



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

**April 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

### **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.

### **APRIL 8 OUR BODIES ARE FOR LOVING**

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Paul Wester, Worship Associate, and guest pianist Keith Miller  
Our bodies come in all shapes and sizes and embody life and all that goes with it. Living, growing, loving, aging.

### **APRIL 15 EACH KINDNESS**

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate  
Kindnesses done and not done fill our stories of friendships and welcome. Join us in the Flower Celebration today. Bring flowers to share with others in a celebration of community and spring. Help us to Welcome new members.

### **APRIL 22 EVIL**

The PBUUC Worship Associate Team; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and guest pianist Markus Williams  
Commissioned by Noel and Nancy Monardes, the 2018 Worship Associates service tackles the thorny issue of evil. What are some of the perspectives and reactions that we have when facing the idea of evil today? Join us!

### **APRIL 29 JOURNEY HOME**

The PBUUC Chalice Dancers with The Erika Thimey Dance & Theater Co.; Paint Branch Creek; and Elizabeth Porter Worship Associate  
The PBUUC Chalice Dancers' 13th Annual Dance Service, presented by The Paint Branch Chalice Dancers, directed by Sharon Werth. Guest artists include The Erika Thimey Dance & Theater Co. and Paint Branch Creek. We invite you to join us on this journey of dance, song and spoken word.

## Notes from the Minister

On Sunday, March 25 our worship service focused on the 50th Anniversary of the Kerner Commission report on the racial disturbances of 1967. One of the primary factors in the widespread events was poverty among African Americans. We looked at what has changed and what has remained the same. Generational wealth of African Americans, the accumulation of assets that can be used to benefit families and descendants, has remained at 1968 levels, less than 10% of the wealth of white people. This has remained true and is difficult to overcome because of the regulations and practices that continue to limit access to mortgages and home ownership for black people. In the afternoon, we hosted a panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Carolyn Byerly, further addressing the Kerner Commission and where we are today. Dr. Clint C. Wilson, II, retired communications professor from Howard University, discussed the media. Meredith Dodson, Director of US Poverty Campaigns RESULTS, spoke about housing. Jonathan Hutto, founder of Prince George's People's Coalition, talked about policing, and Melissa R. Harris, doctoral candidate, provided the perspective from a Millennial.



It was a rich day of worship and programming which provided perspective and insight on our social fabric and continuing inequality in our communities.

Someone asked, where do we begin? There is so much need, so many areas of work, so much that could be done. How do we figure out where to focus our efforts?

This is an ongoing, live question for me: where do we focus our efforts as a community? Many in our congregation are active supporters of particular issues, including racial justice, housing access, violence and gun violence, disparate policing – there are many. And still, our many hands could bring much energy to the broader community: energy for care, for change, for commitment, and support for increasing love and justice in the world. How do we find and decide a focus? Who does this? What is the process, and who is involved?

So much of the conversation at Paint Branch has been about the parking lot and the deck. This is important, and yet, let's find a way to change the conversation. We have other important work to do.

*Rev. Rachel* [minister@pbuuc.org](mailto:minister@pbuuc.org)

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

## Table of Contents

<b>April Sunday Services</b>	<b>Page 1</b>	This Month in Children's RE	<b>Page 4</b>	Special Collection 4/15 for MSF	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Notes from the Minister</b>	<b>Page 1</b>	<b>Diversity AntiRacism Transformation Team</b>	<b>Page 5</b>	Warm Nights begins April 8	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>PBUUC Leadership Directory</b>	<b>Page 2</b>	Next DARTT Meeting Apr 10, 7 pm	<b>Page 5</b>	<b>Celebration in the Glen June 3rd</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Board of Trustees' Column</b>	<b>Page 3</b>	Black Lives Matter Buttons & Signs	<b>Page 5</b>	<b>Beautification Day May 19</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Installation of Rev. Christensen 5/6</b>	<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Music at Paint Branch : 4/15 &amp; 4/29</b>	<b>Page 5</b>	<b>Book Store, April 1st</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Stewardship—Driving the Dream!</b>	<b>Page 3</b>	<b>The Wider UU Universe</b>	<b>Page 5</b>	<b>Denominational Affairs—GA 2019</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Religious Exploration</b>	<b>Page 4</b>	<b>Membership Committee</b>	<b>Page 6</b>	<b>Green Team Update</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
Next Year in RE	Page 4	<b>Third Wednesday Lunch Group 4/18</b>	<b>Page 6</b>	<b>Note to Readers</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
Congregational Activities	Page 4	<b>Social Action Committee</b>	<b>Page 6</b>		

