



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

March 2018

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Nursery Care in Room 6 from 9:45-12:45

Refreshments and Fellowship after the service

Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45

Childcare until 12:45

MARCH 4

DRIVING THE DREAM

The Reverend Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Paul Wester, Worship Associate; Carla Miller, DMRE; The PBUUC Choir; and The Chalice Dancers

We are in it together, this Unitarian Universalist journey through time and space. If it is going to happen, we are the ones who have to make it happen. How do we work together to do it?

MARCH 11 PI DAY, FLY BOTTLES AND OTHER CONUNDRUMS

Rev. Rachel Christensen, with Carla Miller, DMRE; Samantha Evans, Worship Associate, and the Choir
Because - pi. A celebration of pi and deep thinkers of the world.

MARCH 18 SHINTO: THE WAY OF THE GODS*

Rev. Catherine Boyle, Guest Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and William Snyder, Worship Associate
How does ritual connect us to the sacred? Catherine Boyle discusses her time spent at Tsubaki Grand Shrine in Japan and the power and meaning of ritual within Shinto.

MARCH 25 THE POOR ARE ALWAYS WITH US

The Reverend Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Jeri Holloway, Worship Associate; Carla Miller, DMRE; the PBUUC Choir; and the Children's Choir.
Fifty years ago, in March 1968 the Kerner Commission published their report on the causes of the racial civil disorders that took place in many cities throughout the US. Poverty was one of the primary causes, and remains today a major influence on opportunity.

APRIL 1 EARLY CHRISTIANITY – NOT WHAT YOU THINK?

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with William Snyder, Worship Associate; Carla Miller, DMRE; and the Choir
Early Christian practices valued women and life, far more than the patriarchy and crucifixion and resurrection. We explore that history and what it means for us today.

Notes from the Minister

Our children are marching.

Our children are marching. They are marching on Tallahassee, on Washington DC, and on state capitals throughout the country. They are marching in our hearts and in the news.

When I attended a vigil in Fairfax in front of the NRA headquarters in December, UU musician and composer Rev. Jason Shelton wrote a song of lament and sang it with us. It was the fifth anniversary of the Newtown massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary. The words are simple:

We want our children back.

There are too many gone too soon.

And here we are again. Our children are marching, and for some reason, this time is different. Our children, our youth, friends and neighbors, people of color, parents, grandparents, gay and straight, people in all parts of the country have marched before, seeking change, understanding, a new conversation about guns and gun violence. For some reason, this time, the response is different, and maybe, just maybe, we will see change begin.

We want our children back.

There are too many gone too soon.

The culture of violence is being led by fear. Fear of a community of many colors, many cultures, many languages, a community that is not just white and conservative. The culture of violence is being led by anxiety. Anxiety that a world that welcomes the many might not welcome their vision of America.

May we find a way to continue to support the efforts toward change, toward less violence, less guns, a community that values our children.

Our children are marching.

Rev. Rachel

minister@pbuuc.org

Paint Branch: An inclusive religious community connected by love, spirit and service.



There will be a Memorial Service for long-time member of

Paint Branch, Ruth Bond, on Saturday, March 10 at 2 pm. There will be a light reception after the service. If you would like to help or contribute finger foods (cookies, veggies, fruit, cheeses, gluten-free crackers, etc.) please contact Jeri Holloway 301-982-0758 or Holl5d@aol.com

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2017-2018 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair	Kate Brett
Vice-Chair	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Vice-Chair	Eric Most
Trustee	Sonny Katz
Trustee	Kay McGraw
Trustee	Tess Morrison
Trustee	Jessica Sharp
Trustee	Marguerite Summers
Trustee	Kathi Yu
Treasurer	Louise Waugh
Assistant Treasurer	David Nation
Secretary	Carol Boston
Assistant Secretary	Jennifer Wright

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

* Beth Charbonneau (2015-18)	Paul Wester (2016-19)
* Will Snyder (2015-18)	Elizabeth Porter (2017-20)
*Team Leaders	Jeri Holloway (2017-20)
Mary Rooker (2016-19)	Samantha Evans (Young Adult)

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

VACANT

🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Adult RE	Emily Conover (Visual Arts)
Auction	Louise Waugh
Budget Leadership Team	Tess Morrison (Team Leader)
Buildings & Grounds (co-chairs)	Celinda Marsh
By-Laws Review	Lowell Owens & Peter Wathen-Dunn
Capital Campaign	Muriel Morisey
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
Electronic Communications	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Finance	Don Gerson, Chair
Green Team (co-chairs)	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
Leasing (contact)	contact church office
Legacy Fund	Elaine Shell
Membership	Kathy Bartolomeo
Ministry	& Pat Behenna
Nominating	Church Office
Personnel	Chris Evans
Religious Exploration	Pat Behenna
Social Action (SAC)	James Alexander, Janet Overton and Elizabeth Porter
Stewardship	John Bartoli
	VACANT
	REcmte@pbuuc.org
	Don Henderson
	Chris Evans

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Sherry Mitchell
Children's Choir	Jeanne Judd
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	VACANT
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
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Community Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Rooker
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Elaine Shell
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Tess Morrison & Louise Waugh
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Anita Williams
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Louise Waugh

🌀 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
Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration	Carla Miller
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	VACANT
Bookkeeper	Roy Friday, CPA
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Joel Yesupriya
	Howard Townsell
Child Care Providers:	Jazmin Balbuena
	Joy Washington
	Briana Workcuff

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tuesday)
Will Snyder (Wednesday)
Alice Tyler (Thursday)
Janet Overton (Friday)

Board of Trustees

Musings from the Board of Trustees Chair

This has been a very busy month for the Board. We held a full day retreat at the beginning of the month as well as our normal meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. In general, we are gaining momentum in working through items that need to be addressed as well as thinking about what we want to work on during the rest of the year.

During our retreat, we agreed to a goal of doing more work on higher level questions. While some other business might not always allow that, it is a goal. We identified four different sets of topics from which to choose a specific question to discuss each month. Those topics were visioning of the church's mission/place in the community, board interactions, money issues, and church committee organization and staffing. As I write this out, it is obvious that we will probably not have the time to come to conclusive ending during our discussions about any of these items. On the other hand, we will get ideas rolling, and hopefully bring those thoughts back to the congregation at large.

I am sure there will be another article in this newsletter to talk about the stewardship campaign. I want to bring it up in this space as well. Our church is what we make of it. We have a new minister who I personally is having a positive influence on us. We have many other staff members who take care of the major needs of our organization: administration, building management, childcare, running of a religious education program, music, dance. We have a building on a beautiful piece of land, a building that needs tending to and repair from time to time. Based on what I heard during the ministerial start-up workshop, many members of the congregation have good memories and feelings about what has happened in the past, even though there were also difficult times. Given all of that, I encourage every member to consider what the church provides to them, the rest of the congregation and the community we serve when you think about how much you can pledge for the coming year. The reality is that our congregation needs both your time and your financial contributions to operate to the fullest extent.

If you have any questions, or have an item you think the Board should address, please talk to any of the Trustees. We want to know what you are thinking.

Kate Brett, Board Chair

The next BOT Meeting is March 20, 2017.

All read-aheads are due on March 13, 2017.

The BOT ExCom meeting is March 6, 2017.

Roots and Branches of Unitarian Universalism Class

Are you new to UU? Would you like to know more about Paint Branch, Unitarian Universalism, UU history, and the meaning of the UU Principles? If so, we have just the right gathering for YOU. A Roots and Branches Class will be held on Saturday, April 14, here at the church from 1 pm to 4 pm. Harry Schomberg, Jessica Sharp, Rev. Rachel Christensen, and others will lead. Child care will be available. Light refreshments will be served.

There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Table in the Foyer. Questions? Email rootsclass@pbuuc.org, or ask Rev. Rachel or Pat Behenna (301-776-4025 at home). We're anxious to have a large group participating.

Service and Panel Discussion Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Kerner Commission Report

Sunday, March 25, PBUUC joins universities and cities across America commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the release of the Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. Rev. Christensen will lead the morning service, reflecting on the devastation of poverty in our nation. After an informal reception, a panel discussion will be moderated by Dr. Carolyn Byerly, PBUUC member and Chair of the Department of Communication, Culture, and Media Studies, School of Communications at Howard University.

The panel will address policing, poverty, the press, and the millennial-generation perspective on the Report's recommendations in terms of race relations today. There will be a Q&A and commentary session after the discussion.

Panelists:

- ~ Jonathan Hutto, author, activist, and founder of the Prince Georges' County People's Coalition, will address police accountability
- ~ Dr. Clint C. Wilson, Emeritus Professor of Communication, Culture, and Media Studies at Howard University, will address news coverage of African Americans in the media
- ~ Meredith Dodson, Director, U.S. Poverty Campaigns, RESULTS, will speak about the intersection of race and poverty.
- ~ Melissa Harris, doctoral student in communication, Howard University, will address the relevance of the Kerner Report for the millennial generation.

Time: 1:30 pm—2 pm, informal reception in the Foyer; 2 pm—3:30 pm, panel discussion in the Meeting House. This event is open to the public.

Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Opportunities for All Ages!

March 24th, March for Our Lives—

Join us in Washington, DC to rally in support of gun control and the young people of our country, and with all those affected by and in fear of school shootings and gun violence. facebook.com/events/157161255003456/ We have been invited to join a sign-making session at UU Church of Silver Spring on Friday, March 23rd, at 7 pm; and to identify a meeting place at the rally where our congregations can join a larger UU community. The details of the plan are yet to be decided- but let's just plan to go! Will you join us?



Let's Participate! April 21, 2018 Anacostia Watershed Society's (AWS) Earth Day Cleanup. (On the Sunday after Earth Day.) Our little stream is part of the Paint Branch, in the Anacostia Watershed. AWS's annual clean-up event is a chance to pick-up trash and care for the Anacostia River watershed. Families with children are welcome! Contact **Carla Miller** or **Caelan Dever**, for more information; Carla at dmre@pbuuc.org, cell: 410-707-9611.



UU Camps and Conferences



Did you know there are great UU summer camps for you and/ or your family to enjoy? The closest of these is the UU MidAtlantic Community in Center Valley, PA; in the beautiful Lehigh Valley. I'd LOVE to tell you

more about it. Other PBUUC members who've attended include: Tina Van Pelt, Penney O'Brien, Abby and Ed Crowley, Carla Monardes, Noel Monardes, and Carmelita Carter Sykes. **Register now for a week of "Recharging" – this year's theme. UUMAC 2018: July 8 - 13 at DeSales University.** Visit uumac.org to register. If you might like to teach in the children's program at UUMAC, and save 50% on tuition, speak to **Carla Miller**, dmre@pbuuc.org, cell: 410-707-9611

Spirit Saturday Supper now moved to one Saturday per month. - [was 4Fs] We could hardly call these dinners, discussions and game nights *Food, Faith and Fun Friday* anymore, could we? **Our first Saturday gathering will be on March 10th, 6:30 pm—9 pm** This month, we celebrate the Spring Equinox, Ostara, as snow showers are replaced by showers of cherry blossoms. Worth celebrating! An adult reflection circle will focus on "*Beginnings*." Or choose to join in the board games, bring crafts... or plant some spring bulbs or seeds. Fun for EVERYONE of ALL AGES. Please bring a dish for the potluck dinner! Dishes made with eggs are traditional to Ostara. Pizza will also be available with a \$5 suggested donation. <http://bit.ly/PBpotluck>

Carla Miller, DMRE@pbuuc.org

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

NEXT YEAR: 2018-2019 IN R.E.



JOIN US on the JOURNEY AS WE EXPLORE WORLD RELIGIONS

Next year, the adults and children of our Religious Exploration program embark on adventure exploring the many religious traditions of the world! We learn about and learn from other faiths, to expand our perspectives, and deepen our understandings- as children, youth and adults!

All classes will begin the fall with an introduction to our own UU community. Then we embark on the journey into other traditions! Our first focus will be the "Abrahamic faiths;" Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In the spring we turn east, toward Hinduism, Shintoism, and Buddhism.

There are many ways you can join us in this learning and spiritual growth!

1. Become a Group Leader as a "World Religions Tour Guide/Teacher

Join our teaching team to guide a group of children on this quest!

Your capacity for caring and the energy to engage; to ask big questions, and consider many answers is MUCH more important than any expertise you might bring to the topics.

You will be provided with the training and materials you need.

2. Be a Guest Speaker or a Resource Person

Are you a practitioner or former practitioner of another faith tradition? Perhaps you grew up Jewish or Hindu, or are a practicing Buddhist or Pagan? We would love to hear your stories and to learn more from a person who knows the terrain. Your participation will enrich the class experience, and bridge the generations at PBUUC. Please speak to Carla Miller if you might be a resource to us in this way.

3. Invite Someone You Know from another Faith Community to Visit Us as a Guest Speaker

If you know someone who is engaged in another faith community, who might visit a class or help us to arrange a visit to their congregation, please help to get us in touch.

RE Announcements

CHILDREN'S RE Classes in March:

Spirit Play, Grades PreK/K begins the month with an exploration of Respect and Acceptance of all people through story circle and their individual free choice of follow-up expression of making meaning. The last two Sundays will focus on Passover and Easter, through story and holiday activities.

World of Wonder, Grades 1-3, will focus on green energy sources; with sessions on wind, solar and geothermal energy. Thanks to Lowell Owen for volunteering to lead a tour of our own geothermal energy system in the R.E. building!

Harry and UU 2, Junior Youth "Dumbledore's PBUUC Army" is fighting the "illness horcrux." The class will use the protego-compulsion charms in this struggle; and make malaria nets and shoes with soles from old jeans to help protect others from illness.



Grades 4-5 Our Whole Lives (OWL) continues through March 25th, learning about relationships, sexual attraction and orientations, and human reproduction. We will close with a final ritual and celebration with parents in honor of the learning and growth of this class! And its dedicated teachers.

COMING SOON IN RE

Saturday, March 10th Spirit Saturday, Celebrate Ostara! with food, faith and fun

Saturday, March 24th March for Our Lives

Saturday, April 21st Anacostia Watershed Earth Day Cleanup!



It DC Glass Artists Art Talks sponsored by the PBUUC Arts Council:

How did they do that? On Sundays March 4 & 18, DC Glass Artists will demonstrate and discuss the techniques they use to create many

of the beautiful pieces in the Paint Branch Exhibit For Love of Glass. They will bring samples and explain the magic that occurs in the high heat of the kiln.

March 4: Fusing with Silver, Creating shapes on iridized glass, Making glass stacks and reactions, Pattern bars

March 18: Creating Glass Jewelry; Screenprinting and Powderprinting on Glass; Glass strips and more reactions.

The artist talks will take place 11:45 am—1 pm in the Meeting House.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)



DARTT Next Meeting Tuesday, April 10, 2018

DARTT has moved to a quarterly meeting schedule for its planning meetings. Our next gathering will be Tuesday, April 10 from 7 pm to 9 pm. We will be posting more details in Bulletins/ContinUUa.

DARTT Has Black Lives Matter Buttons & Yard Signs March 4

DARTT will be selling Black Lives Matter buttons and yard signs after the March 4 Sunday Service. Stop by our table in the Meeting House Foyer to purchase buttons and yard signs. Small buttons are \$.50. Large buttons are \$1. Yard signs are \$10. Any 'profit' will support multicultural programming at Paint Branch.

DARTT Recommends:

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Faith Facebook Group

Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ) is a group that aims to move white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. The group focuses on resourcing white faith/spiritual folks in this broader work. It also assumes this space is multi-racial and welcomes feedback from people of color. SURJ-Faith shares resources and ideas that help white folk in dismantling white supremacy in our faith/spiritual communities and institutions. Some PBUUC'ers have taken advantage of their in-person and webinar training. SURJ has set up a SURJ-Faith Facebook group! You can request to join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SURJFaith>

Public Forum on Community Empowerment and Police Accountability Sunday, March 11 at Davies Memorial UU Church, Temple Hills, MD

This forum will provide an opportunity to learn, discuss, and strategize about community empowerment and police accountability in Prince George's County. It is being hosted by a sister UU Church and will feature one of our cohorts, Jonathan W. Hutto, Sr., Social Justice and Peace Activist, and Major Neill Franklin (Ret.), Executive Director of Law Enforcement Action Partnership. Learn about the history and status of police/community relations in the county and new possibilities for community involvement in policing. Take part in discussion about the next steps. For questions or accessibility concerns, email CEPacoalitionPGC@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 11, 3 pm—5 pm, Davies Memorial UU Church
7400 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, MD

Contact DARTT@PBUUC.org if you want to carpool.

Music at Paint Branch presents long time member Deni Foster and Friends in concert on Sunday, March 11 at 4 pm in the Meetinghouse. This year's event entitled "Chordiality in a Non-Cordial World" features over 20 vocalists, instrumentalists, and ensembles of every style. Composers Fauré, Handel, Telemann and Bernstein are a few of the samples. This is a free event; donations are cheerfully accepted. A wonderful reception will follow with an opportunity to meet and greet each of the performers.

