

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.)

2018 Generosity Campaign is Underway!

Pledge cards have been mailed to members and friends. Thank you to those members who have returned their completed pledge card! *Why is pledging so important?* Pledging allows Mill Creek to have a constant and predictable source of income. This is significant because our expenses are predictable even if our income is not. Pledging allows us to make certain that we pay our staff salaries, mortgage, utilities and insurance in a timely way, whether we have reserves in our bank account or not. **In order to give church leadership adequate time to calculate our funding for 2018, we are requesting all pledge cards be returned by Sunday, December 3.** You can place yours in the collection box on the wall located in the gathering space, or return by mail in the envelope provided. Any questions about this new campaign or pledging in general can be made by contacting the Stewardship Team at stewardship@uusmc.org or the church office, 302-369-2712 or administrator@uusmc.org. *Thank you for your support of the mission of Mill Creek!*

Upcoming events

See today's insert for more detailed information about:

Holiday Party, Saturday, December 2

Christmas Play, Sunday, December 17

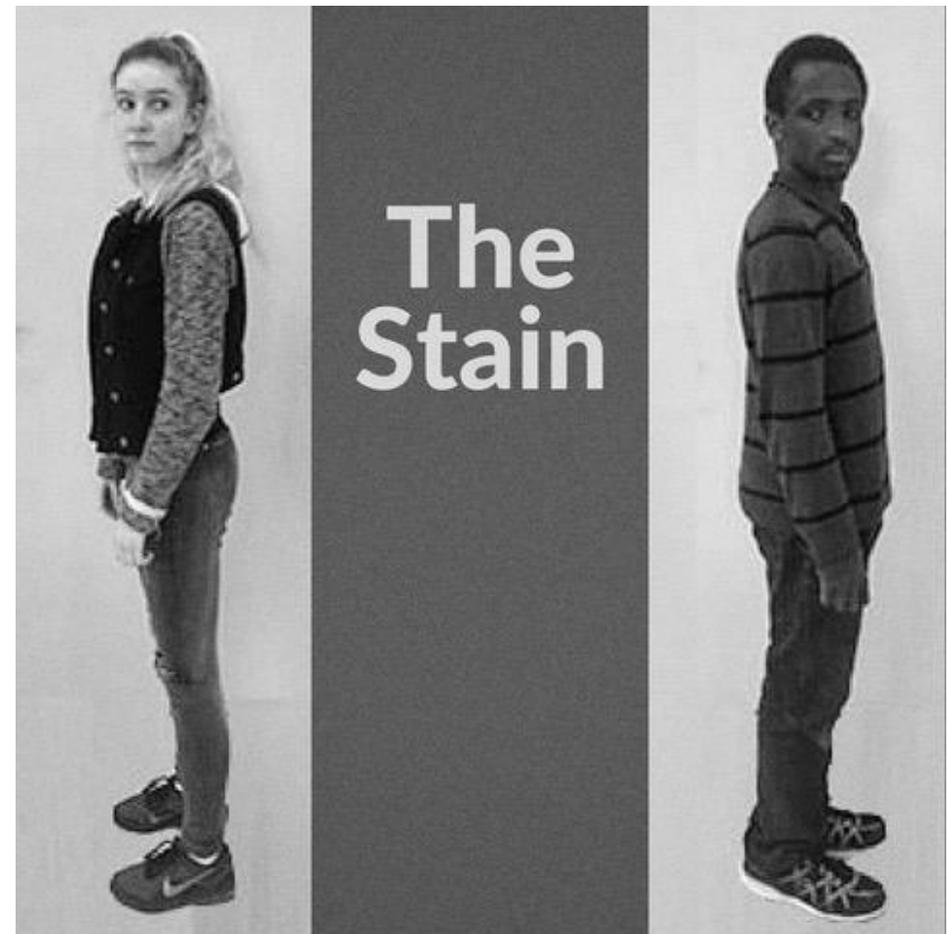
Winter Solstice Celebration, December 21

Sunday Service, December 24, 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 pm

Mill Creek Professional Staff

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



November 19, 2017
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
Linda Lucero, Worship Associate
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director
Terry Vodery, Director of Religious Exploration
~ Order of Service ~
November 19, 2017

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

Ringling of the Chime

Prelude *Thanksgiving Song* Mary Chapin Carpenter

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

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.