## PBUUC Leadership Directory

### 🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2017-2018 🌀

email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto: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

### 🌀 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)	<a href="#">contact church office</a>
Legacy Fund	Elaine Shell
Membership	Kathy Bartolomeo
Ministry	& Pat Behenna
Nominating	<a href="#">Church Office</a>
Personnel	Chris Evans
Religious Exploration	Pat Behenna
Social Action (SAC)	James Alexander, Janet Overton and Elizabeth Porter
Stewardship	John Bartoli
	VACANT
	<a href="mailto:REcmte@pbuuc.org">REcmte@pbuuc.org</a>
	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,
	& Van Summers
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

<a href="#">Music Director &amp; Pianist</a>	David Chapman
<a href="#">Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration</a>	Carla Miller
Director, Chalice Dancers	Sharon Werth
<a href="#">Church Administrator</a>	Charles Bury
<a href="#">Administrative Assistant</a>	VACANT
<a href="#">Bookkeeper</a>	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

### Notes from the Board Chair

I hope the weather starts turning around and I can honestly wish everyone some time to go out and enjoy the spring.

I want to update the congregation with the Board's recent work. Most of our time during the last Board of Trustees meeting was devoted to discussing the church's finances. This is a topic that members of the church have brought up over the past year including during this year's stewardship meetings and so I feel it is important to let everyone know the actions being taken by us.

First of all, I want to say that the church is solvent and we see no financial trouble. There is money in the bank and there is no concerns about meeting financial obligations. However, over the years, we tried to use our accounting system to do things that it wasn't designed to do, such as tracking pledges. Due to people trying to do the right thing but not necessarily being successful, issues are now showing up in our balance sheet that are not a part of our true financial situation.

We are working to professionalize our accounting and to reverse incorrect bookkeeping entries. This is taking a great deal of time and energy because the corrections are being done in a way to show exactly what was wrongly entered and how we are fixing the errors.

The finance committee along with our bookkeeper and administrator have been working to do as much of the corrections as they can before we seek professional assistance from a CPA or Auditor. This work has been underway for the last six months. At this time, the Board has decided to ask for a professional to be hired to finish up this work. It will be an expense the church will have to take on, but the Board felt that it is important to right our books.

Once the accounts have been corrected we will be seeking review and evaluation of our books in the form of a professional audit to help us to identify and resolve any additional inconsistencies. The request for an audit was made by the Board last year but there was concern that to undertake an audit before doing as much work as we can to fix errors would be more focused on the corrections or be too complicated with the books in disarray.

If you have any questions or concerns about this or any other matter, please come talk to any of the Trustees.

*Kate Brett*, Board Chair

**The next BOT Meeting is April 17, 2017.**

**All read-aheads are due on April 10, 2017.**

**The BOT ExCom meeting is April 3, 2017.**



## The INSTALLATION of The Reverend



### Rachel Rudd Christensen

**Sunday, May 6, 2018, at 4 pm**

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

**3215 Powder Mill Road  
Adelphi, Maryland 20783**

**The PBUUC Choir will perform under the direction of Music Director David Chapman and the Chalice Dancers will perform under the direction of Choreographer Sharon Werth.**

**We celebrate Rachel's ministry with us and our path into the future together. A Celebratory Reception follows in the Sanctuary.**

**Please let us know if you will join us and whether you will need childcare. Ample parking in the Church parking lot. RSVP to [RRCInstallation@gmail.com](mailto:RRCInstallation@gmail.com) for information or call 301-937-3666.**

**Ministers, seminarians and other religious professionals are invited to gather in the Kelley Room, robe if desired, and process together to the Meeting House.**

## Stewardship

### Paint Branch is "Driving the Dream!"

As I write this we are well into our annual campaign with over **\$256,000** in pledges received during the first three weeks of March. Our Visiting Stewards have done an incredible job and I know many of you participated in our Commitment Sunday service or enjoyed our Stewardship Breakfast or a Pledging Party. If you are reading this and thinking, but wait, I haven't completed my pledge yet, don't fret. You can still respond to your Visiting Steward or stop in the lobby at the Stewardship Table after service. We need everyone's support to achieve our goals for the coming year. To celebrate the end of our annual campaign, the Stewardship Committee will be serving up Ice Cream Sundaes during Coffee Hour on April 8. We hope everyone can join us. We are also glad you have joined us for fun ride! If you have any questions about our annual campaign or how to complete your pledge, please contact us at [stewardship@pbuuc.org](mailto:stewardship@pbuuc.org)

*Chris Evans*, Stewardship Chair



# Multigenerational Religious Exploration



## NEXT YEAR: 2018-2019 IN RE

### JOIN US on the JOURNEY AS WE EXPLORE WORLD RELIGIONS

Next year, the adults and children of our Religious Exploration program embark on adventure as we learn about and from other faiths!

