



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

August 2020

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

ALL SERVICES ONLINE ONLY

Streaming info at <https://bit.ly/PBAug2020>

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.

AUGUST 2 LIFE AND LOVE IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Rev. Rachel Christensen;

with Worship Associate Samantha Evans

How much are we willing to do to protect those we love? upend our lives, our expectations, our habits. We all are learning new things.

AUGUST 9 EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF KARMA

Tricia Most and Other Members of the
PBUUC Worship Associate Team

Ebony Contreras was the winning bidder for this Springs Auction Service and asked the Worship Associates to explore the concept of Karma. A variety of perspectives will be presented.

AUGUST 16 THE LONG HARD JOURNEY TO WOMENS' SUFFRAGE

Rev. Rachel Christensen, Minister;

with Worship Associate Polly Pettit

August 18, 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote. We will explore the long hard journey to convince men to vote for it, and what it means for us today.

AUGUST 23 CIRCLE OF LIFE

Minister Rev. Rachel Christensen;

with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller

We celebrate new beginnings and grieve losses and changes in our lives and sense of culture.

AUGUST 30 FAMILY MINISTRY: TEACHING UU VALUES TO ENCOURAGE SOCIAL ACTIVISM?

Guest Speaker Tricia Most with PBUUC's Youth

To encourage our children and youth to carry on our faith tradition of working for justice, we must invite them into discernment, action, and reflection with us. How is Paint Branch doing on this goal?

Minister's Notes

Dear All,

We have two cats. Kizzy and Murphy are a mother/daughter pair of Burmese cats that we got from a professional show breeder who had too many cats.

Kizzy was a National Champion kitten, the breeder said, with pictures and magazine covers to show for it. Kizzy also hates to be picked up and claws us whenever we do. She will run away from me if she thinks I might try to pick her up. To us, they are cats. Less than six pounds, tiny, irritating cats.

The breeder made us promise that we would never let them outside – that they would be inside cats only. They were too special, too valuable, too vulnerable to be let out. Not our style, but okay. For years, we mostly followed that plan, and it seemed to work for us.

This spring we started inviting them outside with us in the morning when we went outside for coffee and tea. They cautiously adventured out, and tiptoed into the grass. Then they discovered the birds and the squirrels. They would lie on the patio entranced by them in the bird-bath or picking at seed in the grass. And, as you can imagine, they started to stalk them when they saw an opportunity. Occasional success was inevitable, and it seemed to us like a trap, to put out bird seed in five or six feeders, and have cats. We had set ourselves up, too, for being there, watching the course of events.

The cats began to stay out all night – they wouldn't come in, and we couldn't persuade them. It looked like they were losing weight, with all that cattin' around. But it was the fleas that finally did us in. The cats had fleas. And, it turned out, so did we. They were jumping on us in the kitchen, in the living room, and in the basement. There is nothing to like about that.

Two weeks ago, we decided something had to change. The cats came in on a Sunday morning and never went out again. We bought a different brand of flea treatment for them. We vacuumed, and vacuumed again. We argued with them a few times about the door and the delights out there, but the humans held firm. They started eating better, and I'm pretty sure they are putting on some weight. They are rediscovering the delightful sunshine on the windowsill and the comfort of a lap, and we are clear that life is healthier. For them, and for us.

May you and your loved ones be well and happy this summer, as we try to coexist in this time of distance and enforced togetherness.

Sending love and tenderness your way.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org



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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2019-2020 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Chair | Melissa Graham |
| Vice Chair | Janet Overton |
| Vice Chair | Wendy Schlegel |
| Trustee | Carol Boston |
| Trustee | Ebony Contreras |
| Trustee | Moe Cunningham |
| 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) | Susannah Schiller (2019-22) |
| Jeri Holloway (2017-20) | John Barr (2020-23) |
| Tricia Most (2018-21) | Diana McFadden (2020-23) |
| Clark Ritz (2018-21) | Samantha Evans (Young Adult) |
| Polly Pettit (2019-22) | Nori Myrdon-Ward (Youth) |

🌀 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 | 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 |
| Welcome Table Greeters | Anita Williams |
| Widowed Persons Support Group | Jeri Holloway |
| Women's Retreat | Anne Hoover |

Minister

The Rev. Rachel Rudd Christensen

Minister Emerita

Rev. Diane Teichert

Affiliate Minister for Social Justice

Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo

Staff

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

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Music Director & Pianist | David Chapman |
| Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration | VACANT |
| Chalice Dancers Director & Choreographer | Sharon Werth |
| Church Administrator | Charles D. Bury, MBA |
| 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,

The new Board of Trustees met for the first time, July 28, with the new Chair, Melissa Graham, presiding. The agenda covered many weighty issues having to do with the health of our church community, renters of our facilities, and the facilities themselves.

