

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.)

Solar Panel Update At an August 13 congregational discussion, members unanimously supported moving forward with the installation of solar panels. The net cost to the church will be \$20,203, and we need to raise funds of at least \$10,203 to make the project financially feasible. We already have more than \$7000 in pledges toward that goal! If you'd like to make a pledge to support this project, contact Matt Doty mattdoty@gmail.com or Debby Damiani administrator@uusmc.org.

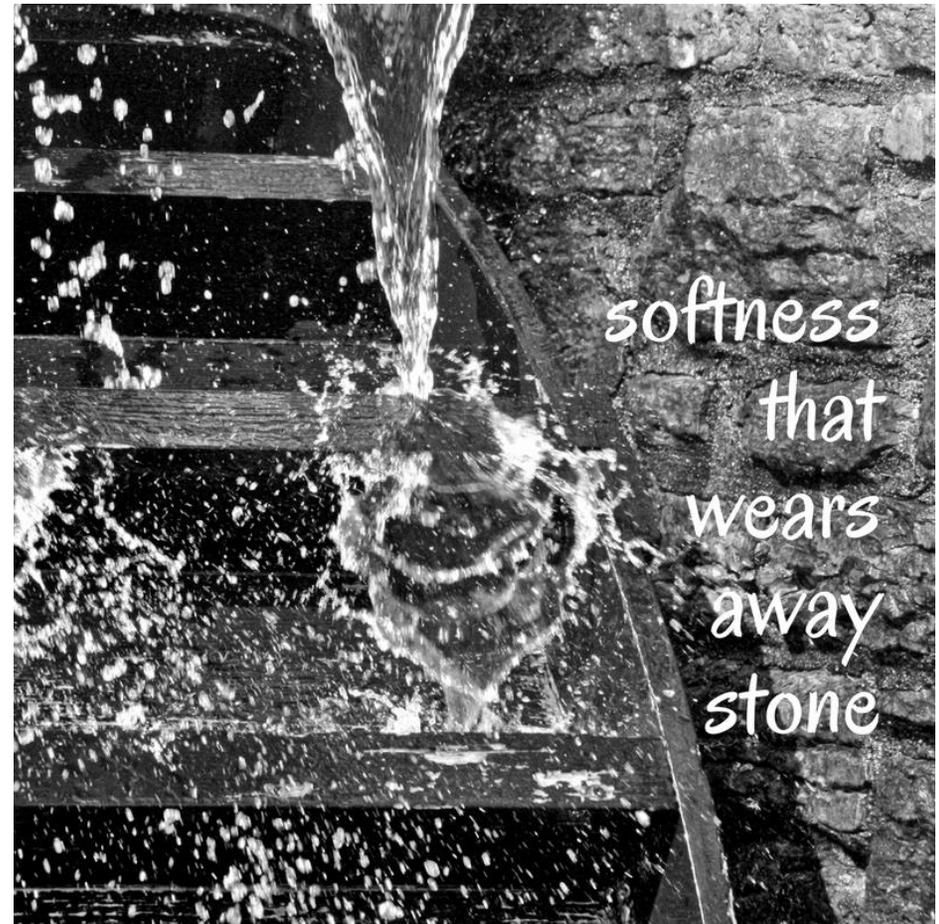
Upcoming events

Listening to Our Lives, first session Wednesday, Sept. 13 – *new date!*

Shared Pulpit Workshop, first session Saturday, September 16

Spirit in Practice, Sunday, September 17

Family Fun Night, Friday, September 22



September 10, 2017
Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

We are a community that invites you to awaken to love.

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

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 ~
September 10, 2017

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

Ring the Chime

Prelude *Innocent Warrior*

Congregational Greeting Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

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.

Commissioning the Director of Religious Exploration

Hymn *The Earth is Our Mother* #1073

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.

Commissioning the Board of Trustees

Centering Hymn *Meditation on Breathing* #1009

Pastoral Prayer

Generosity Spotlight

Offering *How Far I'll Go*

Welcoming the New Member

Gathering the Waters

Music *We Know the Way*

Responsive Reading

Recessional *Come and Go with Me*

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 performed by the Mill Creek Choir, Kristen Tosh-Morelli, director. Soloists today are Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Amanda Ostrusky, Kate Nolan, and accompaniment by Rachael VerNooy. With the exception of the hymns, all songs are from Disney's *Moana*, with music by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetai'a Foa'i and Mark Mancina, and lyrics in Tokelauan, Samoan and English. We are all explorers, our eyes full of wonder, our hearts innocent warriors in our search for meaning in our lives. We learn and explore together, with respect for those who came before us and the land, air and water that feed us. Let us work in community to find our answers as we support each other with love.

Children's Religious Exploration Welcome our new DRE Terry Vodery! RE kick-off next Sunday! Pick up a few delicious Asian pears (grown by our kids in our Mill Creek orchard) after the service today.

Share Our Plate Today's special offering is for our Agape Fund which helps Mill Creek members in need throughout the year, and for our Minister's Discretionary Fund which helps those in the larger community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Autumnal Equinox Celebration! Everyone is invited to help us welcome the autumn season at our next Family Fun Night on Friday evening, September 22, 6:30 PM. Come out and celebrate the arrival of fall with fellowship and a camp fire!

Adult Spiritual Growth and Development Opportunities! See today's insert for more information. Note: Listening to Our Lives has been extended and will begin on Wednesday, September 13.

Catherine Marie Charlton: The Wyeth Album

Friday, September 29, 7 pm - World Cafe Live, Philadelphia
Please support Mill Creek member Catherine in celebration of a four-year project deep in passion and spirit, as she performs music from *I Dream About This World: The Wyeth Album* in this great Philadelphia venue. See today's insert for more information.