**Are you interested in learning from many sources?**

**Do you enjoy ... reading & discussion on a theme? creative activities? being with children?**

All classes will begin the fall with an introduction to our own UU community. Then we embark on further explorations of our sources of inspiration. To the west we find the “Abrahamic faiths;” Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Then we’ll turn east; toward Hinduism, Shintoism, and Buddhism.

**You may teach at any grade level; Ages 4-6; 7-9, or 10 and up.** Your capacity for caring, energy to engage with children/youth, and openness to questions with many answers (and none at all) are your most important qualifications. Teaching experience and expertise in the subject areas are bonuses. You will be provided with the training, lesson plans, and materials you need!

Each class has a team of 3-5 adult volunteers who rotate the teaching responsibility. Teachers spend approximately 2 Sundays a month in the classroom. If you are available less often, we are certainly willing to find a way for you to be involved.

**Interested? Considering this involvement and wanting to know more?**

Please contact **Carla Miller**, to learn more [dmre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dmre@pbuuc.org) 410-707-9611.

### COMING SOON IN RE

**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** Easter Children’s Chapel and Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** Spirit Saturday! multigenerational potluck, play and discussion

**Saturday, April 21** Anacostia Watershed Earth Day Cleanup!

## CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> is Spirit Saturday! 6 pm—8:30 pm

(Note earlier start time now that we are gathering on Saturdays for our potluck and programming formerly known as “4 F’s”. ) The evening is filled with good food and fun for all ages, with adult choices of either a faith development discussion circle or a more relaxed board game and social time. Melissa Graham will lead a small group discussion on the spiritual themes of Passover and Easter. RSVP and sign-up for potluck: <http://bit.ly/PBspirit>

**Earth Day Stream Clean-Up!, Saturday, April 21, 9 am—Noon** at the Beltsville Community Center near Little Paint Branch Park, 3900 Sellman Ave., Beltsville, MD. Make sure to sign up and you will get a free t-shirt. Sign up deadline **March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Email Caelan Dever [caelanwd@gmail.com](mailto:caelanwd@gmail.com) or Joe Dever [jbdever29@gmail.com](mailto:jbdever29@gmail.com) with questions.



**Easter Activities and Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>** Our Children’s Chapel on Easter Sunday will be filled with fun; cooking, games & crafts. Children will be decorating eggs; and using the blown-out insides to make some quiche for a little lunch. After service we will gather on the deck for the egg hunt- children will be released to the glen for the egg hunt by age group, with the youngest first. Prize bags awarded to all. **ADULTS,** Your assistance is needed on this fun and busy day. It will take several adults to guide the activities. Please consider joining the fun! Contact Tina Van Pelt, [tinavanpelt@gmail.com](mailto:tinavanpelt@gmail.com), or Carla Miller, [dmre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dmre@pbuuc.org).

## THIS MONTH IN CHILDREN’S RE

**Spirit Play, Grades PreK/K** In this first full month of spring, our youngest class will get outdoors, and explore our relationship to the earth and to our environment with stories and activities.

**World of Wonder, Grades 1-3,** will be planting and learning about “lifegiving plants” and the life cycle of birth, life, death, and new life which all living beings share.

**Harry and UU 2, Junior Youth** The Harry Potter class will be investigating the Animal Cruelty horcrux and the illimitable value of the “fantastic beasts” of this world.

## Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (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 to 9 pm, in Room 4, RE Building. See upcoming ContinUUMs/ Bulletins for a draft agenda. Comments? Questions? Contact [DARTT@pbuuc.org](mailto:DARTT@pbuuc.org)

### Black Lives Matter Buttons & Yard Signs April 1

DARTT will be selling Black Lives Matter buttons and yard signs after the April 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.

### Music at Paint Branch is excited to present two fabulous and different musical events in April.

"The String Queens" will appear on Sunday, April 15 at 4 pm. They are an African American Trio of female musicians! Dawn Michelle Johnson - violist is graduate of Julliard majoring in Music Performance, Kendall Isadore - violinist and Elise Cuffy - cello, both have degrees in Biology, Music Performance and Education from Howard University. The variety of their repertoire includes Canon in D (Pachelbel), Bad Romance (Lady Gaga), Hotel California (The Eagles) Brandenburg Concertos No. 3 or 5 (J. S. Bach). There will be something of excitement for every musical taste.



