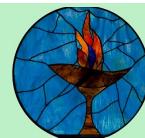




BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

December 2020

MINISTER'S NOTES



SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

ALL SERVICES ONLINE ONLY

Streaming on Zoom and at <http://Facebook.com/PBUUC/>
Online Orders of Service and Zoom link 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.*

DECEMBER 6 DESTIGMATIZING MENTAL HEALTH

*Nori Myrdon-Ward with Reese Myrdon;
with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller*

Back in 2019, when Indianapolis Colts' quarterback Andrew Luck decided to retire due to the mental strain of playing football the fans booed him off the field. A stigma is when someone views you negatively because of a distinguishing characteristic or personal trait that's thought to be a disadvantage. Unfortunately, negative attitudes and beliefs toward people who have a mental health condition are common. We accept people asking for accommodations or help when they have physical health concerns, but we often don't do the same for those with a mental illness. How can we change that?

DECEMBER 13 ANNUAL HOLIDAY CHOIR SERVICE

David Chapman, Director of Music; with Rev. Russ Savage, Interim Caretaker Minister; Worship Associate Polly Pettit; The Choir; and Special Music
We will hear old and new performances of seasonal favorites.

DECEMBER 20 WELCOME YULE!

*Lay Leaders Abi Hanley and Eldritch;
with Worship Associate Tricia Most*
We reclaim traditional ways of celebrating this time when we stand on the cusp between light and dark.

DECEMBER 27 KWANZAA, AN ALL AGES SERVICE DAY OF CELEBRATION AND ASSESSMENT

DARTT Co-Chair Carmelita Carter-Sykes; with Clark Ritz, Worship Associate; Chalice Dancers; and Children of PBUUC
This service, sponsored by our Diversity Anti/Racism Transformation Team (DARTT), will feature traditional music, drumming, kinara lighting ritual by PBUUC children, the Chalice Dancers and talk by DARTT members on Sankofa, Looking Back to Find Hope to Begin Anew in the Kwanzaa tradition of assessment as part of this end of year celebration.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENING SERVICES

More information on these services on page 3.

SUNDAY, DEC 20 AT 7 PM: CELEBRATE YULE!

THURSDAY, DEC 24 AT 9 PM: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE SERVICE

Living in Strange Times

An ancient Chinese blessing—or maybe it was a curse—says “May you live in interesting times.” We are certainly living in strange and interesting times. As we near the end of four years of a chaotic and petulant national administration, our sitting president refuses to accept the results of the election. While it seems clear that the president-elect will take office on January 20, 2021, the drama that plays out between now and then will certainly be interesting. Let us hope it is peaceful and orderly.

At the same time, the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage in our country and around the world. As of this writing, more than 11 million Americans have been infected with the virus, and 250,000 have died. Health experts are telling us these numbers are going to get much worse, especially if large numbers of people continue to travel unnecessarily, gather in large groups indoors, and fail to observe social distancing and wear masks. In our family this means we have agreed not to get together for Thanksgiving as we usually do. This means we will not get to see our baby granddaughter, but we will see her next year when the virus is under control. News about a vaccine is encouraging, but we all need to continue to take precautions until we get it.

As I reflect on these things and on the situation here at Paint Branch, I think I see parallels. Of course we cannot gather in our beautiful church and have not been able to since March. Worshipping and holding meetings on Zoom is useful, but it's not the same as gathering in person. We look forward to the time when we can do that again. Whether it will be during the brief time I am serving you is unknown. We can only hope.

Another parallel exists in the division which has arisen among us. The departure of Rev. Rachel has created a flashpoint, but the division may have been there for a long time. Who did what? Whose fault was it? Why didn't they tell us? I hope we can begin to address these questions together during my time with you.

So wear your mask, wash your hands, avoid crowds, stay home as much as possible. And let's also try to give one another the benefit of the doubt and the assumption of good will among us even if we disagree with one another. I hope that's good advice both for our country and for Paint Branch.

With hope for the future,

Rev. Russ

Interim Caretaker Minister ICM@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	Keith Miller
Assistant Secretary	Andy McIntire

🔗 Worship Associates 🔗

Tricia Most (2018-21)	John Barr (2020-23)
Clark Ritz (2018-21)	Ebony Contreras (2020-23)
Polly Pettit (2019-22)	Diana McFadden (2020-23)
Susannah Schiller (2019-22)	Nori Myrdon-Ward (Youth)

