



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

January 2019

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

JANUARY 6 BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR JUSTICE

*Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Clark Ritz,
Worship Associate; and special music*

How do we sustain ourselves and for doing the hard work of Justice? Seeking resilience and partners in the work to enable us to be more effective and spiritually whole. Plus we recognize Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo as our new Community Justice Minister.

JANUARY 13 WAIT, WHAT?

Rev. Rachel Christensen;

with Elizabeth Porter, Worship Associate

What are life's essential questions? Considering the book by James Ryan.

JANUARY 20 MLK SUNDAY

*Rev. Rachel Christensen; with Tricia Most,
Worship Associate; and the Choir*

With voices from our community on the ongoing, never done work of racial justice. Celebrating Successes, and noting opportunities that still exist.

JANUARY 27 IMMIGRATION

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister;

with Samantha Evans, Worship Associate

Immigration is one of the leading political topics facing our country, but it is also an issue that calls to us as a faith community seeking justice.

Visitors are welcomed every Sunday, so please invite a co-worker, the new family on your block, or an old friend.

BREAKING: We are about to release a sneak peek of Paint Branch's new and improved website. We want to get your opinions as we make the final touches to our new front door to the online world. Contact web2.0@pbuuc.org for more information.

Notes from the Minister

A few weeks ago, Eric and I drove the streets near where we live and made notes of the businesses and institutions we passed. We were participating in the Paint Branch Scavenger Hunt on behalf of the Community Social Justice Project. We, and several of you, did a windshield survey and identified places that may be gathering places or anchor institutions within our neighborhood. How and why did we come to this? And where are we going?



The steering committee of the Community Social Justice Project gathered maps demographic information of the area and around Paint Branch and invited members of the congregation to brainstorm what we thought was our "neighborhood." Based on those conversations, the committee considered our Neighborhood to loosely be a 3-mile radius around Paint Branch.

The committee next wanted to identify what was in that Neighborhood. They made a list of possible things to identify that might be Anchor Institutions or gathering places for people in the neighborhood. And members of the congregation discussed and brainstormed other kinds of gathering places that might be important. The committee split up the Neighborhood into manageable areas and created maps to pass out. Armed with the maps and forms to fill out, members did windshield surveys of the area to see what they could see.

All this information has been entered into a spreadsheet and onto a map. It's a lot of information! A lot of individual businesses, schools, faith institutions, and major employers were identified. It's a lot to take in and make sense of. But one thing the committee could see is that there is a wide variety of ethnicities represented in just the restaurants and faith communities in the area. There is an amazing diversity of foods available in our Neighborhood. And they are looking at corresponding demographic information for our Neighborhood such as non-English languages spoken in the home, education level and income.

As we synthesize the information we've collected, we wonder what justice needs might we discover in our neighborhood? Where can we reach out and make connections and begin to form meaningful relationships? In what ways are we being called as a congregation to serve the needs in our neighborhood?

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2018-2019 🌀

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)
	Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING)
Adult RE	Louise Waugh
Auction	VACANT
Budget Leadership Team	VACANT
Buildings & Grounds (co-chairs)	Lowell Owens & Peter Wathen-Dunn
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (co-chairs)	Carol Carter Walker
Denominational Affairs	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
	Don Gerson, Chair
	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
Electronic Communications	contact church office
Endowment	Chris Evans
Finance	Elaine Shell
Green Team (co-chairs)	Moe Cunningham
	Kathleen Bartolomeo
Leasing (contact)	Joe Dever
Membership	Pat Behenna
Ministry	James Alexander, Janet Overton and Elizabeth Porter
Nominating	Liz Citrin
Personnel	COMMITTEE IN HIATUS
Religious Exploration	Melissa Graham
Social Action (SAC)	Don Henderson
Stewardship	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
	Mark Shute
	Anita Williams
	Jeri Holloway
	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
Affiliate Minister for Social Justice	Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo
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 & Mary Massey (Alternating Tuesdays)	
Will Snyder (Wednesdays)	Janet Overton (Fridays)
Alice Tyler (Thursdays)	

Board Chair Musings

With the new year beginning, it is generally seen as a time to take account of our lives and think about what can be made just a little better. We are half way through the Board year and are taking on quite a few issues. There is currently a task force to start up a Personnel Committee, another to start thinking about a church safety plan, and another working towards long-range strategic plans.

