

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

Parking Alert: Great news! Our parking lot is overflowing as we invite more people to join us in our awakening to love. The downside is that it would *appear* to a visitor that we have no room for them. So, we invite you to help us make room. (1) Please leave the three spaces to the right of the accessible parking spaces open for first-time visitors. (We'll get them marked). (2) Weather permitting, please park on the perimeter grass. (3) Consider parking in the designated parking areas of Paper Mill Park and walking up — get your steps in!

Big Music Sunday is April 15. Join us for our annual (mostly) all-music worship service! We invite performers of all ages, styles, and genres to celebrate their love of music on the theme **“Awaken to Love.”** If you have a musical gift you wish to share, please register at <http://bit.ly/BigMusicSunday>, before March 25. Contact our Music Director, Kristen Tosh-Morelli at music@uusmc.org for more info.

Service Auction 2018 – Saturday, April 14 Mark your calendar and join us for a fun evening of good food and great deals at our auction! Contact David Bonner with your donation(s) – david@dlsk.net

All-Church Common Read Our Social Justice Team is inviting us into an all-church common read this Spring - *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Delaware native Bryan Stevenson. The Mill Creek book group will offer a small group discussion of the issues in the book on Thursday, March 22, at 7:30. Anyone can join us even if you have not completed the book. Contact Rev. Greg to borrow a copy.

Everyone is welcome to join the **Mill Creek Book Group** for their regular meeting on Thursday, March 15, at 7:30, for a discussion of *Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood.

Upcoming events

Book group meeting, Thursday, March 15

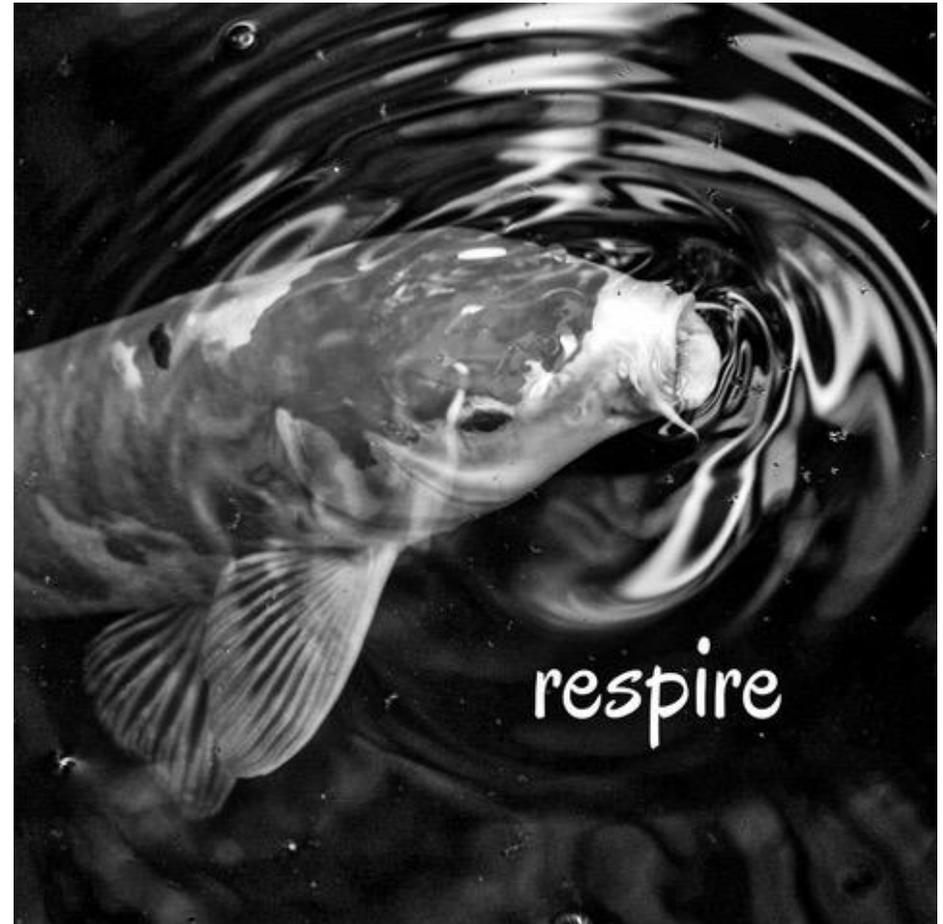
Just Mercy book discussion, Thursday, March 22

Service Auction, Saturday, April 14

Big Music Sunday, April 15

Adult RE Music & Imagery Workshop, Saturday, May 5

Save the date – Church Picnic! Sunday, June 24



March 11, 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
Stephen Petersen, Worship Associate
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director
Terry Vodery, Director of Religious Exploration
~ Order of Service ~
March 11, 2018

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

Ringing of the Chime

Prelude *Raghupati* #178

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 *God Sends a Lifeboat*

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 *Your Mercy, Oh Eternal One* #185

Reading *A Blessing For Your Inner World* John O'Donohue

Offering Our Prayers

Centering Hymn *Meditation on Breathing* #1009

Meditation

Offering *Ukuthula* van der Merwe

Sermon **Respire**

Postlude *Gate, Gate* Tate

***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, 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, accompanist. Our music is a selection of settings of prayers and mantras from around the world. *Raghupati* is a Hindu devotional song widely used by Indian civil rights activist Mahatma Gandhi and popularized here in the US by Pete Seeger. The opening hymn #185 features text from the humanist Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore. *Ukuthula*, a South African prayer for peace, is the anthem for the international peace project, *AVoice4Peace* and its founding chorus, the Nairobi Chamber Chorus. With its simple melody and chorus, listeners are connected with a desire for peace and calm in their lives; we hope you are moved in this way as well. *Gate, Gate* is an inspiring setting of a Buddhist mantra: "Gate, gate, paragate, parasamgate, bodhi svaha" which means, "Gone, gone, gone all the way over to the other shore. Everyone, the entire community of beings." "Bodhi" is the light inside, enlightenment or awakening..."svaha" is a cry of joy or excitement, similar to "hallelujah!"

Today in Religious Exploration, our Chalice Children will share Irish blessings as they continue learning about respecting others' inherent worth and dignity. Our Roots and Shoots Friends will continue learning about the crisis of access to education for girls and continue preparing for their Middle Eastern banquet (to be held April 8). The Coming of Age Class will begin planning their special worship celebration (June 3) when they will present their personal credo statements to the entire congregation. Mark your calendars for this special occasion!

Share Our Plate For the months of March and April, half of our undesignated plate offering will be donated to Meeting Ground, Inc. in Cecil County, Maryland. Their mission is to respect and serve persons at risk of, or experiencing homelessness by meeting basic human needs, connecting people to needed 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.

Potluck lunch today! Everyone is warmly invited to share our potluck lunch after service. You need not have brought anything – just grab a plate and join the conversation!