The Trio "Strata" will return to perform at Paint Branch on Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm. Strata has three beautiful musical layers; Audrey Andrist - pianist, James Stern - violin, and Nathan Williams - Clarinet. Ms. Andrist has been an substitute pianist at Paint Branch; her musicianship and charisma bring joy to our space. The program for this concert will be announced later.

Music at Paint Branch has a long tradition of the musical arts at our church. Please plan to attend these free recitals and support the program. Donations are always happily accepted and there will be a reception following each event with an opportunity to meet and greet the artists.



## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

### Spiritual Leadership in Communities of Faith: A Contemplative Retreat -

Being a spiritual leader should be rich and rewarding work—for clergy, religious professionals, and lay leaders. But the continual tectonic shifts in the landscape of religion in America is making it difficult. That's why nurturing your own spirituality is essential. To help you do just that, the Center for Congregational Spirituality is offering a spiritual leadership retreat, July 29 – August 3, 2018, at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center near Cincinnati, Ohio. This one-week contemplative retreat—designed for both lay and ordained spiritual leaders—will explore how the practice and ministry of spiritual direction can help you faithfully attend to the spiritual lives of others in your community of faith while staying grounded in your own relationship to the source of our being. The program is limited to 24 persons. In order to achieve a balance of roles, registration will be capped at 8 clergy, 8 religious professionals, and 8 lay leaders. The tuition is \$1750, which includes a single room at the retreat center and all meals. Register before February 28, 2018, and receive an early bird discount of \$500—use discount code EARLYBIRD when registering.

### Insist on Justice! Resist Inequality! Conference Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:30 am to 3 pm (CDT) Unitarian Church of Evanston (UCE), Evanston, IL 60201 Co-Sponsored by UUJEC and UCE

We hope you can join us at a one-day conference, to be held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL on Saturday, April 21, 9:30 am - 3 pm. UUJEC and the Evanston Church are jointly sponsoring the event.

At the conference you'll be able to connect with fellow members of UUJEC and fellow activists from around the area, while learning more about how to be an effective organizer. We have some exciting speakers lined up who work for justice reform, racial equity, and a more just economic system.

**Registration is \$15 per person, which includes lunch.** If you you'd like to learn more, e-mail [events@uujec.com](mailto:events@uujec.com) or visit our website <http://uujec.com/ResistInequality>

This event is funded in part by the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program and the Unitarian Church of Evanston and its Susan Walker Fund for social justice.

**UUJEC Members:** UCE can arrange UU home hospitality if you are in need of lodging. You are also invited to join UCE members and Chuck Collins for a discussion of his most recent book 'Born on Third Base' on Sunday, April 22 @ 12:30 pm at the church.

## Membership Committee

### Becoming a Member at Paint Branch

We are so delighted to have many new and new-ish people attending service, participating in events, and becoming part of our community. Welcome. Many of you have come to Meet the Minister, and we have hosted Roots and Branches to help you learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this Paint Branch congregation. We invite you to become a member of the Congregation when you find you are aligned with our values and no longer feel like a visitor.

We will welcome and recognize new and new-ish members as part of the worship service on April 15. If you have been considering becoming a member, please contact Pat Behenna ([behenna@verizon.net](mailto:behenna@verizon.net)) or Rev. Rachel Christensen ([minister@pbuuc.org](mailto:minister@pbuuc.org)). We want to welcome you!

### Roots and Branches of Unitarian Universalism

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 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. 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 lobby. Questions? Ask Rev. Rachel or Pat Behenna (301-776-4025 at home).

## The Third Wednesday Lunch Group

We picked [Red Maple in Silver Spring](#) as our March destination, but that last blast of winter weather made the roads too treacherous, so we are trying again in April on 18th.

[Red Maple](#) is a small Asian place that is really quite good. It's in the Four Corners area where Rt. 29 and Rt. 193 (University Blvd) intersect. The restaurant faces Rt. 29 but it's hard to see, and there is no parking in front. For parking, go West on University and take the first right (past Rt. 29) onto a street; and then an immediate right into the Red Maple parking lot. I'll be at the back of the restaurant to help anyone being dropped off back there. It's a nice place so give it a try. Everyone is welcome. Contact Elaine Shell 301-776-4271(h) or 301-602-0590(c).

## Social Action Committee



### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

The March for Our lives on March 24 had a huge turnout including representation from PBUUC. To be added to an email alert list about gun control, please email [m4ol@pbuuc.org](mailto:m4ol@pbuuc.org).

The Special Collection on April 15 will be for [Doctors Without Borders](#). Our May recipient will be the Crop Walk.

Everyone is invited to join the stream clean-up on Saturday, April 21, sponsored by the M.R.E. Committee.

The sign-up list is in the lobby of the RE Building.

