



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

July 2020

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

ALL SERVICES ONLINE ONLY

Streaming info at <https://bit.ly/PBJuly2020>

Online Orders of Service Available at

<http://www.pbuuc.org/news/>

If you don't have Internet access, call the church office at 301-937-3666 for instructions on how to listen to the service on any phone.

JULY 5 SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WITH ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE

Tricia Most, Worship Associate;
with Mary Massey, Erika Teal, Mary Rooker,
and other PBUUC Members

Many of us are in need of spiritual renewal for our quarantined selves and our troubled spirits in this difficult time. With photographic essays from a number of Paint Branchers, we will consider gifts and learnings we gain from our interaction with wildlife and animals: amusement, empathy-development, beauty and even wisdom.

JULY 12 COMFORT ME: FRONT LINE SPIRITUAL CARE

Guest Minister Rev. Katie Culbert;
with Susannah Schiller, Worship Associate
Life is unpredictable. We know that. And this past March we learned just how unpredictable it can be as our communities were charged with adjusting to life during a Pandemic. It has required us to shift our routines and embrace change in new ways that, for many, has been scary, confusing and frustrating. As a Chaplain in a Level One Trauma Center, Pastor Katie has witnessed the fear and the pain but she has also witnessed resiliency, dedication, compassion and intentional care for the marginalized. During this time out of normal time, where is God? Where do we find the Spirit of Life and Love amid the chaos and the heartbreak? How do we stay spiritually grounded not only on the Front Lines but wherever we may be?

JULY 19 SHIFTING IDEAS ABOUT POLICING

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister;
with Worship Associate Elizabeth Porter
What might it look like in our world? How might we get there?

JULY 26 ARE WE QUILTBAG+ WELCOMING?

Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen and Reese Myrdon; with Worship Associate Clark Ritz
Join Rev. Rachel and Reese Myrdon as they explore LGBTQIA+ stories at Paint Branch, in the community, and in the world.

Minister's Notes

Dear All,

Today is the last day of June, for our fiscal year, for our Church year. We transition to a new Board, we are seeking a new Director of Multigenerational Religious Education, and we are finding new ways to do church, new ways to remain in community. We are seeing the world wake up to the reality of living in America, indeed in the world, while black. The calls for greater racial awareness, greater justice and addressing structural inequities.

We have faced big challenges this year. We have been experimenting with ways to do things, and the congregation as a whole has been graciously experimenting, too. We have had successes and sometimes failed, and we have gotten up and done it all over again, experimenting with new approaches. We have done this with worship, with meetings, with community, with conflict and with addressing race. The Board led us through adoption of new agreements, and with creating structures and processes to implement those agreements. And now the next Board will think about the challenges ahead, and how to prioritize and navigate the work.

But I think the biggest challenge we face today is the one that for white people can so easily slide out of our conscious awareness. That is the one of keeping the pressure on to enact real changes to the presence of racism in our country, in our policing, and in ourselves. All too often, events lead to widespread awareness of issues. Energy and commitment to change rises up, and big ideas are exchanged. And then, ultimately, too little happens. I think this time, at this moment in our national conversation, there is real opportunity to get some important things done. It will take all of us, each of us, to stay engaged with the issues. To voice our concerns. To ask for change. To stay present to the possibilities. To vote, and help make it possible for others to vote.

This moment, this time in our lives when nothing is normal, when social distancing and disease transmission and risk and jobs and economy are all in a weird new place, this time presents an opportunity for shifting the view and the understanding of the world. Let us make the most of it. Let us act with commitment and conviction and push for reinventing our social fabric to sustain the least of these.

I am remembering the reading from Sunday's worship about the bodies of individuals forming a bridge, *Three Dreams in a Desert* by Olive Schreiner.

... And he said, "Have you seen the locusts how they cross a stream? First one comes down to the water-edge, and it is swept away, and then another comes, and then another, and then another; and at last with their bodies piled up a bridge is built, and the rest rest pass over."

She said, "And of those that come first, some are swept away, and are heard of no more; their bodies do not even build the bridge?"

"And are swept away, and are heard of no more—and what of that?" he said.