Strategic planning, as described by one book recommended to us by our UUA consultant from the denomination, can be thought of as the outcome of a series of discussions amongst ourselves. During these conversations, we answer the questions:

- ☞ Who are we? Congregations cannot picture a future without realistically describing ourselves and our history.
- ☞ What are we called to do? Based on what we know about ourselves, what do we believe we are to do in the world both large and small.
- ☞ Who is our neighbor? This is about where we live in time and space, our area of influence.

PBUUC worked a lot on the first question as we went through our ministerial search process before calling Rev. Rachel. We are actively engaged in the third question in our work with Rev. Karen and the community justice project. That project might also bring out some potential answers to the second question, what we are called to do. Based on all of this, we are actually further along in the process of getting a plan started than we even were aware.

Some good news: a member of the church who does not want recognition has paid off the cost of the new heating/air conditioning units that are being put in both the RE Building and the Meetinghouse. It is with a light heart that I share that with you all, knowing that the cost was not trivial and would have taken more than we currently had set aside for buildings and grounds maintenance.

Please talk to any member of the Board of Trustees if you have a concern you would like to raise to us. We want to represent the congregation as a whole and can do so only when we know your thoughts and questions.

Hoping your new year is off to a good start,

—*Kate Brett*, Board Chair

Board Calendar for January:

Executive Committee: Tuesday, January 8, at 7 pm

Read-Aheads due: Tuesday, January 15

Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, at 7:30 pm

Multigenerational Religious Exploration



It's a new year! Are you honoring a birthday in 2019? Come celebrate with us at the 2nd annual All-Church BIRTHDAY PARTY on Saturday, February 9 from 4 pm—6 pm. Bring a dish or salad to share at the potluck supper. No desserts though, as we are asking for help to provide twelve cakes—one for each month! If you are a baker, or are willing to help with set-up please call or text Judy Morris at 916-205- 6632. Games, prizes, and lots of fun! Everyone is invited to sit with their birthday mates in the proper month: especially kids! This is truly an intergenerational event. Everyone loves a party!

Membership Committee

Roots and Branches of Unitarian Universalism Class, Saturday, January 12, 10 am to 2 pm. Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Would you like to know more about Paint Branch UU Church, Unitarian Universalism, UU history, and the UU Principles? Are you willing to share your spiritual journey? If so, we have just the right gathering for YOU. A Roots and Branches Class will be held on Saturday, January 12, here at the church from 10 am to 2 pm. Rev. Rachel Christensen, Jessica Sharp, and Carol Carter Walker will facilitate the class. Childcare will be available. Lunch will be served. Sign up at the Welcome Table in the Foyer or via e-mail at rootsclass@pbuuc.org

First New Member Welcoming Ceremony of 2019. Rev. Rachel has scheduled a Welcome New Members ceremony during our Sunday, February 3, morning service.

Stewardship Committee

It's now 2019 and that means the PBUUC Annual Campaign will soon be here. We plan to have some fun together in the coming months as we go on the hunt for gold bullion, silver coins, and precious gems. Imagine what we can do at Paint Branch with those kinds of riches!

The Stewardship Committee also needs your help. We're seeking at least fifteen hearty volunteers (parrot or cutlass is optional), to serve as Visiting Stewards who will make some phone calls, support our Stewardship events, and ask for pledges from a few members. Volunteers can attend either swash-buckling training session during Enrichment Hour on Sunday February 3 or February 10. Consider saying "Yes!" when asked to volunteer or you can let Chris Evans know you are willing to serve at stewardship@pbuuc.org

PBUUC members and friends will once again have three options to complete their pledge that won't include walking the plank: 1) meeting one-on-one with a Visiting Steward; 2) attending our annual Stewardship breakfast on Mar 10 or pledging party on Mar 23; or 3) visiting the Stewardship table in the lobby after any Sunday in March. There may be a few hints in this article about this year's Annual Campaign theme. Are you ready?

Chris Evans, Stewardship Chair

Paint Branch Welcomes REV. KAREN LEE SCRIVO as Affiliated Community Minister



Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo is committed to being a Community Minister in Prince George's County, working on social and community justice issues in the area. She is working with our congregation to bring to life our Community Social Justice Project. The project is based on learning more about the people and justice issues in our neighborhood and creating relationships with people who live here and work on the justice issues facing them.

As a UU Community Minister, the UUA requires Karen to affiliate with a Unitarian Universalist church. I am honored that she wanted to affiliate with Paint Branch.

