



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

June 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

**JUNE 2 PROMISE OR PERMISSION:
DO WE HAVE A CHOICE?**

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister;

with Samantha Evans, Worship Associate

In John Steinbeck's novel *East of Eden*, he explores the difference between 'Thou Mayest' and 'Thou Shalt.' An Auction Service suggested by Marj Donn.

Followed by our Congregational Annual Meeting

JUNE 9 THE HOLINESS OF PLAY

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Chris McCann, DMRE; Jeri Holloway, Worship Associate; and the Children's Choir

Relmaging Sunday: Let us explore indoor and outdoor play, as we celebrate being together. Recognizing volunteers. Wear your play clothes!

Followed by Church Picnic on the Deck and in the Glen

**JUNE 16 FATHER'S DAY:
REFLECTIONS FROM A FATHER AND DAUGHTER**

Paul Wester, guest speaker;

with Elizabeth Porter, Worship Associate

Join Paul Wester, and his daughter and former youth Worship Associate Abby Wester, as they reflect on Fathers Day and our Unitarian Universalist principles.

JUNE 23 WHAT WE DO TOGETHER

Benjamin Van Dyne, Guest Speaker;

with Paul Wester, Worship Associate;

Religious liberals prize our freedom to choose what we believe. But what is the price of our freedom to choose? Read more about our Guest Speaker on [page 6](#).

**JUNE 30 LEARNING TO LIVE WITH
THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR**

The PBUUC Worship Associates

This is the Worship Service Auction Item won by Marj Donn last fall. Nuclear War will be the challenging theme for our seven Worship Associates. Jeri Holloway, Paul Wester, Mary Rooker, Ebeth Porter, Samantha Evans, Clark Ritz and Tricia Most will each present their reflections on this topic.

Notes from the Minister



At the annual meeting in 2011, this congregation unanimously passed a resolution stating:

To more fully realize our Unitarian Universalist Principles, we, the Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church community, declare ourselves an Intentional Multicultural Congregation. Therefore, we commit ourselves, the Board of Trustees, staff, committees, affinity groups and lay leadership to inclusive actions to transform all aspects of congregational life in ways that affirm our multicultural identity as the foundation of the church's strength.

Over the years it has become clear that this is not a once and done effort. The work is ongoing, and it may in fact be more urgent, more live in the congregation today. We have recently faced events that have been uncomfortable around how we deal with and speak about race. We have work to do. How will we do this work of increasing our racial literacy, racial understanding – and our capacity for dialog and communication?

Today I am wondering if there is work that we need to do behind the work. Before we can be an intentional multicultural community, we need to be a Community. What would it mean to be a community that values and sustains and supports each other? One that chooses to connect deeply to each other. One that intentionally cares about how we treat each other, cares for each other and is in relationship with each other.

Sometimes, we might be more a social club than a community – sharing social conversation and laughter.

I want us to be a community, where we work toward creating a space where we can be brave; where we can be vulnerable; where we can grow, where we can be deeply relational. I want to be a community, not where we can say anything we want, but one where we are mindful of the others in the community, choosing to be respectful and curious. I want us to be talking with each other and listening deeply, aware of not just our intent, but also our impact. I want to be a community in which we really see each other, and are in deep relationship with each other. I want a community that is in Covenant with each other, providing a framework that is an invitation to be more deeply connected.

A covenant is an agreement as to how we will be with each other, not a straitjacket around what I can say or do. Rather, it is an agreement that we will treat each other with respect, in our words, in our deeds, in our ways of being.

This is the work behind the work. Who are we? Who do we want to be? Do we want to be a deeply connected community with a rich network of relationships?