"And what of that—" she said.

"They make a track to the water's edge."

"They make a track to the water's edge—" And she said, "Over that bridge which shall be built with our bodies, who will pass?"

He said, "The entire human race."

May it be so, and amen.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org



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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2019-2020 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Executive Committee	Janet Overton (a)
Executive Committee	Wendy Schlegel (a)
Executive Committee	Carol Boston (a)
Trustee	Ebony Contreras
Trustee	Moe Cunningham
Trustee	Melissa Graham
Trustee	Sabrina Jones
Trustee	Margaret McClellan
Trustee	Carol Carter Walker
Treasurer	Tess Morrison
Assistant Treasurer	Will Snyder
Secretary	Amy Parrish
Assistant Secretary	Keith Miller

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

Elizabeth Porter* (2017-20)	Polly Pettit (2019-22)
Jeri Holloway* (2017-20)	Susannah Schiller (2019-22)
Tricia Most (2018-21)	Samantha Evans (Young Adult)
Clark Ritz (2018-21)	*Team Leaders

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Kathy Bartolomeo	Lynn Johnson
Jim Flaherty	Lynn Louison
Jeri Holloway	

🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
	Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING)
Adult RE	Chris McCann and Leo Jones
Auction	Tricia Most
Budget Leadership Team	Kathi Yu & Wendy Schlegel
Buildings & Grounds	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Diversity/Anti-Racism	Alicia Montgomery (Chair)
Transformation Team (DARTT)	Carolyn Byerly (Vice Chair)
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson, Chair
	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
Electronic Communications	contact church office
Endowment	Chris Evans
Finance	Elaine Shell
Green Team (co-chairs)	Moe Cunningham
	Kathleen Bartolomeo
Leasing	Joe Dever
Long-Term Planning	Ebony Contreras & Kathi Yu
Membership	Pat Behenna
Ministry	James Alexander, Muriel
	Morisey and Elizabeth Porter
New Entrance Design	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Nominating	Diana McFadden (a)
Religious Exploration	Melissa Graham
Social Action (SAC)	Kathleen Bartolomeo
Stewardship	Chris Evans

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Chalice Dancers	Sherry Mitchell
Children's Choir	Jeanne Judd
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	VACANT
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Community Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Creative Force Writers Group	Ebony Contreras
Food for Thought	Mary Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Mental Health Support Group	Alice Tyler
Mom's Group	Penney Hughes
Offertory Counter Coordinator	Marilyn Pearl
Quest Discussion Group	Tess Morrison
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Rooker
SAC Special Collections Coordinator	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
Sunday Sound & Facilities Volunteer Team	Keith Miller
Third Wednesday Lunch Club	Cathy Helmold
Ushers	Lori Snyder
Warm Nights	VACANT
Webmasters	Andy McIntyre
	Mark Shute
	Anita Williams
	Jeri Holloway
	Anne Hoover

Minister

The Rev. Rachel Rudd Christensen

Minister Emerita

Rev. Diane Teichert

Staff

Please contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for staff listed

Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration	Chris McCann
Chalice Dancers Director & Choreographer	Sharon Werth
Church Administrator	Charles D. Bury, MBA
Affiliate Minister for Social Justice	Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo
Bookkeeper	Hannah Oshin
Administrative Assistant	Philip Browne
Sexton:	Al Addison

Office Volunteers

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

Board of Trustees

Dear Congregation,

So ends another fiscal year. Thank you for working this past year to make us a stronger, better congregation. Despite the entire world being turned on its ear in the past few months, we have maintained our connections with and to each other. As Kathi Yu, Budget Leadership Team Chair, told us during the Annual Meeting, and Capital Campaign consultant, Barry Finkelstein, told us the following Sunday, our financial footing has remained much more stable than these turbulent times predicted. That is a testament to our strength as a congregation.