Affiliation involves an agreement with Karen on the following:

- ✧ Recognizing that Karen's work is ministry.
- ✧ She will preach once each year on social justice at no charge.
- ✧ She will teach a class once each year at no charge.
- ✧ She will prepare an annual report on her work.
- ✧ She and Rev. Rachel will maintain a collegial relationship, and stay in conversation regarding Karen's work.
- ✧ Two or three members of PBUUC will serve on her Committee on Ministry.

There will be no compensation to Karen for Affiliation or the work described above. If she performs additional services on request, such as additional preaching, she will be compensated at the accepted rate for ministers.

The Board of Trustees has approved Karen's affiliation with PBUUC. We are delighted to have her and her ministry presence here in our space. She will share the DMRE office when she is here at Paint Branch and will be listed on our letterhead as an Affiliated Minister. This can only enhance our congregational life and work.

We will formally welcome her as a congregation at the January 6 worship service.

Welcome, Karen! I am glad to be your colleague.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org

Denominational Affairs

Your Input Needed on Denomination-Wide Proposed Statement of Conscience on Democracy Uncorrupted

Our denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), publishes statements on the social justice issues of our times. These positions, called Statements of Conscience, are used to join with other organizations to advocate for, lobby, and witness at the local, state, and national levels.

Statements of Conscience begin with proposals from one or more congregations and end with a final statement voted on by the delegates of a General Assembly (GA) three years later. A fourth year is focused on implementation at the congregational level.

The current draft Statement of Conscience, Democracy Uncorrupted, is in the third year of this process and is ready for a final vote of approval by congregational delegates to the June 2019 General Assembly (which is the annual meeting of our denomination.)

We Paint Branchers have an opportunity to provide comments on this draft version. We will be distributing information in hard copy in the Meeting House Foyer after Sunday Services, beginning January 6. This material is also available electronically via the following link: <https://www.uua.org/action/process/csais>

Please submit your comments on the draft, referencing the line numbers, to DAC@pbuuc.org. You can drop off your comments in hard copy in the Denominational Affairs box set up in The Meeting House. It is important that we receive these comments by January 11, so we can assemble them, and get a sense of what the Congregation finds important.

We will meet on Sunday, January 13 during Enrichment Hour to discuss and consolidate our comments.

Taking an active role in this process allows us to actively engage with our 5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Don Gerson, Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee

Committee on Ministry

Greetings from your Committee on Ministry! As we close out 2018, we are preparing for our first ministerial evaluation with Rev. Rachel Christensen. We plan to start the evaluation process early next year, so keep a lookout for more information and details to come.

Happy New Year!

Ebeth Porter, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry

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

The subtitle of this article should be:

There's Room for Many a More.

(An African-American spiritual, circa 1872)

As of this posting, there are only four Paint Branchers registered for this Conference. Our goal is to have at least 10 percent of our community attend. That number would be the critical mass needed to bring home and apply lessons learned and exchanged. As a person of color, I can only imagine that some white members might be fearful about being 'buked and scorned.' I think the trainers are much too savvy for that approach. Heed the words of the quotation in a recent Order of Service:

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.
—Margaret Wheatley.

This Conference is a wonderful opportunity to hear from and exchange experiences and ideas with other Unitarian Universalist 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>

You can see more details in the flyer in this edition of *Branches*.

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

Sunday, January 6, 2019. 11:45 am. Fascism: A Warning. Congregational Bookread During Enrichment Hour Begins. Books For Sale After Sunday Service.

We will begin a six to eight week Congregational Bookread of Madeleine Albright's *Fascism: A Warning*. James Alexander will facilitate a discussion of 30 to 40 pages a week. You do not have to read the entire book before January 6. The book is available for sale right after Service. The price is \$23—a discount of more than 20% over the retail price. We can thank Busboys & Poets for providing the books to us. Please reserve/buy your book Sunday or contact

DARTT@pbuuc.org to reserve a book.



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

Worship from *The Sanctuaries DC* - an intentionally multi-cultural artistic community using art to create social change!

Morning Workshops run by UUA staff:

- ✧ *Why Do We Use the Words White Supremacy Anyway? With Regional Leads Revs. Megan Foley from CER and Ian Evison from the Mid America Region*
- ✧ *There's an Elephant in the Room: How to Have Difficult Conversations at Church with Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson*
- ✧ *Leading Racial Justice Work as UU People of Color with Rev. Sunshine Wolfe*
- ✧ *Identity Development with Children and Youth with Shannon Harper*
- ✧ *Why Is It So Hard to Get Others in My Community Interested in Racial Justice Work? A Look at the Intercultural Development Inventory with Rev. Renee Ruchotzke*
- ✧ *Experienced UU Antiracist Get-Together with Paula Cole Jones*

Dedicated Time for Identity-Based Caucusing - A chance to gather in identity-based groups for conversation, reflection and relationship building!

