



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

December 2019

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Nursery Care in Room 6, 9:45 am—12:45 pm
Refreshments and Fellowship after the service
Adult Enrichment Hour, 11:45 am—12:45 pm
Childcare until 12:45 pm

DECEMBER 1 WEARY FEET, RESTED SOULS

Rev. Rachel Christensen and DARTT Co-Chair Carol Carter Walker; Worship Associate Polly Pettit and Chalice Dancers In October, Rev. Rachel Christensen and Carol Carter Walker shared an 8-day journey with 46 others. They visited sites in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee to meet the people and hear the stories that changed the world in the 1960's Civil Rights Movement. They will share their stories of the Living Legacy Pilgrimage. Music of the Movement will be featured.

DECEMBER 8 THROUGH A NEW LENS: EXPANDING CULTURAL AWARENESS

Dr. Abby Crowley with Worship Associate Clark Ritz PBUUC member and former DRE Dr. Abby Crowley recently returned from the Philippines where she served in the Peace Corps. She will share her insights and experiences and suggest ways that we, as UUs, can embody the spirit of cross-cultural understanding and connection.

DECEMBER 15 MUSICAL JOY AT HOLIDAY TIME

The PBUUC Choir; with Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen and Worship Associate Jeri Holloway and Special Music; Our Annual December Choir service will feature selections from Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*.

DECEMBER 22 YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Rev. Rachel Christensen and DMRE Chris McCann; with Worship Associate Elizabeth Porter; The Chalice Dancers; and Special Music
Join DMRE Chris McCann and Rev. Rachel in celebrating how each of us is the Light of the World. Who you are is good. ****This is an All-Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to stay in the Meetinghouse for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest is provided in Room 6.****

DECEMBER 29 KWANZAA: NOW MORE THAN EVER

DARTT Co-Chair Carol Carter Walker, with Worship Associate Polly Pettit
Kwanzaa is a celebration of Family, Community, and Culture. Paint Branch will host its 11th annual recognition of this seven-day holiday with a Multigenerational Service followed by a Potluck Feast. Sponsored by the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team, with Polly Pettit, Worship Associate.

Minister's Notes

Dear Members and Friends,

The year is coming to an end. The weather is changing and the days are getting shorter as we approach the winter solstice. The sunshiny days are spectacular with bright blue sky and still-beautiful trees, as they continue to drop their leaves. Any bets as to when we get the first significant snow-storm? Remember, if we have enough snow to cancel church, we will post it on our website and notify WTOP. If you are wondering if we are open, check on-line.

Our work with the architects is ongoing, imagining a new entrance and other improvements to the church. I know people are excited about this work, and about the proposals that are forthcoming. Come to our Congregational Meeting on December 15 to hear their presentation, and let's imagine what we might do for our facilities and our community.

Also on the agenda for the Congregational Meeting are the two documents the Board is recommending for approval. The Covenant of Right Relations and the Destructive Behaviors Policy offer a way to recognize that as a community we will be healthier if we articulate expectations and boundaries for ourselves and our members. None of us is perfect. We are all fallible as humans. These documents help us to realize that we all fall short of how we want to be with each other. They also help us know that there are ways to come back into covenant, back into good relationship with each other. Revised versions of the documents are available from the church's website with printed copies in Meeting House Foyer.

A light lunch will be served at the Congregational Meeting. All are invited, but only Members will be able to vote. The Meeting will begin at 11:30 am, right after the Choir Service.

At the urging of the Board, we have enabled giving by text and are again publicizing the option for giving online, using your phone or computer. See additional details elsewhere in this issue. Information will be provided regularly in the Bulletin.

We have been working all year to bring issues of Race to the forefront of Paint Branch. Fifteen of us attended New Day Rising, learning about dismantling White Supremacy. Since then, we have offered worship services, a book discussion group, workshops for staff, and open drop-in discussions. We are not done, but we have made a beginning. May we each find a way to engage and learn and begin to be not just not racist, but actively anti-racist.



