



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

January 2020

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

JANUARY 5 THE CEASELESS CRY THAT WAKES THE DEAD

*Rev. Benjamin Van Dyne, Guest Minister;
with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller;
and Guest Pianist Keith Miller*

95 years after his birth, James Baldwin's life and writing has much to teach us about the challenges and joys of seeking to live with love and hope even when those seem impossible. His novel *If Beale Street Could Talk* is a story of surviving violence, danger and racism — and has lessons for us about how to love and persevere.

JANUARY 12 A HOME OF MY OWN

Rev. Rachel Christensen;

with Worship Associate Clark Ritz

We explore the issues of housing, affordable housing, and serving those who are without housing.

JANUARY 19 MLK'S CIVIL RIGHTS STRATEGIES EXPLORING LESSONS LEARNED FROM HIS TIMELESS TEXTBOOK FOR JUSTICE AS USED IN CIVIL MOVEMENTS TODAY

*Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen;
with Worship Associate Samantha Evans;
the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir*

Martin Luther King, Jr. developed a strategy and playbook for pursuing change and justice. Come explore with us his work and how it has been used for other justice movements advancing civil rights in our country.

JANUARY 26 REIMAGINING SUNDAY

Rev. Rachel Christensen and DMRE Chris McCann; with Worship Associate Jeri Holloway
Join us for multigenerational worship.
****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.****

Minister's Notes

Dear Members and Friends,

It's a chilly morning today – about 26 degrees – with frost all around. The cedar tree I see outside is glistening with frost – shining in the morning light. As I sit here, I wish for each of you some moments to celebrate your family, friendships and some time of quiet for yourself. It is the turning of the year, the turning of the season, and for me, it prompts me to think of the turning of my life.

We had a very good presentation by our architects who have developed concepts for improving our entrance and different levels of development that might include installing an elevator, finishing the basement, building a patio behind the basement, additional storage, and covering a portion of the deck. The presentation sparked lots of interest and questions and wonderings about cost and what we could really afford.

It reminded me that it will be in the details that we will have lots of discussions and make a lot of decisions. It is here where we will have to practice new ways of communicating. We can all begin to practice curious questions like:

- ✦ What are you thinking would be best?
- ✦ How did you come to that decision?
- ✦ What would it mean to you to have it that way?
- ✦ What does it mean if we come to a different decision?

I also wonder what meaning it will have for us as a congregation to have the basement finished? How will it help us to fulfill the purpose and mission of this congregation? What do we want to do as a congregation that we can't do now? Who will it serve? *Who will we serve more effectively?*

Who do we want to be when we grow up?

Welcome Yule. Happy Holidays. May you be well, and kind and rested.

With love,

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org

Minister, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

May we be a multicultural multiracial welcoming congregation, connected by love, spirit and service.



Wheel of Life

It is with great sorrow that we share the news of the death of long-time member Al Usack on Monday, November 4, 2019. There will be a Celebration of the Life for Al Usack on Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 2 pm at the Manatee Unitarian Church in Bradenton, Florida. We extend our profound sympathy to his husband Ed Kobee and all the members of their family.

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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	Sabrina Jones
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	VACANT
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 Congregational Meeting held Sunday, December 15, was momentous in that all who attended participated in two items of church business that helped to build on our solid foundation for now and into the future. Before moving on to the business of our meeting, a sincere and hearty thank you from all of the Trustees goes out to all who participated in the meeting by offering helping hands as well as questions, comments, and ideas.

The two items of business we addressed were (1) viewing the architect's design options for our entrance and basement and (2) voting on two policy documents, the Covenant of Right Relations and the Destructive Behavior Policy. (In the interest of transparency, most of this article was borrowed from Amy Parrish's draft of the meeting minutes. *Thank you, Amy.*) Each of these items of business, separately and together, signify a range of opportunities for connection and growth for our church. Opening our doors to more and different kinds of events and activities and opening ourselves to deeper conversations and listening with open hearts and minds can spark our community creativity, generate greater diversity of ideas and viewpoints, and change the way we interact with each other and the wider community so that we can build a better, stronger church and help build a better, stronger world.

New-Build Design

Peter Wathen-Dunn of the New-Build Team introduced Derek Norton, of the firm Ridder Norton Architects (RNA), who presented four design options based on feedback RNA received from this congregation during various listening sessions. They based their designs on what we said we love about our campus and want to keep, most specifically, the woodland setting, meandering entry path and deck, the warmth and character of our sanctuary space, and the unique character of the existing architecture. In addition, there was a long list of things we want to improve, including low-to-no-maintenance deck materials, a completely finished basement with an elevator connecting upper and lower levels, a new kitchen, and additional restroom facilities. RNA offered four options, each progressively more complex and costly. Mr. Norton first showed the floorplan and then realistic drawings for each option. (Please note that the following are general descriptions of the options. Also note that no changes are planned for the RE Building.)

Option A: This baseline plan would alter the path of the deck to create more open space and a path to an on-deck gathering spot; add storage under the current deck outside the RE Building; rebuild the stairs to the lower level, with a stair along the curved wall; add an elevator; and replace the kitchen on the main floor with a smaller pantry kitchen for making coffee and heating food for small events. Another addition would be a "green room" (changing / staging area) past the existing. The basement would be finished into a fellowship hall, either as one large or two smaller areas, with a kitchen and bathrooms, including a handicap-accessible bathroom with a shower and laundry. There would also be a terrace space outside the fellowship hall where people could sit, perform, have service, etc.

Option B: This includes items in Option A and adds a vestibule at the main entrance that would allow for a larger foyer space and more storage. There would also be a glass enclosure around the elevator with stairs leading down to the basement.

Option C: This includes items in Option B and covers the deck between the Meeting House and the RE Building. The cover would include a series of skylights to allow more light.

Option D: This includes items in Option C, but the covered area between the buildings would be completely enclosed and temperature-controlled.

Following Mr. Norton's presentation, he took questions, comments, and suggestions from the congregation. (Congregation input will be detailed in the finalized meeting minutes in the next few weeks after Amy returns from visiting with family.) The next steps in the build project include choosing a contractor. While RNA creates the design, a contractor will develop the project plans, including costs for materials, labor, permits, etc. The announcement of the contractor chosen is expected in January. Once pricing is available, the congregation will vote on a design option.

This leads to the most important step in the build project—funding. Trustee Don Gerson will be developing a Capital Campaign to raise money for our new-build project. He will need many helping hands and willing hearts to do this work. (And thank you, Renée Katz, for being the first to volunteer!!)

Covenant of Right Relations and Destructive Behavior Policy

BOT Chair Janet Overton first reacquainted the congregation with the purposes of the two documents (1) to outline standards of respectful behavior toward one another and (2) steps we can take to restore right relations when we fall out of covenant. In the months prior to the vote, the Board solicited feedback through listening sessions and written comments. Trustee Melissa Graham identified patterns of concerns we received through the feedback and offered a summary of how those concerns are addressed in the documents, then read the finalized documents. A question and comment period was next. (Again, congregation input will be detailed in the finalized meeting minutes in the next few weeks.) The vote was then taken. For the Covenant of Right Relations, 73 ballots were cast: 69 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions. For the Destructive Behavior Policy, 72 ballots were cast (one ballot had no response): 66 in favor, 2 opposed, 4 abstention.

The next steps are to find people to help us learn to have and work through difficult conversations if/when we fall out of covenant. The Covenant of Right relations notes that congregants can contact the Minister or a Board appointee to facilitate. We will be identifying facilitators from both outside the church and inside to allow choice when someone seeks help.

The Board will be communicating our progress as we work through this search, but please do not hesitate to contact the Minister or the Board if need be in the meantime. You can always contact the Board by email at bot@pbuuc.org or the Board Chair at boardchair@pbuuc.org; and of course our Minister is available by phone or email at minister@pbuuc.org

-Janet Overton, Chair

MULTIGENERATIONAL RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Yesterday afternoon, Paint Branch engaged in some difficult and important work. The Covenant of Right Relations and the Destructive Behavior Policy were both approved by the congregation. Hard questions were asked and answered and now it's time to move into the hard work of abiding by our agreements. I think of recent agreements I've been considering with and for myself. Agreements to move my body more, to keep my space (both at home and at work) more tidy and organized. Agreements about procrastination and how to avoid it. Agreements with myself and my family about being intentional with our time, our words, our presence. And it becomes evident that I need to sincerely practice who I'm going to be to abide with the agreements I've made with myself, my family and to you all at Paint Branch. As we consider who we need to be in order to live into the promises we've made, I will offer to you the practices I've agreed to: curiosity (a powerful antidote to anxiety), a willingness to be wrong, a willingness to reframe failure as an opportunity to learn and grow, patience, generosity, integrity, a willingness to listen especially when it's hard, a willingness to being flexible rather than rigid. My good people, the work is before us. Let us move into it with grace and fortitude and practice becoming the people who uphold their sacred agreements.

TO WILLINGNESS,

Chris McCann, DMRE dmre@pbuuc.org

Winter and Spring Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Offerings

The ARE team is working on several possible activities for winter and spring 2020.

"Stewardship: The Joy of Giving"

Is a four-week course that aims to inspire everyone to be stewards of self, family, community, congregation and UU faith.

"Sources"

Offered this past fall, the course explores the six sources of Unitarian Universalism. Other courses and events are being planned, so stay tuned!

Chris and Leo

New Day Rising

Anti-Racism Resources for January

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.