Welcoming the New Member

Offering *In My Life* Lennon & McCartney

Centering Hymn *When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place* #1008
(verse 2 only, no repeat)

Listening Meditation

Performance ***The Stain***

Discussion

Postlude *For Good* Steven Schwartz

***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, Eileen Selph, caldwelleileen@hotmail.com, 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 performance of The Stain features Becky Rusch and Todd Townsend. The play, written by Carla Spady, is designed to be a conversation starter about misunderstandings and inaccurate assumptions between people of different races. A dialogue following the play will be moderated by Terry Vodery and Robert Broesler.

Today's music is performed by the Mill Creek Choir under the direction of Kristen Tosh-Morelli; with Pam Allenstein, pianist, and soloists Melissa Bryson and Emily Johnston. Our musical selections celebrate the positive, cherished relationships we remember and/or enjoy this holiday.

Religious Exploration

Our Little Ones Need You! We are looking for a fun-loving, easy-going adult who loves kids to serve as one of the lead teachers for the Chalice Children's Class (preschool-1st grade). Needed 1 hour per month and the lessons are already planned. Contact our DRE at dre@uusmc.org or call her directly at 302-367-6533. She will be happy to hear from you!

Share Our Plate For the months of November and December, we'll be donating half of our undesignated plate offering to Kingswood Community Center in Northeast Wilmington. The KCC's mission is to enable people in northeast Wilmington and surrounding communities to achieve their potential for economic, social and personal well-being through the operation of an early learning center, and offering youth & teen, community and adult programs. Learn more at www.kgwcc.org

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Share Our Warmth

The Social Justice Committee has begun their annual collection of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks which will be donated to the needy in our area. Handmade and store-bought items are welcomed. Look for the collection bin in the cloak room.

WELCOMING THE NEW MEMBER

By [Manish Mishra-Marzetti](#)

New Member Covenant (new members recite in unison)

We enter this faith with hope and possibility in our hearts,
pledging to participate in and support
the ministries of this church.

We covenant to remain true to the spirit of love
that flows through this church
and guides us.

We seek your welcome as we join you in this faith.

Congregational Response (congregation responds in unison)

We welcome you as once we were welcomed
ourselves.

We seek to be open and inclusive;
respecting your inherent dignity,
your ideas and your vision,
in times when it is easy
and in times when it is difficult.

We seek to be supportive,
not only when you reach out in courage to us,
but also when you need us to reach out to you.
In return we ask that you recognize our humanity:

We will not always live up to our ideals.

And, when we fall short
we invite you to stay in relationship with us
and help us more fully bring alive the spirit of love.

We welcome you as an equal member
of this congregation,
of this faith,
and of our shared spiritual journey.

Upcoming Holiday Events at Mill Creek

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 2nd, 5-8 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for a Deck the Halls Holiday Party! Children and adults are invited to enjoy a potluck meal and help make our church home look festive for the winter holidays. The planning is underway and more details will be shared as they become available.

Christmas Play

Sunday, December 17th, 10:30 am

Join us for Sunday Service when our Roots & Shoots friends perform their “not-so-traditional” holiday play, *The Year Mrs. Claus Saved Christmas*, a play about taking action to make the world a better place to be.

Winter Solstice Service

Thursday, December 21, 7:30 pm

You are invited to join us by the fire as we celebrate the return of the light to the northern hemisphere with song, words, and silence, as we speak our hopes, bathed in firelight. Our service will begin at 7:30 pm on the lawn outside the sanctuary. At the close of the service, you are invited inside to share the warmth of cider and cocoa and the community - the community that walks with us through the dark night and celebrates with us as the light returns. After the service, the Clarion Brass will regale us with sounds of the season. Please bring cider, hot cocoa, or treats to share!

Sunday Service

December 24, 10:30 am

Join us for our regular Sunday Service with Rev. Greg, with music performed by Clarion Brass.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 7:30 pm

You are invited to join us for our ritual Christmas Eve service led by Rev. Greg, filled with the traditional stories, carols, music, and candle lighting of the holiday. Music will be performed by the Mill Creek Choir. A special collection will be taken on behalf of Family Promise, whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness for families by engaging faith-based congregations, volunteers and donors.