

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 --

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.

Winter Solstice Service You are invited to join us **this 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.

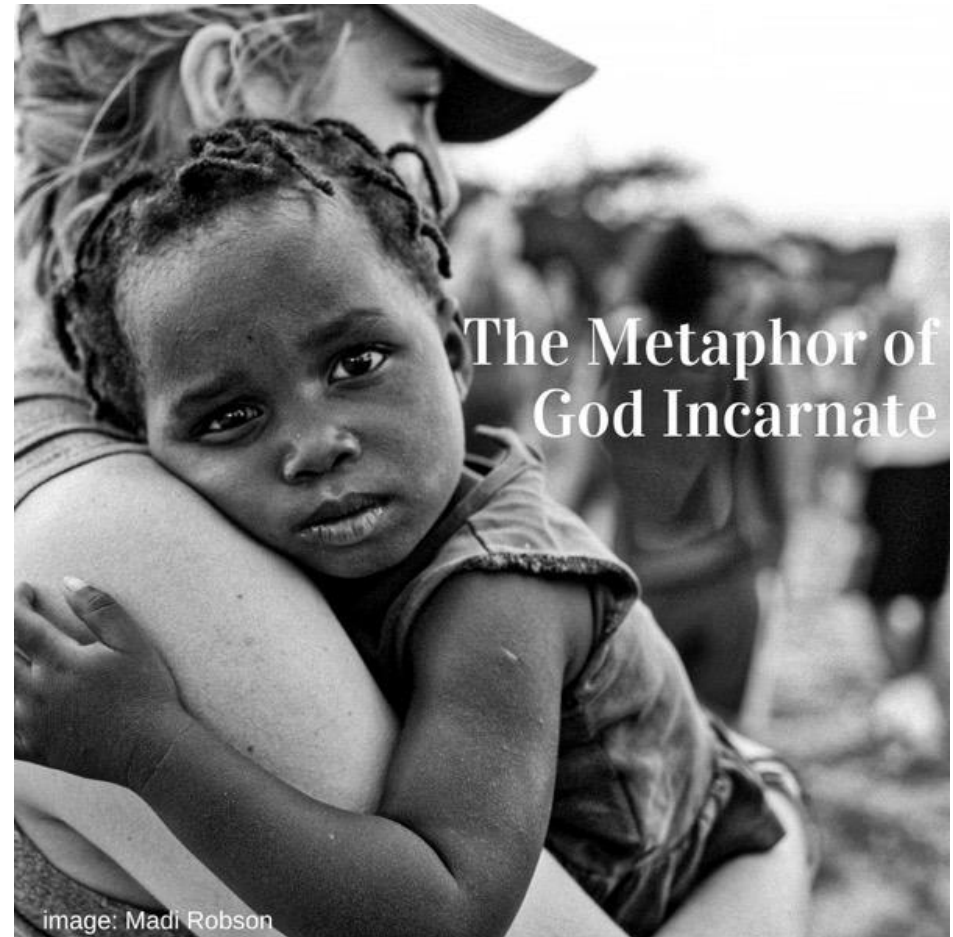
Mill Creek Book Group meets on Thursday, January 5 at 7:30 pm in the MacArtoir Library to discuss *Annie's Ghosts: A Journey into a Family Secret* by Steve Luxenberg.

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
T'ai Chi Chih class introduction, Monday January 2
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 18, 2016
Rev. Robert J. Broesler

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 18, 2016

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

Welcome & Announcements Linda Lucero, Worship Associate

Prelude **"Candles of Hanukkah, Candles of Christmas"**

Betsy Angebrannt

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. Robert J. Broesler

Story For All Ages Rev. Broesler

"The clown of God: An Old Story" Tomei dePaola

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 **"Light One Candle"** #221

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn **"Spirit of Life"** #123

Meditation

Offering **"You Are Near"** Dan Schutte

Reading

Sermon **The Metaphor of God Incarnate** Rev. Broesler

Postlude **"Borukh Ate, Zingt Der Tate"** Golub, arr. 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.*

*Hymn **"People Look East"** #226

* 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, Jack Guerin, jackguerin7@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 today's speaker, the Reverend Robert J. Broesler. Rev Robert (Bob) Broesler is a retired Episcopal Priest who served four parishes over his 28-year career. He also served for 12 years in non-profits and government positions in various aspects of social service, most recently as the Sr. Administrator of the Delaware Office of Community Services. In June of 2015 he joined his wife Tracy Morgan's consulting firm, North Star Strategies, specializing in churches and non-profits.