Coming in April! Save these dates; Sunday, April 15 at 4 pm The String Queens and Sunday April 29 at 4 pm, STRATA a trio featuring Audrey Andrist, piano, James Stern Violin and Nathan Williams, clarinet. Both of these concerts will be fabulous!!

Finance Committee

The PBUUC Finance Committee is having a good time this year. Our membership includes myself, Anita Williams, Jeanne Contardo, Marilyn Pearl and Patty Daukantus; plus our Treasurers, Louise Waugh and Dave Nation; and our BOT Liaison, Kathi Yu. Rachel has also been actively supporting our team. We began the year in October with a review of the independent **Auditor's Process Review** recommendations. We created thirteen Actions to ourselves as the result of the report. Probably the most challenging item is to develop a **PBUUC Finances Manual**, which will document and organize all of the church processes into a single, integrated on-line system – with hyperlinks from the Manual to the individual process descriptions. We are working toward a review of each PBUUC financial-related document, updating it appropriately (with all relevant parties), and getting each document formally Approved. The result will provide a Baseline of how each element of PBUUC finances is to be done. And each process will be easily located on-line for reference. This will not be completed this fiscal year.

Our most intense initiative is getting our accounting database updated. Over time, as the church grew and needed new line items and subentries for various new reasons, financial data was entered into areas of the database that seemed to make sense at the time. But over time the 'sense' of some entries was no longer logical – resulting in somewhat confusing readability of the Treasurer's Reports – e.g. an attempt to enter Pledges into the database several years ago had some side-effects (other UUA churches had similar results when trying to track pledges in QuickBooks for Non-Profits). We created a number of actions related to the database line items. Chuck is working with the Bookkeeper to 'back-out' each entry that does not represent our current church business. He is doing this such that each change is done one-step-at-a-time – creating traceability for each change. The Finance Committee is enthused about the progress being made. In the process we have confirmed our bank accounts, our operating funds and our liabilities. PBUUC is in pretty good financial health at the moment. We don't expect that any of the corrections to our database will impact that assessment. On a related note, Jeanne Contardo (who works with non-profits), has drafted a **new Financial Statement format** for us; which will eventually replace the current Treasurer's Profit and Loss Report. Even changing the terminology from Profit and Loss will be useful.

Elaine Shell, Finance Committee Chair

Stewardship at PBUUC

Paint Branch is "Driving the Dream!"

Paint Branch is "Driving the Dream!" During the month of March, all members and friends will race to complete their pledge for our incredible journey together in 2018-2019. The annual campaign kicks off with an inspirational Commitment Sunday service on Mar 4. Starting that day you will have three options to complete your pledge to include: 1) meet one-on-one with a Visiting Steward; 2) attend a fun-filled stewardship event (see choices below); or 3) sprint to the stewardship table in the lobby after any Sunday service in March. Choose what route works best for you. We hope that many of you can join us at one of our upcoming events to include:

- Pledging Party on Saturday, Mar 10 from 6-9 pm at Sherry & Don's home
- Stewardship Breakfast on Sunday, Mar 18 from 8-10 am in the Kelley Room
- Pledging Party on Saturday, Mar 24 from 6-9 pm at Marguerite & Van's home

We are glad you are joining us for this great ride! If you have any questions about our annual campaign, who your Visiting Steward is, an event you would like to attend, or how to complete your pledge, please contact us at stewardship@pbuuc.org.

Chris Evans, Stewardship Chair



Back by popular demand the Stewardship Breakfast!

Waffles (regular, gluten-free), scrumptious toppings, sausage, waffles, syrup, fruit, special breakfast casseroles, and

more waffles! When? Sunday, March 18, 8 am – 10 am. Where? Kelley Room. **Don't go to service hungry!** All are welcome (kids especially love it)! If you would like to help, please email Liz Citrin at Liz.citrin@gmail.com, but at least stop by for your WAFFLES!

Legacy Fund News

The Endowment Committee will have up to \$3,600 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, 2018. If you are interested in learning more or receiving the package to apply for a grant, please contact Chris Evans at legacyfund@pbuuc.org.

PBUUC News and Notes

Have you noticed things around our campus that need attention?

