

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.)

Age of Reason The program is for children who are age **7 to 9**. Our Director of Religious Education, Stefanie Anderson will lead this **nine-week** program to be held **Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning January 6, 2016 and continuing through March 2**. Contact Stefanie Anderson, DRE, for registration and further information: dreusmc@gmail.com.

Book Group – please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the MacArtor Library to participate in a discussion of Bill Bryson’s humorous memoir, *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*. Everyone is welcome! For more info, contact Amy White at amywwhite@comcast.net

Hearing-Assist devices are available. Please see a greeter.

Upcoming events

Check the weekly news or the online calendar for more information about these and other events at UUSMC:

Solstice Service, Tuesday, December 22, 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, December 24, 7:30 pm

Listening to Our Lives, begins Wednesday, January 6

Age of Reason class, begins Wednesday, January 6

Book Group, Wednesday, January 7

UU Fiber Friends, Tuesday, January 12

Leadership Council Meeting, Saturday, January 23

Kaleidoscope Concert Series-Serafin String Quartet, Sunday, Jan. 31

UUSMC Professional Staff

Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister	minister@uusmc.org
Stefanie Anderson, Dir. of Religious Ed.	dreusmc@gmail.com
Kristen Tosh-Morelli, Music Director	music@uusmc.org
Debra Damiani, Office Administrator	administrator@uusmc.org



Ours to Give

December 20, 2015
Rev. Gregory S. Pelley

A Welcoming Congregation

302-369-2712

www.uusmc.org

Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek
Rev. Gregory S. Pelley, Minister
~ Order of Service ~
December 20, 2015

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

Welcome & Announcements Maggie McLaughlin, Worship Associate

Prelude **"Oh Star of Bethlehem"**

Featuring Pam Allenstein

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. Gregory S. Pelley

Story For All Ages **"The Rudolph Problem"**

Children to Religious Education – "Go Now in Peace" #413

Opening Words

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 **"Winter Solstice Chant"** #1063

Joys and Sorrows

Centering Hymn **"Meditation on Breathing"** #1009

Meditation

Offering **"Dark of Winter"** #55

Reading

Sermon ***Ours to Give*** Rev. Pelley

Postlude **"Season of Peace"** Albrecht & Althouse

***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 **"God of Grace and God of Glory"** #115

* 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 or Jack Guerin, jackguerin7@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.

-- ANNOUNCEMENTS --

Today's music is provided by the UUSMC choir, Kristen Tosh-Morelli, director; Pam Allenstein, pianist.

Today's flowers are contributed by Lauren & Robert Rickard in celebration of our 31st wedding anniversary, and in loving memory of Ethel & CW Rickard and Lucile Poet, our parents.

Share Our Plate For the months of November and December we will be sharing half our undesignated plate offering with Limen House, which provides assistance to recovering alcoholics.

Winter Solstice Service You are invited to join us on **December 22 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 are invited inside to share the warmth of cider and cocoa and the community - the community that walks with us through the dark night and celebrates with us as the light returns.

Christmas Eve Service

Join us for our ritual Christmas Eve service - on **Thursday, December 24 at 7:30 pm** - filled with the traditional stories, carols, music, and candle lighting of the holiday. Rev. Greg will be joined by the UUSMC choir under the direction of Kristen Tosh-Morelli, accompanied by Pam Allenstein.

Adult RE Opportunity - Listening to Our Lives This class is designed for those who wish to engage seriously and open-heartedly with perennial religious topics. Wednesday evenings from **6:30-8:30 pm** beginning **January 6, 2016 and continuing through March 2** (9 sessions). Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the gathering space or contact Rev. Greg if you're interested: minister@uusmc.org.