Blessing of the Board of Trustees

We, the members of this congregation
Express to this congregation's Board of Trustees
Our gratitude for your investment in our community
Our trust in your integrity and wisdom,
Our support of your leadership,
And our enduring loyalty to the
Mission and vision of this church.

We pledge to do what is within our power
To make your stewardship of our shared future
And experience of discovery,
Accomplishment, and growth

Together we may make this community
A beacon of reason, compassion, and freedom,
And a witness to the power of love
And aspiration to make a better world.

Responsive Reading

by Tom Rhodes

Minster: Now is the time of gathering.

Congregation: From the scattered drops and rivulets of our individual lives we come together.

Minister: Singly and in community, our lives merge, separate,

Congregation: and merge again.

Minister: From the rush and cascade of our daily activities, we come to this place of quiet reflection

Congregation: where we may pool our hopes and dreams, pause, and peer beneath the surface to consider the deeper currents of our lives.

Minister: Like rivers to the sea, we come to this, our spiritual home.

Congregation: May we each be lifted up, may we pour ourselves out, receiving and sharing the blessings of this time and place.

Listening to Our Lives – new start date!

This class is designed for those who wish to engage seriously and open-heartedly with the perennial religious topics such as: inspiration, God, community, suffering, death, spiritual practice, living our gifts, and salvation. Rev. Greg will lead the group meeting on **Wednesday evenings** from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** beginning **September 13 - October 25**, and completes on **November 15**. Enrollment is limited to a minimum of 8, maximum of 12 participants who commit to attending all nine sessions. Contact Rev. Greg with questions.

Use this link to register online: <http://bit.ly/ListeningToOurLives>

Spirit in Practice

Spirit in Practice is a workshop series created to help you develop regular disciplines, or practices, of the spirit—practices that help you connect with the sacred ground of your being, however you understand it. Developed in response to a desire to engage in life-giving spiritual practices, the ten workshops of *Spirit in Practice* provide avenues for deepening spirituality and affirming spiritual growth. Participants will be invited to reflect, share, and grow together, exploring ways to nurture connections with the sacred in everyday life.

Spirit in Practice weaves Unitarian Universalist values, principles, and sources with four "strands:" spiritual development, ethical development, and Unitarian Universalist identity development, and faith development. Drawing on a model developed by the Zen Mountain Monastery in Mount Tremper, New York, *Spirit in Practice* focuses on eight spheres of holistic and wholehearted spiritual practices. These eight spheres are:

- Personal spiritual practices
- Communal worship practices
- Spiritual partnerships
- Mind practices
- Body practices
- Soul practices
- Life practices
- Justice practices

This fall, you are invited to join us each Sunday morning from 9-10:15 am in the MacArtor Library beginning on September 17th. Facilitators will rotate each week and include Robert Broesler, Mary Higgins, Maggie McLaughlin, Michelle Cavanaugh, and Karen Rege. No registration is necessary, and you are not required to attend the whole series. Just drop by and learn to develop your own spiritual practice! For more information, contact Karen Rege at 302-373-1832 or karenrege@gmail.com.

Shared Pulpit Workshop

You have a story. Each of our stories is part of a larger narrative of being human in this world, in this time. One of the most powerful spiritual practices we have is in the sharing of our stories and reflecting on the ways those stories awaken us to love, illuminate our humanity, connect us to the holy and ineffable - and common - experience of life.

We invite you to join Rev. Greg for a **Shared Pulpit Workshop**, which will guide you in developing your story into a sermon and worship experience that you can share with the congregation.

Using a series of small group meetings, this program aims to deepen connection and trust among you — the seeking minds and caring hearts of Mill Creek. The workshop contains advice, tools, and a process designed to equip you to be even more skilled, confident leaders (because anyone brave and curious enough to share their journey publicly with a congregation is, in fact, a leader). Along the way, you'll discover your authentic voice by writing a sermon to deliver to the congregation.

This program is pulpit-and-pew tested, producing dozens of graduates who report that it transformed their relationship to their congregation and to Unitarian Universalism. As a participant, you don't need to think of yourself as a writer. You don't have to know what you want to say. You don't even need to be a visible leader in your congregation. As you had five to seven others navigate your way through the eight sessions — under the guidance of Rev. Greg - you are invited to do three things:

- commit your time and energy to the program — including doing the required writing between sessions
- create and uphold a group covenant so that those in your group can risk being vulnerable
- trust that the first two steps will reveal your voice and truth.

The workshop will meet on Saturdays from 9:00 - noon, **beginning September 16**. We will then meet approximately every three - four weeks: October 7, October 28, November 18, December 2, January 6, February 3, and February 10. Contact Rev. Greg (minister@uusmc.org) with questions.

Use this link to register online: <http://bit.ly/SharedPulpit>

Welcoming The New Member

By Manish Mishra-Marzetti

New Member Covenant (new members recite in unison)

We enter this faith with hope and possibility in our hearts,
pledging to participate in and support
the ministries of this church.

We covenant to remain true to the spirit of love
that flows through this church
and guides us.

We seek your welcome as we join you in this faith.

Congregational Response (congregation responds in unison)

We welcome you as once we were welcomed ourselves.

We seek to be open and inclusive;
respecting your inherent dignity,
your ideas and your vision,
in times when it is easy
and in times when it is difficult.

We seek to be supportive,
not only when you reach out in courage to us,
but also when you need us to reach out to you.
In return we ask that you recognize our humanity:

We will not always live up to our ideals.
And, when we fall short
we invite you to stay in relationship with us
and help us more fully bring alive the spirit of love.
We welcome you as an equal member
of this congregation,
of this faith,
and of our shared spiritual journey.