



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

May 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

MAY 6 TRUTH-TELLING FOR GREATER RECONCILIATION

Rev. Pratima Dharm, guest minister, with Worship

Associate Samantha Evans

A painful history of violence in this country continues to shape ideologies, patterns of behavior and ways of thinking that impinge on the freedom of many in the present. How do we embrace and practice truth-telling so we can walk together towards greater freedom, love and reconciliation?

MAY 13 THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF MOTHERING

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Carla Miller,

DMRE; and William Snyder, Worship Associate

Our relationships with our mothers is, well, complicated.

MAY 20 THIS DAY

Rev. Rachel Christensen, with Carla Miller, DMRE; Elizabeth Porter, Worship Associate, and the Choir

Reflections by our minister, Rev. Rachel Christensen.

MAY 27 WHY WE EAT WHAT WE EAT

Worship Associate Mary Rooker, and friends.

How much thought are we putting into what we serve at Memorial Day picnics, and every other meal?

JUNE 3 WHAT MAKES IT FAITH DEVELOPMENT FINDING MEANING IN THE EVERYDAY.

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister and Carla Miller,

DMRE; with Paul Wester, Worship Associate

Sophia Lyon Fahs said that everything is religious when we make it so. We explore how we do faith development for both adults and children.

Followed by a Glen Celebration!

Notes from the Minister

My son is a computer geek. He tends to work remotely with or for large companies, on a team with other computer and math geeks. And he has such wisdom.

He periodically goes to the company site for a week, where he has the opportunity to meet with and work with the other people on his team. He can work on one of his projects there, just like a regular work day, but can also walk over to talk with one of the other team members. They have a chance to get to know each other beyond the technical problems they are working on. They might have a meal together, or talk about their dogs, or complain about the family they grew up in.

My son is clear that *this* is why he flies to California. He flies to California so that he can create a face to face relationship with the other people. He flies to California so they create a relationship, and build a greater capacity for collaboration. He flies there to build trust, and understanding and communication. He flies there so that he can do better work, meet the needs of the company, get more satisfaction from the work he does, have it be more relevant, more particular to the requirements, and more responsive to his team.

Whew. You just know I'm going to find a connection here to church community.

We build community and relationships by steps – initially meeting each other, getting to know a little bit more about you or about my story, working together on a project that needs doing. These things build and develop our relationships. As we continue to be together, planning or participating in events, I might know something more about you – what you are excited about, or challenged by, and you might know about some sadness that has entered into my life. This growth in our relationship is *critical* to creating a sense of community. But more importantly, it allows each of us, together and separately, to withstand the stress and grow when some serious issue faces the community. Without these connections, we won't have enough trust or skin in the game to stick around when we go through a difficult time – whether it is about money or a change in worship, or a health crisis or a failing mechanical system.

Participating in worship services or pot lucks is not just about showing up – it is about creating a network of relationships that strengthen our church community and your own resilience.

But our work here is not just about creating a sense of being Together. We also need to honor our Separateness. We don't all agree, and neither should we. The relationships we create help us to be able to disagree, while remaining respectful of the other person. Support some activities in the church, but choose to not participate in all of them. Practicing this in the easy times helps us when the going gets rough – because it will. We will disagree, and the goal is not to find total agreement, but rather to debate and discuss the possibilities and find the way forward that best serves the congregation as a whole. May it be so.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org

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



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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

🌀 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
Sunday Sound & Facilities Volunteer Team	Van summers
Third Wednesday Lunch Club	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

Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration	Carla Miller
Chalice Dancers Director & Choreographer	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles Bury
Administrative Assistant	Penney Hughes
Bookkeeper	Roy Friday, CPA
Rentals Building Manager:	Joel Yesupriya
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 Chair

With the beginning of the spring is a rush of activity by your Board of Trustees. I don't know how it happened that we went from working at a measured pace to a run at full tilt. I am looking forward to having many more meetings per week in the next few months.

I will be attending a meeting between the Buildings and Grounds Committee (BAG) and the Prince George's County folks working on the plans for our parking lot. The first plan that they developed did not include work that the state should help with regarding the culvert that runs under the parking lot with water run-off and goes into the creek. During this meeting, a more refined plan will be presented to the church. If BAG agrees it meets our needs, I will be signing off for the church before you have even read this article. Work will begin soon, although the details will be developed to be mutually agreeable, with the important church event schedule in mind. YEAH!

During the Board meeting on April 24th, we formally asked the Finance Committee to identify a CPA to review our financial books. The Finance Committee has already been contacting a number of different firms to get prices and plans to move forward. An audit cannot take place until after the close of the fiscal year and the finalization of our books for that year. We asked that the audit begin no later than October 1st. I want to recognize the Finance Committee for all their hard work in working to clean up issues in our books, develop clear, written process procedures, and supporting the BOT in the effort to review our books this year.

