

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

**Consider alternative gift giving with Heifer International** Stop by the Heifer table after service today and next Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 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. Learn more at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

### **Blue Christmas Service**

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, **Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 6:30 pm** in the sanctuary.

**New Member Class – Intro to Unitarian Universalism** Rev. Greg will lead a session on the history, theologies and polity of Unitarian Universalism on Sunday, January 6, 12 noon – 2:00 pm in the MacArtor Library.

### Upcoming events

**Monthly potluck lunch**, today after service

**Blue Christmas Service**, Sunday, December 16

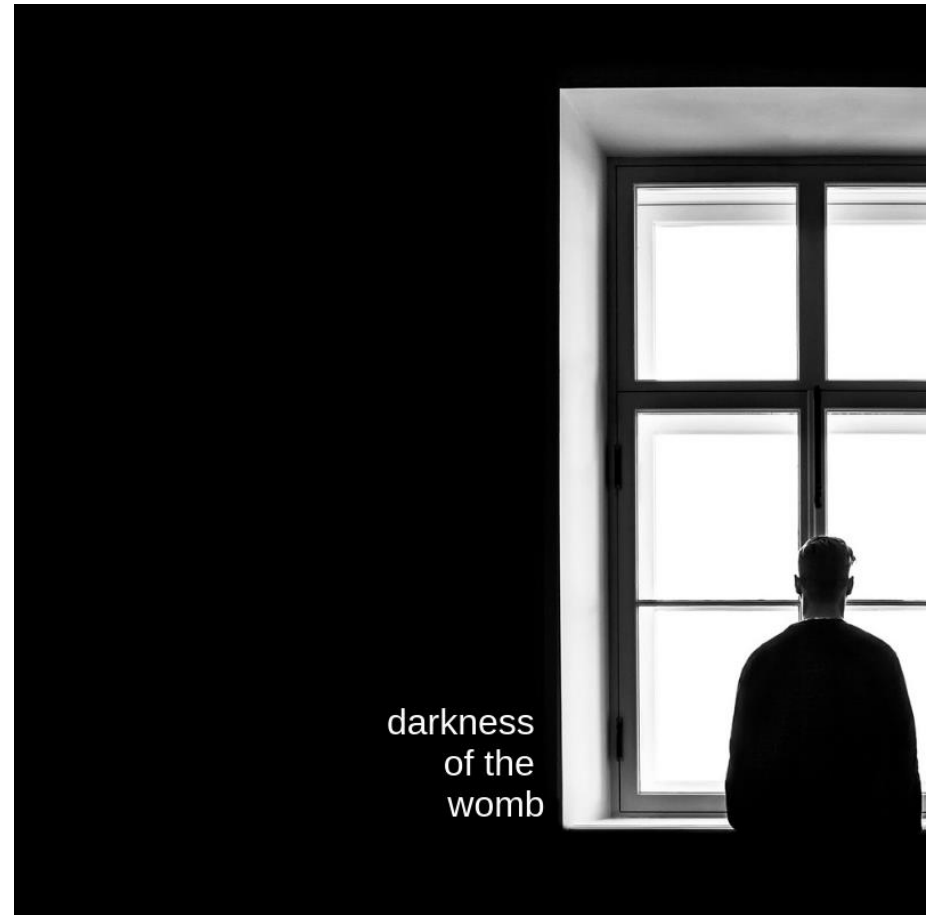
**Winter Solstice Celebration**, Friday, December 21

**Christmas Eve Service**, Monday, December 24

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

**Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 3

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



darkness  
of the  
womb

**December 9, 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](http://www.uusmc.org)

Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister  
Terry Vodery, Director of Religious Exploration  
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director  
Linda Lucero, Worship Associate  
~ Order of Service ~  
December 9, 2018

Prelude

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

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

Reading Country Things by Austin Smith

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn When Our Heart is in a Holy Place #1008

Meditation

Offering

Sermon **Darkness of the Womb** Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

Postlude

**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](mailto:tracymorgan2000@verizon.net), or our minister, Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, [minister@uusmc.org](mailto: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, 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. This organization provides support and education for LGBTQ individuals, their families and advocates, focusing on their unique issues and challenges, along with advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for LGBTQ people.