The meeting began with establishing our covenant. Knowing that hard decisions we will need to make might come with some contention, we vowed to be respectful, thoughtful, open-minded, and focused on the good of the church. Then we got to work.

In his final report, Barry Finkelstein, our Capital Campaign consultant, identified three teams needed to lead us through the next steps: a Capital Campaign team, already led by Renée Katz; a facilities design team, already led by Peter Wathen-Dunn; and a long-term financial planning team/long-term strategy team. Kathi Yu volunteered to lead this team but was unable to attend the Board meeting, so this discussion was tabled until August. The focus remained on the Capital Campaign but in relation to our deck.

Our deck is the only easily navigable access our congregation has to all parts of our campus, and it is in dangerous disrepair. In leading this discussion, Renée noted that an important first step is to follow the advice of BAG's Peter Dowling and get a professional assessment of the structural condition of the deck because repair of the deck will help inform the path we will need to take in the Capital Campaign. Discussion involved aligning the architect's new-build plans for the deck with some of the other new-build elements as a first step toward building momentum for the Capital Campaign. Further discussion, however, was tabled until we have a firm assessment of the deck's structure. The Board agreed and authorized BAG to begin this work.

We next tackled four recommendations from our Covid-19 task force, the Continuity Committee (CC). Their first request was for a Board liaison. Carol Carter-Walker, already a member of the CC and new member on the Board offered to serve in that capacity. Next came CC's recommendations regarding staff working in church facilities during this pandemic. Questions raised concerned the need for staff to be on church premises and whether they've signed a waiver to be on the premises. Because all answers were not known, this item was tabled until the August meeting. CC's third recommendation involved several safety features including improving ventilation in bathrooms; removing the cushioned chairs, which are difficult to clean; and removing broken and unused furniture to reduce surface areas needing to be regularly cleaned. The final recommendation was that the Board approve Silver Oaks' lease to use PBUUC facilities for their school. Multiple caveats were included that ended with hiring an attorney to review all long-term leases to ensure mitigation of risk and limitation of liability to PBUUC. BAG was authorized to get

estimates for work to ventilate all bathrooms. The other three recommendations were approved by the Board.

The next item on the agenda reiterated CC's recommendation of legal review of long-term leases. The Board had previously decided that Silver Oaks' lease, presented by the Leasing Committee, would be reviewed by an attorney. Joe Dever, Chair of the Leasing Committee, reported on efforts to retain a lawyer for this purpose. The Board approved \$700 toward this effort.

The meeting ran longer than scheduled but a great deal of work was accomplished thanks to Melissa's leadership. We're looking forward to a very productive year.

Remember, send us an email at bot@pbuuc.org you have questions or concerns you want us to address.

Janet Overton, Vice Chair

Finance Committee

The FY20 Fiscal Year ended as of June 30, 2020. In part due to the pandemic, income and expenses were down. With respect to our budget for the year, pledge payments were down about \$17,000, Lease/Rental income was down about \$23,000 and income from church concerts and other activities were down about \$1,300 from planned. A refund from the previous year of about \$7,000 was unexpected income. So our total income was down about \$34,000.

While routine church expenses were low due to the buildings being mostly closed, the cost of the remodeling architect and Capital Campaign consultants, \$41,250, brought church expenses below the budget about \$7,000. The result was an 'Income less Expenses deficit' of \$27,000 (\$34,000 - \$7,000) for the year. Note that the church budget for one year is prepared and approved by the Board of Trustees and congregation in the Spring preceding the start of each fiscal year on July 1. The consultants were not anticipated when the FY20 budget was developed.

The good news is that Tess Morrison, Treasurer, successfully applied for a Federal Coronavirus Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan. \$39,700 was deposited into the church's bank account in April. So our negative balance of about \$27,000 will be offset by the PPP funds. These funds can only be used for payroll and possibly utility costs between the dates of May 11 and July 31, 2020. Tess will apply for Loan Forgiveness when our bank authorizes the application process. Tess has a sense that a loan of our small amount will be forgiven, becoming a Grant. FY20 finances will be revisited at that time to cover payroll costs between May 11 and June 30, with any remainder being applied up to July 31, when the PPP program is currently set to end. Thanks Tess!

