



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

May 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

Notes from the Minister



Our campus includes this beautiful, expansive deck, which we use to access both the Meeting House and the Religious Exploration Building and as a gathering space. It provides a wonderful transition from the parking lot and the noise of the world into our Paint Branch community. It invites us to consider the green of the glen, the beauty and marvel of nature, and the joy of the changing seasons.

This year, I am keenly aware of appreciating our facilities. We are feeling the need to appreciate them a little more by reinvesting in them every year and every season. There will be some active work on the deck in the coming weeks, appreciating the service it has given us, and extending its life and function.

It is much like how we invest in the relationships of those we love and care about. If we don't invest in them each year, each season, after a time we discover that they have only the thinnest of existence. We need to invest in being in relationship, in caring for each other, in caring for our community.

Dr. Elizabeth Minnich is a distinguished philosopher currently at Queens College of Charlotte. She has written about the kinds of errors if we take knowledge of a particular few to generalize and define the norm and the ideal. One of the common errors is Partial Knowledge. She notes that all knowing is partial – we can only have a partial understanding of the context: our own history, the context of others, and the perspective and experience we bring to an encounter. And all knowing is partial or preferential to our own experience and story.

So I think about how we talk to each other. How do we express our ideas, our thoughts, our deeper hurts and deep convictions? How do we connect deeply enough to stick around to get beyond initial misunderstanding to a place of more understanding? Is it always possible to achieve some greater understanding? Can we find a way to be curious, to suss out more understanding of another's perspective? Can I be curious about the ways in which my experience, my partial knowledge has limited my understanding? Can I invest in learning more, to grow my knowledge?

I hope and intend to be a learner and to help us to be a learning community. May we each seek ways to be more curious, more humble about what we think we know, more aware that each of us only has partial knowledge.

Two years ago, together with the search committee, we were planning our trip here to visit the area, to consider together if we were a fit, this congregation and I. We arrived on May 5 for a pre-candidating weekend and saw the poppies blooming in a local yard. I am still delighted that a month later we both chose each other, chose to do this work together, in partnership.

Let us begin.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org

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

MAY 5 CLIMATE CHANGE – IT'S UP TO US!

The PBUUC Green Sanctuary Committee; with Clark Ritz and Samantha Evans, Worship Associates; and guest flute quartet

There are things each of us can do to reduce our carbon footprint. Collectively, we can make a difference!

MAY 12 THE HEART IS THE COMPASS OUR ANNUAL SPRING CHOIR SERVICE

PBUUC Choir led by Music Director David Chapman; with Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; Elizabeth Porter and Jeri Holloway, Worship Associates; guest oboist, hornist, and vocalists Allison Hughes, Elizabeth Porter and Alexandra Dilley

Our amazing Paint Branch Choir will lead us in worship and music as they bring us their annual spring Choir Service.

MAY 19 REIMAGINING SUNDAY & FLOWER COMMUNION

Rev. Rachel Christensen and Chris McCann, DMRE; with Paul Wester, Worship Associate; and Children's Choir
A Reimagining Sunday; Bring a flower to add to our community bouquet, as we celebrate the richness of life and color. ***This is a Reimagining Sunday; children and youth are invited to remain in the Meeting House for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest is provided in Room 6. ***

MAY 26 WELCOMING HAZEL: MEETING OUR TRANSGENDER DAUGHTER AS A YOUNG ADULT

Carol & Rob Boston, Guest Speakers; with Tricia Most, Worship Associate; and Shantida
UU congregations strive to engage in LGBTQ welcoming ministries, and there is always more to learn about diversity in gender identities and sexual orientations. Join Rob and Carol as they reflect on their growing understandings of these issues after learning in early 2018 that their child, assigned male at birth, is actually their daughter. Shantida will offer an additional reflection.