**Potluck Luncheon Today!** Everyone is welcome to remain with us after today's service to enjoy our monthly potluck lunch. You need not have brought anything – just grab a plate and join the conversation!

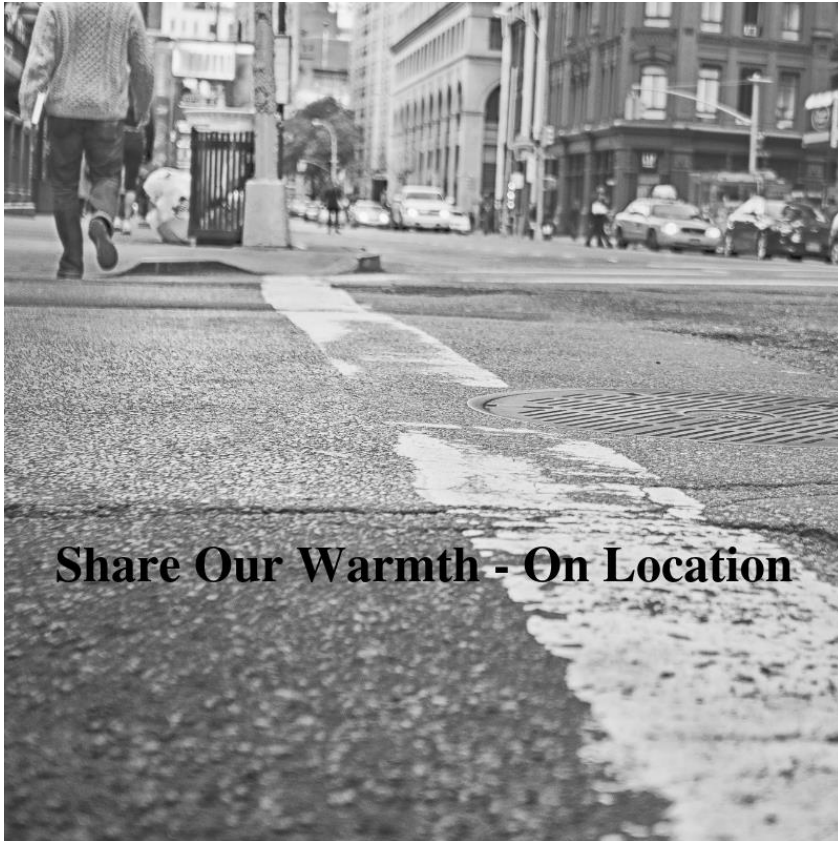
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## End-of-Year Giving

Our 2018 Generosity Campaign ends on December 31, as well as year 2 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](http://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](mailto:administrator@uusmc.org)



## Share Our Warmth - On Location

Members of the Social Justice Team are going on location next Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> to assist with the volunteers from *Premier Charities* who gather each Sunday to serve a meal to the needy in downtown Wilmington. Approximately 150-200 individuals are served each week - it is our hope to provide a warm item of clothing to each person served. The Team will set up a table during the meal and distribute items collected during this season's Share Our Warmth clothing drive. This year there is a particular need for adult (men's) size socks, gloves, hats, & new or gently used coats, and blankets.

Bring in new or gently used items by next Sunday, December 16th, or bring in to the church office during the week. Look for the collection bin in the cloakroom.

## GIFT WRAPPING SERVICE AT MILL CREEK! SUNDAYS, December 9th through December 23<sup>rd</sup>

### 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!

IT'S EASY! Here's what you do:

1. Prior to worship, bring your gifts to classroom #4 (the Blue Room at the end of the hall).
2. One of our Elves will check-in your gifts and give you a pick-up ticket.
3. Go to worship.
4. Following worship, come to the Library with your pick-up ticket to collect your wrapped gifts.
5. And don't forget to make a donation to the Youth Group!