Stories of Struggle and Success - Hear from 15 other congregations in a series of 7 minute TED-style type talks about what worked for them and their people (and what didn't!), with opportunities to connect and ask questions!

Resource Fair and Bookstore - a room full of resources and materials to browse, and the opportunity to order helpful books right from the Conference!



The Wider UU Universe

Jazz@UUCSS Presents

A Herbie Nichols Centennial Celebration with THE DAN ROBERTS QUARTET

Sunday, January 20, 2019 • 4 pm—5:30 pm

Join us for the Winter edition of jazz@uucss as we celebrate pianist Herbie Nichols (1/3/19-4/12/63). An innovative stylist and composer, Herbie labored in the shadows during his life but developed a cult following after his death. His recordings as a leader for Blue Note with Art Blakey and Max Roach are widely recognized for their importance. Herbie's compositions combine bop, Dixieland, and Caribbean music with harmonies from Erik Satie and Béla Bartók. This concert will be the first in a series of centennial tributes and will include some of Herbie's unrecorded compositions.

Dan Roberts is a pianist, arranger, and composer living in Washington, DC. He has performed at many of the top jazz venues in the area, including Blues Alley, Bohemian Caverns, the Strathmore (where he was a mentor in the Artist in Residence Program), and the Kennedy Center, and he has shared the stage with nationally and internationally celebrated jazz artists. His original compositions and arrangements have been premiered by the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra, the US Army Blues Jazz Ensemble, and the Army's contemporary music ensemble, "Pershing's Own." Suggested donation \$10 (\$5 students/seniors) Children 12 and under free!

The Davies Concert Series is very proud to be hosting a Special Benefit Concert to support the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA). The program features CAAPA artists in a program titled, "Figaro Meets Fredrick Douglass." The concert is free. All donations at the door will go to support CAAPA.

Time: 4 pm, Sunday, January 20, 2019 (January 27, snow date)

Location: Davies Memorial UU Church, 400 Temple Hill Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748.

The concert will open with a spotlight performance by young artists, Barrett and Russell Sullivan. Refreshments follow the concert.

For more info: Visit Davies Concert Series on Facebook or call 301-449-4308 or 301-627-0284. *Bring friends!*

2019 Living Legacy Pilgrimage to Alabama, March 20-24, 2019

Is SOLD OUT! If you're interested in being on a waiting list for this journey, please sign up at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/CR_T_OiJh-hiKepriBrrA. If a spot opens, you'll have 24 hours to make your commitment.

If you'd like to know more about this denominational initiative, go to uua.org/livinglegacyproject

'Sanctuary Support' for Cedar Lane UU Church

As you may be aware from local media coverage, one of our sibling Congregations in the Maryland suburbs, Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda, has begun to provide Sanctuary to Rosa Gutierrez Lopez who is facing deportation. The following is excerpted from a letter by the co-leader of Cedar Lane's Sanctuary Leadership Group on how Paint Branch's congregation can provide assistance:

Being a Sanctuary is an act of faith made all the more powerful in community with our many partners.

We are deeply grateful for the many outpourings of alliance and support we have received, knowing that you are standing with Rosa and with us on this journey of love and justice-seeking.

Practically, the necessary funds and volunteers exceed Cedar Lane's capacity alone, yet we know together with you we will hold Rosa safe, comfortable, and embraced in love while the legal procedures that can provide her relief from deportation receive due process.

If you would like to express your support monetarily, we have two ways for you to do so:

1. Mail or drop off a check for whatever amount you wish. Designate 'Sanctuary Support' on the check memo line. Mail to:

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Attn: Olivia James, Office Manager
9601 Cedar Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

2. Donate by credit card online on the Cedar Lane website. The link is: <https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=142271&f=4>

Designate 'Sanctuary Support' as the fund to which your contribution is going.

Either way, your tax deductible donation will be gratefully acknowledged. All donations will go to direct support of expenses for hosting Rosa in Sanctuary.

If you would like to volunteer your individual support services or your congregation would like to offer a support team working in tandem with our Cedar Lane volunteer crews, we welcome you. Our priority this week and next is to assure our own crews are functioning well. We will be back in touch with you soon about excellent volunteer opportunities for our community partners.