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

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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	Eric Most
Trustee	Wendy Schlegel
Trustee	Kathi Yu
Treasurer	Tess Morrison
Assistant Treasurer	David Nation
Co-Secretary	Carol Boston
Co-Secretary	Amy Parrish

🌀 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
Kathy Bartolomeo

🌀 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	Eric Most
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	Joe Dever
Membership	Pat Behenna
Ministry	James Alexander, Muriel Morisey 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	Van Summers
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Anita Williams
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Retreat Co-Leaders	Anne Hoover & Abigail Hanley

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
Sexton:	Al Addison
Child Care Providers:	Joy Washington
	Briana Workcuff

Office Volunteers

Elizabeth Scheiman & Mary Massey (Alternating Tuesdays)	
Will Snyder (Wednesdays)	Janet Overton (Fridays)
Alice Tyler (Thursdays)	

Board Chair Musings

The arrival of Spring brings beauty, new growth and hope. This is also true of the work done by the members of our Paint Branch UU church community. There are many on-going tasks and projects at PBUUC that will benefit and grow our church community.

The audit of the 2017-18 church records was completed in April by MullinsPC, the auditor. A much deserved thanks to all of the staff and volunteers that provided the auditor with all the necessary financial information to get this task completed. Copies of the audit report will be made available at Sunday services and in the church office. The results of the audit are favorable as described by the report, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church (PBUUC), as of June 30, 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

The stewardship campaign has come to a close and we anticipate pledges for this coming year to be slightly lower than last year by a few thousand dollars (~3%). The BLT committee received input from our congregational groups and is currently preparing the budget for presentation at the Congregational Meeting in June. More than likely funding levels will be similar to last year if not a tiny bit lower. The Board of Trustees is beginning the planning of the Congregational Meeting such that both printed and presentation materials will be available for attendees.

On a final note, the Board of Trustees was informed by the BAG committee that the PBUUC deck is in need of immediate repair. Some parts of the deck will be roped off for safety until repairs are completed. This is separate from the planning to replace the deck. We anticipate that the BAG's selection of an architect will be presented for the newly designed deck replacement at the Congregational Meeting and anticipate that this effort will span a couple of years.

As you can see PBUUC has many irons in the fire which will be discussed over the next few weeks and culminate with our June 2nd Congregational Meeting. We are a congregation with a lot going on. I invite you to join in where you feel called to do so.

— *Noel Monardes*, Board Vice-Chair

Board Calendar for May:

Executive Committee: Monday, May 13, at 7 pm

Read-Aheads due: Tuesday, May 21

Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 28, at 7:30 pm

Multigenerational Religious Exploration



Easter Sunday, I told a story about Yeshua (for those that weren't there, Yeshua is the actual name of Jesus. The name his mother gave him). I asked for us to imagine that the story was both more ordinary and more miraculous than the one we commonly hear about Yeshua's life in general and the resurrection in particular. Then, I was treated to so many ordinary miracles, my heart is still singing. Maybe you all missed them, but you were all there. Part of our service was to create "playful plantings" (packets of seeds to be strewn about willy nilly to create beauty in random places) and everyone was invited to tables to create these packets and have conversation. Paint Branch is the third congregation I have served, and never before have I had the pleasure to witness multigenerational community so joyfully engaged in an activity. The sanctuary was LOUD and bustling, laughter and conversation, community. We ran out of the pretty bags that were provided to house our packets as they dried. Then there were loaves and fishes in the form of someone finding and distributing plastic baggies. I don't know what everyone talked and laughed about at their tables, and I hope that you'll share with me some snippet of conversation of which you were a part. We were then all called back to the worship space and some folks busied their hands with clean up of the space. Then more folks snuck out to hide a ridiculous abundance of Easter eggs so the kids could have a lively Easter egg hunt on a scrumptiously beautiful day. There were children laughing and running through our outdoor spaces and adults laughing and smiling and community-ing on the deck. All of these things, the things we do together, it is the holiest work we do. So ordinary. So miraculous.

To ordinary miracles,

Chris McCann, dmre@pbuuc.org

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, May 5 at 1 pm. End hunger by raising funds and walking! Walking locations in Hyattsville at the Linson Pool Parking Lot and at Riderwood. See DMRE Chris McCann or Carmelita Carter-Sykes for more information.