Today's music is provided by the Mill Creek choir, Kristen Tosh-Morelli, director; Pam Allenstein, pianist. Kristen Tosh-Morelli and Jamie Kegerise are the soloists for "You Are Near", a simple tune of faith in the Presence of (Yahweh/Allah/Spirit/Universe/God). Our other hymns and choral pieces today celebrate the upcoming December holidays of Hanukkah and Christmas. "Borukh Ate" is a beautiful Chanukah folksong, sung in Yiddish. It describes a father nostalgically chanting the blessings over the menorah.

Children's Religious Education/ Exploration (RE)

This Sunday in Children's RE we will be learning about Hanukkah and how a group of people stood up for their beliefs against big odds. The children will be making Jewish Wishing Stars to wish on a change for the New Year. In the book "Shmelf the Hanukkah Elf" we answer the question, why Jewish kids don't get presents from Santa. There will be no Children's RE on December 25 or January 1. We welcome the children to classroom 1 after Rev. Bob's story.

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. This organization respects and serves persons at risk of, or experiencing homelessness by meeting basic human needs, connecting people to services, fostering spiritual and emotional well-being, and advocating for those whose voices need to be heard, with the goal of creating a path to a place they call home.

Coming Up – Christmas Eve service with Rev. Greg, 7:30 pm; Christmas Day service with Rev. Greg, 10:30 am.

T'ai Chi classes coming to Mill Creek!

T'ai Chi Chih, Joy Thru Movement A Six-Week Course

The *T'ai Chi Chih*® discipline is a moving meditation composed of 19 moves and one pose whose purpose is to circulate and balance the 'Chi' or Vital Force energy inside the body. *T'ai Chi Chih* practice tends to develop a sense of inner discipline and spirituality, no matter what philosophical framework is most meaningful to you. These gentle standing movements require no special physical abilities (it can be modified to be done seated). T'ai Chi Chih is known to bring great peace and serenity to those who practice regularly. Check out www.taichichih.org for additional information.

Weekly classes begin on Monday, January 2nd at 6:30 pm with an informative demo and introduction. We will begin regular sessions in earnest from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm on Monday, January 9th for a total of 6-weeks during which we will learn approximately the 1st half of the movements.

Classes take place in the sanctuary and there is enough space for everyone to take advantage of the benefits of T'ai Chi Chih. However, it is not designed for drop-ins once regular class instruction begins on January 9th – registration is appreciated. Please see the sign-up sheet in the gathering space or email your interest (or any questions) to the class instructor, Debbie Cole, debcote.uu@gmail.com

Martin Luther King Day Weekend

Saturday, January 14, 2017

Chris Crass Workshop at Mill Creek

“Courage for Racial Justice, Courage for Collective Liberation”

REGISTER ONLINE: <https://bit.ly/racialjusticeworkshop>

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Chris Crass preaching at Mill Creek

Monday, January 16, 2017

Martin Luther King Day of Service

with First Unitarian Church of Wilmington
and Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Newark

We are privileged to have Chris Crass here at Mill Creek for what will be a transformative, challenging, and inspiring weekend.

Chris Crass is a longtime organizer, educator, and writer working to build powerful working class-based, feminist, multiracial movements for collective liberation. He gives talks and leads workshops on campuses and with communities and congregations around the U.S. and Canada, to help support grassroots activists' efforts. He balances family with his public political work and believes they are deeply interconnected, as both are about working to bring our vision and values into the world. He is a Unitarian Universalist and works with faith-based communities to help build up the spiritual Left.



For more information and to pledge your financial support, visit Mill Creek's Faithify campaign:

<http://www.faithify.org/projects/category/justice/>

Look for “Chris Crass in Delaware: Courage for Collective Liberation”