Thanks, too, to all who attended and participated in the Annual Meeting. As of July 1, we have a new Board of Trustees. New Trustees are Carol Carter-Walker, Margaret McLellan, and Moe Cunningham. Sabrina Jones is returning for a one-year term. New on the Nominating Committee are Carolyn Byerly, Karen Donovan, and Jacqui Walpole. John Barr and Marilyn Pearl were elected to serve on the Legacy Fund Committee. We also voted to confer the title of Minister Emerita on our former minister, Rev. Diane Teichert. Congratulations, Rev. Diane.

The full Board and new Trustees were present for the June Board meeting. Our first order of business was to approve the annual budget as presented by Kathi at the annual meeting. Next, we approved the list of beneficiaries the Social Action Committee recommended to receive the remainder of the Roland Bequest Fund (see the notice later in this newsletter).

We also voted to approve members that Rev. Rachel put forth to comprise the Interim Director of Religious Education (DRE) Search Committee. Their job will be to develop a job posting for the position. Committee members are Joy Lovaas, Eric Most, Reese Myrdon, and Tosha O'Neal. Another committee approved is a re-constituted Personnel Committee. Sabrina Jones has offered to spearhead that effort.

A recommendation from the Continuity Committee concerning church events during the Covid-19 pandemic was also approved. They recommended that the Board establish the following process for the duration of the pandemic:

Anyone wishing to host a PBUUC affiliated, sponsored, or promoted event (including the Minister, staff, committees, affinity groups, etc.), the organizer will submit an event proposal to the Continuity Committee that uses the Committee's risk matrix (under development) to identify hazards and risk mitigation(s) for the event. The Continuity Committee will review the proposal, engage in discussions, negotiate edits if necessary, and present a recommendation to the Board for final approval.

It is important to understand that the Committee's advice and recommendations regarding the allowability of an

event will change with the fluidity of pandemic guidance and restrictions, such that an event not approved for July might be approved for September. Decisions will be in line with the ever-growing body of scientific knowledge and treatment options available.

The remainder of the meeting addressed Board business—governance transition from an old to a new Board and establishing protocols for the annual Board retreat. Governance transition concerned the transfer of chair responsibilities during July when ExCom members terms on the Board end July 1 and new officers will not be elected until the retreat. One protocol we discussed was setting a fixed date of the second weekend in July to hold the retreat to ensure member availability. Codifying new Board procedures will be part of the work of the new Board.

This column could not end without expressing sincere gratitude to outgoing Board members Kathi Yu, Don Gerson, and Eric Most. Thank you for your generosity of spirit and unflagging support for this Board and our church. Deepest condolences to Don for the loss of Emma Sue.

—*Janet Overton*, Chair, 2019-2020

Message from Minister Emerita Diane Teichert

Dear Members of Paint Branch UU Church,

I write with deep gratitude for your vote to make me your Minister Emerita. It's an honor I didn't expect, because of the relatively short duration of my ministry among you.

When Rev. Rachel called me to say that the Board had voted in favor and that it would be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting, tears of gratitude welled up at the same time as I found myself saying to her, "I have mixed feelings." Gratitude, yes, but also I didn't like the implication of "emerita" as meaning "old, ready to put out to pasture." The next day I was telling a long-time friend, an author, about these feelings. She said, "Diane! That word has nothing about aging in it! The root is MERIT!" Of course, I should say yes. Then on talking further, I realized the truer source of my reservation about this title: it re-reminded me of my stroke, the reason I'm not any longer your actual minister, and all the pain and loss of that. Once I grieved again that familiar pain, I was ready to accept the honor. I called your minister back the next day.

No one knows exactly what the title will mean going forward, but for now I accept it as an indication that my service as your minister is regarded as "meritorious." That makes me happy!

Thank you so much for this honor,

Diane

Rev. Diane Teichert, PBUUC Minister Emerita

Roland Bequest Disbursed

Frank Roland had been an active member of PBUUC in the 1970s. He was involved in social action and made many friends here. When he died in 2002, he bequeathed \$182,860.09 to PBUUC to use as noted:

... I express the wish, and place my faith in the judgment and discretion of the Trustees, that the funds be used in the church's Community Ministry Program to help the homeless or others in dire need, and request, but do not direct that the funds not be used for maintenance, salaries, bonuses or wages, furnishings or minor purchases. ...