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Finance Committee

PBUUC FY18 Financial Audit Results

The PBUUC FY18 Financial Audit is complete. The results are very satisfying. With not having had an audit for unknown years, the audit proved that our financial picture is good and our Internal Controls have been working remarkably well. Our Auditor, John Mullins, P.C., said the audit went the way he had expected it to go based on audits of many other churches our size. One of the goals of doing the audit was to move toward Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP). This means we will transition from our current Cash-based accounting to Accrual-based accounting. One difference is that instead of entering expenses into our QuickBooks tool when we write the check to pay for the expense (cash basis), we will enter the expense into QuickBooks when the expense is incurred (e.g., when we commit to an expense – accrual basis). In the latter case, the accounts payable for the expense is closed when we write the check of payment. The Accrual process forces us to have data in our system for obligated expenses; avoiding the risk that we might spend without recollection of expenses to be paid.

The Auditor provided a number of Adjustments to QuickBooks to help us move toward GAAP. He emphasized that all the information was there, and reclassifying will better represent GAAP standards. He identified three Internal Controls to be changed to be GAAP compliant. We (Admin, Bookkeeper, Treasurers, Minister, and myself) accepted 2 of those and decided, in a meeting with John, that we would prefer to handle Pledges in QuickBooks as we always have. John said that was fine, and we will be about 95% compliant with GAAP with this variance.

We should all express our appreciation to Chuck Bury, Church Administrator; Hannah Oshin, Bookkeeper; and Dave Nation, Treasurer; for many years of taking care of PBUUC finances. Also, Marilyn Pearl, Louise Waugh and Tess Morrison for their recent contributions as Treasurers.

Elaine Shell, Finance Committee Chair

New Option for making Pledge contributions

We have implemented the online donation feature of the Breeze app the church uses to manage member information. You can use this feature of Breeze to contribute your pledges automatically if you like. The tool will interface with your bank account or Credit Card account for the transfer, very much like routine monthly payments you already may use. The contributions will appear on your bank statements; and the funds will automatically be designated to your PBUUC pledge account. There is a fee charged to PBUUC for this service -- for Credit Cards we are charged 2.9% plus \$0.30 per transaction; and for ACH transfers from checking or savings it's 1%. If this new capability is appealing to you, go to <https://pbuuc.breezechms.com/give/online> Members can request a BreezeCHMS account from <https://pbuuc.breezechms.com/login/create>

THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE LEARNS ABOUT INTERFAITH WORKS

As part of our ongoing effort to get to know more about Paint Branch's neighbors, we have begun talking to representatives of some of the area organizations to learn about their work and the people they serve. So far, members of the Initiative's Steering Committee interviewed representatives of a neighborhood school, two churches and our Community Learning Center.

We want to share highlights of a recent interview Susannah Schiller and Deb Rubenstein conducted with the program director at Interfaith Works Empowerment Center in Silver Spring. This non-profit agency serves people experiencing homelessness and poverty in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. Through its work, it lives out our UU Principle of respecting the worth and dignity of every person.

The Interfaith Works center recently helped a homeless client get a \$15-an-hour job as a forklift operator. While the pay is above current state and federal minimum wages, it is not enough to pay for housing in our area. The man remains homeless while he looks for an apartment and roommates to share the rent. Until he gets his first paycheck, he will need bus fare to his new job, meals, a place to shower, wash his clothes and sleep at night.

Here's where Interfaith Works comes in again. Through its programs, the man can get hot meals, and use the shower and laundry facilities. The agency will also provide bus fare until he gets his first paycheck.

Interfaith Works also provides case management services along with recreational and therapeutic groups and vocational service programs. They do assessments and referrals for housing, behavioral health treatment and other needs. There are also 21 individual residential units for those experiencing homelessness. And an emergency shelter during the winter.

The strength of people experiencing homelessness and poverty is their resilience and survival skills in dealing with difficult life circumstances and changing federal assistance regulations, the director says. Interfaith Works advocates at the local and state level for policies and programs to address the needs of the people they serve including individuals who lack legal immigration status and returning citizens.

The Interfaith Empowerment Center is just one of many organizations serving people in area around Paint Branch. We have identified many more and need your help.

