Sundays before service, 9:15-10:15 am

Where: MacArtor Library

Registration required: NO – all are welcome, on any Sunday of your choice

The Artist's Way

"Art is a spiritual transaction...an act of faith, and we practice practicing it." This workshop is based on Julia Cameron's book, *The Artist's Way*. It not just for artists, but for anyone interested in living more creatively through practicing the art of creative living. "No matter what your age or your life path, whether making art is your career or your hobby or your dream, it is not too late to work on your creativity." Join artists, Karen Rege and Yolanda Chetwynd in discovering your artistic gifts through reflective exercises and thoughtful discussion.

Duration: 12 consecutive weeks

When: Thursdays, February 6th through April 23rd , 7:00-9:00 pm

Where: classroom 6

Registration required: yes-<http://bit.ly/ArtistsWayMillCreek>

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.

Duration: 8 sessions

When: Saturdays from 9:00 am – 12 noon, February 8th; February 22nd; March 14th; March 28th; April 11th; May 2nd; May 16th; May 23rd

Where: Sanctuary

Registration required: yes - <http://bit.ly/SharedPulpit2020>

New UUs Workshop

New members (and all interested) are invited to take part in meaningful discussions about membership at Mill Creek! Rev. Greg will lead a conversation about the Values, Beliefs, and Mission of Mill Creek with the intention of helping new folks get to know who we are as a religious community. The class will explore the meaning of membership at Mill Creek. It will provide information about and establish our expectations for membership. In addition, the class will cover the history, theologies, and polity of Unitarian Universalism.

Duration: ongoing

When: (tentatively) first Sunday of the month after worship, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

Where: MacArtor Library

Registration required: NO – OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Listening to Our Lives

This class, led by Rev. Greg, 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.

Duration: 9 classes

When: Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 pm; March 11th, March 18th, March 25th; April 1st; April 8th; April 29th; May 6th; May 13th; May 20th

Where: MacArtor Library

Registration required: yes - <http://bit.ly/LTOL2020>

Feel free to contact Rev. Greg (minister@uusmc.org) if you have questions about this class.