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

June Sunday Services	Page 1	Wrestling with Race Save-the-Date	Page 3	Social Action Committee	Page 5
Notes from the Minister	Page 1	Diversity / Anti-Racism		In and Around Paint Branch	Page 5
PBUUC Leadership Directory	Page 2	Transformation Team (DARTT)	Page 4	3rd Wednesday Lunch Bunch	Page 5
Board of Trustees	Page 3	Next DARTT Meeting June 16	Page 4	Paint Branch now on BreezeCHMS	Page 5
Annual Meeting, Sun. June 2	Page 3	Gathering of LGBTQI PBUUCers	Page 4	New Day Rising Film Series Continues	Page 5
Religious Exploration	Page 3	DARTT OpEd for June	Page 4	Note to Readers	Page 6

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

We are in the home stretch of this board year. I am hoping that for most of you, this issue of Branches has arrived before the Annual Meeting on June 2nd. This is the opportunity for each member of PBUUC to make a difference in the direction of our community and to hear the plans for upcoming efforts.

There are four openings on the Board of Trustees; three are the normal openings due to the end of Trustee's tenure and one is due to a vacancy that occurred this spring. Election to the Board should not be considered lightly, as it is charged with setting policy, maintenance of fiscal accountability, and general guidance on future planning and programs. As is the tradition in this church, the nominating committee has proposed a full slate of potential trustees: Carol Boston, Melissa Graham, Janet Overton and Donald Gerson. We entrust the deliberative efforts of the nominating committee to identify people who will help move our church into the future with measured and reasoned effort. This nominating committee is also voted in by the full church membership, and the new nominees to its roster are Carmelita Carter-Sykes and Shantida Joseph.

Another important topic to be discussed during the meeting is the proposed church budget. This is the annual budget of all normally occurring budgetary items; one-time efforts of large scale such as the proposed complete replacement of the deck are not included in it. The Budget Leadership Team has put together what they consider the best budget possible given our estimated income for the year through a thorough process of obtaining input from our church community. I encourage you to come and hear this discussion.

Finally, we will talk about some major upcoming efforts, such as the parking lot renovation (it's being scheduled), the deck and some additional long-range planning efforts.

There is a great deal going on. I encourage everyone to participate and fully embrace our 5th principle: the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

— *Kate Brett*, Board Chair

**Congregational Annual Meeting,
Sunday, June 2, at 11:30 am**

We hope you will be able to participate. However, if you are a member but cannot attend, you will be able to designate a proxy to vote for you. Proxy forms will be available in the Meeting House Foyer immediately after Sunday's service.

Board Calendar for June:

Executive Committee: Monday, June 10, at 7 pm

Read-Aheads due: Tuesday, June 18

Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, at 7:30 pm

Multigenerational Religious Exploration



Last Sunday, a group of remarkable first and second graders wrapped up their OWL classes. OWL stands for Our Whole Lives and is the lifespan sexuality education offered by many UU churches. The younger group spends a lot of time talking about their bodies, how to respect their bodies and the bodies of others, and of course they learn about babies. This group of kids was engaged with the lessons, and the conversation would be serious and silly in equal measure.

My now 17 year old daughter grew up with OWL starting in kindergarten. This was rather alarming to some people and they wondered why on earth a young child was attending sexuality education and the best I could offer at the time was that it was important. After leading this group, I have a more complete answer. The most important piece for our younger children is the ability to talk about it freely and openly. I have no idea what they will each retain from this particular set of lessons, but I do know that they were offered a space to ask questions and trust that those questions would be answered honestly with no shame.

We live in a world where factual scientific evidence is routinely derided and dismissed. It becomes ever more imperative that we teach our children fact based sexuality education and equip them with real information. Much like politics and religion, if we don't teach our children about sex, someone else will be more than happy to do it. So thank you, congregation of Paint Branch, for supporting this vital ministry. May we always be present to the questions of children and be prepared to answer them honestly.

To fact based learning,

Chris McCann, dmre@pbuuc.org
Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

SAVE THE DATE

Wrestling with Race

Sunday, July 21, during Enrichment Hour

Please join us in a discussion about race, what you are reading, what you are noticing, and how we respond to issues of race in our lives. This is a lifelong journey to learn and unlearn the social norms of our culture. All are invited.

