



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person since 1954

December 2018

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Nursery Care in Room 6 from 9:45-12:45
Refreshments and Fellowship after the service
Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45
Childcare until 12:45

DECEMBER 2 ART AS WORSHIP / WORSHIP AS ART

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Elizabeth Porter, Worship Associate;
Peggy Hoffman, Sharon Werth, Allison Hughes, and Joanna Axtmann
Participants from the Saturday, December 1st workshop present their works from the visual and performing arts Inspired by John Lennon's song *Imagine*.

DECEMBER 9 USE YOUR WORDS

Dr. Pippin Whitaker, Guest Minister;
with Paul Wester, Worship Associate;

In a divisive political and social environment, talking about what really matters is challenging. At the same time, discussing divisive issues and naming oppression is important to building a shared future. In this service, we will reflect on how we use our words to transform the world, especially when it is challenging.

DECEMBER 16 ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHOIR SERVICE

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with the Choir
Music by our Choir and selected soloists, led by David Chapman, Music Director.

DECEMBER 23 LIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; Chris McCann, DMRE;
and Tricia Most, Worship Associate

For millennia, peoples of the Northern Hemisphere have celebrated the Winter Solstice as the date when the light returns as days begin to lengthen again.

DECEMBER 29 KWANZAA CELEBRATION AND FEAST

Janet Overton, Guest Worship Leader; with Mary Rooker, Worship Associate and the Chalice Dancers
Featuring an original Kwanzaa play. Followed by a Kwanzaa Feast.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

Saturday, December 22 at 6 pm
Solstice Service followed by Yule celebration in the Glen.

Monday, December 24 at 5 pm
A Christmas Eve celebration for all ages.

Monday, December 24 at 8 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carol Service with the Choir.

Notes from the Minister

As November moves into December, many of us are pulled toward family and community connections. Thanksgiving and Friendsgiving dinners invite us to reconnect over food, and take time for those relationships. The coming holidays bring us more opportunities and celebrations, plans and preparations.



In addition, I find I am reflective about the year now ending, and the year coming up. I have spent this first year learning who is Paint Branch, and building connections with you.

As I think about my goal for this coming year, I am exploring Deepening Connections. I think of this as a goal both within and outside our Paint Branch Community. Within Paint Branch, I wonder if we might start a program of Small Group Ministry, also known as Covenant Groups. Groups are formed of eight to ten people including a facilitator. They would meet monthly to explore different spiritual and life questions. It invites the group into deeper relationship, as together they meet and discuss their own thoughts and feelings and understanding of the world and their own beliefs. It is a chance for spiritual exploration and growth. It may also help to deepen connection to our Unitarian Universalist faith.

One thing I have heard from newcomers to Paint Branch is that they wonder how to really get engaged and involved with the community. Small Group Ministry might be one of the things that would invite new people into deeper relationship.

Would you be interested in participating in one of these groups?

Let us begin.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org

Paint Branch: Healing Hearts, Building Community, Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Helping to Heal the World.

Table of Contents

December Sunday Services	Page 1	DARTT	Page 4	3rd Wednesday Lunch Dec. 19	Page 5
Notes from the Minister	Page 1	New Day Rising Conference	Page 4	Bookstore Open December 2	Page 5
PBUUC Leadership Directory	Page 2	ADL Presentation, December 16	Page 4	Men's Fellowship Breakfast 12/8	Page 5
Board of Trustees	Page 3	Kwanzaa Service & Feast 12/30	Page 4	Holiday Shopping to Support PBUUC	Page 5
Religious Exploration	Page 3	Wider UU Universe	Page 4	Meet Our Guest Minister for 12/9	Page 5
Holiday Decorating Party	Page 3	In and Around Paint Branch	Page 5	Note to Readers	Page 6
Wheel of Life	Page 3	New Art Exhibit	Page 5		

PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2017-2018 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair	Kate Brett
Vice-Chair	Noel Monardes
Vice-Chair	Marguerite Summers
Trustee	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Trustee	Ebony Contreras
Trustee	Kay McGraw
Trustee	Eric Most
Trustee	Wendy Schlegel
Trustee	Kathi Yu
Treasurer	Louise Waugh
Assistant Treasurer	David Nation
Secretary	Carol Boston
Assistant Secretary	Jennifer Wright

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

* Mary Rooker (2016-19)	Tricia Most (2018-21)
* Paul Wester (2016-19)	Clark Ritz (2018-21)
Elizabeth Porter (2017-20)	Samantha Evans (Young Adult)
Jeri Holloway (2017-20)	*Team Leaders

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin

🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

VACANT

🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Adult RE	Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING)
Auction	Louise Waugh
Budget Leadership Team	Tess Morrison (2018 Team Leader)
Buildings & Grounds (co-chairs)	VACANT
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (co-chairs)	Lowell Owens & Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
Electronic Communications	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Endowment	Don Gerson, Chair
Finance	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
Green Team (co-chairs)	contact church office
Leasing (contact)	Chris Evans
Membership	Elaine Shell
Ministry	Moe Cunningham
Nominating	Kathleen Bartolomeo
Personnel	Joe Dever
Religious Exploration	Pat Behenna
Social Action (SAC)	James Alexander, Janet Overton and Elizabeth Porter
Stewardship	Liz Citrin
	COMMITTEE IN HIATUS
	Melissa Graham
	Don Henderson
	Chris Evans

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Chalice Dancers	Sherry Mitchell
Children's Choir	Jeanne Judd
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	John Bartoli
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Mental Health Support Group	Alice Tyler
Mom's Group	Penney Hughes
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Community Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Rooker
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
Sunday Sound & Facilities Volunteer Team	Van Summers
Third Wednesday Lunch Club	Elaine Shell
Ushers	Lori Snyder
Warm Nights	Tess Morrison, Louise Waugh, & Van Summers
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Anita Williams
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Louise Waugh

Minister

The Rev. Rachel Rudd Christensen

Minister Emeritus

The Rev. Richard Kelley

Staff

Please contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for staff listed

Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration	Chris McCann
Chalice Dancers Director & Choreographer	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Bookkeeper	Hannah Oshin
Administrative Assistant	Hannah Oshin
Rentals Building Manager:	Joel Yesupriya
Child Care Providers:	Jazmin Balbuena
	Joy Washington
	Briana Workcuff

Office Volunteers

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tuesday)	Janet Overton (Friday)
Will Snyder (Wednesday)	Mary Massey (Floating)
Alice Tyler (Thursday)	

Board Chair Musings

Today, my husband and I put lights in all the front-facing windows, our first act of getting ready for the winter holiday season. It felt good to see these lights, cheap plastic candles that the previous owner of our house left for us, lit up and making the house seem a little warmer and more welcoming.

The Board has begun working on a number of projects we would like to let you know about. The first is a review of the current church bylaws (<http://www.pbuuc.org/bylaws/>). The current bylaws have not been revisited in 12 years and are rather minimal in comparison to other examples we have seen. We will be putting together a task force to look at what we currently have and recommend changes based on experience and review of other examples. The Board as a whole will then review the recommended modifications and forward them to the congregation to vote on during our annual meeting, which will be June 9, 2019. If you have an interest in participating, please contact either Rev. Rachel or Carmelita Carter-Sykes.

Second, we have been made aware of the fact that our deck is again wearing out. The structure is showing signs of needing to be replaced, not just for cosmetic reasons. This church has had a love/hate relationship with the deck for many years and so we are going to be enlisting the help of an architect to provide us options. We can simply replace what we have with another wooden structure, create a structure that is more permanent such as one supported by metal and/or concrete, or use an earthen berm to create a path from the parking lot to the Meeting House and RE Building. There are many issues to understand and work out. And yes, one of those things will be how to pay for this. The Board will be talking about this issue for many months to come and at some point, we will be eliciting your opinions as well as creating some task forces to help with the work that will be involved.

