

BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

September 2020

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am ALL SERVICES ONLINE ONLY

Online Orders of Service Available at http://www.pbuuc.org/news/

office at 301-937-3666 for instructions on how to listen to the service on any phone.

SEPTEMBER 6 INGATHERING SUNDAY: CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

Rev. Rachel Christensen; with Worship Associates Elizabeth Porter and John Barr; and virtual Choir and Chalice Dancers Building and maintaining our community especially in challenging times.

BLACK LIVES MATTER: ONE SEPTEMBER 13 PERSON AND ONE NEIGHBORHOOD AT A TIME

Ebony Contreras, PBUUC Trustee; with Jeri Holloway, Worship Associate In light of the renewed focus on the black lives matter movement and abuse of power by some police officers and politicians, what can we do to support change in our communities? How do we invite our neighbors to join us in starting, as Rep. John Lewis called "good trouble?" We will explore how humble invitations can create enormous results.

SEPTEMBER 20 HEALTH CARE AS A HUMAN RIGHT

Guest Speaker Dr. Margaret Flowers; with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller Dr. Flowers is an American pediatrician, public health advocate, and activist. After 17 years of practicing medicine, she became an advocate for a single-payer insurance system.

SEPTEMBER 27 **BRINGING A MESSAGE OF** SOCIAL ACTION WITH "NUNS ON THE BUS"

Guest Speaker Sister Richelle Friedman, PBDM; with Worship Associate Clark Ritz Sister Richelle will share how her participation as a nun on the bus is motivated by faith and Catholic Social Justice Teachings.

MINISTER'S NOTES

Dear All,

I will be on leave until September 22 for rest and to help out the parents of our new grandbaby. Pastoral Care Streaming on Zoom at http://bit.ly/PBUUCfall20 Associates will be available for support, and they can reach backup Pastoral Care if needed. I will not be receiving email. Please email the church administrator if you need immediate If you don't have Internet access, call the church assistance. After that, I will see you back here rested and ready! Sending love and tenderness your way.

Rev. Rachel minister@pbuuc.org

MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

On September 13, PBUUC Board Member and Worship Associate Ebony Contreras will speak on "Black Lives Matter: One Person and One Neighborhood at a Time." Ebony has been a member of Paint Branch for over five years and on the Board since 2018. This fall she also joins our Worship Associates team. She has previously led or

co-led services at PBUUC in 2016, 2017, and 2019. She has been active in neighborhood issues having previously served as the president of local Home Owners Association.

On September 20, Dr. Margaret Flowers will speak on "Health Care as a Human Right." Dr. Flowers is a Maryland pediatrician and mother of three. She completed her medical school at the University of Maryland and residency in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Flow-

ers left clinical practice in 2007 to advocate full time for national improved Medicare for all. She is an adviser to the board of Physicians for a National Health Program where she served as a Congressional Fellow in 2009-10, and a co-founder of the Maryland Health Care is a Human Right campaign. She currently serves as co-director of Popular Resistance where she works on a broad range of issues for economic, racial and environmental justice and peace.

On Sunday, September 27, Sister Richelle Friedman a Presentation Sister of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM) will speak on "Bringing a Message of Social Action with 'Nuns on the Bus.'" Friedman, works as policy director for the DC-based Coalition on Human Needs (CHN). Rich-

elle has over twenty years of legislative experience on a wide range of issues with the goal of strengthening the economic reality of lowincome families. Before coming to CHN, she worked at the Children's Defense Fund, McAuley Institute and NETWORK as a policy analyst and lobbyist. Previously, she was a junior high and secondary school teacher. Richelle has a bachelor's degree from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa and a master's degree from Loyola University in Chicago. The "Nuns on the Bus" tour was the brainchild of social justice activist Sister Simone Campbell, who is executive director of NET-WORK, a Washington, DC advocacy group.