Rev. Rachel Christensen & Chris McCann, DMRE

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



Next Monthly Meeting Sunday, June 16 During Enrichment Hour

DARTT will host its next monthly meeting on Sunday, June 16 during an extended Enrichment Hour. We will meet from 11:45 am to 1 pm in Room 4, Religious Exploration Building Room. Agenda items will be solicited and published via the weekly ContinUUMs and Bulletins. A draft Agenda will be distributed before the Meeting. All are welcome. DARTT is a chartered committee, established by the Board of Trustees in 2008 to facilitate the work of the Congregation in fully realizing its stated intention of becoming an intentionally multicultural congregation. Questions? Comments. Contact us via DARTT@pbuuc.org

Carol Carter Walker, Co-Chair, DARTT

DARTT Assessing Interest in Gathering of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex (LGBTQI) PBUUCers

Last Fall, some people who regularly attend DARTT meetings showed 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. DARTT has been asking for a convener(s) of the group of folks who identify as LGBTQI and their allies to work on hopes, dreams, and plans for this work. Some are considering but none has said the sacred Yes. We are refocusing to assess interest in this gathering and in this work. We may be more successful in creating a convener(s), if they know there is a critical mass of folks interested in doing this work. If you identify as a member of PBUUC LGBTQI communities or as an ally and would commit to playing a role in the gathering and the work, please connect with us via DARTT@pbuuc.org

DARTT OpEd for June

On Committees and Institutional Change

—Renee Katz

My first experience with committee work was when I attended a Diversity and Anti-Racism Transformation Team meeting at PBUUC in 2008. While I'm not sure the exact date of the meeting, I recall the feeling I had the moment I realized I was participating in a committee. It was preceded by someone passing around an agenda, and was confirmed by the end of the meeting when we reviewed something called "action items," a term which inspired simultaneous emotions of fear and excitement. I was sure that I had just inadvertently committed to something important and I was now a member who would be held to certain expectations. I didn't want to disappoint people I respected, and I wasn't sure exactly what was going to be asked or expected of me. It is the fear side of that experience that I think many organization leaders try to avoid by making their meetings and structure more informal, sometimes to the point of compromising the very mission that they set out to achieve.

The UUA's Commission on Institutional Change recently published a blog post titled "Informal Structures Privilege Those in Power." The points they bring up challenge an assumption I have observed in various settings, that informal structures are more welcoming and are more conducive to membership recruitment goals. I believe that this assumption may, in some circumstances, have racist and classist underpinnings. The idea that formal structures will surely be intimidating to certain groups of potential members often underestimates the skills and abilities of individuals because they may fall into a certain racial or economic category. In other organizations, I have seen rules broken or relaxed because of the mistaken belief that the people in the membership pool were not equipped to enforce or carry out activities according to the organization's rules. This resulted in the organization becoming vulnerable to exploitation, with very unfortunate results.

Organizations can become more welcoming and accessible, not by eliminating their formal structure and rules, which can actually ensure fairness and organizational integrity, but instead by being creative about the opportunities for participation. Since certain technical skills and knowledge are helpful for specific roles, investment in training and mentorship is just as important as creating diverse opportunities for participation. DARTT has been successful at both. They hold formally structured meetings and also create opportunities for the wider Paint Branch community to participate in events, discussions, or conferences, according to their availability. This op-ed is one example. Though I'm not currently able to participate in the regular meetings, I have been able to stay involved through opportunities like writing an article, being invited to sing a song during a DARTT-led service, or checking out one of the articles recommended in the "Anti-Racism Resources" section of Branches. Kudos to DARTT for creating a structure that maintains formal organizational integrity while creating opportunities for anyone who is moved by their mission to take part in their work.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee spent much of our May meeting discussing the current immigration situation in the US. Did you know that Cedar Lane UU Church is providing sanctuary for a woman while she awaits official decisions on her deportation status?