On receiving the bequest in April 2002, the Board created a Roland Bequest Task Force to (1) review options for using the bequest; (2) present the options to the Board; (3) propose a plan for managing the funds including investment, disbursement, and a fund-management structure; and (4) document processes and procedures for handling future bequests. In February 2003, the Task Force presented their proposal. Much of it involved funding social action programs and projects, but it also called for using Bequest funds to repay loans incurred for an emergency building need in 1990 and to repay emergency loans from members to finish building the Meetinghouse. In February 2006, the Roland Bequest Task Force provided an update to the Board. Again, funding social action was an important feature but, again, the update promoted using Roland funds to repay member loans. Over time, many became concerned that the money was not being used to help people "in dire need," as stipulated in the will. Feelings ran very high. Among other repercussions, one person left the church.

For years the funds were not tapped. Recently, however, with growing concerns about the budget, Roland funds were again mentioned. Then Covid-19 and the economic devastation it brought prompted the Board to act. Last April, we asked the Social Action Committee (SAC) to recommend organizations that help the people Frank Roland asked us to help and apportion the remaining funds in their entirety. We made this decision because the number of people in the area who need the help these funds afford is unprecedented in modern times, and their need is clearly dire.

Despite our economic challenges, the Board determined that donating these funds as requested by Frank Roland was in keeping with living our principles and that the church's dire need does not equate with that of people living in boxes on sidewalks and children crying because they are hungry. It is the judgment and discretion of the Trustees to deplete the funds. After much deliberation, with the help of careful and painstaking research by members of SAC, the Board accepted SAC's recommendations for disbursement and decided that now is the time to act in accordance with Frank Roland's wishes and our UU principles. Beneficiaries of the Roland Bequest are as follows: Casa de Maryland (\$7,000); Capital Area Food Bank (\$7,000); Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) (\$7,000); Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services (LARS) (\$7,000); Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI) (\$7,000); PGC Covid-19-United Way Stand Up and Deliver Program (\$7,000); the Congregation Action Network (CAN) (\$5,450); and Prince George's Leadership Action Network (PLAN) (\$1,000).

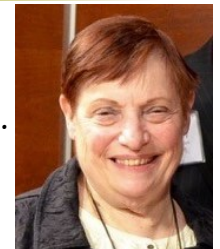
Wheel of Life



It is with great sadness that we share that **Lowell Owens** died early on the morning of June 29 at home. He had been under hospice care for the past few weeks. He was 89, and had been a member at Paint Branch since 1958. Marge says she has been receiving such a wealth of cards in the past few weeks, and is grateful that she was able to read every one of them to Lowell. She asks for no calls or visits at this time. More information will be provided as plans develop. This is such a turning in the life of Paint Branch. We hold both Marge and Lowell and their daughters in love and care.



We are so sorry to share that **Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson** died early on the morning of June 22 in the hospital. Don had been by her side until shortly before she passed. She was 84 and had been in declining health for some time. More information about a memorial service and other concerns will follow in the days to come. We send Don our love and sorrow in this time of grief. He welcomes your cards or emails, but please, no phone calls.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

PBUUC, seeks a 30-hr/wk Interim DRE to serve for a 2-year period of leading on the following critical tasks:

Discernment. Help the congregation develop a common understanding of what PBUUC desires and is willing to support in terms of religious education and lifespan faith development as well as engagement of families with children in the life of the congregation.

Family support and ministry. Support retention of, and faith formation in, our families during these uncertain times. Ideally, also support growth and integration of new families into the congregation even during an extended period of remote operations.

Full job announcement and information on applying available at pbuuc.org/staff/InterimDRE.pdf

Are you the parent of an RE student interested in learning Digital Arts this summer?



Please fill out this [survey link https://forms.gle/a7qWW3W5kkLeTxQf8](https://forms.gle/a7qWW3W5kkLeTxQf8) and let us know what you are most interested in. We are looking to create a PBUUC Youth Podcast with supporting digital graphic messaging for social media. Or maybe something you're interested in doing.



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

How to Change the World (or at Least some Small Part of it)

Tuesdays: June 30, July 14,
July 28 & August 11, 7 pm—
8:30 pm. Register [here](#) or email ap@uucf.org.