Some of us are interested in helping with voter registration. We will need to be trained, get materials and be assigned a place to set up a table. If you'd like to participate, contact Marge Owens at 301-345-1572.

You are welcome to attend our Social Action Committee meetings. The committee consists of whoever shows up! The next one will take place on Saturday, April 21, at 10 am, in Room 4 of the RE Building.

### SAC Special Collection April 15, 2018

The SAC Special Collection for April 2018 is [Doctors Without Borders](#). Every year, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provides emergency medical care to millions of people caught in crises in more than 60 countries around the world. MSF provides assistance when catastrophic events—such as armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, or natural disasters—overwhelm local health systems. MSF also assists people who face discrimination or neglect from their local health systems or when populations are otherwise excluded from health care.

### Warm Nights returns to PBUUC April 8-15

Since 1993, PBUUC has joined with other area churches in providing Warm Nights to homeless men, women, and children. These Prince George's houses of worship each spend one week during the winter months (mid-November to April) giving homeless people a place to sleep, a hot home-made dinner and breakfast, and a bag lunch to start their day. Warm Nights operates to provide overnight shelter to individuals in need of a safe, warm place to sleep. The program is intended as a supplement to homeless shelters. We generally have 17 to 25 men, women, and children each evening of Warm Nights. During Warm Nights, there is something for everyone to do, regardless of age or ability, so please join in—members and friends. You can sign up after Sunday service in the lobby or online with Sign-Up Genius at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaab2ea2fb6-pbuuc4>



## Celebration in the Glen June 3rd

### Celebration, Community and our Campus

Our Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church is located on an amazing campus, separated from the Powder Mill Road and the parking lot by a beautiful deck. It crosses wooded land filled today with daffodils, and sometimes I have seen deer or fox in our woods. And our campus includes the Glen below, with paths and the creek and seating areas.

Let's celebrate together! Let's celebrate our community, our campus and being together. On Sunday, June 3, after worship, let's have a potluck and picnic. We will have food and tables and chairs on the deck and chairs and play in the Glen.

We are sprucing up the Glen, making it welcoming for all. We are checking out the paths, repairing handrails, and removing branches and snags. We will have a Beautification Day in May (see below) so everyone can help.

We have a plan to help people down to the Glen who might find it more challenging to get there. There is a path located at the Boredale end of the RE Building that is the easiest way to access the Glen. People can get there by walking through the RE Building and going down eight steps, or by driving around to Boredale. We will have people available to help with this, and then to help people along the path and to the gathering area in the Glen.

Plan on being a part of this celebration! Bring lawn chairs for Glen seating for yourselves and to share. Bring a dish to share. And bring your party hats.

## Beautification Day

**Saturday, May 19, 9 am – 2 pm**

All are invited to join in the beautification of the Meetinghouse, RE building, church grounds and parking lot. Come for as much or little time as you can to improve the beauty and utility of our surroundings. All skills and abilities appreciated and welcome. We need your help. Pizza at noon. Contact person Lowell Owens, Buildings and Grounds committee [BAG@pbuuc.org](mailto:BAG@pbuuc.org)

## Book Store

Paint Branch Bookstore Open Sunday during Coffee Hour, Will Feature PBUUC Authors. PBUUC's Bookstore will feature books by four of our own authors: Marj Donn, Lynn Johnson, Lynx, and Raman Pathik. Stop by, support local authors, and contribute to PBUUC's operating budget.

## 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, opened 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>.

If you are interested in becoming a delegate, please contact me ASAP at [donauldgerson@yahoo.com](mailto:donauldgerson@yahoo.com) or 240-293-6570. 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*

## GREEN Team Update



I am new to the Green Team, and it has been such a pleasure listening to others who have such passion for keeping our environment healthy and green. I have learned many things, both big and small, that can be done. Small things each of us can do include trying to cut down on waste by bringing our own plate, utensils, thermos/cup and even a cloth napkin to church, especially to events where paper products are being used. Perhaps every Sunday you might consider bringing your own thermos/cup to use to drink your coffee or tea, the same one you might have already used that morning at home and might use later that day.

Another perhaps not so small way to help the environment is, when helping wash dishes in our kitchen, to use a pan full of water to rinse the dishes rather than squirting each one with fresh water from the faucet.

On a much larger scale, we are discussing how to try to continue our Green Sanctuary status, possibly starting composting here at church, and broader social action items like writing letters to legislators concerning changes in the laws to help save the environment. Come join us to learn more and contribute your own ideas, every 4th Sunday during Enrichment Hour.

*—Marguerite Summers*

### 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](mailto: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 re-turned 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](mailto: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](http://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.**

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