May you take time during the changing of the year to rest, to take care of yourself, to laugh a little, and to celebrate.

With love,

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🔗 Officers and Board of Trustees 2019-2020 🔗

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair	Janet Overton
Vice Chair	Wendy Schlegel
Vice Chair	Kathi Yu
Trustee	Carol Boston
Trustee	Ebony Contreras
Trustee	Don Gerson
Trustee	Melissa Graham
Trustee	Eric Most
Treasurer	Tess Morrison
Assistant Treasurer	David Nation
Secretary	Amy Parrish
Assistant Secretary	Keith Miller

🔗 Worship Associates 🔗

Elizabeth Porter (2017-20)	Polly Pettit (2019-22)
Jeri Holloway (2017-20)	Susannah Schiller (2019-22)
Tricia Most (2018-21)	Samantha Evans (Young Adult)
Clark Ritz (2018-21)	*Team Leaders

🔗 Pastoral Care Associates 🔗

Kathy Bartolomeo	Lynn Johnson
Jeri Holloway	Lynn Louison

🔗 Chartered Committees and Teams 🔗

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
	Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING)
Adult RE	Louise Waugh
Auction	Tricia Most
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
Long-Term Planning	Ebony Contreras & Kathi Yu
Membership	Pat Behenna
Ministry	James Alexander, Muriel Morisey and Elizabeth Porter
	Peter Wathen-Dunn
New Entrance Design	Diana McFadden & Will Snyder
Nominating	Melissa Graham
Religious Exploration	Kathleen Bartolomeo
Social Action (SAC)	Chris Evans
Stewardship	

🔗 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	Keith Miller
Third Wednesday Lunch Club	Cathy Helmold
Ushers	Lori Snyder
Warm Nights	VACANT
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:	Tasha Coleman
	Joy Washington

Office Volunteers

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

Board of Trustees

Dear Congregation,

The Board held a rather lively meeting in November. We had much ground to cover.

Members of the Minister's Mediation Team (Reverend Rachel, Deborah Rubenstein, and Paul Weston; Evangeline Wells did not attend) joined us to offer an update on their progress. As we've reported before, the idea for mediation was proposed at last June's annual meeting by Carol Carter-Walker and Leo Jones. The Team reported that they are in the process of doing research to find which, among the many restorative practice formats, is most suitable for PBUUC. Because there are multiple formats, figuring out just which one will best suit our needs is proving to be complicated. The team will continue their research and to report their progress.

Elaine Shell, Chair of the Finance Committee, also joined us as the Board reviewed the new PBUUC Finance Manual written by Elaine with help from the Finance Committee; Tess Morrison, PBUUC Treasurer; Dave Nation, Assistant Treasurer; Chuck Bury, PBUUC Administrator; and Hannah Oshin, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant. The Board voted on several policy questions that help clarify specific issues related to money management. The Manual, though still in draft stage, incorporates all the elements of managing finances for our church. Once finalized by the Finance Committee, it will be available to the congregation to use.

John Barr has been selected by the Nominating Committee to fill a vacant seat on the Legacy Fund Committee, and the Board unanimously approved. Congratulations, John. So far, however, there is no nominee to fill the Board vacancy left by the departure of Noel Monardes. The Nominating Committee is still looking. If you have been wanting to join the exciting world of service to our church as a member of the PBUUC Board of Trustees to complete Noel's term in office (ending this coming June) please contact the Nominating Committee at NomCom@pbuuc.org. And remember that we are still hoping to find process observers for Board meetings (see November Branches). We are asking for 4 to 5 volunteers so that each person would observe only once every 4 to 5 months. If you would be willing to take in this role, please send an email to bot@pbuuc.org.