So a new fiscal year begins. During the pandemic, consider making your pledge payments monthly and using one of the donation techniques that Chuck Bury has documented in Continuum several times. Someone is in the office most days so mail is routinely picked up. Happy New Year!

Elaine Shell -- Finance Committee Chair

Long-Term Planning

On June 30, Barry Finkelstein, our Capital Campaign consultant, gave the congregation leadership his report detailing “Next Steps” he believes we need to take to bring our Campaign to life. He identified three teams to lead us: (1) a Capital Campaign team to be led by Renee Katz, (2) a facilities design team already led by Peter Wathen-Dunn, and (3) a long-term financial planning team, which could be partnered with a long-term strategy team. I volunteered to lead this team.

It is important to me that we tie our finances to our goals for the congregation. We’ve had lots of surveys that have produced many goals: attracting a diverse congregation, renewing our “Welcoming Congregation” status, maintaining our facilities and gaining use of all parts of the facilities, leading social action within our community, building an all-ages religious exploration program, and so on.

Not mentioned on this list is a goal underpinning all of them—a sound financial plan. But how do we make a sound financial plan? Do we dare dream and build, expecting the funds will come? Do we keep a balanced budget and hope that we can attract new members in spite of our austerity budget? We need a new deck; we want to finally use all of the meeting house. It seems likely that we will need to find financing in addition to the Capital Campaign. But how will we find additional finances? We need a sound financial plan.

I believe in order to have a sound financial plan; we need to have a sound long-range plan for Paint Branch. Our congregation has responded well to catastrophes, and we’ve had our share. I’d like to move ahead by creating change, not reacting to change. I want the congregation to choose several priority goals and determine how we can accomplish them. With our goals clearly in view, I believe that the congregation will have a contagious energy that will allow us to realize our visions and reach our goals.

The Long-Term Strategy Team will revisit the current mission at <http://www.pbuuc.org/mission/> with an eye to creating a short, powerful, energizing statement we can all get behind, such as the one you mention, and that the congregation will be invited to weigh in on this through affinity group meetings and eventually a vote at a congregational meeting? I offer this as a beginning point: We are building a diverse, anti-racist community committed to living our Unitarian Universalist principles. I welcome people’s edits, thoughts, and reactions.

I hope some of you will join me on this team. I will be reaching out to many people—especially those who are new to Paint Branch. The team’s tasks will include contacting banks and credit unions to see what our options are for financing, as well as working with affinity groups to home in on exactly what each goal means.

If you are interested in joining this team, please contact me at kathiyu@gmail.com.

—Kathi Yu

PBUUC Green Team

Where are all the birds and pollinators?

Have you ever wondered why you don’t see many birds or pollinators in your yard? Most yards and gardens are comprised of lots of turf grass and non-native imported plants. It may look great, but it might as well be a desert from a habitat perspective.

Since our native birds and pollinators can’t eat most of the stuff, they have either died off or have taken residence wherever they can find the native plants they need to survive. As more and more development of wild spaces occurs, those oases are becoming scarcer and scarcer.

Why Native Plants?

Small terrestrial birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish depend on insects for a significant portion of their diet. A baby bluebird for example relies on its mother to deliver bugs to the nest. Those bugs in turn depend on plants to transform the energy of the sun into something edible. Plants use an array of poisonous or nasty-tasting chemical defenses to avoid being consumed, so most insects have evolved specialized relationships with specific plants, tolerating and even benefitting from those chemicals.

It takes millennia for specialized insect-plant relationships to develop. A well-known example is the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*). Monarch mothers only lay eggs on milkweed species because monarch caterpillars have evolved the ability over tens of thousands of years to digest poisonous milkweed leaves other insects cannot eat. Replacing milkweed with day lilies for example, or another introduced plant, and expecting monarchs to evolve the ability to eat that instead is like expecting your cat or dog to suddenly evolve wings and fly. Adaptation in nature takes time.

Introduced plant species contribute almost nothing to the food web. Much of the exotic greenery we see in our residential areas provides as much nutrition as concrete or asphalt. The most visible example: replacement of native plants with 40 million acres of turf nationwide has led to a significant amount of habitat loss over the last couple centuries of our history.

So, what can I do about it?

We can do something about it. We can replace our non-native plants with native plants and create an oasis in our own backyards or front yards or both! One plant at a time, we can make a difference and help the birds and pollinators survive in the world around us.

Ted White is a Park Ranger who decided to transform his yard from a desert to an oasis, or as he says, “a miniature National Park.” This link, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/gardening-for-wildlife-with-native-plants.htm>, tells his story and provides great advice for any of us wanting to create an oasis in our own yards.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Adult Religious Exploration (ARE)

Planning for the fall session is underway. Share your ideas about classes, talks, or discussions you would like to see. Interested in leading or facilitating an ARE offering? Email are@pbuuc.org.

Wheel of Life



Sarah Coupe, daughter of PBUUC member Lynn Louison, died on July 21 st at age 39. Sarah was a daughter, niece, sister, aunt, cousin, co-worker and friend, appreciated by all for her good heart and quick mind. She loved the Orioles, Harry Potter, podcasts, playing games with her nephews and attending their plays and concerts. She loved baking with her niece and reading stories to her. She worked at Catholic Charities in Professional Development where her job was to coordinate training for the staff who worked in the shelters, clinics, and other programs. She was a brilliant trainer, teaching CPR and Crisis Management. Staff often looked for her classes when it was time to re-certify. She found her calling at Catholic Charities and was finishing up her undergraduate degree so she could get her Master's Degree in Social Work with the ultimate goal of being a drug rehabilitation counselor (an area she felt was very underserved). She was well loved and loved well.

Ebeth Porter's grandmother, Shirley Elizabeth Bartlett, died on June 24 after a long illness. She was 84. Ebeth was able to be with her during her final weeks, as were her grandmother's three daughters.



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

UU Leadership Institute, a Variety of Training Options

During this time of social distancing, online learning opportunities are more important than ever! The UU Leadership Institute offers 2 core leadership trainings, Centered Leadership 1 for any active members of your congregation, and Centered Leadership 2 for current or potential leaders. A robust Lay Spiritual Care training opened last Spring. It will help your pastoral care team serve with confidence.

Co-Creating Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in our Congregations is a course that will help you feel more at ease in conversations across difference in your social justice partnerships. You will also find trainings on Volunteer Sustainability, Outreach, Organizing, and several UU History trainings including a History and Theology of Covenant. Training fees range from free to \$30. Materials—including readings and recorded videos—are available on demand. For more information, visit www.uuinstitute.org or email info@uuinstitute.org.

In and Around Paint Branch

Ingathering Service

We are putting together a photo montage for the Ingathering Worship Service to be held on Sunday, September 6, 2020.

Would you please send us a note about what you have been doing for the past several months? And send a photo, if possible. And include us the names of all the people in your family. Send it to Tosha O'Neal at tdoneal@verizon.net by August 14, 2020 so we can be sure that you are included. List Ingathering Service in the subject line. *Thanks so much!*

Spirituality Circle will meet via zoom this Sunday, August 2, 2020 at 11:30 am. We will have a check in and opportunity to share what we're thankful for as well as how we're doing in this challenging time. Then, we will continue our discussion of Active Hope by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone. Hope you have had a chance to try some of the activities in boxes in the book. The write-up about the book in the UU World described the final part as: "going forth: taking what have we found strengthening in the book and applying it to our lives and our communities. Do you have anything to share with the group along those lines?

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/8767968992?pwd=RXhCNWkwOXFDYjNpNXBlak9KQlhHQTo9>

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be back at the usual 2nd Saturday: 10 am Saturday, August 8. 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 or Zoom meeting password contact: mensfellowship@pbuuc.org. Every month on the Second Saturday, until September 12 at 10 am: August 8, and September 12. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?pwd=bXJnTlBBd1BLRWVwL0dpVC9LYXdxdz09>

Call in for audio-only from any phone to +1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 409 162 940

@pbuuc.org Email Addresses for Your PBUUC Committee, Team or Group

If you are the Chair, Leader, or Communications coordinator for group at Paint Branch, the Office staff are available to help you setup an email address to be used for group communications, or so that you can publish a contact online without using your posting your personal email address. If you already have an address, we can help make sure its working properly. We can also help you use Breeze features such as the calendar and mass emailing. office@pbuuc.org

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.



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