

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.)

Last chance to consider alternative gift giving with Heifer International Stop by the HI table after church service today for more information about this worthwhile organization, and to honor your friends or family by making symbolic purchases of animals. Lauri Rickard will be available in the gathering space to answer your questions and assist you. Learn more at www.heifer.org

Winter Solstice Service You are invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 pm** for our Winter Solstice Service, as we celebrate the return of the light to the northern hemisphere. Join us as we sing, listen, and 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 will be welcomed inside to share in fellowship and community – the community that walks with us through the dark night and celebrates with us as the light returns. The Clarion Brass will provide seasonal music as we enjoy our potluck desserts at the reception after the service.

Mill Creek Book Group meets on Thursday, January 5 at 7:30 pm in the MacArtor Library to discuss *Annie's Ghosts: A Journey into a Family Secret* by Steve Luxenberg.

Upcoming events

Winter Solstice Celebration, Wednesday December 21, 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve service, Saturday, December 24, 7:30 pm

Christmas Day service, Sunday December 25, 10:30 am

Book Group, Thursday, January 5

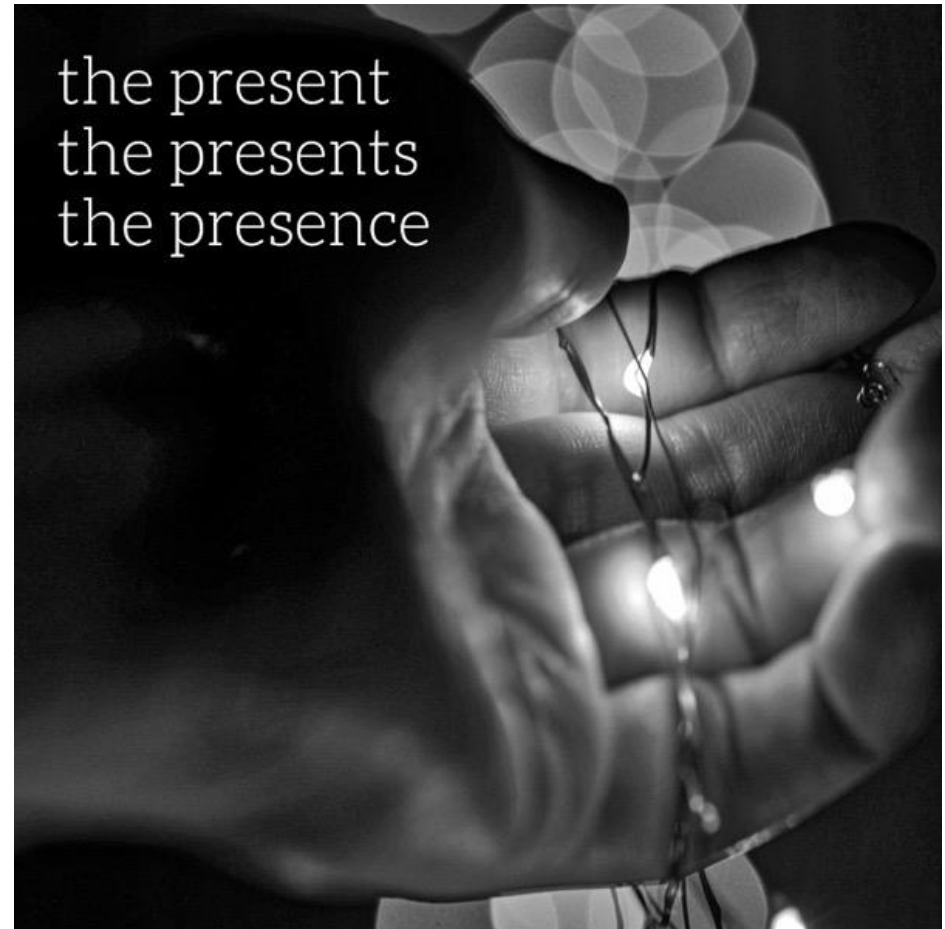
Chris Crass Workshop, Saturday January 14

Sunday Service featuring Chris Crass, Sunday January 15

Women's March on Washington, Saturday, January 21

Mill Creek Professional Staff

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



December 11, 2016
Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek
A Welcoming Congregation
302-369-2712
www.uusmc.org

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek
Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister
~ Order of Service ~
December 11, 2016

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

Welcome & Announcements Eileen Selph, Worship Associate

Prelude "Pan" from *Les Pastorales* Johannes Donjon

Chalice Lighting

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.

Congregational Greeting Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Story For All Ages Rev. 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.

*Hymn "God of Many Names" #198

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn "When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place" #1008

Meditation

Offering "Holy Now" Peter Mayer

Reading

Sermon *the present, the presents, the presence* Rev. Pelley

Postlude "El Vito" arr. Emily Crocker

*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.*

*Hymn "Alhamdulillah" #180

* Stand as you are able.

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, Helen Springer, helenspringer@icloud.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 music is provided by the Mill Creek Choir, Kristen Tosh-Morelli, director; Pam Allenstein, pianist. Today's selections highlight the spiritual presence found in music of many cultures. YRUU member Miranda Stomberg performs the prelude on flute. In Greek myth, Pan represented rustic music, as opposed to Apollo, the God of cultivated beauty in the arts. Accompanying this piece is the poem, "Pan is not dead! Deep in the woods when all are sleeping- once again he plays with a sonorous air!" This music is still present- all we have to do is listen. "Holy Now" is a reverent look at the spiritual presence evident in everyday life. "El Vito" is a spirited, lively traditional Spanish folksong honoring St. Vitus. ("Vito" is Italian for "life"). Today we honor Muhammad's birthday with our closing hymn, "Alhamdulillah" which means "Praise be to Allah."

Children's Religious Education (RE)

Today we will be reading Hans Christian Anderson's *The Little Fir Tree*. The children will be making ornaments and decorating our Christmas tree. Next Sunday the children will be learning about Hanukkah and how a group of people stood up for their beliefs against all odds. We need adults to help in the classroom especially on January 8.

We welcome all children to come to Classroom One after Rev. Greg's story.

Next Week – "The Myth of God Incarnate" with Rev. Bob Broesler.

Share Our Plate During the months of November and December we will be sharing half of our undesignated plate offering with Meeting Ground, Inc. Meeting Ground is a faith-based organization that has responded to the needs of homeless people in Maryland and Delaware since 1981.

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Share Our Warmth The Social Justice Committee begins the annual tradition of collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to be donated to the needy in our area. Handmade and store-bought items are welcomed. A collection box will be placed in the gathering space soon.