More info: facebook.com/events/809719726229292/

NOTE: Attending all four sessions is encouraged. Presented online by UU Congregation of Fairfax Social Justice Coordinator Andrew Batchner.

How can we act with impact? As a community, how can we support each other to make powerful witness for social justice? This four-session summer class will explore lessons learned from past movements to help us be effective today. Whether you are a longtime activist or looking to get newly involved, there is something here for you.

Session 1: June 30 – Acting for Change

Session 2: July 14 – Shifting Power

Session 3: July 28 – Making Plans

Session 4: August 11 – Mobilizing the People

Andrew Batchner is the social justice coordinator at UUCF. He has previously worked at Cedar Lane UU, Nonviolence International, and has over 15 years of experience as an activist and community organizer. He has been involved in the anti-war movement, Occupy, the environmental movement and movements for racial justice. He has helped plan major national actions and campaigns and believes strongly in the need to combine action with learning.



Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community

Just wanted to let you know that the Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community (UUMAC) decided not to let COVID prevent us from joining together this summer. We have planned a virtual camp with many of the same elements of UUMAC and more. There are opportunities for worship, play and learning for all ages. So, although white water rafting is out, lots of fun is still definitely in. Virtual UUMAC starts on July 12th and there are activities planned for four weeks! To find out more and register (FREE!!) go to uumac.org. So if you have always wanted to see what UUMAC is like or just haven't been able to attend lately, this is a great opportunity to taste our amazing community. Ed, Macaela and I hope to see you there. — Abby Crowley

In and Around Paint Branch

Spirituality Circle will meet via zoom on Sunday, July 5, 2020. We will have a check in and opportunity to share what is helping us get through this challenging time. Then, we will continue our discussion of Active Hope by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. For more information contact Lynn Louison at spiritualitycircle@pbuuc.org

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be back at the usual 2nd Saturday: 10 am Saturday, July 11. For obvious reasons, we can't meet in person, but have your breakfast at home and share video online via Zoom of yourself eating it. Come share food and conversation. This event is sponsored by the Paint Branch Men's Group. For more info contact: menfellowship@pbuuc.org. Every month on the Second Saturday, until September 12 at 10 am: July 11, August 8, and September 12. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?pwd=bXJnTlBDbD1BLRWVwL0dpVC9LYXdxdz09> Call in for audio-only from any phone to +1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 409 162 940 Password: 638525

Promote Your PBUUC Events & Meetings

The PBUUC Office Team is here to help get the word out about your events and group meetings. Do you have an activity coming up in the next couple of weeks? Please send a paragraph with contact information, date, time, and location (or how to participate virtually) to Buletin@pbuuc.org by Wednesdays at noon to be included in that week's ContinUUm.

Planning a bigger event? Submit an article up to 600 words to Branches@pbuuc.org by **Monday, July 20**.

PBUUC now has its own Zoom account that can host meetings without a time limit and with up to 300 participants. PBUUC members can host PBUUC events through this platform! Requests can be made on a first-come, first-serve basis by emailing email zoom@pbuuc.org (If you plan to use your own virtual space, please let us know to help avoid double-booking your participants.)

Breeze Forms can also be use for these tasks:

ContinUUm: pbuuc.breezechms.com/form/Bulletin

Branches: pbuuc.breezechms.com/form/Branches

Zoom: pbuuc.breezechms.com/form/Zoom

Meet Our Guest Speaker

Pastor Katie Culbert is a graduate from Meadville Lombard Theological School, where she received two graduation awards: Leadership in RE and Excellence in Preaching. She graduated from the Univ. of South Florida with a degree in Religious Studies. She served as Intern Minister for two years in Sarasota, FL, where she was ordained in 2016. She has worked as the DRE at the UU church of Tampa and as a Chaplain at Tampa General Hospital. Katie lives in Tampa with her two children, Desi, 14 and Casey, 13 and their rescued pit bull, Mickey.



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.



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
301-937-3666
WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG
EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG
3215 POWDER MILL ROAD
ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030