The majority of the November meeting conversation involved the proposed Covenant of Right Relations and proposed Destructive Behavior Policy. After presenting the documents to the congregation in early October, the Board of Trustees held three listening sessions wherein members of the congregation asked questions and offered comments on the documents. The Board also accepted written comments offering feedback on the policy documents. Following the listening sessions, a subcommittee of the board that included Janet Overton, Kathi Yu, and Melissa Graham reviewed all feedback the Board received and incorporated many of the congregation's suggestions and ideas into an updated draft. The revised documents will be voted on for adoption by the wider membership at the Congregational Meeting on December 15th. You can review the documents now by clicking on the links for the Covenant of Right Relations and the Destructive Behavior Policy.

We also acknowledge comments made during the listening sessions and in the written comments that address the role that white supremacy culture plays in our interactions with each other as well as the systems and organizational processes under which we operate, including these policies. We note that social conditioning plays a part in how we interact. We are committed to continued transparency and growth as we work, through our social action teams and efforts, to interrupt these processes at Paint Branch.

As for the December 15 Congregational Meeting, Board members Wendy Schlegel, Carol Boston, and Kathi Yu volunteered to plan the meeting. In

addition to the vote on the policy documents, another important element of that meeting will be the unveiling of the architects' proposals for creating our new church entrance and other building improvements. On Sunday October 20th, the New Entrance Build Design Committee held a listening session with the architects and the congregation to allow us to convey to the architects what is most important to us in the new design plans. A fairly large group of people attended and offered their visions and ideas. On December 15th, a variety of options that incorporate some of those visions and ideas will be available for us to view and discuss. Lunch and childcare will be provided. The meeting will take place after Sunday service, so please plan to stay and participate as we meet together to make plans for our future.

Speaking of our future, Don Gerson has volunteered to lead a Capital Campaign to raise the funds for our new church entrance and building improvements. As we discuss our options on December 15th, we will also need to be mindful of the cost of our options and plans. As we approach the giving season, please think also about our church home and our hopes for it and us in the coming years.

Remember, the BoT Meeting agenda is published in the news section of the PBUUC website at least two days before each BoT meeting. If you have any questions or concerns you want to let us know about, you can always send us an email at bot@pbuuc.org.

This month we send along to you all, our best wishes for a peaceful and joyful holiday season. SEASONS GREETINGS! - *Janet Overton*, Chair

Kelley Room Redux!

A New Look for the New Year in the Kelley Room

We are pleased to be able to share some exciting news with everyone. Work to renovate both sides of the Kelley Room is ready to move forward! Between Monday, December 30th, 2019 and Wednesday, January 15th, [JOA Real Estate Group](#) will perform many refurbishments recommended by the Kelley Room Redux Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. These refurbishments include new paint, new lighting, acoustic sound-absorbing panels and new flooring.

Our journey to this point began in May when a committee was formed to take a good look at the Kelley Room and suggest improvements.

Over several months the committee consulted with the staff, committee representatives and interested members of the congregation who use the Kelley Room for a variety of activities. The committee met with a sound engineer and a professional construction expert. They also did considerable online research to gather pricing for an assortment of options.

When a list of priorities was developed, the committee received a generous offer of in-kind services that would make it possible for us to see improvements accomplished in a very timely manner. This offer required additional funding, which has been wholeheartedly supported by several members of the congregation.

We are looking forward to sharing the new look in the Kelley Room with you.

The Kelley Room Redux Committee: Ethelyn Bishop, Joan Griggs, Shantida Joseph, Tricia Most, Pat Tompkins, Anita Williams

MULTIGENERATIONAL RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Writing today, we are less than a week from Thanksgiving and then...what? Five minutes from Christmas? That's how it feels.

This time of year my mind turns, of course, to family. And what is a family? On Thanksgiving, we travel to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to be with extended family. Aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, friends of friends, step-families. It's difficult for any of us to determine where the actual blood family begins and ends, and it all feels right. Christmas day I celebrate with a family that is composed of myself, my partner, my daughter, my ex-husband, my dad and the dog we all manage to share.

Christmas Eve, I will celebrate with you all, my church family. People whose eyes I meet most Sunday mornings as we share the joys and challenges of our lives, our achievements and struggles. None of you would be at all out of place at my family Thanksgiving, my family Christmas or any place people I call mine might gather.