Alice Tyler

Carmelita Carter-Sykes

Ebony Contreras

Mary Rooker

Ebeth Porter

Ken Montville

Penney Hughes

Marilyn Pearl

Mary Rooker

Amy Steiner

Keith Miller

Lori Snyder

Mark Shute

VACANT

Cathy Helmold

Andy McIntyre

Anita Williams

Jeri Holloway

Anne Hoover

Tess Morrison

Alice Tyler

Peter Wathen-Dunn

Carmelita Carter-Sykes

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

Solution Series Se

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair Melissa Graham Vice Chair Janet Overton Vice Chair Wendy Schlegel Trustee Carol Boston Trustee **Ebony Contreras** Moe Cunningham Trustee Sabrina Jones Trustee Trustee Margaret McClellan Carol Carter Walker Trustee Treasurer Tess Morrison **Assistant Treasurer** Will Snyder Secretary Amy Parrish Keith Miller **Assistant Secretary**

Worship Associates

Elizabeth Porter (2017-20) Jeri Holloway (2017-20) Tricia Most (2018-21) Clark Ritz (2018-21) Polly Pettit (2019-22)

Susannah Schiller (2019-22) John Barr (2020-23) Diana McFadden (2020-23) Samantha Evans (Young Adult) Nori Myrdon-Ward (Youth)

◆ Pastoral Care Associates ◆

Kathy Bartolomeo Jim Flaherty Jeri Holloway

Lvnn Johnson Lynn Louison

Chartered Committees and Teams

Arts Council

Adult RE Auction **Budget Leadership Team Buildings & Grounds** Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (Chair Vacant)

Electronic Communications

Endowment Finance

Green Team (co-chairs)

Denominational Affairs

Leasing

Long-Term Planning Membership

Ministry

New Entrance Design Nominating

Multigenerational Religious Exploration Team (MRET)

Social Action (SAC) Stewardship

Pat Tompkins (Music)

Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING)

Leo Jones Tricia Most

Kathi Yu & Wendy Schlegel Peter Wathen-Dunn Carolyn Byerly (Vice Chair) Carol Carter Walker (Imm. Past Chair)

Don Gerson, Chair Bettie Young, cluster rep.

contact church office

Chris Evans **Elaine Shell**

Moe Cunningham & Kathleen Bartolomeo

Joe Dever

Ebony Contreras & Kathi Yu

Pat Behenna

Chris Evans

James Alexander, Muriel Morisey and Elizabeth Porter

Peter Wathen-Dunn

Carmelita Carter-Sykes (ACTING)

Katherine Darlington & Tricia Most, Co-Chairs Kathleen Bartolomeo

Solution Services S

Raman Pathik Bookstore Sherry Mitchell Chalice Dancers Children's Choir Jeanne Judd Choir David Chapman Coffee Coordinator VACANT

Community Café Community Learning Center Creative Force Writers Group

Food for Thought Handcraft Circle Facebook Group Men's Group Mental Health Support Group

Mom's Group Offertory Counter Coordinator Quest Discussion Group

Shamanic Journeying SAC Special Collections Coordinator

Spirituality Circle

Sunday Sound & Facilities Volunteer Team

Third Wednesday Lunch Club

Ushers Warm Nights Webmasters

Welcome Table Greeters Widowed Persons Support Group

Women's Retreat

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 Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration VACANT Chalice Dancers Director & Choreographer **Church Administrator**

Bookkeeper **Administrative Assistant**

Sexton:

David Chapman

Sharon Werth Charles D. Bury, MBA Hannah Oshin Philip Browne

Al Addison

Office Volunteers

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

Alice Tyler (Thursdays)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hello Members and Friends of Paint Branch,

I hope that his message finds each of you well. I am very excited to be writing my first letter to you as chair of the Board of Trustees. I am both honored and humbled to have been entrusted with this important position. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have as Paint Branch moves forward into what promises to be a busy fall.

