

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.)

Meadow Assessment Join us today in classroom 2 after the luncheon for a brief report from our meadow consultant, Tom Brightman. Tom has a Bachelor of Arts in American Civilization with a minor in Legal Studies, and a Masters of Environmental Studies, both from the University of Pennsylvania. Tom has been assessing our meadow this fall at our request, and will offer management strategies for optimizing its health and beauty.

Service Auction Planning Meeting Everyone is welcome to attend an important informational meeting next Sunday, December 17 after church service to review some preliminary details about our upcoming Service Auction, slated for the spring of 2018. *Attendance at this meeting will not commit you to any aspect of the planning team or the event itself.* Come and find out more about this fun event and how we can be successful again in 2018. We will gather in the sanctuary after church service.

Membership Ceremony If you have been considering becoming a member of Mill Creek, we'd like to include you in our next membership ceremony next Sunday, December 17. Please contact Maggie McLaughlin at mmclaughlin13123@gmail.com for more information.

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. Our service will begin at 7:30 pm on the lawn outside the sanctuary. Afterward we will share the warmth of cider and cocoa and the sounds of the season with Clarion Brass. Bring warm drinks or treats to share!

Upcoming events

December Potluck Lunch, Today!

Christmas Play, next Sunday, December 17

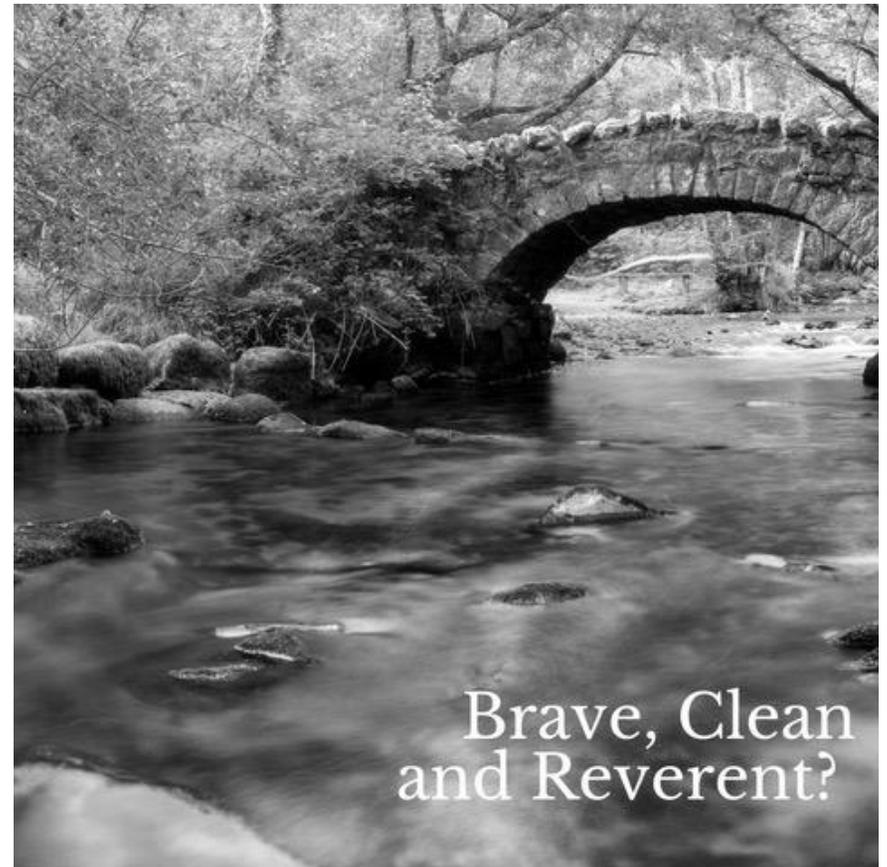
Membership Ceremony, Sunday, December 17

Service Auction Planning Meeting, Sunday, December 17

Winter Solstice Celebration, December 21

Sunday Service, December 24, 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 pm



**December 10, 2017
Rev. Dave Hunter**

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
Stephen Petersen, Worship Associate
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director
Terry Vodery, Director of Religious Exploration
~ Order of Service ~
December 10, 2017

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

Ringling of the Chime

Prelude *Creation Will Be at Peace* J.P. Williams & A.L. Page

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 *In which Pooh and Piglet explore the 100-acre wood and the meaning of reverence*

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 *O Source Beyond* see insert