If you can do one interview (either alone or in pairs) come to our Interview Orientation on May 5 during Enrichment Hour to learn more. Interested but can't make it, let us know and we'll work it out. If you can attend or have questions Email us at communityjustice@pbuuc.org

Thanks from the Community Justice Steering Committee: Chair Susannah Schiller, Deb Rubenstein, Liz Citrin, Rev. Rachel Christensen and Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



Next Monthly Meeting Sunday, May 21 During Enrichment Hour

DARTT will have an in-person meeting on Sunday, May 21, during an extended Enrichment Hour. We will meet from 11:30 am to 1 pm. RE Building Room TBA. Agenda items should be sent to DARTT@pbuuc.org. A draft Agenda will be distributed before the Meeting. All are welcome. DARTT is a chartered committee, established to facilitate the work of the Congregation in fully realizing its stated intention of becoming an intentionally multicultural congregation.

Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair, DARTT

DARTT Call to Service: Convener Needed for PBUUC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI) Gathering

Some people who regularly attend DARTT meetings have shown interest in having an organizational home for interests of LGBTQI members of the Paint Branch community. Some have also expressed a strong interest in moving the Congregation through renewal as a Welcoming Congregation. In 2005, after a series of discernments, workshops, services, the Congregation voted to become and was subsequently certified by our denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association, as a Welcoming Congregation. The UUA is now offering a Welcoming Renewal for congregations. See <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program> for more information. There is a picture of Paint Branch on the landing page! Talk to some of the Congregation members who 'were here when it happened' (the original certification process occurred). (The picture was taken much later than the official certification.)

DARTT is asking for a convener of the group of folks who identify as LGBTQI to work on hopes, dreams, and plans for this work. Among the decisions this group would make is whether this initiative should be housed under DARTT, another existing committee, or stand independently. As a first step, we need a recruiter, organizer, and convener of this first meeting. If you're willing or curious, please contact DARTT@pbuuc.org

DARTT OpEd for May

How I Learned About Being White — Carol Boston

Following the murder of 2nd Lt. Richard Collins from Bowie State on campus in May 2017 and the death-by negligence of football player Jordan McNair in June 2018, the University of Maryland is beginning to stir its institutional bones to more forthrightly address racism on campus. That's why I'm enrolled in a six-session series of workshops for faculty and staff called Embrace Race. We're looking at campus climate and ways we can disrupt racism where we work. We're also looking at ourselves and our own beliefs and actions around race.

Thanks to the leadership of a multiracial steering committee and the efforts of skilled facilitators, we have sometimes been able to reach deep and vulnerable places during the workshops. We also receive readings, podcasts, and homework between sessions. Recently we were asked to reflect on this: How did you learn about being white?

In the past, I've thought my racial consciousness began when we moved to a new town in Minnesota when I was in third grade and there was one African American boy and one Native American girl in the class ahead of me. Now I know it began much earlier and more insidiously than that.

When I was young, we spent every Sunday afternoon at our grandparents' house. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older cousins "visited" while my sister Barbara and I sat around the kitchen table drawing on slightly wrinkled and faded colored construction paper. There was no shortage of paper in that house because Grandpa was able to bring home rejects from the paper mill where he worked. There weren't a lot of other material resources to spare though. My grandparents didn't have a car. Their house had a toilet and a sink but no bathtub or shower. I don't think we ever ate a fresh fruit or vegetable there.

But the one decorative item the kitchen did have was a large cookie jar shaped as the caricature of a heavy older African American woman wearing a long yellow dress, with a red kerchief around her head and an apron around her waist. She was grinning, and her facial features were crudely painted in black and red.* What is so remarkable to me now, so many years and miles from that place is this: How exactly did it get there? Who purchased it and why? Did anyone ever consider it offensive, even privately?

Rural Minnesota in the 1960s was (and remains, I think), one of the whitest places in the country. Our family didn't have a Southern connection that might have explained the source of such a dubious ceramic jar. My best guess is that my grandma bought it from the Ben Franklin five and dime in town, which sold household goods. Let's say she needed a cookie jar because she liked to bake for us. Just think for a minute about the supply chain that brought that particular one to her.