🔗 Pastoral Care Associates 🔗

Kathy Bartolomeo	Lynn Johnson
Jim Flaherty	Lynn Louison

🔗 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	Carmelita Carter-Sykes, &
Transformation Team (DARTT)	Ebony Contreras, Co-Chairs
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 & Jennifer Wright
Multigenerational Religious	Katherine Darlington
Exploration Team (MRET)	& Tricia Most, Co-Chairs
New Entrance Design	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Nominating	Carmelita Carter-Sykes (ACTING)
Personnel	Moe Cunningham, Sabrina Jones,
	& Janet Overton
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	Keith Miller
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

Interim Caretaker Minister

Rev. William 'Russ' Savage

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 Members of Paint Branch,

We have just gone through a major upheaval. Sudden to some, momentous for all. For decades, this community has worked together, built together, mourned together, and celebrated together. Through all the cycles of life, we have worked and played shoulder to shoulder to build us up and help us grow. Yet, what happened this month was a complete surprise and cause for grief for some and the realization of an awaited outcome for others. This is an indication that as a church family, we have grown apart, as though we are of two minds, two hearts, and two spirits, yet we yearn to be whole—one whole thriving beloved community. But to become that community, we have to be willing to be honest about who we are, about what is our vision and what, truly, are our goals. To help us realize our true potential as a church family, we now need to make a choice and, hopefully, learn to grow in loving harmony.

On Sunday, December 6, noon—2 pm, we will have an informational session open to all members of the congregation to discuss UUA's ministry programs for congregations in transition. Specifically, we will talk about interim ministry and developmental ministry.

Interim ministry is a program that, essentially, allows a breathing space for a congregation between one ministerial relationship and the next. The one to two-year program offers the time it usually takes for a congregation to grow into and own its new identity, independent of positive or negative feelings about the ministry that came before. Each interim minister brings his or her own unique strengths and style but, generally, in addition to fulfilling customary ministerial duties, interim ministers help a congregation to review its goals, assess its programs, consider the quality of its life as a community, and "tune up" for a new era.

Developmental ministry is a program for congregations that know they have specific longer-term transitional work to do before being ready for a settled minister. Usually a developmental ministry lasts four to seven years, four to five being optimal. Congregations with longtime struggles over a historic and beloved building, or where their community has changed, is facing a decline in membership and funding, when the congregation may need to reinvent itself and its purpose—these are good candidates for developmental ministry.

During the following week, from December 7-13, the Board will offer listening sessions to give us a chance to discuss the options and share ideas about which path would be best for Paint Branch. The schedule for these sessions is as follows:

Monday, December 7, 4 pm—5:30 pm

Thursday, December 10, 7:30 pm—9 pm

Saturday, December 12, 10 am—11:30 am

Sunday, December 13, noon—2 pm

To learn more about UUA's ministerial options open to us, you can visit the following websites. The Board will also be providing an information packet online with relevant documents and links to these and additional resources.

- 🌐 [The Transitional Ministry Handbook](#) The comprehensive guide for all transitional ministries (updated 2020) ([Links-Only Version of the Transitional Ministry Handbook](#))
- 🌐 [Interim Ministers Help Ease Transition](#) by Donald E. Skinner, UU World, Fall 2005
- 🌐 [What Is Developmental Ministry?](#) by Elaine McArdle, UU World, Fall 2014
- 🌐 [Sliding Doors: A Blog Following a Congregation in Search for Its Next Minister](#)

Please be sure to join us for the important informational meeting on December 6 and plan to attend one of the discussion sessions. Links for the meetings and listening sessions will be provided on the website, in the upcoming Continuum, and also posted in Chat during Sunday's service.

Thank you,

Melissa Graham,

Chair, PBUUC Board of Trustees

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENING SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 7 PM: CELEBRATE YULE!

COMMUNITY WINTER SOLSTICE EVENING SERVICE

Lay Worship Leaders Abi Hanley and Eldritch;
with Worship Associate Tricia Most

During the Winter Solstice, we lift our hearts to the sky, and yearn for the return of the sun. In this season of shifting light, we contemplate gifts of stillness. This evening service honors all things restful, dormant and deep. We reflect upon the myriad ways we experience the Divine and anticipate the coming light.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 9 PM CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

(NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO EARLY SERVICE)

Russ Savage, Interim Caretaker Minister; with John Barr,
Worship Associate; The Choir; and the Chalice Dancers

Join us for a UU Christmas Eve featuring candlelighting and the Chalice Dancers. If you would like to be a part of the congregation that will be "spotlighted" lighting your own candle during the Zoom Christmas Eve Service - Look for specific instructions in a future Continuum. You could also contact Sharon Werth - just to be sure - sbodul@comcast.net

FAMILY WORSHIP

Please Check the ContinUUm Weekly for Link information and Updates to Zoom into Our Fun, Informative, Informal 4 o'clock Saturday Family Worshipships!