You are our best eyes and ears. If you see something that needs repair or replacement, you can help us by letting us know. Our Building and Grounds team work to prioritize and schedule repairs to keep us running and in good shape. Recently they have replaced the exterior lights at the entrance to the Meeting House, and have obtained quotes to reframe and replace the door to the Religious Education Building. So... please send a note to Lowell Owens (lowellandmarge@verizon.net) or Peter Wathen-Dunn (peterwathendunn@gmail.com) if you need to report something out of order or in need of repair. If they need to, they can forward the information on to the proper person. Thanks!!

We are experimenting with a new way to have our worship services available on the web.

For a long time, we have made recordings of the worship services available in the Sermon Archives, but now we are experimenting with something a little different. For recent services (since December 31, 2017), clicking on a particular service in the archive (at: <http://www.pbuuc.org/sermons/archive.php>) provides an optional link to view an online Order of Service for that Sunday. These online Order of Service pages include links to the parts of each service where a recording is available. A list of the services currently available in this new format is also available at: www.pbuuc.org/OoS. Give it a try and let us know what you think! Please email Van Summers at vsummers6@gmail.com with comments

Lay Led Services Planning

Are You Interested in Delivering a Worship Service at PBUUC? Join Paul Wester, one of PBUUC's Worship Associates, during Enrichment Hour on Sunday, March 4th and Sunday, March 11th to learn more about opportunities to organize and deliver a worship service.

If you're interested in how we create worship at Paint Branch, have something important to say that would spiritually engage our congregation, and would like to work with a Worship Associate to deliver a worship service, please come out and learn more about the process and the schedule.

We hope to see you during Enrichment Hour on March 4th and 11th!

Denominational Affairs

It's General Assembly Time Again. This year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly of Congregations (GA), will take place in Kansas City, Missouri on June 20-24, 2018. Both Registration and housing registration, open on March 1. If you are interested in going, it's a good idea to take a look at the hotels which have been reserved by UUA for the GA; they usually sell out rather quickly. More information is available at <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

March 1 is also the date to apply for opportunities to make GA more affordable by volunteering for work-scholarships that would waive their registration fee. If you are interested in becoming a delegate, please contact me ASAP at donaldgerson@yahoo.com. We are entitled to four delegates and to four alternate delegates. The final decision regarding delegates will be made by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting in June, but I am ready to compose a list of interested members now. There will be many more details to follow, but to get the latest information, please go to the UUA website shown above.

Donald Gerson, donaldgerson@yahoo.com, or 240-293-6570.

GREEN Team

Dear Paint Branch Earth-loving Friends, here is a green thought for us to know. It's about being green and helping Community Place Café, which is a four-day-a-week noon meal set up in the basement of a Hyattsville church to feed the hungry. For many years a few hearty Paint Branchers have once a month joined this effort. Here's where **GREEN** comes in. It happens here at church that we often have food to share and we don't always use our stainless cutlery; we use convenient plasticware instead – and, hopefully, we then send it to county recycling. But it can have an extra life. If the plastic forks, spoons, and knives are dishwasher washed, Community Place Café will happily use them and do so without violating any health ordinance. So, if we cannot avoid using plastic sometimes, we can make the extra small effort to wash the utensils and send them on for another life. We are not accepting plasticware from your home. Be Green. Love Your Mother! — Shantida

SAVE OUR FORESTS! Write a letter with the Green Team after service Sunday to support an update to the Maryland Forest Conservation Act. Some of Maryland's largest, most important forests are still being cleared and fragmented, without adequate replanting. Under the current law, developers have to replant only one tree for every four removed and, with a certain credit, the replanting percentage can drop even lower. Trees planted to replace won't have the same ecological benefit for decades. Find our table in the foyer. We have sample letters and all the materials you'll need. For more information, see Pat Behenna or Marj Donn.

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.



Installation of The Reverend Rachel Rudd Christensen 4 pm Sunday, May 6



We are pleased and proud to be formally installing Rev. Rachel Christensen as our Minister on Sunday, May 6 at 4 pm in our Sanctuary and Meeting House. We will have clergy from throughout the area and from out of state, both Unitarian Universalist and from other denominations, local dignitaries, and visiting friends and family.

Our Choir will perform, under the direction of Music Director David Chapman, and the Chalice Dancers will as well. We will celebrate Rachel's ministry with us, and our path into the future together.

We hope you will join us. We will have refreshments and celebration afterwards. Childcare will be provided.