When I consider our church family, I think about all the configurations therein. Families with young children, families with emerging adults, families who may be estranged, families of two, families of one, I could go on and on. I wonder how we might best serve all of these kinds of families in our church and our community. What general and specific needs might we be able to meet? What is your family configuration and what do YOU need in order to live your faith everywhere you may go?

Some of you know that I am collaborating on a project with a colleague on a road map for just this, including every family and every family configuration in all aspects of church life. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months as I hope to take this project to General Assembly in June. Come tell me about your family. What are we doing well to include your family? What could we hope and strive for now and in the future?

I hope that each and every one of you and all of the ways you are in families have the sort of holiday that suits you best. I hope you find places of joy, places of reflection and places of rest.

TO FAMILIES!

Chris McCann, DMRE dmre@pbuuc.org

The new Adult Religious Exploration program is in full swing! Members and friends just completed a four-week course on the six sources of Unitarian Universalism: direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder; words and deeds of prophetic women and men; wisdom from the world's religions; Jewish and Christian teachings; humanist teachings; and spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions. Fourteen members and friends engaged in a variety of activities, including journaling, group discussions, information sharing, story-telling, and composing poetry. The class interpreted each source and questioned how it affects or might affect our church lives. Our last session featured presentations from two church members who practice Earth-centered traditions. The class members were interested and engaged. All of us enjoyed the experience and learned a lot.

Watch this space in the January Branches to learn about the ARE offerings for the Winter and Spring.

If you have any questions about the program, or would like to suggest potential classes and activities, please send an email to ARE@pbuuc.org.

All the best, *Leo Jones & Chris McCann*

New Day Rising

Anti-Racism Resources for December

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.

Watch:

- 📺 The Next Question: tnqshow.com "The video web series imagining how expansive racial justice can be." Be sure to sign up for homework and receive weekly emails with lots of resources.
- 📺 Verna Myers TED Talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/verna_myers_how_to_overcome_our_biases_walk_boldly_toward_them

Listen:

- 📻 WPFW public radio station for Jazz and Justice: wpfwfm.org
- 📻 The 1A Conversation with Ibram X. Kendi: <https://the1a.org/shows/2019-08-19/antiracism>

Read:

- 📖 Interview with Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/michelle-alexander-a-system-of-racial-and-social-control/>
 - 📖 A Bound Woman Is A Dangerous Thing by DaMaris B. Hill
- If you have a recommendation that you would like to be considered for this monthly list, please send it along to DMRE Chris McCann at dmre@pbuuc.org

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, December 15, 11:30 am in the Sanctuary

A light lunch will be provided and can be brought into the meeting. The meeting has a twofold purpose: to hear about the architects' concepts for improvements to the church entrance and the church, and to vote on the revised [Covenant of Right Relations](#) and the revised [Destructive Behaviors Policy](#), which are now available for review both electronically and as paper copies in the Meeting House Foyer. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) News/Views

DARTT Meeting Set For December 22, 2019

The next DARTT meeting will be Sunday, December 22 during Enrichment Hour. DARTT has moved its December meeting from the third to the fourth Sunday to accommodate attendance at the Congregational Meeting on December 15.

DARTT Invites You to Write an Op-Ed For Branches

DARTT is asking Paint Branchers to submit a thought piece on some aspect of anti-oppression /anti-racism for the DARTT Column in the monthly Branches. This year, we have had powerful pieces by members and friends/cohorts of members. The deadline for submission is generally the 20th of the preceding month. The usual length is between 200 and 600 words. If you are interested in writing an OpEd, please connect at dartt@pbuuc.org

DARTT Sponsors 11th Kwanzaa Service/Feast Sunday, December 29

Kwanzaa is a holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture, primarily but not exclusively celebrated by people of the African Diaspora. It was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of Africana Studies. Kwanzaa as a seven-day cultural festival that begins December 26 and ends January 1. Kwanzaa is a Swahili word, inspired by African "first fruit" traditions. This celebration has garnered interest from many UUs because of its coherence between the seven principles of both Kwanzaa and Unitarian Universalism. Paint Branch children, musicians, and dancers will participate, along with members of DARTT. Carol Boston, Carolyn Byerly, and Sabrina Jones are coordinating the Potluck Feast following the Service.

