

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.)

Share Our Warmth The Mill Creek Social Justice Committee continues their annual collection of cold weather clothing items. This year they are focusing on **ADULT SIZES, for both men and women:** socks, gloves, hats & scarves, and blankets. All items will be distributed on location in downtown Wilmington. Please bring in your items and place in the collection bin in the cloakroom. See any member of the Social Justice committee with questions.

Blue Christmas Service – Monday, December 16, 6:30 pm

Amongst the celebrations of this time of year, in among the lights and carols, the family and friends, there are those of us who struggle with the sense of needing to be joyous — when our hearts tell us otherwise. The “Blue Christmas” worship service is for those of us who struggle with the Holiday Season because of loss or loneliness. Join us for a contemplative service of poetry, silence, and song where we might name our feelings, speak out loud of what we have lost, and find solace and comfort in one another. Rev. Greg will lead this service in the sanctuary.

Winter Solstice Service - Saturday, 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 on the lawn outside the sanctuary. At the close of the service, we return inside to share the warmth of refreshments and fellowship. Please bring cider, hot cocoa, or treats to share!

Upcoming events

Pledge cards due, Monday, December 2

Holiday Party, Saturday, December 7

Blue Christmas Service, Monday, December 16

Winter Solstice Gathering, Saturday, December 21

Christmas Eve Service, Tuesday, December 24



December 1, 2019
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 ~
December 1, 2019

Prelude O Come O Come Emmanuel

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's in the Box?

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 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #29

Joys and Sorrows

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

Meditation

Welcoming the New Member

Offering We Three Kings

Sermon **Flour** Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Postlude Jingle Bells

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 returning musician Katie August. Katie is 18 years old and a Cab Calloway School of the Arts alumna. She is currently attending Delaware Technical Community College as an associate in science major with an interest in dental hygiene.

Religious Exploration Following the Story for All Ages, all Children and Youth are invited to depart to their classrooms for regular Sunday morning programming.

Share Our Plate For the months of November and December we will be sharing half of our undesignated plate offering to **Wings for Success** based in Chester County, PA. This organization empowers women in need to pursue employment and economic security through apparel, advice and advocacy.

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

2020 Generosity Campaign Update – Pledge cards are due now!

If you haven't already returned your pledge card, we have a supply in the gathering space. OR you can pledge online using your REALM profile. *The Generosity Team has set a goal to have all pledges received by **Monday, December 2nd – tomorrow** –this is to give the Finance Team adequate time to prepare the budget for 2020. Contact the church office, administrator@uusmc.org, or the Generosity Team, stewardship@uusmc.org, with any questions.*

Meaning of Membership

This session, led by Rev. Greg, is a conversation about what it means to be a member of Mill Creek. It will provide information and establish our shared expectations for membership. Join us today after service in the MacArtor Library, 12 noon to 1:00 pm.

Religious Exploration Committee Meeting

The RE committee meets today after service at 11:45 in classroom 6.

December Potluck Luncheon is Cancelled

Please note that we will not be having a potluck lunch next Sunday, December 8th. However, we'll be making merry the night before with our annual Holiday Party this Saturday – see today's insert for more information, and plan to join us!

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.

MILL CREEK ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th 5-8 pm

Everyone is invited to join us this Saturday for fun, food and merriment! Please bring a yummy dessert to share. We will have our “white elephant” gift exchange – bring a small, silly wrapped gift. Fun for all – we hope you can join us!

Questions: Contact Fran Gulino
frangu302@gmail.com