There are several other financial items of interest happening. I do want to first state that our Stewardship Drive team successfully completed receiving pledges from church members and friends with only a few loose ends. It was wonderful to work through the effort under a tightened schedule. This brings me to the budget development for 2018-19. The Budget Leadership Team has begun work in earnest in April. Please see the BLT article in this Branches issue for information.

Finally, the Leasing Committee appears to have successfully negotiated a new lease with the Board's support. The new lease is a brand new charter school, who will be using Rooms 2-3 in the RE Building starting in the fall. The school is going to start only with children in lower elementary school grades, with the idea of expanding as those children age. Not only will this help us use our facilities more fully, it supports a school that has a philosophy that appears to be in harmony with UU principles, and increases our building rental income.

That's plenty for one month. If you ever have questions or concerns, Board members encourage you to talk with any one of us.

— Kate Brett, Board Chair

The next BOT Meeting is Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

All read-aheads are due on Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

The BOT ExCom meeting is Tuesday, May 1, 2018.



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 for information 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.

Rev. Diane Teichert at Installation

Rev. Diane Teichert served Paint Branch for 4 years from fall of 2009 until spring of 2014. I have asked Rev. Diane to participate in my Installation, and I expect that many in our congregation will have seen her in several years.



Rev. Diane and I have had several conversations about her and her husband, Don Milton, returning to Paint Branch as Friends to the congregation, and we are both ready for that to occur. We will have an agreement as to how she will participate in the church, in order to maintain healthy boundaries and a healthy relationship. I assure the congregation that this will be not be the only time that she will be with us. In addition, I invite the congregation to give her space and not overwhelm her with their welcome. There will be many other chances to say hello.

I am delighted. —Rachel

Beautification Day

Saturday, May 5, 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

Multigenerational Religious Exploration



It's Time to Register and Volunteer for 2018-2019 in RE

We Will Be Exploring World Religions; Embark on the Adventure!

Next year, the adults and children of our Religious Exploration program will learn *about* and, more importantly, *from* many faith traditions.

We need caring and capable adults to lead our children's faith development classes. This is one of the most vital ways you can serve this congregation. Please consider offering your gifts of time and energy to R.E.! Even as you give, you shall receive *much more* when you teach and learn with PBUUC's children and youth.

Register Your Child for Class!

Registration - tinyurl.com/registerRE18 Just as you register for softball and swim-team each year, registration is required for Religious Exploration classes, 2018-2019. Please pop online to sign up now.

Volunteer - The MRE volunteer sign-up is now posted on the bulletin board in the entry to RE building. Check it out! for class information and to volunteer. Or go online to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/TeachRE2018>

We are accepting applications for teachers at all age levels right now. Teachers serve approximately twice a month. Training, lesson plans, and materials are provided. The middle-school and senior youth are exploring world religions through visits to our neighboring faith communities. This is an excellent learning opportunity for adult leaders, too. **Interested?** Contact Carla Miller, dmre@pbuuc.org or 410-707-961

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Do you like to hold babies? Our nursery is in need of assistance. Your commitment would be only once a month. Sometimes you may find that you are not needed and can attend service. Please contact Carla Miller, dmre@pbuuc.org, or 410-707-9611 to express interest.



Seven And Slime! Summer Plans for Children's Religious Exploration.

Our Children's Religious Exploration program continues through the summer with a creative curriculum for children ages 4-12. This year we are planning for fun with "Seven (Principles) and Slime!" Each Sunday we will explore one of the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, and engage in exciting, hands-on STEM/STEAM activities. (STEM=Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; or add Art to make it STEAM). Adults may choose to teach or assist just once or several times over the summer. **Volunteer to lead or assist in a summer R.E. class.** Sign up on the sign-up sheet in the RE building foyer, or Contact Carla Miller, dmre@pbuuc.org or 410-707-9611.

Sunday May 20: Meeting for Parents of Jr. Youth and Youth, ages 10 and up

Parents of children who will be age 10 or older in September 2018, Please plan to meet with Carla Miller following service on Sunday, May 20. We will discuss next year's exciting plans for this group, exploring world religions through our Neighboring Faiths curriculum; and planning some fun social events as well. It is time for us to reinvigorate our offerings for this age group. I hope that you will take part in this conversation, and encourage you to put it on your calendar now!

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Friday, May 11th Talent Show Share your talents! And enjoy the gifts of others as Paint Branchers sing, play piano and clarinet, tapdance, hula hoop, tell jokes whatever YOUR talent is, bring it on. NOBODY will get the gong! PBUUC will host a Friends and Family Social with an all ages talent show on Friday, May 11th, 2018.