DARTT Recommends — <http://bit.ly/RJlist>

This link will take you to the Monthly Racial Justice list of meetings, events, etc., in support of racial justice in the MidAtlantic Region. The list is compiled by Lynda Davis, a member of Coming To The Table, an organization of slaves and former slaveholders working toward racial reconciliation. Lynda is a member of the Columbia UU Congregation.

Wrestling with Race.

Many of us are wrestling with understanding and responding to our experience, our emotions, and what we are called to do regarding issues of race. Join us in the Meeting House during Enrichment Hour on Sunday, December 1.

Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program Has A Leader. Will Launch Soon

By Carol Carter Walker

In the 1980s and 90s, when the word "welcoming" became a code word for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, the Unitarian Universalist Association launched a Welcoming Congregation Program to help us learn how to undo homophobia—and later, transphobia (prejudice against transgender people)—in our hearts and minds, our congregations and communities.

Paint Branch completed the UUA's program and was certified as a Welcoming Congregation in 1994.

In recognition that the work of welcome is never done, the UUA has launched a Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program. This new program provides up-to-date and expanded resources so we can continue to learn about how to be truly welcoming to all people.

Eric Eldritch, the visionary who organized and led the November Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience Service at Paint Branch, has agreed to lead the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program at Paint Branch. The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) has had this initiative in its work planning for about a year and already has members and friends committed to working on this initiative. If you're interested in learning more, talk to Eldritch and/or connect through DARTT at dartt@pbuuc.org

DARTT Launching New Leadership Model /Recruiting New Leadership by Carol Carter Walker

DARTT discussed transitions of leadership and changes to its leadership model at its July, August, and November meetings.

Since its chartering in 2007, DARTT has had two Co-Chairs who perform traditional leadership roles. A few years ago, we added a Core Group of three to five members/friends who advise the Co-Chairs and help with decision-making between meetings. At its November meeting, DARTT decided to move forth with a new governance model and to recruit for new leadership:

Governance:

A Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and Immediate Past Chair, as the Leadership Team; and

A Core Group of up to three members who serve as an Advisory Council to the Leadership.

Leadership Recruitment:

We are recruiting for the positions of Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and up to three members to form the CORE Group.

If you are interested in moving into a formal leadership or advisory position within DARTT, please connect to find out more at dartt@pbuuc.org

New Officers will be elected at the December 22 Meeting and be formally installed in January.

Social Action Committee

Special Collections for December

SAC Special Collection December 8, 2019

The SAC Special Collection recipient for December 8, 2019 is Cagayan State University (CSU) in the Philippines. It is a public university with seven campuses in Cagayan Province of the Philippines. It offers undergraduate and graduate courses of study in a broad range of majors including education, business, hospitality management, allied health services, agriculture, veterinary medicine, the sciences, mathematics, and law. Most of the students at CSU are from poor families and are the first in their family to attend college. Recently PBUUC member Abby Crowley spent seven months at CSU as part of her Peace Corps service. While she was there, she realized that some of the pedagogy she was training faculty to use was dependent on technology they did not have. This SAC Special Collection will help fund LCD projectors and monitors for ten classrooms at the Andrews Campus in Tuguegarao. Thank you for your donation!

SAC Special Collection December 24, 2019

The SAC Special Collection for December 24, 2019 is for PBUUC's continued participation in the Warm Nights and Community Café programs. During the two Christmas Eve Services the entire proceeds of the collections will be dedicated to our programs serving people with critical housing and food needs. This includes hosting Warm Nights and funding food costs for the PBUUC volunteers at the Hyattsville 'Community Café' that hosts other churches who provide hot lunches for persons in need. The other program is the Prince Georges County Hyperthermia Program—Warm Nights Homeless Emergency Shelter overseen by the [Community Crisis Services Inc. \(CCSI\)](#). Prince Georges churches, including ours, provide homeless men, women, and children a place to spend one week during the winter months (mid-November to April) giving them a place to sleep, a hot home-made dinner and breakfast, and a bag lunch to start their day. Both programs operate year round. Please make checks payable to PBUUC with "Warm Nights" in the memo line. Thank you!