Rev. Dr. William Barber II, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, met with Rosa Gutierrez Lopez yesterday and spoke of the Empire of Evil, terrorizing immigrants and communities of color, and equated Rosa's struggles with those of civil rights icon Rosa Parks.

Rev. Barber urged those gathered at Cedar Lane, where Rosa has lived in sanctuary for almost 5 months, to call elected officials from City Hall to the White House and seek freedom for Rosa and all immigrants seeking freedom from illegal deportations.

TODAY, please take five minutes to call your Congressional Representatives and Senators and ask them to intercede on Rosa's behalf with ICE, and help secure a stay of deportation while her asylum case is being considered. Call 1-844-332-6361 and follow instructions to connect to your Member of Congress, and use the following script, if needed:

Hello, my name is [first and last name] and I'm a constituent of Senator [name]. I'm calling on the Senator to call ICE and urge them to grant Rosa Gutierrez Lopez's petition for a stay of removal. I also am asking the senator to reject the White House's supplemental budget request. ICE and CBP have a long track record of abuse and death, mismanagement of funds, and a culture of violence. My tax dollars should not be spent to detain, deport, or terrorize immigrant communities. We demand that the senator urge party leadership to reject the White House supplemental budget request. Thank you for supporting Rosa and all those endangered by immoral immigration policies.

In and Around Paint Branch

The Third Wednesday 1 pm Lunch Group will be going to the Swahili restaurant in Beltsville on June 19, 2019 at 1 pm. This is a terrific Kenyan restaurant that suffered a fire and has just reopened for business. Remember the small plates that five people shared, and the mango mousse dessert! Let's celebrate their reopening with a great turnout for our lunch. The address is 10800 Rhode Island Ave. Beltsville. It's just a few blocks south of Powder Mill Rd. on the right in the small shopping center at the corner of Rhode Island and Sellman Road. Contact Elaine Shell for questions 301-776-4271.

Paint Branch is now on BreezeCHMS

As part of the upcoming Paint Branch website redesign, we wanted to make it easier for Paint Branch members to interact as a community. To help with that, we have begun to use the website BreezeCHMS. Breeze will help Paint Branchers keep in touch with each other through an online directory (even through your smartphone). It will soon replace the online calendar with integrated calendars that serve different functions of the church while still ensuring we don't "double-book" rooms. Volunteers will get automatic notifications of their upcoming schedules. RE teachers will be able to take attendance on their smartphones. And donors can make payments, and keep tabs on their giving, including tracking progress on the making their annual pledge.

How can you access Breeze?

If you are a PBUUC member and/or made a pledge for the upcoming fiscal year, this week you receive an email invitation to create a Breeze member account. If you haven't received an email, you can request an account from our Breeze page <http://pbuuc.breezechms.com>. You can also download Breeze's smartphone app, to be able to access the online directory wherever you go!

After creating a member account and logging in to Breeze, you will be able to:

- ☞ View other Paint Branch member Friends' basic contact information (an online directory!)
- ☞ View and update your contact information
- ☞ Add a profile photo for yourself or your family. Check out [THIS GUIDE](#) to editing a profile in Breeze if you need assistance.

New Day Rising

Race: The Power of an Illusion Film Series

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. We started watching the film, "[Race: The Power of an Illusion](#)" on May 19th, with the remaining to parts on:

- ☞ 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.

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.

Meet Our Guest Speaker

June 23: What We Do Together

Benjamin Van Dyne is a PhD student in systematic theology at Fordham University, where his work focuses on white and Christian supremacy and social solidarity in the face of violence and suffering. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and worked as a community organizer in Indiana, Kentucky, Virginia, New York City and Long Island before attending Union Theological Seminary, where he graduated in with his Master of Divinity. He was raised in the Unitarian Universalist church of Arlington, Virginia and continues to be active in local church communities. He lives in Manhattan with his two children.

EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG

(301) 937-3666

ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030

3215 POWDER MILL ROAD

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH