



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

February 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

FEBRUARY 2 WORSHIPPING IN THE TEMPLE OF THE BODY

Guest Speaker Beth Charbonneau; with Worship Associate Elizabeth Porter; the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir

An exploration of the sacred relationship with our own bodies and the spiritual implications when we are not in right relationship with them.

FEBRUARY 9 QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

*Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister;
with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller*
Bring your questions for Rev. Rachel and she will answer them during the service.

FEBRUARY 16 THE WELFARE OF THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY

*Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen;
with Worship Associate Clark Ritz*
We explore Communitarianism and Felix Adler's concept of Social Interest. This is an Auction sermon, commissioned by Tricia Most.

FEBRUARY 23 THE JOY OF GIVING

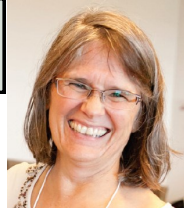
Rev. Rachel Christensen and DMRE Chris McCann; with Worship Associate Polly Pettit; the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir
An exploration of the spirit of Abundance. Join us for all ages worship as we Re-Imagine Sunday and what our services can be. ****This is an All-Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to stay in the Meetinghouse for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest is provided in Room 6.****



Paint Branch UU Church has an immediate opening for a Part-Time Administrative Assistant.

We are looking for someone with strong office skills, and with experience using online databases, social media, and/or webpage maintenance. The position is 9 hours per week and pays \$16-\$16.50 per hour. If you think you, a friend or family member are interested, please apply through our Facebook job posted at <http://bit.ly/PBAAjob>

Minister's Notes



Dear Members and Friends,

There is a new group forming in Prince George's County that is committed to bringing together congregations and organizations for the purpose of lobbying for change within the County. PLAN is affiliated with similar organizations in the area, such as AIM in Montgomery County, WIN in DC, PATH in Howard County, ACT in Annapolis and BUILD in Baltimore. Each one of these organizations has been active and successful in bringing people together to shift the priorities and funding around particular issues in their areas.

I attended a meeting of PLAN a few weeks ago and found myself with over 100 people who were from all parts of PG County – Laurel and Capital Heights, Lanham and Suitland. There were Baptists and Presbyterians, Jews and Adventists, Catholics and Evangelicals and Unitarians. It is something we need to be a part of. It is a chance to be in relationship with others in PG County, be in partnership, and from there find the focus of the effort.

I have invited the Lead Organizer, Mr. Coleman Milling, to come be a part of the service on March 1, to talk about the work of PLAN and how we at Paint Branch might be a part of it. Rev. Karen Scrivo, our Affiliated Community Minister is very committed to this work of community organization and a strong supporter of PLAN.

On Thursday, April 2, I hope that several of you will join me for an evening meeting of PLAN, for information, discussion and some training. In addition, on Sunday, May 3 at 3 pm I hope that twenty of you will join me for the Founding Convention of PLAN. Several of our county officials will be at that meeting, and we hope to have a presence of 800 people, demonstrating common commitment to the work.

I am saddened to share that Noel Monardes has resigned from the congregation. He has been a valuable member and a good friend. We will miss him. He writes "After several months of reflection, I have decided to terminate my membership at PBUUC. My decision wasn't an easy one. My main reasons for leaving are:

- ✦ my recent experience with the dysfunctional church leadership and membership; terrible behavior,
- ✦ the current direction at PBUUC where race issues have become the dominant focus. Although I've heard of overt racism at one UU church in NYC, I was never aware of those issues occurring at PBUUC. A few insensitive comments were, but that's it."

I understand his concerns. We are in the midst of change – big change – here at Paint Branch. It is difficult and sometimes slow and maybe uncomfortable. I wholeheartedly support the Board in the work they are doing to address the issues of leadership and conflict. And I believe the work we are doing on race is critical learning that we need to engage in to understand the way race has shaped our culture and the structure of our lives in this country. Without learning, we cannot help to effect change, and to truly live into our principles. It is hard work, and we make mistakes and sometimes have to start over. May we extend grace to each of us as we try and fail and try again.

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.

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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
Jim Flaherty	Lynn Louison
Jeri Holloway	

🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
	Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING)
Adult RE	Chris McCann and Leo Jones
Auction	Tricia Most
Budget Leadership Team	VACANT
Buildings & Grounds	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Diversity/Anti-Racism	Carol Carter Walker (a)
Transformation Team (DARTT)	Carolyn Byerly (Vice Chair)
Denominational Affairs	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
New Entrance Design	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Nominating	Diana McFadden & Will Snyder
Religious Exploration	Melissa Graham
Social Action (SAC)	Kathleen Bartolomeo
Stewardship	Chris Evans

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Chalice Dancers	Sherry Mitchell
Children's Choir	Jeanne Judd
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	VACANT
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Creative Force Writers Group	Ebony Contreras
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	Tess Morrison
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
Webmasters	Mark Shute
	Andy McIntyre
	Anita Williams
	Jeri Holloway
	Anne Hoover

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 D. Bury, MBA
Affiliate Minister for Social Justice	Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo
Bookkeeper	Hannah Oshin
Administrative Assistant	VACANT
Sexton:	Al Addison
Child Care Providers:	Tasha Coleman
	Zoe Pappas

Office Volunteers

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

Board of Trustees

Dear Congregation,

The Board has been moving ahead on so many fronts—church governance, finances, maintenance, etc., but thanks to the many members who volunteer their time and talents, the work gets done, and were it not for them, our church could not exist. In the year ahead, we will be making strides into an expanded vision of ourselves and what our church can do, and our church is going to need all the help it can get.

Already there has been much ground covered in preparation for upcoming events: the Auction, the Stewardship Campaign, the New Entrance Design, and the Capital Campaign. So many of you have been hard at work building our capacity to accomplish so many things, and fun and community have been built into every aspect of the coming events.

The events start in February and will culminate with our Annual Meeting, this year to be held on May 31. But before then, this month, on Saturday, February 15 at 7:30 pm, Director of Music, David Chapman, has organized a fund-raiser talent show, “Love Notes,” featuring favorite PBUUC singers singing love songs to honor Valentine's Day. Please come, enjoy the evening of music, and don't forget a donation to help raise money for our church redesign. If you have small children that need care, contact Chris McCann by Sunday, February 8.

Saturday, February 22 at 5:30 pm, we'll have the first Stewardship event—the Second Annual PBUUC Chili Cook-Off! Come be a judge or just come as a diner for good food and good company. Kids of all ages are invited. There will be music, raffles, and six or seven chilis—at least one vegan—plus crackers, cheese, and hot sauce. Drinks are offered for a small donation. Tickets for diners are \$5/person or \$10/family. All tickets are available online at: <http://auctria.com/auction/pbuuc/> or in the Foyer after Sunday service.

The next day, Sunday, February 23, we have a Congregational Meeting right after the service (and, yes, there will be lunch). This meeting is for a second review of the architect's plans for our church redesign. As you know, the New Entrance Committee has been working with Ritter Norton Architects (RNA) to recreate our Meeting House spaces. Last December, RNA presented the congregation with four choices for the redesign (you can see them on our website) and an opportunity to envision ourselves in the designs and suggest changes that would better suit our needs and wants. On February 23, RNA will visit us again to present revised designs, based on our suggestions and comments, and (very important!) estimates of what our design choices would likely cost. We will have a final vote on the new design at our Annual Meeting, May 31. But back to the cost, on the 23rd, we will also reveal plans for our upcoming Capital Campaign. The Capital Campaign Committee thus far includes Trustee Don Gerson and Renée Katz, but this work will take many hands, so please

consider volunteering to help them and PBUUC. We will be working with a UUA fund-raising consultant firm, Stewardship for Us, to help us determine realistic and achievable fund-raising goals and show us how to reach them. Please come to the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 23, and take part in creating our shared vision for the future of our Church. And if you're willing to help, please talk with Don or Renée.