Lastly, the Board has started talking about how to create a long-range plan, one that includes a vision for our physical plant as well as relationships both inside and outside. We will use the PBUUC mission and vision statements as our guide and keep the congregation informed throughout the process. We hope to have a mid-winter congregational listening event in a few months where we can gather your input and aspirations.

Look for the DARRT announcement about the workshop "New Day Rising: Identifying Your Congregation's Next Steps in the Struggle with White Supremacy Culture" to which many of the Board will be attending.

I hope your chosen holidays are enjoyable.

— *Kate Brett*, Board Chair

Multigenerational Religious Exploration



Join us on Saturday December 8th at Paint Branch as we celebrate the holidays together.

This multigenerational party will feature cookie making, creating ornaments to share on our tree at Paint Branch, a sing-along, games, and activities for all ages.

Cookie and ornament making start at



four, potluck dinner at 5 pm, and holiday singalong at 6:30 pm, with games and activities throughout.

Please contact Ebony Scurry Contreras (etaras1@yahoo.com) to sign up for food items.

Please contact Melissa Graham for more information (magraham09@gmail.com)



Wheel of Life

The following was posted Tuesday, November 20 to Jennifer Robinson's CaringBridge site by her husband Mark Cornick:

Jen died this morning at her hospice facility in Columbia. When I saw her last night, she was resting comfortably. I am grateful that her last days were so peaceful. I wish we'd had a little more time, but so it goes; her time was now.

We'll have some sort of celebration of her life later TBD. She spoke often in her last weeks of wanting to help other people with similar conditions, and now that desire can become reality, just as she would have wanted. Thank you to everyone who's reached out, helped, brought food and other gifts, and just been there for me, Julia, and Jennifer. She made a lot of friends - more than she knew. You've all been great and I'm happy that you knew her.

Also, we were notified of the death of Suzy Camp-Goodman on October 31. Many will remember her as Suzy Small who was an active member here in the 70's and 80's. Her memorial service was last weekend at the UU Church of Albuquerque, NM. For more information, contact her son Dan Small at 505-508-5523.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team



Register Now for New Day Rising Conference: Identifying Your Congregation's Next Steps in the Struggle with White Supremacy Culture, Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9 am to 4:30 pm, UU Congregation of Fairfax, Oakton, VA

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from and exchange experiences and ideas with other congregations that are grappling with the same issues as Paint Branch. The price is right. The fees range from \$10 to \$40. The location is right—a little over an hour away from Paint Branch. DARTT is willing to subsidize anyone who wants to go but who cannot pay the fees. DARTT is also willing to organize carpools and /or charter a bus for those who do not want to/cannot drive.

The morning workshops will provide information and opportunities for interaction with superb trainers from the Central East Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The afternoon will provide 7-minute TED-styled Talks from 15 congregations about what's working for them and what's not.

There'll also be opportunities to gather with identity-based groups and browse resources and materials on the topic of the day.

Please register directly at: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/struggling-white-supremacy-culture-va-119>

Please contact DARTT at DARTT@pbuuc.org if you want payment or transportation support.

DARTT Sponsors Presentation on Anti-Semitism by Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Sunday, December 16, 11:45 am, Meeting House Sanctuary.

Robert Laittan, associate regional director, ADL, will come to PBUUC to speak on Sunday, December 16 at 11:45 am during an expanded Enrichment Hour. He will help us to understand the history of Anti-Semitism, both historically and, most especially, in the US. He will narrow in on contemporary manifestations of Anti-Semitism, again with a focus on the US, including Charlottesville and Pittsburgh. We will also have an opportunity to discuss what we can do as citizens.

James Alexander will facilitate the presentation and discussion. Light snacks will be served for a free-will donation. This presentation will be in lieu of our December 16 Monthly DARTT Meeting.

DARTT Provides Annual Kwanzaa Service & Feast Sunday, December 30, 2018.

Mark your calendars for a Paint Branch tradition of several years: A Multi-generational Kwanzaa Service & Feast.

The **Service** will feature a play by Janet Overton; children's participation coordinated with our new Multigenerational Religious Exploration Director Chris McCann; and includes The Chalice Dancers and guest pianist Keith Miller.

After the Service, Jeanne Judd and Chris Evans are coordinating a Kwanzaa Feast. The **Feast** is a celebration of family, community, and culture not to be missed. It is a semi-planned potluck. Dish suggestions are available or you can bring a dish that speaks to you about your family's heritage. See Chris or Jeanne after Sunday services to sign up to bring a dish or to volunteer to help with setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the meal.



The Wider UU Universe

**UU Living Legacy Pilgrimage
Save the Date - March 20-24, 2019**

The UUA has offered racial justice trips through the southern US for several years. This year there will be a Living Legacy Pilgrimage through Alabama in March. Would you be interested in going? The dates are March 20 - 24, 2019.

The details are not available yet, but if it is something you might consider, please put it on your calendar. It would expand on our work on race, and on our work on being a multi-racial, multi-cultural congregation. For those of us who can go, it will help with deepening connections both within our congregation and with the wider community.

We anticipate the cost to be around \$1,300 per person, double occupancy, plus transportation to and from Birmingham. Let Rev. Rachel know if you might be interested. More information at: <http://www.uulivinglegacy.org/llp-blog/save-the-date-for-the-2019-alabama-living-legacy-pilgrimage>

Channing Memorial Church in Ellicott City has an opening for a part-time Nursery Attendant. We're looking for a caring individual to provide care for young children on two Sundays a month during church services. Responsible for checking the nursery for safety before the children arrive and tidying the space after children leave. Ability to engage in play with the children, lead story time and do diaper changes. Hours are Sundays from 9:45 am - 11:45 am, with opportunities for extra hours during other church events. This is an hourly position, starting at \$13 per hour. Successful applicants will be over 18 years old, are required to pass a background check and be trained in CPR and First Aid, or be willing to receive training at church's expense. Channing Memorial Church, UU is an equal opportunity employer, LGBTQ welcoming. Send resume and cover letter to minister@channingmc.org

In and Around Paint Branch

New Meeting House Art Exhibit

The Visual Arts Committee is pleased to be sponsoring a photographic exhibit by Stacy Isaacs. Stacy is a local artist who enjoys capturing moments in time and sharing the world around us. A list of the individual pieces as well as Stacy's contact information is available in the back of the meeting house. You'll have an opportunity to meet Stacy on January 13 when we will host an artist reception for her.

For our 3rd Wednesday Lunch on Wednesday, December 19 at 1 pm, we're going to [Thai of Laurel](#), 14724 Baltimore Ave. Laurel. Everyone really enjoyed the food when we have gone here before. This is the restaurant in the new Laurel Town Center shopping area near the Regal theaters. The parking isn't great so I'll stay out front to help anyone being dropped off. Let me know if you need a ride. Everyone is invited. Contact Elaine Shell TWedhUULK@pbuuc.org or 301-602-0590 for information or a ride.

Paint Branch Bookstore Open Sunday, December 2 during Coffee Hour, Will Feature PBUUC Authors

PBUUC's Bookstore will feature books by four of our own authors: Marj Donn, Lynn Johnson, Lynx, and Raman Pathik. Stop by, support local authors, and contribute 20% of the sale price to PBUUC's operating budget.

Wondering what's happening with our Community Social Justice Project?

Come to an Enrichment Hour discussion on Sunday, December 2 to find out! Thanks to everyone for their input to the Steering Committee at the October 14 discussion about how to define our neighborhood—we have used that to formulate the next step—identifying the anchor institutions and gathering places in our neighborhood! We have ideas, and we have a first draft of a plan, but we need help. So, please, come and see what we are thinking, add your own ideas, and volunteer to implement this next step. We want to make it fun, enlightening, and worthwhile. All are welcome, not just those who have already participated; we need you! We are working to make this a multi-generational project, engaging children, youth and their families in our congregation; again, we need you!