December 5: We will introduce and explore the proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism. This principle was drafted by Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (known as BLUU). It reads: We covenant to affirm and promote Journeying toward Spiritual Wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

December 12: Books and Cooks with a recipe for pretzel cookies using chocolate and sprinkles featuring the story "Olaf's Frozen Adventure." We will talk about Family Traditions.

December 19: Winter Holidays: We will discuss winter holidays across many cultures and religions and the celebration of Light in the Darkness. We will celebrate Darkness as a thing of beauty.

December 26: Spend time with family in honor of the Christmas spirit. (Sunday's December 27th 10 am worship service will be an All Ages Observance of Kwanzaa.)

Tricia Most, MRET CoChair

Social Action Committee

SAC Special Collection for December 2020

The SAC Special Collection recipient for December 24, 2020 is the non-profit Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI). This is the organization with whom Paint Branch held our Warm Nights week long shelter for homeless families for many years. For 50 years CCSI has been a one-stop hotline calling center for assistance for families in crisis. Calling the Hotline is often the first step a person makes to access mental health and social service organizations within the community. Services might include helping a family with first-month's rent, providing an abuse-free safe space, or providing transportation to a job interview.

You can make tax-deductible donations by check payable to 'Community Crisis Services, Inc' and mailing it to:

Community Crisis Services, Inc.

PO Box 149

Hyattsville MD 20781

or donate at the website, www.communitycrisis.org

Please email cartercarmelita@aol.com or kbar-tolo30@gmail.com

Thank you,

Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Special Collections Coordinator

The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe



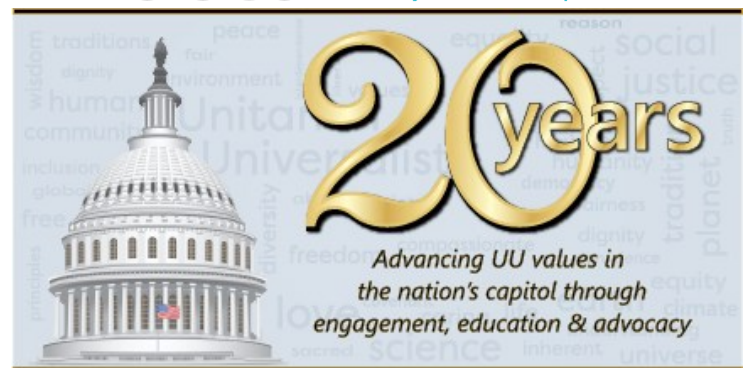
Breaking News! June 23-27, 2021

General Assembly will be 100% Virtual.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Registration for virtual GA 2021 opens December 1. The cost is \$200 per person. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan are available. Go to UUA.org/ga for more details about the content, registration details, and how to submit a proposal for a presentation. Last year, GA planners had to pivot from an in-person to virtual gathering in about three months. This year because the UUA Board has already made a decision to be virtual, GA is likely to be the best attended, most inclusive one in history.

Carol Carter Walker, Member, Denominational Affairs Committee.

UUSJ Unitarian Universalists
for Social Justice
UU advocacy in the nation's capital



20th Anniversary Celebration

**Celebrating Twenty Years of Collaboration,
Education, Witness, and Advocacy**

Saturday, Dec. 12 4—6 pm ET

Event is online via Zoom

Register at bit.ly/uusj-20

**Any donation gets you in, \$50 suggested,
more graciously accepted**

Panelists and Moderators:

National UU and social justice leaders discuss their perspectives on the way ahead for advocacy and legislative actions. Elizabeth Alex, CASA Chief of Organizing and Leadership; Rev. Kazimir Brown Repairers of the Breach; Pablo) Pavel DeJesús, UUSJ Executive Director; Bob Deniston, UUSJ Board Chair; Doris Marlin, UU Ministry for Earth, Board of Directors; Everette Thompson, Side with Love Campaign Manager; Adam Wasserman, UUs for a Just Economic Community; and more.

Diversity/Antiracism Transformation Team (DARTT)

Paint Branch Hosts Second Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience (TDORR)

The Diversity Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist church sponsored the second annual Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience (TDORR) on Friday, November 20. This public service was attended by 63 Paint Branchers, other UUs, and other members of a wider transgender, transgender adjacent community via Zoom and Facebook Live Streaming. Two Paint Branch members, Reese Myrdon and Rev. Eric Eldritch, Circle Sanctuary, coordinated 11 speakers, videos of two UUA Choirs, and four recorded instrumental pieces presented via Zoom with the magical tech management of Philip Browne and Chuck Bury.