Someone designed it. Someone's hands shaped and painted it. A manufacturer advertised it for sale and a company placed an order for it, guessing correctly that there would be a local market for it. In the store itself, someone put it on the shelf. Someone rang up the purchase and packaged it. So many, many hands were involved, all so this racist object could be placed atop the white Kenmore in the kitchen of a working class home in a small town along the Mississippi River. So we could, as children, unthinkingly lift off her top and dive our grubby little hands into her depths for one of our grandma's sugar cookies. So she could be returned to the top of the refrigerator when we needed the table space to continue our coloring.

Continued on Page 6

New Day Rising

New Day Rising Launching Soon

In late January 15 members of the Paint Branch community, including our Minister and Director, Multigenerational Religious Exploration, attended an all-day conference, *New Day Rising: Identifying Your Congregation's Next Steps In The Struggle With White Supremacy Culture*. The Conference was planned by the staff of the Central East Region, of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Conference was well attended by congregations in the area and some from a distance within the Region. There were morning workshops, mid-day caucuses for those identifying as white and those identifying as people of color. The afternoon provided 7- minute 'TED Talks' from a dozen congregations' mostly lay leaders to share their successes, failures, and sticking points in working on some aspect of this issue.

PBUUC attendees came back energized about using some of their learnings here. Since the Conference, the New Day Rising Team has met three times to develop ways to continue the work at Paint Branch. Watch *BRANCHES*, *Continuum*, and the *Bulletin* as we roll out our plans.

New Day Rising Team (Carol Boston, Kate Brett, Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Rev. Rachel Christensen, Sabrina Jones, Chris McCann, Nancy Monardes, Noel Monardes, Tricia Most, Mary Tyrtle Rooker, Susannah Schiller, Marguerite Summers, Van Summers, Carol Carter Walker, and Bettie Young)

New Day Rising Group Film Series and Resources

In January, fifteen Paint Branchers (Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Carol Carter Walker, Bettie Young, Carol Boston, Sabrina Jones, Kate Brett, Marguerite Summers, Van Summers, Nancy Spande Monardes, Mary Tyrtle Rooker, Susannah Schiller, Patricia Most, Rachel Christensen, Chris McCann and Noel Monardes) attended the New Day Rising Conference in Fairfax. This group has met several times since and we have made a serious commitment to expanding anti-racism education at Paint Branch. The first offering of this group will be a film series and discussion facilitated by Sabrina Jones. The film, "Race: The Power of an Illusion" will be shown in in three parts.

- ≈ Sunday May 19th 3 pm—5 pm in the Kelley Room
- ≈ Sunday, June 9th 3 pm—5 pm in the Kelley Room
- ≈ Sunday, June 16th 3 pm—5 pm in the Sanctuary

Please plan to attend as many as you can, even if you can't attend all three.

Anti-Racism Resources

As part of the New Day Rising group's commitment to expand anti-racist education at Paint Branch, we are compiling a monthly list of resources. Books, podcasts, videos, articles, songs, something for everyone! Please choose at least one item from the list to engage with. You'll be glad you did.

May Resource List:

Articles: Privileged by Kyle Korver of the Utah Jazz in the Player's Tribune: <https://www.theplayerstribune.com/en-us/articles/kyle-korver-utah-jazz-nba>

Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack: A classic written by Peggy McIntosh, originally published in 1988: <http://www.nymbp.org/uploads/2/6/6/0/26609299/whiteprivilege.pdf>

Confronting racism is not about the needs and feelings of White People: Ijeoma Oluo in The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/28/confronting-racism-is-not-about-the-needs-and-feelings-of-white-people>

Podcasts: Code Switch (episodes are generally under an hour) <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510312/codeswitch>
Seeing White hosted by Seen on Radio: (this is a 14 episode series, most episodes run about an hour) <http://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>

Books: So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving

Videos: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race TEDx talk by Jay Smooth: (runs about 12 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbdxeFcQtaU>
Wilderness Journey: The Struggle for Black Empowerment and Racial Justice Within the UUA: (run time 76 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK86pRn3b-4>

Songs: To Be Young Gifted and Black: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEMOxRxcJpo>
Strange Fruit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnITHvJBEPo>

DARTT OpEd continued

I feel ashamed when I think about how unconscious and how common this all was—just part of the backdrop of my childhood, same as the boxes of Crayolas that always contained a peach-colored one labeled "Flesh," as if there was only one color anyone's skin could be, the color we conveniently were. When I think now about how I learned about being white, I understand a little better that it wasn't some intellectual process I arrived at, but rather, something absorbed at the molecular level with an assist from a culture that defined what I was as normal, and dehumanized everyone else.