In March we'll have more Stewardship celebrations and then (drumroll, please) Auction Night on March 21st! Please check the Continuum weekly to find out about all upcoming opportunities to support your church community.

-Janet Overton, Chair

Finance Committee

FY20 Half-year Finance Report. Income and Expenses are appropriate for this time of the fiscal year (July 2019 - June 2020). The partial Auction held in November provided \$3,013 for the church's general funds. We moved \$21,000 of budgeted Auction income to next Spring when a more complete Silent and Live Auction will take place.

The Board has authorized \$40,000 for the Deck/Building Remodeling Design. This will establish a deficit budget for the year, which is justified by the urgency of moving forward on remodeling decisions.

A draft PBUUC Finance Manual is in the church office. It explains the PBUUC Internal Controls that have been in practice at PBUUC for many years. A 'walk-through' of the document with interested BOT members and Team Leads will occur in late February, to ensure accuracy and completeness. If you are interested in a 'walk-through' of the document, send an email to elaine@greville.net

—Elaine Shell, Finance Committee Chair

Tax Statements

At the end of January, we will be mailing out statements of tax-deductible giving to donors who have contributed \$200 or more during calendar year 2019. If you contributed a smaller amount but would still like a statement for your records, please contact the church office at 301-937-3666 or churchadmin@pbuuc.org —Chuck Bury

Social Action Committee

Film for Sunday, February 9: ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange Council. A national consortium of state politicians and powerful corporations, ALEC presents itself as a “nonpartisan public-private partnership.” But behind that mantra lies a vast network of corporate lobbying and political action aimed to increase corporate profits at public expense without public knowledge.

MULTIGENERATIONAL RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Happy February! It's so very chilly today and I'm loving it. I wanted to update everyone on what's been happening in our RE classes! The kids have been learning about stewardship for the last few weeks, and they really seem to be getting it. They did some fun activities to illustrate how everything is connected, they've heard from several people in the church about our church history and all the things that make us who we are. They're learning about offerings of time talent and treasure, and they'll be determining what sort of stewardship projects they'd like to do. Our older kid's class had a lesson on UU history and y'all! Y'all! They are SO smart, so thoughtful and so engaged. They were able to apply their own history lessons in school to UU history and start making connections. They're all so delighted to be part of UU history and its future. In the vein of stewardship, some of our older children began a conversation with members of the Building and Grounds team to propose the design and construction of a new bridge in the Glen. The group discerned some values necessary to the building (of utmost importance was to ensure the well-being of the animal who live and pass through our grounds) and imagined some designs. The adults in the room supported their vision and enthusiasm and took seriously the notion that our children have important things to offer our community.

In other RE news, our 4th and 5th graders have begun Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Lifespan Sexuality Education. If you see some kids of about that age wandering around looking sort of freaked out, that's likely why. Offer them some encouragement, a kind word, just a moment of relief from the deeply uncomfortable (for them) work they're doing. Should you see Sonny Katz, Chris Chianese or Clark Ritz, offer them gratitude for helping these kids do this fundamental work.

COME FOR LUNCH! On Saturday, February 29th, the MRE team will be having our winter retreat and we will be discussing some changes in RE, as well as beginning planning for a proposed on-site, all ages retreat. We'd love to invite EVERYONE for lunch on that day at 12:30 pm to learn about what's coming and to provide some input for the congregational retreat. If you're interested in joining us for lunch, please email me dmre@pbuuc.org or Melissa Graham at magraham09@gmail.com to RSVP. We want an accurate count so we can ensure enough food for all.

Thanks all! *To cold and stewardship and life changing, affirming education!*

Chris McCann, DMRE dmre@pbuuc.org

Adult RE: Planning is continuing for the Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Spring offerings. OWL for adults, Sources and other activities are being considered. Look for ARE announcements soon! For any questions or suggestions contact us at ARE@pbuuc.org

New Day Rising

Anti-Racism Resources for February

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:

Keepin' It Real: Race in Contemporary America by Elwood Watson
This Will Be My Undoing: Living at the Intersection of Black, Female and Feminist in (White) America by Morgan Jerkins

VIDEOS:

What is systemic racism? A series of eight videos highlighting how systemic racism shows up in our lives and institutions. Videos include discussion of the wealth gap, employment, housing discrimination, government surveillance, incarceration, drug arrests, immigration arrests and infant mortality.

<https://www.raceforward.org/videos/systemic-racism>

ARTICLES:

Racism Hurts by Kathiann Kowalski [https://](https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/racism-hurts)

www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/racism-hurts

Race in America 2019 by Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Anna Brown and Kiana Cox <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/04/09/race-in-america-2019/>

PODCASTS AND OTHER MEDIA:

The Stoop. Stories from Across the Black Diaspora <http://www.thestoop.org/>

Speaking of Racism: A Podcast Dedicated to Honest Discussions on Race and Racism <https://speakingofracism.com/2019/04/29/podcast-beginning/>

Legacy Fund

For 2020, the Endowment Committee will have up to \$5,000 of income available for grants towards the purposes of community outreach initiatives, improvements to our facilities, scholarships, and support of the wider mission of the UUA and our congregation. The Endowment Committee will be accepting applications for grants through March 31, 2020. If you are interested in learning more or receiving the package to apply for a grant, please send an email to legacyfund@pbuuc.org or contact any of the Endowment Committee members who include John Barr, Cory Carter, Chris Evans, Janet Overton, and Bettie Young.

Auction and Stewardship



February is the time to “Come Together!” as we launch our 2020 Annual Campaign.

PBUUC members and friends will once again have three options this year to make their annual pledge to include: 1) meeting one-on-one with their Visiting Steward; 2)

attending any of the “Come Together” events listed below; or 3) visiting the Stewardship table in the Foyer after Sunday services from February 23 to March 29.

Our “Come Together” events promise to be fun for the whole family as we celebrate our community. We have five great events to include:

- ☞ **PBUUC Chili Cook-Off** on February 22 starting at: 5 pm for Cooks, 5:30 pm for Judges, and 6 pm for Diners
- ☞ **Pi Day Bake-Off Luncheon** on March 14 starting at 12 Noon for Pie Making Contestants, 12:15 pm for Judges, and 12:30 pm for Diners
- ☞ **Stewardship Breakfast** on March 15 from 8 am—10 am
- ☞ **Auction Night** on March 21 starting at 5 pm
- ☞ **Ice Cream Sundaes Celebration** on March 29 during Coffee Hour

We hope that you can join us at all of these events regardless of when and where you complete your annual pledge. If you have any questions about the annual campaign send us an email at stewardship@pbuuc.org.

Chris Evans, Stewardship Committee Chair



Second Annual PBUUC Chili Cook Off! Strut your chili cooking stuff! Be the judge to determine the final prize. Trophies for best chili and people's choice! Or, just come as a diner for good food and

good company. At least one vegan chili for all to enjoy. The year's biggest event is a whole church celebration. Kids of all ages are invited. Music piped in to our great sound system. Raffles with prizes galore. Six-seven chilis to choose from, plus crackers, cheese, and hot sauce. The Stewardship Committee offers drinks for donation. **When: Saturday, February 22.** Doors open for diners at 5:30 pm. Tickets for diners are just \$5/person or \$10/family. All tickets available online at: <http://auctria.com/auction/pbuuc/> or in the Foyer after the service.



Pi Day is Coming! The Auction is planning a fun event to celebrate Pi Day, March 14. This luncheon is a chance for you to enjoy eating and/or making

savory pies, Gluten-Free and/or Dairy-Free Pies, and of course Dessert Pies. This is a friendly competition, so you also have the option of being one of seven judges who decide which pie makers get the award in three categories (Best Savory Pie, Best Special Category Pie, and Best Dessert Pie). There will also be voting among all gathered to determine who gets the People's Choice Award. Contestant and Judge ticket holders arrive at Noon for the judging. Diners arrive at 12:30 pm. The Award Ceremony is planned for 1:30 pm. Buy your tickets online at <http://auctria.com/auction/pbuuc>

KITCHEN DISCUSSION

The meeting held January 19, to discuss possible versions of kitchens in the architect's options for the Meeting House renovation, was quite remarkable. Despite the diversity of opinions expressed at the Congregational Meeting in December, we found we had a lot upon which we agree. This is a summary of what we discussed to obtain a sense of what those of us participating feel is important. It is not in an official or binding decision; simply the consensus of those who participated. Other viewpoints are encouraged and welcomed.

Thank you to those who participated. Attending were Cathy Helmold, Kathi Yu, Tess Morrison, Sabrina Jones, Peter Wathen-Dunn, Renee Katz, Tricia Most, and myself, Marilyn Pearl. Not able to attend, but expressing opinions beforehand were Muriel Morisey, Jeri Holloway, Elaine Shell, Wendy Schlegel, Carol Boston, Chris Evans, and Louise Waugh. Thank you also to Chuck Bury for making multiple enlarged copies of the architect's floor plans. They were very helpful during our discussion.

We began by clarifying two terms which we urge everyone to use in any discussion about the building. First, is our kitchen should be a Catering kitchen, defined as a kitchen which will meet all our requirements, and comply with the needs of any caterers hired for events held at PBUUC. It should not be a Commercial kitchen because those have several additional requirements which we would not be able, or find it necessary, to meet. We also agreed what to call the various floors of the building. The architect uses the word level, and so will we. Our building has two levels – upper, which we currently occupy, and lower.

We then moved on to the big question – one kitchen or two, or something in-between. After discussing the various options and what each proponent envisioned by their choice, we learned we are pretty much in accord – both, those of us at the meeting, as well as the expressed opinions of those who had communicated earlier. We prefer a full-sized, fully equipped catering kitchen adjacent to the Fellowship Hall on the lower level. In a portion of the space now occupied by our current kitchen, we agree on a smaller pantry, warming kitchen, or whatever we choose to call it. So, not one kitchen or two, but one and a half or third or quarter or whatever. We did have some different opinions on its size which we are confident we can work out through subsequent discussions – anything from a small pantry with a sink, small refrigerator, microwave and some cabinets, to something more like the Hospitality Room. We also observed that the Fellowship Hall's ample space with an adjacent catering kitchen on the lower level would be very useful when we host Warm Nights.

Although we agreed on this primary question, we are aware there are a lot of details about each kitchen which still need further discussion, but those are things we have time to work out, and the facts and opinions should become more defined as we move forward. Some of the suggestions put forth were not forgotten or ignored, but not discussed at this meeting or were considered only briefly to be settled as our plans develop. These include the types and sizes of major appliances, the need for a dumb waiter, pass-through windows, continuing to serve food in the sanctuary, or the need to occasionally accommodate two events occurring simultaneously, etc. We also understand we may not be able to include everything we'd like all at the same time, so it would be wise to anticipate future possibilities and plan for those, allowing space, and electrical and plumbing options for when they become feasible.

There was extensive discussion regarding where to make, serve and drink coffee following the Sunday Services. I think, despite various strong opinions (Coffee Hour IS important to us!) we can allow that decision to be tabled until a future date, or just let it decide itself once the project is completed

Although we reached consensus on the primary question, we have a lot more to cover. I urge all of those interested to stay tuned and ready to engage in further discussions as we move forward.—Marilyn Pearl

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



DARTT Monthly Meeting Sunday February 16, 2020

DARTT's next meeting will be Sunday, February 16, 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, friends, and visitors 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

New Leadership Structure & New Leaders

DARTT has finalized a new governance and leadership structure. DARTT now has the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Immediate Past Chair, and an Advisory Group as part of its Leadership Team. All but the chair position have been filled with terms to run through June 2021: Immediate Past Chair: Carol Carter Walker (also Acting as Chair until position is filled); Vice Chair: Carolyn Byerly; and Advisory Group Members: Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Robin Earnest, and Bettie Young. We will be establishing written procedures to facilitate governance.

DARTT Invites You to Write a Branches Op-Ed

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 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.

MARCH 7, 2020

PBUUC WOMEN'S GROUP ANNUAL MULTIGENERATIONAL RETREAT



Recreate, breathe, rejuvenate! Join us for the annual PBUUC Women's Retreat on Saturday, March 7th from 8 am to 5 pm, here at the church. Please put it on your calendar! We will gather for breakfast and crafty name-tag making, then join in our opening ceremony. There is a morning workshop and two afternoon workshops, with lunch in between, and then our closing ceremony. Childcare is available, and this is a multigenerational event, if your older daughter or granddaughter would like to attend. Friends, relatives, neighbors: all are welcome. This year our theme is Women Creating Community. Our workshop schedule is still being finalized, but at past retreats workshops have included discussions, writing, crafts and movement. Each workshop session has multiple choices available: usually three choices per session, for a total of nine different workshops. In addition to the scheduled workshops, there will be a quiet room for reflection, a puzzle area in the foyer, and many opportunities to share fellowship and community. Register at <http://bit.ly/PBWR2020> To pay online with a credit or debit card use our Breeze form at <https://pbuuc.breezechms.com/form/wr2020>.

Also, we still need a volunteer lunch coordinator to ensure that our lunch fixings are set up for all to enjoy, and an assistant overall coordinator who would be willing to take over next year. To volunteer for one of these jobs, or if you have general questions, please contact Anne Hoover (womensretreat@pbuuc.org or 301-384-8578). And if you would like to be a volunteer workshop leader, please contact Workshop Coordinators Renee Katz at raynie5@hotmail.com or Kathi Yu (best contact is kathiyu@gmail.com, alternatives are cell [240-593-4650](tel:240-593-4650) and home [301-593-2853](tel:301-593-2853)).

In and Around Paint Branch

"Music at Paint Branch" Winter/Spring Season

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!

Sunday, March 8 at 4 pm - The New Millennium

Sunday, April 19 at 4 pm - Music of China

Sunday, May 3 at 4 pm - Audrey Andrist, pianist



Love Notes Fundraiser! Guess What? We're having a fundraising, concert, talent show. Your favorite PBUUC singers (and a few others, maybe you?) will be entertaining us with *Love Songs* the day after *Valentine's Day*, Saturday, February 15 at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to help raise money toward our church redesign and if you have small children that need care please contact Chris McCann by Sunday, February 8.

The Healing Spirit of Dance. Thursday, February 20 at 1 pm, UU Service at the Riderwood Chapel, 3110 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring, MD (If you are not a Riderwood resident, ask at the Gracefield Rd Gatehouse for the best parking option). The PBUUC Chalice Dancers and The Erika Thimey Dance & Theater Co. will be dancing at this service. Please come and spread the word!



The Wider UU Universe

Paint Branch Participates in Launch of New Denominational Initiative: #UUtheVote

UU The Vote is a new denominational initiative to mobilize UUs all over the country to work locally in partnership with other organization to get out the vote in our communities.

Our denominational President, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, says it best:

For Unitarian Universalists, this is faithful, moral action because democracy and the right of all people to have a voice and a vote are at the very heart of our Seven Principles. This work is about the inherent worth and dignity of every person; it is about restoring right relationship with the planet; it is about our commitment to justice and equity for all people. We are called to courageously embody the deepest values of our faith with our hearts, bodies, and spirits while building toward an abundant future in which all are free and flourishing.

Several Paint Branchers participated in the launch webinar of UU The Vote Sunday, January 12. We were part of a community of over 1,500 UUs from across the country gathered together at 125 watch parties and 870 individual registrations. The one-hour webinar featured presentations from UU the Vote staff, volunteers, and Unitarian Universalists from Wisconsin, Washington, DC, Arizona, and Florida discussing their projects.

PBUUC's Social Action, Denominational Affairs and Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team Committees have decided to work together to facilitate this work at Paint Branch. We'll be posting information in upcoming Bulletins and ContinUUa.

You can find out about this initiative and begin thinking of what you are called to do. Go to <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020> for information and tools.

General Assembly (GA) 2020: Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

GA is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists to explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, lean fully into our mission and principles via hundreds of workshop and worship options, and conduct the business of our denomination. We are all invited and encouraged to attend the 2020 GA from Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28 in Providence, Rhode Island. Because Providence is relatively easy to get to, 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 schoolers, 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 spread out the balance of your registration between now and February 29. You can also go to uua.org/ga/ to learn about scholarships, including work scholarships. To save on housing costs, attendees will also be able to book dormitory-style accommodations at two local universities or consider home hospitality by local UUs. You should make your housing reservation beginning March 2 at 9 am for the best options. For more information, visit uua.org/ga/travel and/or talk to Don Gerson, Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee, or Bettie Young, Denominational Cluster Representative.

Revolutionary Love Conference at All Souls Church with William Barber, Linda Sarsour, and others

For the last 13 years, Middle Collegiate Church in NY City has been hosting a phenomenal conference dedicated to multifaith, multiracial justice organizing. Over half of the participants are usually UU, who return inspired for the work in their congregations and communities. The 2020 conference theme is Toward a More Perfect Union, and is at All Souls Church in DC this April 24-26. With inspiring movement-builders like Ruby Sales, Valarie Kaur, Brian McLaren, Linda Sarsour, and William Barber, we will gather to learn, strategize, and share best practices for taking love and justice out into the streets. There is a significantly discounted registration rate of \$239 for local UUs that expiring February 14. Visit revolutionaryloveconference.com and click the "Promotional Code" link from the page where you select number of tickets and use code UUVOTE20. Questions? Contact Rev. Rob Keithan, Min. for Social Justice at All Souls, rkeithan@allsouls.ws.

Community Social Justice Initiative

The goal of the Community Justice Initiative was to get to know Paint Branch's neighbors, learning about the issues affecting them and finding places where the church can partner with our neighbors, other faith communities and non-profit organizations to improve our community. We identified key organizations in our neighborhood. Then, last summer, fourteen congregants interviewed 13 organizations representing education, faith communities, social services, and government. These neighbors told us what they do, what they've learned, and what they believe still needs to be done. We presented these insights during Enrichment Hour on September 8.

Next we conducted follow-up collaborative discussions with one organization in each of the four categories (education, faith community, government, social services). By digging deeper, we identified about a dozen possible social justice projects for PBUUC. They ranged from hands-on efforts to advocacy, short-term to long-term. Examples included activities to build relationships with our Community Learning Center students and connect them with resources they might need, advocating for racial equity in policing, and starting our own food pantry.

During the month of November, we asked the congregation to vote by placing stickers next to the most interesting ideas on a poster in the foyer. Two ideas were the most popular:

- ✦ Advocate for the Health Care for All initiative for uninsured individuals in PG County.
- ✦ Join with [Ayuda](#) to help immigrants that are sent to Maryland from the border with clothing, food, shelter, money and legal aid.

What comes next? These both may be good ideas, but what do they really look like? Are there enough people in the congregation who are interested in one or the other to make them successful? It's time to flesh out these ideas into possible projects, so that the church can select one to actually DO! If you are interested in planning for one of these, please contact Rev. Rachel Christensen.

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.