Giving Tuesday—Tuesday, December 3, 2019



PBUUC Participates in the Giving Tuesday alternative holiday gifts program. Like the Special Collection during

our Christmas Eve services, all of our proceeds from Giving Tuesday support our participation in the Community Café program to feed the hungry and the Warm Nights program to provide temporary housing for the homeless. Go to <http://bit.ly/TuesdayPB> to make a donation.

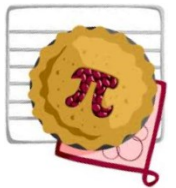
Auction & Stewardship

Come Together...

The Auction Team and Stewardship Committee are excited to be working together this year. Our theme of "Come Together!" perfectly captures the spirit of our community where we support one another and can have some fun too. You already heard our theme song, wonderfully performed in November by Montana Monardes, which both inspires and challenges us "We put our faith to work in activity, Come Together, Paint Branch, Come and See!"



There will plenty of opportunities for everyone to "Come Together." In addition to the recent Holiday Auction Sale, we will be hosting several more events in the coming months. Please save the dates of February 22 for the PBUUC Chili Cook Off, March 14 for a Pi Day Pie Bake-Off Luncheon, March 15 for our annual Stewardship Breakfast, and March 21 for our Auction Night. Our final annual campaign celebration will be Ice Cream Sundaes after the service on March 29.



The Auction Team and Stewardship Committee also need your help. We need everyone to "Come Together" to donate items for our auction, set up and clean up for events, make phone calls, serve as Visiting Stewards, cook or bring dishes to share, or just help out in a multitude of other ways. Please say "Yes!" when asked to volunteer, or you can let Tricia Most or Chris Evans know how you are willing to serve. If you have any questions, send us an email at stewardship@pbuuc.org

Tricia Most, Auction Team Leader &
Chris Evans, Stewardship Committee Chair

Members and Friends who made annual pledges for FY 2020 should have received a statement with their current pledge balance. If you would like to get caught up before the end of the calendar year, you might want to take advantage of some of these new giving options:

☞ **Online:** Make a one-time or recurring payment online using a credit or debit card or eCheck through our Breeze page at pbuuc.breezechms.com/give/online

☞ **Giving-by-Phone is as Easy as 3-2-1:** Text a whole dollar amount (for example "20" or "\$20" for \$20.00) to **301-321-7215**. First time givers will be prompted to provide their payment method via a secure web page.

☞ **Cash:** Or if you prefer a low-tech approach but don't want to write a check, you can have a cash donation credited to your pledge by using one of the envelopes available from the ushers during the Sunday Service or at the Paint Branch office during the week.

If you set up a Breeze account, you can also check your giving history, pledge balance, use the online directory, or check the church calendar directly from your phone. Visit <https://pbuuc.breezechms.com/login/create> or contact the church office to get an account.

In and Around Paint Branch

Creative Force Writer's Group will meet Sunday, December 1 during Enrichment Hour in Room 3. Learn about our core principles and goals in a supportive, encouraging atmosphere. What writing project are you currently working on? Do you have a writing project you want to start, but have not? All styles are encouraged (essay, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, diary entries, meditations, short prose). Come join us! For more information, contact ETaraS1@yahoo.com - Ebony Contreras

Men's Fellowship Breakfast at TJ's Restaurant. Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be 10 am Saturday, December 14 at TJ's Restaurant, our usual location, in the Calverton Shopping Center, just up the road from PBUUC. Come share food and conversation. This event is sponsored by the Paint Branch Men's Group. For more info contact: mensfellowship@pbuuc.org

The Annual Holiday Cookie Swap is coming up on Sunday, December 8! So get your favorite recipes out and cookie pans ready. Please bring the recipe. Gluten free and/or nut free are now popular. Questions? Contact Rene McDonald.

