

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

End-of-Year Giving

Our 2018 pledge year ends on December 31, as well as year two of our 3-year *Celebrating Our Legacy Campaign*. If you would like to make contributions before the end of 2018, here are the payment methods:

- **By Check** (use the memo section to ensure proper allocation)
- **Online** with your Realm profile; or use this link *without* a Realm profile: <https://onrealm.org/MillCreek/Give>; or access the church website, www.uusmc.org, and click on GIVE
- **Use text-to-give:** text the keyword **MillCreek** plus the **Amount** of your gift to **73256** and follow the prompts (standard text message rates apply)

With all electronic giving methods, be sure to select the correct giving fund. As always, contact the church office with any questions, 302-369-2712 or administrator@uusmc.org

Gift Wrapping Service at Mill Creek! Sundays, through December 23rd.

Mill Creek Elves are wrapping holiday gifts! Make a donation to the Youth Group and your gifts will be wrapped, tagged and ready for pick up following the worship service! Bring your unwrapped gifts to classroom #4 before service, then pick them up in the MacArtor Library after service.

Mill Creek Book Group – Next Meeting – Thursday, January 17, 7:30 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us in classroom 2 when we discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters Most in the End* by Atul Gawande. Drop-ins are welcome. Contact Deanna Koepcke with questions, dkoepcke@hotmail.com

Upcoming events

Blue Christmas Service, this evening, 6:30 pm

Winter Solstice Celebration, Friday, December 21

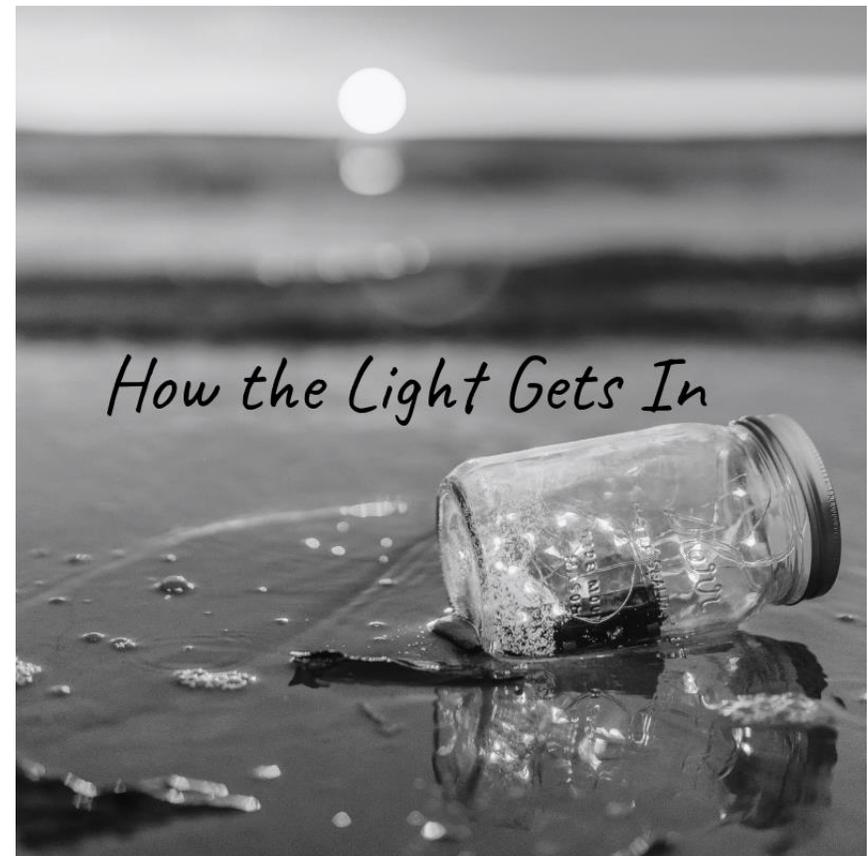
Christmas Eve Service, Monday, December 24

New Member Class-Intro to UUism, Sunday, January 6

Book Group meeting, Thursday, January 17

Souper Bowl Sunday, February 3

Adult RE Series-Waking Up White, Sundays, February 10-March 3



How the Light Gets In

December 16, 2018
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
Terry Vodery, Director of Religious Exploration
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director
~ Order of Service ~
December 16, 2018

Prelude O Star of Bethlehem

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.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Story For All Ages The Dark by Lemony Snicket

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 People Look East #226

Reading Ritual to Read to Each Other by William Safford

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn Comfort Me #1006

Meditation

Offering Carry It Home Betsy Rose

Sermon How the Light Gets In Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Litany please respond with:

"for the darkness and the light are both gifts of the Spirit"

Postlude Good News!

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 Pam Allenstein, vocal soloist and pianist.

Religious Exploration Following the Story for All Ages, children and youth are invited to depart to the R.E. wing for an hour of learning, fellowship and fun for everyone.

Share Our Plate For the months of November and December we will be designating half of our undesignated plate offering to PFLAG Wilmington DE.

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Blue Christmas Service – This evening at 6:30 pm

This worship service, led by Rev. Greg, 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. Childcare will be available.

Last Sunday for alternative gift giving with Heifer International

Stop by the Heifer table after service today for more information about this worthwhile organization, and to honor your friends or family this holiday season by making symbolic purchases of animals, animal shares or even trees. Lauri Rickard will be available to assist you and answer your questions.

Winter Solstice Service - Friday, 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!

Christmas Eve Service – Monday, December 24, 7:30 pm

Terry Vodery leads a traditional family-friendly Christmas Eve worship service. Bring the entire family to this hour-long service of carols, candles, and the warm excitement of the holidays. Pajamas and ugly sweaters are most welcome! Childcare will be available.