Vegan and regular pizzas, punch and salad will be served at 6:30 pm. Donations \$6/person requested. Less than 5 years old are free. Bring all of your friends, family and neighbors to enjoy the evening.

RSVP to Raman Pathik at 301-890-9072 or rpathik@verizon.net with how many people may attend and what kind of pizza (Veg. Meat, Cheese, Vegan) you prefer by May 9th so we can order pizza.

Contact **David Chapman** at cochap@msn.com, 240-602-4121 or at church to get your place on the talent program. **Children and youth are especially encouraged** to consider singing, playing an instrument, doing a magic trick, presenting a comedy routine, telling a short story, sharing some funny jokes, etc, but ALL AGES ARE WELCOME. It's going to be a great evening of fun, food, family, friends and talent!

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 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

Food at Paint Branch

Being Welcoming and Reasonable about Food at Paint Branch

Reverend Rachel has initiated a series of conversations to discuss how Paint Branch handles food events and to consider what improvements we might make. A beginning point was changing the categories of foods on sign-up lists to Vegetable; Noodle or Rice, Beans; and Meat rather than 'entrée,' or 'side dish.' You may have noticed the experimental use of some large-print checklists to indicate if dishes are vegan, vegetarian, dairy free, or gluten free and to check potentially problematic ingredients such as corn, peanuts, shellfish, etc. Please click on this survey link to help assess dietary diversity at Paint Branch: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6DN3KPD>. We expect to post helpful food event guidelines on our PBUUC.org website in the future. The discussions will continue at 1pm on Sunday, May 20 in the Minister's Office.

Meet the Minister

On Sunday, May 20, meet Rev. Rachel in her office during Enrichment Hour at 11:45 am for a gathering of any visitors or friends who would like to find out more about PBUUC and our particular approach to Unitarian Universalism. This is an opportunity to have a personal conversation about our unique church and our many activities. Those who are returning, or who have come only infrequently and want to get reacquainted are also welcome. Please come to the Ministers' Office in the RE Building after the service.



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) Immigration & Refugee Action Planning Session

DATE: Saturday, May 12, 12:30 pm gather; 1pm-4pm meeting

LOCATION: River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 (entry on Whittier) - Fire-side Room

To [REGISTER](#) and see the draft agenda visit: http://bit.ly/UUSJ_Regis_ImmigrationMay12

UUSJ's Immigration Task Group invites you to help shape our immigration and refugee work for the next year. Key purposes are to:

- provide updates on state-of-play on Federal and state issues and recent key actions taken by the UUSJ Immigration Task Group including updates on sanctuary and refugee work in our region;
- seek input to identify top priorities for the coming year; and,
- engage UU activists to support the work.

Opportunities for involvement include advocacy, public witness and congregational sanctuary/refugee support. Questions?

Contact: Charlotte Jones Carroll at cjonescarroll@aol.com

The Third Wednesday Lunch Group

Come join us Wednesday, May 16 at 1 pm when we return to **Mama Lucia's** restaurant for pizza or pasta in a quiet atmosphere. We went once before and they did a nice job. Good parking.

Directions: turn right on Powder Mill Road from our parking lot; turn right on Cherry Hill Road toward Route One; as you near Route one (Baltimore Ave.) turn left into the large College Park shopping center; Mama Lucia's is toward end of the strip closest to Route One.

Everyone is welcome. Contact Elaine Shell 301-776-4271(h) or 301-602-0590(c)

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for **“Driving the Dream!”** Our annual campaign has now ended with pledges totaling \$317,469 from 109 members and friends. Wow! The incredible generosity of this community is amazing and sets us on a solid path for our journey together in the coming year. I am grateful for the many volunteers who helped to make this very successful annual campaign possible. These include our fellowship dinner crew and entertainers, pledging party hosts, stewardship breakfast cooks, our 20 Visiting Stewards, and the most dedicated committee in the entire congregation. Please look for the all of annual campaign details to include the names of all of volunteers in the PBUUC Annual Report that will be released in June. We are so glad you have joined us for this fun ride! If you have any questions about our annual campaign, please contact us at stewardship@pbuuc.org. — Chris Evans, Stewardship Chair

Social Action Committee



SAC Special Collection for May

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. The Hyattsville Area CROP Walk is on Sunday, May 6, 2017. Hunger is one of the greatest injustices in the world, today but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and you can help make it happen.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 70 years of working in partnership around the world. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated

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 Bomedale 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 Bomedale. 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.