Men's Fellowship Breakfast at TJ's Restaurant. Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be 10 am Saturday, December 8 at TJ's Restaurant in the Calverton Shopping Center, just up the road from PBUUC. Come share food and conversation. The food is good, and the conversation goes wherever you want it to go. This event is sponsored by the Paint Branch Men's Group. We intend to hold these breakfasts every second Saturday of the month. For more info contact: mensfellowship@pbuuc.org

Holiday Shopping

In your neighborhood or online, there are two ways your Holiday shopping can support Paint Branch:

December 15th: Kids Spend Saturday at Paint Branch

There are still openings for this \$10 per child auction item offered for children. Three child-friendly Paint Branchers (Tricia Most, Samantha Evans, and Cassandra Ikley) will entertain up to 15 children over the age of 2 at Paint Branch to give parents some free pre-holiday time on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 11 am – 3 pm. Please bring a diaper bag with diapers and a change of clothes if appropriate for your child and a bagged lunch for each child. We will bake something, have a cathedral drum available, and plan games and craft projects for children of various ages. If weather permits and everyone likes the idea, we can enjoy the playground. We will entertain parents' suggestions about activities and about offering a kid-friendly lunch (please let us know about any dietary concerns) as an alternative to parents' packing a bagged lunch for the day. Parents tell us that \$10 is a bargain. Please email Tricia Most at Patricia_Most@msn.com or phone at 301-452-1366 so we can plan properly for the ages of children and their preferred activities. Per the Auction Chair, you can simply bring a check made payable to "PBUUC" to the church on December 15 at 11 am.

Using AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), or [Goodshop.com](https://www.Goodshop.com), or [iGive.com](https://www.iGive.com) when you shop online directs a small percentage of your spending to PBUUC at no additional cost to you. More information on those sites is available from our website: pbuuc.org/amazon/

Meet Our Guest Minister

On Sunday, December 9, Dr. Pippin Whitaker will give a sermon titled "Use Your Words" (see page 1 for a description of the topic).

Dr. Whitaker is the ministerial intern at the UU Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA. She will complete her Master of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School in May 2019, at the close of her internship. Pippin lives near Vienna, VA with her spouse and three children. She enjoys reading, playing piano, working out, cooking healthy treats, the arts, nature, and time with friends and family.



Note to Our Readers:

The Church Administrator is responsible for the production of the newsletter.

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES: All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to: branches@pbuuc.org.

The Leadership Directory, (on page 2 of this issue), will contain names only. For more contact information, please consult your Membership Directory or call the Church Office at 301-937-3666. All submitted articles will contain phone numbers and/or email addresses for contact if listed. You may choose to list your email address only as a point of contact, and if requested, a pbuuc.org email specific to individual PBUUC committees, groups, or teams can be created.

Editorial Guidelines

- The deadline for submission of articles and other content to Branches is on the **20th day of every month**, except during the holidays.
- Articles should be submitted in their final form and content should be **200—600** words. Please submit the name of the author and any other contact information as necessary. **Reminder: Articles significantly over the word limit may be returned to the author for re-editing.**
- The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the Sunday Order of Service Bulletin is **every Wednesday at 12 noon**. Announcements received by the deadline will be included in the ContinUUm weekly email. **Short announcements to be read by the Worship Associate during the Sunday Service are also due then.**
- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** should be submitted in their final form to bulletin@pbuuc.org. Content should be **120** words or less. Please try to keep announcements one paragraph with a clear headline or topic sentence. Please include day, date, location, time, and contact information. Announcements should be PBUUC related; non-PBUUC events must have an explicitly stated UU connection. Up to one paragraph more may be added for use in the ContinUUm weekly email.

All deadlines are now on the web calendar. Go to www.pbuuc.org. Scroll down to “This Week” and click on

“More Upcoming Events.” Click on the Calendar grid to the left to advance to the next month.

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
3215 POWDER MILL ROAD
ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030
(301) 937-3666
WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG
EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG