

**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

**Planting trees in our meadow.** A small group of us has proposed to our board that we convert a part of the meadow to woods and the board supports pursuing the idea. While the benefits of planting trees are plentiful, it would take time and dedication to maintain the trees, and so we need your input. Do you support this idea? What questions or concerns do you have? Would you like to join the group to maintain our trees? Please contact Jamie Kegerise, [jamie@dsofurniture.com](mailto:jamie@dsofurniture.com), Amy White, [amywwhite@comcast.net](mailto:amywwhite@comcast.net), or John Springer, [john\\_springer@msn.com](mailto:john_springer@msn.com), with your thoughts. Our hope is to begin planting native trees this November, with your support and participation.

**Building Community: A Delmarva Cluster Event**  
**Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**  
**First Unitarian Church of Wilmington**  
**730 Halstead Road, Wilmington**

Join other UU congregations of the Central East Region for a day of networking, learning & connecting. **Learn** how to use social media to advance your community; **discover** new ways to encourage volunteerism in your congregation; **invigorate** your church's social justice programs; **find out** about new requirements for Welcoming Congregations; and more. \$10 registration fee. Lunch is provided with registration; child care available by RSVP. <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/building-community-wilmington-918>

**Upcoming events**

**Book Group**, Thursday, September 20  
**Building Community**, Saturday, September 24  
**Listening to Our Lives, first class**, Monday, September 24  
**Family Fun Night**, Friday, October 26



**September 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**  
**~ Order of Service ~**  
**September 9, 2018**

Ringing of the Chime  
Lighting the Chalice  
Opening Music

*We Are One* Brian Tate

Welcome  
Gathering the Waters

Congregational Sing

*Breaths*

*Listen more often to things than to beings  
'tis the Ancestor's breath  
when the fire's voice is heard  
'tis the Ancestor's breath  
in the voice of the waters  
Zah! Whssh! Aahh! Whssh!*

Introduction to the Story  
Commissioning our Student Minister

An Origin Story, Part 1  
Commissioning the Religious Exploration Team

An Origin Story, Part 2  
Commissioning the Board of Trustees

An Origin Story, Part 3  
Welcoming the New Member

Offering  
Watering the Trees

*Already Home* Andrew Lloyd Webber

**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.

**Music today** is provided by the Mill Creek choir, Kristen Tosh-Morelli, director, and Pam Allenstein, pianist. Our songs today reflect our feelings of unity and our love for our church home. We begin with Brian Tate's *We Are One*, celebrating our togetherness in all we do, and continue welcoming each other with *Already Home*, from Andrew Lloyd Webber's version of *The Wizard of Oz*. As we recess outdoors, we will finish with *Siyahamba*. Welcome all!

**Children's & Youth Religious Exploration** Chalice Children will enjoy summer arts and crafts, snack and story. All other children & youth will take a break from R.E. until next Sunday: **2018-2019 Opening Day**.

**Share Our Plate** Today's special offering is for 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 --**

**Pot Luck Lunch Today!** Everyone is welcome to join us for our monthly potluck lunch after today's worship service. You need not have brought anything, just grab a plate and join the conversation!

**Mill Creek Book Group** announces next book read: *Still Life* by Louise Penny. Everyone is welcome to join us for our discussion on Thursday, September 20 at 7:30 pm in classroom 4 – (the blue room). Contact Deanna Koepcke with questions, [dkoepcke@hotmail.com](mailto:dkoepcke@hotmail.com)

**Adult RE Offering: Listening to Our Lives**

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 (9 classes) on Monday evenings from **7:00 - 9:00 pm** beginning **September 24 through December 3**. Enrollment is limited to a minimum of 8, maximum of 12 participants who commit to attending all nine sessions. Please sign up in Realm, <https://bit.ly/2KSjkea> Spaces are filling up for this popular class, register today!

## Commissioning the Religious Exploration Team Congregational Blessing

(adapted from Rev. Charlie Dietrich)

Heather: **Today we begin our year of Religious Education**

*(Congregation repeats)*

Terry: **Not with teaching, but with blessing.** *(Congregation repeats)*

Heather: **We, the congregation,** *(Congregation repeats)*

Terry: **Commission our teachers and classroom assistants**

*(Congregation repeats)*

Greg: **to your task of care and challenge.** *(Congregation repeats)*

Heather: **May your classes be a joy.** *(Congregation repeats)*

Greg: **May they be fulfilling spiritually,** *(Congregation repeats)*

Terry: **May they be places of growth.** *(Congregation repeats)*

Greg: **Grow in knowledge** *(Congregation repeats)*

Heather: **Grow in wisdom** *(Congregation repeats)*

Terry: **Grow in boldness.** *(Congregation repeats)*

Greg: **Awaken to Love** *(Congregation repeats)*

Heather: **For it is in giving that we receive** *(Congregation repeats)*

Terry: **and in using our talents that we learn ourselves.**

*(Congregation repeats)*

## 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.

## Commissioning Our Student Minister Congregation Response

(adapted from Rev. Michele Buhite)

We receive you with open hands and open hearts.  
As you join us, we once again renew our own commitment to this  
religious community. We are proud and happy to have you among  
us. Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

## 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.