We write in our shared love and faith and on behalf of our ministers and membership, with heartfelt gratitude,

*Dianne Seiffert, Co-Leader for the
Sanctuary Leadership Group
Cedar Lane Immigrant Justice Ministry
sanctuarysupport@cedarlane.org*

In and Around Paint Branch

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 Sunday, January 13 when we will host an artist reception for her.

PAINT BRANCH CREEK



"Music at Paint Branch" presents our first concert of 2019 on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Program begins at 7 pm. This fantastic music group "Paint Branch Creek" features musicians Eric Maring, Allison Hughes, Greg Heelan, Patrick Lynch and Arun Ivatury, with lyrics by Eric Olson. It is an acoustic musical collaboration rooted firmly in Americana. Paint Branch Creek members Allison Hughes, Arun Ivatury and Eric Olson are members of our congregation. Plan to attend this exciting and joyful program. It is a free concert (donations happily accepted) and is family friendly! Plan to stay for a reception after to meet these talented performers. Visit www.PaintBranchCreek.com to learn more about the group.

Jeri Holloway holl5d@aol.com

Men's Fellowship Breakfast at TJ's Restaurant

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be 10 am Saturday, January 12 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

Anyone interested in being on a committee that will help update our **PBUUC By-Laws**, please contact Rev. Christensen or Carmelita Carter-Sykes. Thank you!

Paint Branch Community Learning Center (CLC) Wants You!

The CLC is about to begin its Spring Semester of offering English classes to adults in our community.

Volunteers are needed to:

TEACH: In teams of two or three, using a Co-Teacher model. Classes begin Sunday, January 27, 2019 and continue through Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm. All materials and lesson plans and training are provided. There are three class levels: Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced.

DISTRIBUTE FLYERS: Volunteers are needed from now through January 6, 2019 to distribute flyers at Adelphi Plaza, Beltway Plaza, Calverton, Hillandale, Langley Plaza, at Metro Bus Stops, in libraries and at churches. You can pick up flyers in English and Spanish on Sundays after the Service.

GREET: Welcome students as they register Sundays, January 13 and January 20, 2019 from 1:15 pm to 3:15 pm. Guide them to their classrooms on January 27 from 1 pm to 2 pm.

REGISTER: Register, test, and collect modest fees on Sundays, January 13, January 20, January 27, 2019. Money and receipt book will be furnished.

To see what tasks remain to be done for the Fall Semester, contact Carmelita Carter-Sykes or e-mail clc@pbuuc.org

Women's Retreat

The Annual PBUUC Women's Retreat will be on Saturday, March 2nd. Please put it on your calendars! This is a day for women to relax and rejuvenate. We share fellowship, workshops, breakfast and lunch. All are invited.

We are looking for volunteer workshop leaders - please contact Workshop Coordinator Kathi Yu at (best contact is kathiyu@gmail.com, alternatives are cell [240-593-4650](tel:240-593-4650) and home [301-593-2853](tel:301-593-2853)).

We also need a volunteer breakfast coordinator to ensure that our breakfast fixings are set up for all to enjoy - please contact one of the Co-Retreat Leaders, either Anne Hoover (aehoover@hotmail.com or [301-384-8578](tel:301-384-8578)) or Abigail Hanley (mnemoscat@gmail.com or [443-255-4279](tel:443-255-4279)).

Parents of Adult Children

Would you like to be part of a conversation group for parents or grandparents who have adult (or nearly adult) children facing difficulties? It might be about addictions or life choices or perhaps serious health concerns. The role of parent is sometimes difficult as we navigate the relationships and the wish to help, when sometimes help is not ours to do. Please let me know if this is something that might be helpful to you.

Rev. Rachel—Minister@pbuuc.org

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.

Notes from the Minister

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Taking into account all of this and the information gathered, the next steps will be to develop interview questions and pilot our proposed interviews with an organization in our Neighborhood. The plan is to elicit help from members in the congregation, provide an interview guide, training and role play, and identify places to conduct interviews. We want to understand what people in the neighborhood see as justice issues, and what their experience is, living and perhaps working in our Neighborhood.

I am hopeful about this work and this process. I am hopeful that our work will move us more deeply into learning about our neighborhood, making connections in our Neighborhood, and understanding the issues within our Neighborhood. All of this may help us to be self-reflective, to learn more about ourselves and our relationship to the Neighborhood and justice work. I am hopeful that it will lead to developing meaningful partners in our Neighborhood. I am hopeful that it will lead to our finding a way that we can support greater justice for the people here, in our Neighborhood.

Let us begin.

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