Newcomers and others interested in learning more about the UU faith, history, and Principles are encouraged to take advantage of the leadership of Pastor Rachel and longtime members Carol Carter Walker and Beth Charbonneau as they conduct a **Roots and Branches Class** on Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 10 am - 2 pm. Lunch provided / Child Care Available. Sharing your spiritual journey and getting answers to any questions you have about Paint Branch UU Church will also be included on the agenda. Questions? Ask one of the class leaders or Pat Behenna, membership chair. Please sign up at the Welcome Table in the Meeting House Foyer.

The Next Third Wednesday Lunch will be held at 1 pm, December 18 at Peppino's Italian Kitchen in Burtonsville. The Restaurant is in Burtonsville Crossing shopping center. The address is 15721 Old Columbia Pike, just off Old Columbia Pike and Rt 198. Please RSVP at chelmold@verizon.net or call my cell phone if you need directions: 301-250-0505.

December Spirituality Circle: 20:20 Vision. The end of the year is a great time to reflect on where we are in our lives and what we hope to accomplish in the future. Join us Sunday, December 1, for a gratitude ritual and gentle goal-discovery exercise for 2020 as we consult with ourselves, Spirit, and each other about changes we'd like to make, dreams and desires we'd like to set into motion, and even big stretch goals we scarcely dare name. Carol Boston will facilitate using a process from the Good Busy Planner. While we know that we will face much that is unknown, we can also choose to focus our attention and energy on things we want to bring to life. We will meet in Room 4, at 11:45 am. All are welcome.

Art in the Meeting House. The Arts Council is pleased to be hosting an exhibit by PBUUC member Penney Hughes. Artist reception for meeting hall exhibit Wandering of the Curious Mind will be on December 8 following the service. Ms. Hughes holds a BFA in Fine Art from Iowa State University. Selected pieces on display are from her fabric design collection. Works will be up in the Meeting House through January 5.

Christmas Gift idea from your Green Team: Does Christmas seem to you to be overburdened with stuff -- gifts to buy, gifts to get that you often don't need, etc.? The Green team has a way to help you reduce the stuff in people's lives. We will be providing you with catalogs from **Alternative Gifts, International** (A.G.I.) that will enable you to give to a charity of your choice in someone's honor instead of a physical gift. Watch for our table during Coffee Hour after church, hopefully by Sunday, December 1...December 8 and 15 for sure. A.G.I. has selected charities around the world to which you can contribute in honor of someone, instead of giving them a physical gift. There's a wide range of types of charities (books for an African school or dental care for an individual or a family) and monetary value (from \$1 for a dose of medicine to \$208 to help protect a section of coral reef). Note, examples may change; these are from an old catalog. If you contact A.G.I. soon enough, they will send you a nice description of the gift and a free card of your choice in which to enclose it. For more information, call Marj Donn at 301-474-1353, go to www.alternativegifts.org or come to our table in the foyer after services.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY SERVICES

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 6 PM DARK OF THE MOON
WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AND YULE POTLUCK**

Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen; with Worship Associate Elizabeth Porter; and the Chalice Dancers
Our act of gathering to toast, sing and chant for the Winter Solstice. We pray for more light. We pray for more health. We pray for more peace and joy. 6 pm Worship Service, Pot Luck, followed by a fire bowl.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

AT 5 PM CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister;
with Worship Associate Tricia Most; The Chalice Dancers;
the Children's Choir; and Special Music
Join us as we retell the Christmas Story. This early service will be Family friendly. Includes Christmas music and candle lighting ceremony.

AT 8 PM CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Worship Associate Tricia Most; The Chalice Dancers; and the Choir
Join us as we retell the Christmas Story; Includes Christmas music and candle lighting ceremony.

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.