One area of consideration before the board this summer has been when and how to begin the process of reopening our facilities to small gatherings of our members, to potential renters, and to our current tenet - the Silver Oaks Cooperative School. At a special meeting on August 10th we approved the lease with Silver Oaks for this upcoming academic year. I would like to thank the Leasing Committee, the Continuity Committee, the Green Team, BAG, and our staff for all the work they put in to make sure that the renewing of our lease could be done in the safest way possible during this challenging time. At our regularly scheduled meeting on August 25th, the Board approved guidelines for staff to follow when using the facilities at Paint Branch as well as entered the final stages of determining how small groups of members may be able to hold events on the property. We would like to thank the Chalice Dancers for going through our draft process so that we could not only consider an exciting opportunity for them to give the gift of dance to the church at our Ingathering service but also test how well our system of event review would work. Stay tuned for more information about the finalized procedures next month. Finally, as part of our efforts to make our facilities as safe as possible during this time of pandemic, the board approved work to improve the ventilation systems in all bathrooms of the RE building. This work has been completed. Thank you to BAG for their effort to make these improvements happen in a timely manner.

Another area of consideration currently before the board is how to ensure the leaders of Paint Branch remain accountable to our members and focused on our vision and mission. The Board of Trustees along with Reverend Rachel and the Committee on Ministry have scheduled a Leadership Retreat in early October for the purpose of arriving at specific understandings about the sharing of power and responsibility between the minister and the board, setting goals for the coming year that address identified areas of needed improvement, and developing a plan for periodic review and renewal of the ministry of the congregation. In addition, three board working groups have been established to focus on ensuring the development of standard operating procedures, making our structures of governance transparent, and envisioning a thriving congregation. As we move through the fall, please be on the lookout for more information about these important efforts.

Finally, we have not forgotten about the need to replace the deck and the enthusiasm around other improvements in our facilities. The Capital Campaign Committee has been working hard to move forward with many of the recommendations made in the report of Barry Finkelstein after our recent Next Steps weekend. That report recommended the formation of three different teams to work towards a viable capital campaign in the coming months and years. Those teams have been formed and are beginning their work this fall. The Board has also approved bringing Barry back in to advise and support these teams as they move forward along the path towards a campaign. Finally, we will be having a professional engineer inspect the deck this fall in order to determine a more exact timeline of its expected lifespan. If you are interested in engaging in any part of this work of moving towards a future capital campaign, please reach out to Renee Katz for more information.

Again, please contact any board member at bot@pbuuc.org with any questions or concerns you may have in the coming month. We would love to hear from you!

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Graham, Board Chair

Help Wanted!

Paint Branch needs you!



Please consider volunteering for one of these critical roles.

Co-Secretary of the Board: Take notes at the monthly board meetings.

- ♦ Average Time Commitment: Once every two months.
- ✦ Please contact the Executive Committee for more information Execcom@pbuuc.com

Board Process Observers: Observe monthly board meetings and give feedback to the board on our processes.

- ♦ Average Time Commitment: Once every 2-4 months.
- Please contact the Executive Committee for more information Execcom@pbuuc.com

The Multigenerational Religious Education Team: Support our RE programming while we search for an interim DRE and beyond. More information on the <u>RE column</u>.

- ♦ Average Time Commitment: Can vary.
- Please contact Tricia Most or Katherine Darlington for more information <u>Patricia_Most@msn.com</u> or <u>Ke-thria@gmail.com</u>

The Capital Campaign Steering Committee: Engage in the work of moving us towards the replacement of the deck and the finishing of the basement.

- ♦ Average Time Commitment: Can vary.
- Please contact Renee Katz for more information <u>Raynie5@hotmail.com</u>

RE: FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

This time of Covid-19 requires the RE Program to employ creativity and flexibility. Currently run by the RE Committee, we have experimented with format, themes, and timing for weekly gatherings. We have settled on the goals of inviting young Paint Branchers into conversations that are relevant to their lives during this time of quarantine. We want to keep them connected to each other and to Paint Branch and seek more ways to unite people of all ages in our congregation. Leaders of our Zoom gatherings invite our young congregants to consider our UU values and how they are or are not showing up in their lived experiences. We welcome their leadership, their critical thinking and their ideas about future topics for exploration.

You can support our RE Program goals by attending Saturday worships. Children, parents, past and present RE teachers, and adults of all ages and life stages are invited to tune in by Zoom on Saturdays at 4 pm. You may find that the children are interested in learning more about something you can share with them. When Caroline Ritz wanted to sing Spirit of Life at the August 30 worship service, she sought instruction from David Chapman, our music Director to pronounce words in the Spanish version -Fuente De Amor. David says he will teach others Spanish pronunciation, if desired at a future Saturday Worship. (Many of all ages at Paint Branch might benefit from attending such a Saturday Family Worship.) Another future focus for Saturday Family Worship arises from the children listening to Glory by John Legend and Common the music from the soundtrack of the movie Selma during a Family Worship Service. Discussion of the lyrics inspired interest and questions about the events of 1963, when civil rights seekers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Paint Brancher, Margaret Morrison was there in 1963 with John Lewis and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and has offered to talk about her experiences at a future Saturday Family Worship Service.

Currently, our 4 pm Saturday Family Worship Services are less formal than Sunday morning worship. We begin with a chalice lighting and end with extinguishing the chalice, but the format in between is mostly conversational. Topics and requests for input and/or preparation for future Family Worship Services arise from our weekly Family Worship discussions. Going forward, these topics or requests to consider specific ideas in worship will be announced in our weekly ContinUUm notices. For a better understanding of the ideas our weekly Saturday Family Worship services generate, please see our Facebook link to the Sunday, August 30, 2020 Worship Service entitled "Family Ministry: Teaching UU Values to Encourage Engagement in Social Justice." https://youtu.be/9cXyjExEu6s The order of service for the August 30 Sunday Worship Service can be found here: http://www.pbuuc.org/news/ article.php?id=439

Building community often involves sharing meals together at Paint Branch. Last year, when we met for RE in person at Paint Branch on Sunday mornings, Katherine Darlington and Tricia Most offered "Cooks and Books" on the second Sunday of each month. A short book would be shared, followed by the preparation of a dish mentioned in the story. The food would then be shared and enjoyed, not only by the children present, but also by parents and other adults who happened to be around. We have discussed the possibility of sharing recipes and zoom demonstrations of food preparation in our RE Community. We will request suggestions from young Paint Branchers and allow them to decide together on what interests them the most.

There is a PBUUC Family Ministry FACEBOOK group intended to provide support for parents during this quarantine. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Reese Myrdon. Their email address is TMyrdon@gmail.com

Please consider attending our Saturday 4:00 Family Worships to listen to our young Paint Branchers and learn about what is of interest to them as they negotiate the differences we are all experiencing while maintaining physical distance.

~ Trícia Most and Katherine Darlington, MRE Committee Co-Chairs



Wheel of Life

We will hold a memorial service for Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson on Saturday,

September 26 at 2 pm using Zoom. People will be invited to share a brief reflection during the Service. If you will want to speak during the service please email Rev. Rachel Christensen at minister@pbuuc.org in advance to let her know. She will be on leave until September 22, so you will receive an away message, but she will receive your message when she returns. Zoom info:

Topic: Memorial Service, Emma Sue Gaines Gerson

Time: Sep 26, 2020 02 pm Eastern Time

Zoom Meeting https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95574958538

Meeting ID: 955 7495 8538

One tap mobile +13017158592,,95574958538# US (MD)

Call in for Audio only from any phone:

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 955 7495 8538

Find your local number: https://uuma.zoom.us/u/abNffdisF2

We will hold a memorial service for Sarah Coupe, Lynn Louison's daughter, on Saturday, October 24 at 3 pm using Zoom. More information and the Zoom link will follow.



Diversity/Antiracism Transformation Team (DARTT)

DARTT NEWS:

Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 16, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm

DARTT was chartered by the Board of Trustees in 2007 to facilitate the congregation's commitment to becoming a multicultural beloved community. DARTT meetings are open to members, friends, and visitors. DARTT has successfully migrated to Zoom for its monthly meetings since April. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16, from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. See upcoming Bulletins and ContinUUa for information on the agenda and Zoom access information. We are planning or already embarked on programming for the year, including: Welcoming Congregation Renewal; Kwanzaa; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration; a Bookread; and study of the 8th Principle with an eye toward its adoption by the congregation. Come join us and bring your energy and ideas. If you'd like to be on our mailing list, please send us an e-mail at dartt@pbuuc.org.

This Space Reserved For Your OpEd Piece

DARTT is asking Paint Branchers to submit a thought piece on some aspect of anti-oppression/anti-racism for the DARTT Column in the monthly Branches. This year, we have had powerful pieces by members and friends/cohorts of members. The deadline for submission is generally the 20th of the preceding month. The usual length is between 200 and 600 words. If you are interested in writing an OpEd, please connect at dartt@pbuuc.org

DARTT Monthly Meetings

DARTT was chartered by the Board of Trustees in 2007 to facilitate the congregation's commitment to becoming a multicultural beloved community. DARTT meetings are open to members, friends, and visitors. DARTT's next meeting will be Sunday, March 15, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. See upcoming Bulletins and ContinUUa for information on the agenda. If you'd like to know more about DARTT, please connect with us at dartt@pbuuc.org.

DARTT Recommends

http://bit.ly/RJlist This link will take you to the Monthly Racial Justice list of meetings, events, etc., in support of racial justice in the MidAtlantic Region. The list is compiled by Lynda Davis, a member of Coming to the Table, an organization of slaves and former slaveholders working toward racial reconciliation. Lynda has been a guest speaker at Paint Branch, and is a member of the UU Congregation of Columbia, MD.

In and Around Paint Branch

Autumn Auction News

This (fiscal) year, we return to the Autumn time frame for the Church Auction, though many things will be different from our usual Fall auctions since we cannot safely meet in physical space. The Sunday 4 o'clock dates for our online Zoom auction events are October 18, October 25, November 8, and November 15. Different items will be the focus of each event, so please plan to attend them all. Co-Chairs Kathi Yu and Tricia Most are collecting your ideas and have already spoken to some of you about entertainment during the events. Keep your ideas coming! Email to Kathi Yu at Kathi-Yu@gmail.com or to Tricia Most at Patricia Most@msn.com

Virtual Third Wednesday Lunch: We'll meet online again Wednesday, September 16 at 1 pm. Have your dining area and your lunch ready to show off. If you know someone who hasn't come to the lunches recently because of physical restrictions, encourage them to try this. My cell phone number (which I won't use to log on) is 443-690-8345 in case of problems. Zoom Meeting https://zoom.us/i/636354510?

pwd=R2ZsK3lkZmpvbERTcitZUFBLbkJWZzo9
Meeting ID: 636 354 510 Please contact Keith Miller at keithanddebra@verizon.net in advance for the Zoom meeting password.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Men's Fellowship Breakfast online: Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be back at the usual 2nd Saturday: 10 am Saturday, September 12. While we're isolating, 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: mensfellowship@pbuuc.org. 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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

PBUUC-SAC/UUMFE Reel-and-a-Meal Film Screening

On September 21, 2020, from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, the Paint Branch UU Church Social Action Committee, in cooperation with Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth (<u>uumfe.org</u>) will sponsor a viewing of the film <u>The Condor and The Eagle (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YSMutzSW7gQ</u>) followed by a panel discussion "at" the New Deal Cafe — by way of the monthly Reel and Meal events. This will be by Zoom. There is no screening fee for this opportunity — however a free-will donation of \$10 to \$50+ per participant is requested.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/8767968992?pwd=RXhCNWkwOXFDYjNpNXBlakgKQlhHQTog Meeting ID: 876 796 8992 Passcode: pbuuc One tap mobile +13017158592,,8767968992# (MD)

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.

3215 POWDER MILL ROAD ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030

WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

9998-759-108