BOOKS:

Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva
The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
The Color of Law: The Forgotten History of How our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein

ARTICLES:

Banking While Black <https://www.theroot.com/banking-while-black-jpmorgan-chase-says-it-is-sickened-1840409180>
 How To Fight Racism Through Inner Work https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_to_fight_racism_through_inner_work
 We have to learn to talk about racism if we want to stop it <https://www.lenconnect.com/opinion/20191028/esther-j-cepeda-we-have-to-learn-to-talk-about-racism-if-we-want-to-stop-it>

PODCASTS AND OTHER MEDIA:

Rants and Randomness with Luvvie Ajayi <https://luvvie.org/rants-and-randomness/>
 Black Talk Radio Network <http://www.blacktalkradionetwork.com/>
 TedTalk "We Need to Talk About Injustice" https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice

Auction & Stewardship



Come Together! It's a brand new year and a new decade at Paint Branch. It's also time to "Come Together!" as we launch our 2020 Auction and Annual Stewardship Campaign. Your Auction Team and Stewardship Committee are working diligently to put the finishing touches on many great events where everyone can "Come Together" to have fun and support our religious community. We are off to a great start with many incredible volunteers, but there are still plenty of opportunities for everyone to help out.

First up, we have Visiting Steward training sessions for our volunteers during Enrichment Hour on **Sunday, February 2** and **Sunday, February 9**. Pick the one that works best for you. Then the fun really begins. Plan to participate in some or all of these "Come Together" events:

- ☞ PBUUC Chili Cook Off on **Saturday, February 22**
- ☞ PI Day Bake-Off Luncheon on **Saturday, March 14**
- ☞ Stewardship Breakfast on **Sunday, March 15**
- ☞ Auction Night on **Saturday, March 21**
- ☞ Ice Cream Sundaes Celebration on **Sunday, March 29**.

PBUUC members and friends will once again have three options this year to make their annual pledge: 1) meeting one-on-one with a Visiting Steward; 2) attending any of the "Come Together" events listed above; or 3) visiting the Stewardship table in the Foyer after any Sunday in March. If you have any questions or are willing to volunteer in any way, send us an email at stewardship@pbuuc.org

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

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



DARTT Monthly Meeting Set for January 19, 2020

DARTT's next meeting will be Sunday, January 19 from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

DARTT was chartered by the Board of Trustees in 2007 to facilitate the congregation's movement toward a multicultural community. DARTT meetings are open to all members and friends of the Paint Branch community. If you'd like to know more, or be on the DARTT mailing list, please connect at DARTT@pbuuc.org

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

PBUUC's Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program Has A Leader. Will Launch Soon.

Thirty years ago, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) launched a Welcoming Congregation Program to help UUs learn how to undo homophobia—and later, transphobia. Paint Branch completed the UUA's program and was certified as a Welcoming Congregation in 1994. Now, the UUA has launched a Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program to provide 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 December Yule services, has agreed to lead the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program at Paint Branch. If you're interested in learning more and becoming part of the programming team, talk to Eldritch when you see him or connect at welcoming@pbuuc.org

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.



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

General Assembly (GA) 2020!

GA is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists for exploring the theological underpinnings of our faith via small and grand worship services, leaning fully into our mission and principles via hundreds of workshop options, and conducting the business of our denomination.

Consider attending the 2020 GA from Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28 in Providence, Rhode Island. Because Providence is relatively easy to get to (from this area, you can go by plane, train, or automobile) the planners anticipate that 4,500+ UUs will gather for this unforgettable experience.

Early bird Registration is now open at uua.org/ga/ Full-time registration is \$400 for adults, \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers, and \$150 for off-site registrants. Early bird registration closes on March 15 and fees go up. If you prefer smaller payments over a longer period, you can register, click "payment plan" and, for as little as \$50 down, you can spread out the balance of your registration between now and February 29.

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga/ to learn about scholarships to support participation – particularly of those from marginalized groups - and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration). The UUA is committed to addressing the inclusion of all people, whatever their abilities might be, in all GA activities.

In addition to a variety of nearby hotels, attendees will also be able to book dormitory-style accommodations at two local universities. Also, UUs from local congregations will serve as host families for Home Hospitality. Make your hotel reservation beginning March 2 at 9 am Eastern. For more information, visit uua.org/ga/travel

Talk to Don Gerson, Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee, if you would like to know more.

Community Learning Center (CLC)

Paint Branch CLC Wants You!

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

TEACH. In teams of two or three starting in January 2020.

GREET. Welcome students as they register and come to class.

REGISTER. Register, and screen students for placement.

DISTRIBUTE FLYERS. Volunteers are needed Now through January to distribute flyers in shopping centers, at Metro Bus Stops, in libraries and at churches. Flyers will be available soon.

To see what tasks remain to be done this semester, contact Carmelita Carter-Sykes at 202-236-8783 or e-mail clc@pbuuc.org

In and Around Paint Branch

Third Wednesday Lunch on January 15, 2020 will be at Azteca.

Azteca serves Mexican and Salvadoran cuisine which we have enjoyed several times. It is located at 9505 Baltimore Ave (Route 1), in College Park, (across from the Honda dealer). Parking in back. RSVP to Cathy at chelmold@verizon.net or my cell phone: 301-250-0505.

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.