Responsive Reading *Reverence and Human Limitations* see insert

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn *Spirit of Life* #123

Meditation

Offering

Readings *Paul Woodruff and William Murry on Reverence*

Sermon ***Brave, Clean and Reverent?*** Rev. Dave Hunter

Postlude *Borukh Ate, Zingt der Tate* S. Golub/arr. Z.Mlotek

***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.

Meet our guest speaker, the Rev. Dave Hunter. Rev. Dave Hunter, and his wife, the Rev. Kerry Mueller, retired from ministry earlier this year. They served as co-ministers of the UU Fellowship of Fayetteville, Arkansas, from 2006 to 2011 and as co-consulting ministers for the Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg from 2007 to 2012. Dave is a graduate of Princeton University, the Harvard Law School, and Wesley Theological Seminary. From 1975 to 2000 he was an attorney in the Voting Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. Dave most recently preached for us in October 2016.

Today's music is performed by the Mill Creek Choir, directed by Kristen Tosh-Morelli, with Pam Allenstein, pianist. Drawing on reverent music from two major world religions, our choir presents beautiful music of the season. Our prelude today is an ardent prayer for world peace based upon the famous Advent prophecy in Isaiah 11:6-9. "Borukh Ate" is a Yiddish Chanukah song written in 1921, by Solomon Golub and Abraham Reisen. The text describes a father nostalgically chanting the blessings over the Chanukah Menorah.

Religious Exploration This Sunday, we are called to deepen our relationships throughout the church. The Chalice Children will learn ways to help those who are not being heard. The Roots and Shoots Friends will examine their Covenant of Relations and continue their play rehearsals. Coming of Age students will get to know Rev. Greg up close and personal as Youth Group members will engage in activities to help them get to know one another better.

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 Learn more at www.kgwcc.org

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Pledge Cards Due! In order to give church leadership adequate time to calculate our funding for 2018, we are requesting all pledge cards be returned. You can place yours in the collection box on the wall located in the gathering space. Blank forms are available. Or send a note with your pledged amount to administrator@uusmc.org Thank you for your support of the mission of Mill Creek!

Reverence and Human Limitations

Selections from *Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue* by Paul Woodruff

Objects of reverence remind us of our human limitations. We speak of reverence to God, to nature, and to ideals as justice and truth.

Reverence overlooks differences of culture, social class, age and gender. Reverence calls us to be conscious of bare humanity, the humanity of our species.

Reverence is the greatest virtue of leaders, because it gives powerful people the strength to listen to those who are weaker than they,

and it reminds them that no one, no matter how successful, was born complete, knowing everything.

Reverent leaders listen to their followers.

Reverence, by keeping you humble in your opinions, is a bulwark of good judgement, because it keeps you open to new considerations that might alter the course of your reasoning.

Reverence for truth leads to humility in the face of the awesome task of getting something right.

To present yourself as all-knowing is to forget your humanity and play the part of a god.

Think yourself equal to a god, and you will commit the most dangerous kind of irreverence.

The gods will take note if you have such arrogant thoughts, and they will cut you down to size.

When rising doubts cloud the certainty of religious claims, reverence is all the more important.

Reverence requires no core of beliefs beyond an inarticulate trust that there is something of which we must stand in awe.

Do not believe that you are in any way supreme; do not believe that you alone know the mind of God.

Reverence can team up with a wide range of religious practices and beliefs – and with atheism and neglect of religion as well.

But any belief that trespasses on divine ground is the enemy of reverence.

O Source Beyond

Words by Stuart K. Hine, Robert Terry Weston, David Hobart Hunter

O Source Beyond, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe is displayed.

Then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery; hold us in love, wrap all in love. then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery; hold us in love, wrap all in love.

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery; hold us in love, wrap all in love. then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery; hold us in love, wrap all in love.

Is this the truth that passes understanding; is this the joy to all forever free: life springs from death and shatters ev'ry fetter, and winter turns to spring eternally?

Then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery; hold us in love, wrap all in love. then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery; hold us in love, wrap all in love.

But children cry, and promises are broken; war overwhelms; the future melts away. Why are thy words of justice never spoken? Cannot thy power find us a better way?

Then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery: Where is thy love? We need thy love. Then sings my soul, to thee great Mystery; Where is thy love? We need thy love.

Tune: Hine, *How Great Thou Art* 11.10.11.10.10.8.10.8