Warm Nights 2018

We had an up and down week for guests - ranging from a low of 16 to a high of 26 with an average of 17 per night for 8 nights. (A total of 157 guests.) The entire range of ages, races and family status (single women, men and families, some single fathers with children, some single mothers with children.) We were asked to house our guests an extra night, over the second Sunday, which had to be done in the RE building due to prior commitments in the Meeting House. All went well. This was the first time in my work that our guests truly pitched in to move all the chairs aside and cleaned the meeting house floor. Van single-handedly set up the chairs for service. They also helped set up the cots and bedding in the Kelly Room that evening. CCIS provided Mac and Cheese and meatballs (at no cost) to supplement our tuna casserole and leftover coleslaw/potato salads. One of our guests brought us avocados and eggplants on Friday. The RE team served the avocados with their salad that night and Tess made a Greek Eggplant salad for Sunday night which a surprising number of guests tried (and one came back to compliment.) Louise did a really good job on the front end and Van did an excellent job on the back end. Abby Wester volunteered 3 nights for a total of 6.5-7 hours for Honor Society credits. The Men's Group took Wednesday and the RE Team took Friday. Both groups had fun on their nights and The Warm Nights Team really appreciated them stepping up to the tasks at hand. A special Thanks to Aymee Lewis and her 7 year old daughter, Audrey Lewis who also helped with serving, cleanup and set up for breakfast on Saturday to Sunday, spent Saturday night in the kitchen and helped with the serving and cleanup on Sunday. All in all, everyone pitched in, the food received compliments all the way around and we have successfully completed another Warm Nights week+! Thanks, everyone!

Louise Waugh, Van Summers and Tess Morrison

Budget Leadership Team

The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) has begun its work on the 2018-2019 budget. We are starting later than usual in the church calendar year, but we have the advantage of having the Stewardship Campaign completed, so we have a firm figure for anticipated pledge income that we can use in our planning.

This year, we have a compressed time schedule for preparing the budget in order to have it presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 10 and subsequently approved by the Board of Trustees at its regular June meeting. For the coming year, we have a bit of savings over last year, but we also have new expenses, such as a financial audit of the congregation's books and replacement of at least one of the geothermal units for the RE Building.

Thus, the BLT has three main goals for the 2018-2019 budget cycle:

- Maintain the budget for committees and programs at existing levels;
 - Give paid staff a cost-of-living increase as funds allow;
- Replenish and increase our long-term maintenance fund to protect ourselves better against future major expenses.

Per the BLT charter, we will be holding listening sessions where committees and individuals are encouraged to talk about the church budget. These listening sessions will be held Monday, May 14, from 7 pm—9 pm in Room 4 of the RE Building and Sunday, May 20, during Enrichment Hour in the Kelly Room of the RE Building. (We are trying to avoid the dates of Rev. Rachel's installation, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day weekend.)

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of the members of the BLT.

We look forward to working with you on a budget for a successful congregational year.

BLT Members: *Kate Brett, Liz Citrin, Patty Daukantas, Sonny Katz, Elaine Shell, Tina VanPelt, and Louise Waugh*

Book Store

Paint Branch Bookstore Open Sunday, May 6 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.

GREEN Team Update

Composting at Paint Branch

(#nolimittogreen #toogoodtowaste)



We at Paint Branch are already showing our 'green-ness' through recycling, using fewer paper products, more efficient dishwashing, etc. There is another way that the Green Team is exploring how to improve our carbon footprint even more: through **composting**.

The Green Team met on March 25 with composting expert Beth Leamond to learn about how we can compost more than coffee grounds at Paint Branch. The goal is to reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfills, and in the process, reap the reward of rich compost to improve our gardens. Landfills produce methane gas, a greenhouse gas which is bad for the environment. Composting, on the other hand, produces CO₂, which plants need.

Composting is not difficult, and nature does it on its own. But humans can expedite the process. Beth explained that there needs to be both green and brown products in our compost: 'greens' are green grass and kitchen waste (nitrogen-heavy), and 'browns' are dead yard waste, wood chips and leaves (carbon-heavy). The best ratio is 3 browns: 1 green.

If we proceed with our composting project, it will be a simple system. The bin would sit near the bottom of the Meeting House stairs. Food scraps would be collected in a small bin in the kitchen. Our compost would take all vegetable waste, a limited amount of protein, but no bones or oil. Whatever waste is generated by the church/functions at the church would go into the compost rather than the landfill. A designated person would bring the food waste weekly down to the compost bin, add some 'browns' (leaves, etc.), give it a spin, and that's it. Nature does the rest, and we would have rich compost in a few weeks.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE COMPOSTING NEWS. If our grant is approved for a composting bin, we will post signs about how/where to put your food waste. Questions or suggestions? Ask Amy Parrish or any Green Team member.

Green Team March 25. Seated from left: Amy Parrish, compost expert Beth LeMond. Standing: Shantida Joseph, Margeurite Summers, Marj Donn. Not pictured: Kathy Bartholemew.



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 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. 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.

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