*Maybe it shouldn't have surprised me that these cookie jars are still considered "collectibles." The Black Americana Mammy Aunt Jemima Cookie Jar with Gold Accents that resembles the one I'm talking about? Available from Ebay for around \$90.

In and Around Paint Branch

The Third Wednesday lunch group will meet at the Amber Spice restaurant in Laurel at 1 pm for a relaxing time with friends from PBUUC. We've been to Amber Spice before and everyone enjoyed both the food and the environment. Parking is good. It's an Indian restaurant with a great buffet of mildly-spicy favorites. The address is 13524 Baltimore Ave in Laurel. That's Route 1 at the intersection of Contee Rd. in the MARLO Furniture shopping center. Look for the businesses at the intersection and away from the L-shaped shopping strip. We hope to see you there. Everyone is welcome. Contact Elaine Shell 301-602-0590 for questions.

Beautification Day

Who does maintenance at Paint Branch? Who fixes things and maintains the landscape? Is it: "The Building and Grounds (BAG) Committee"? No! It isn't... It is You, the Congregation. BAG's job is to recognize issues that need to be addressed around the church and prioritize and recommend maintenance and repairs. BAG tries to find subcontractors in some instances and in other cases, BAG looks for volunteers to help maintain our Church and Grounds. This is where You come in. Spring Beautification Day: Saturday, May 18, from 9 am – 2 pm with pizza at noon. Come for as long as you can spare. There will be something you can help with... Thank you!

Kelley Room Redux

We're going to bring new life to the Kelley Room! We want to create a space that is welcoming and pleasant to use. What would a renewed space look, sound and feel like? Do we need – A new color? - New flooring? New lighting? Some rugs? Noise abating panels? Window shades? Or...? We would like to invite you to reimagine this wonderful space and its possibilities. A committee is now being formed to organize and guide this process. There are no requirements for participation. Your enthusiasm and ideas are what we need.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast at TJ's Restaurant

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be 10AM Saturday, May 11 at TJ's Restaurant in the Calverton Shopping Center, just up the road from PBUUC. 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

Tree Planting Party Saturday, May 18 at 10 am. All are welcome and after all, the more the merrier! You can help us plant some trees to help sequester carbon and you could also participate in the spring clean-up operation at church. For more information and/or questions, contact Alba Tirado.

Saturday, May 4th Women's Group trip to Mount Vernon. Go to www.mountvernon.org for info about fees and special tours. To RSVP your plans to go and/or to carpool, please email Patricia_Most@msn.com To be added to the Women's Group List Serve, please contact Anne Hoover by emailing aehover@hotmail.com

Stewardship

Our 2019 annual campaign has ended with 103 pledges totaling \$312,562. While the number of pledges and total amount pledged is down slightly from this time last year, the average amount pledged increased 5% to \$3,035. The incredible generosity of this community is amazing. I am grateful for the many volunteers who helped to make the "Treasure Our Church" annual campaign successful. These include our 17 Visiting Stewards, testimonial speakers, stewardship breakfast cooks and cleanup crew, pledge party hosts, and the incredible Stewardship Committee members. Please look for a complete write up of the annual campaign details to include the names of all of our volunteers in the PBUUC Annual Report that will be released in June. If you have any questions about our annual campaign or stewardship in general, please contact us at stewardship@pbuuc.org

Chris Evans, Stewardship Chair



Membership Committee

Roots and Branches of Unitarian Universalism Class Saturday, May 4, 11:30 am - 4 pm

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Would you like to know more about the UU faith, history, and Principles? Do you have questions about Paint Branch UU Church? 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, May 4, here at the church from 11:30 a.m. (lunch provided) until 4 pm. Rev. Rachel Christensen, Carol Carter Walker, and Beth Charbonneau will facilitate the class. Childcare will be available.

Sign up via e-mail at rootsclass@pbuuc.org Questions? Ask Pat Behenna.

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.

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