After the opening music, *Love Changes Everything* by Andrew Lloyd Weber, performed by David Chapman, PBUUC Music Director/pianist, Nori Myrdon-Ward, Worship Associate, opened and led the service through three segments:

- ✦ Lest We Forget—Remembering, Grieving and Honoring the Past
- ✦ Living in the Present—Protecting, Celebrating and Nurturing the Present
- ✦ Leading the Way—Creating Leaders and Legacies Charting the Future

The Chalice Lighting was led by DARTT CoChairs: Ebony Contreras, lit the chalice and said, “This evening, may the flame of the chalice symbolize the brilliance of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. May our flame be The Fire of Commitment we hold in our hearts... to relentlessly fight for peace, liberty, truth, and justice.” Carmelita Carter-Sykes remarked, “At Paint Branch, our commitment to UU principles compels us to be kind stewards of our community. We follow principles and traditions that embody love, acceptance, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

Paint Branch’s Affiliated Community Minister, Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo, provided a reading from her colleague Rev. Sunshine Wolfe, a Transman whom she met at Starr King School for the Ministry. His Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance opened with this line: “O Infinite Love, help me face this day. My heart weeps with fear of violence, of invisibility, of hatred.”

Elian Byrd, a Trans Man who follows a modern Heathen path wrote and performed “Mani in the Moon” a poem about the man in the moon across cultures in which. He reflected, “We will write a future in which we are more than tolerated and accepted. But divine, beloved, and celebrated for our infinite potential. And maybe the Moon can be Trans too.”



Leo Mason said, “My name is Leo Mason. I am a Transman who is deeply spiritual and artistic. Every year, I am always moved by memorials, music and musicians. I feel music is one of the most human experiences, and transgender musicians have contributed much.”

Michelle Munson, a Transwoman spoke saying, “I am a mystic who works magick. So, tonight is a bittersweet evening. I mourn for those whose names and lives have been honored tonight. We honor those who are now our ancestors. Rather than have their light snuffed out, they shine in the darkness, they speak wisdom.”

Shantida Joseph, a Transwoman, spoke from her vantage of marking 79 years of life, acknowledging White Privilege and the overwhelming violence against Transgender people of color. She concluded her remarks saying: “I vociferously join you in saying that life is a joy and a blessing. May the positivity, the consciousness, and love that we each live and struggle to live, may these be a contribution to our upward evolution, so that sooner and not later we may live without any longer a need for a Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience.”

Krista Atenucci, a Transwoman, composed and provided music for the service and attended via Zoom. Deeply appreciative of the service, she described writing the brooding and sharp music used to open the section reading the names of Transgender people, mostly people of color. She explained, “After I composed that piece, it took me quite a while for me to name it. I finally named it 'Indignation' since that word accurately described the emotion conveyed in that piece”.

Mathew P. Taylor, one of the Ministerial Interns at the UU Congregation of Rockville provided remarks remotely from California. Michael said: “I was asked to say a little bit about what we take with us as we prepare to leave this virtual space.” Here is an excerpt of his poem, “We take with us: The legacy. The dynasty. The history. Of all our Trans ancestors. We are Divine. We are resilient. Blessed may we be.”

Nori closed the service saying, “Remember that we are constantly fighting to move into a better tomorrow full of diverse people where all are welcomed and wanted.”

Carolyn Byerly, DARTT Vice Chair, “The service was impressive for its visual beauty and depth of compassion for the 47 trans people killed this last year. As the names scrolled past, I was struck by geographic representation -- all regions of the US, but a disproportionate number in Puerto Rico -- well over 10%. This is so troubling. I believe we need to give more attention to these hate crimes throughout the year and consider networking with UUs in Puerto Rico to learn more. The service was well planned and orchestrated, with a true intergenerational, multicultural cast of participants. Good to meet new folks at this commemoration.”



Fall aUction 2020

Thank You for your Generosity!

Paint Branchers have once again shown their generosity – this time by making the 2020 Autumn Auction a success. More than \$20,000 has been raised so far and donations to the Paddle Raise to Improve PBUUC Online Presence continue to be contributed daily. If you want to join the increasing numbers of people who are donating to improve our worship experience, you can still offer any amount you choose on the 2020 Autumn Auction website homepage at <https://charityauction.bid/2020AutumnAuction>

Despite having fewer items to offer because of limitations about meeting in person during a pandemic, despite not being able to enjoy our festive sanctuary gatherings for our usual Live Auction Night, and despite experiencing the loss of two significant ministerial personnel, Paint Branchers expressed their hope and determination about the future of our beloved church by participating in the 2020 Autumn Auction. The Auction team of Kathi Yu, Keith Miller and Tricia Most feel deeply grateful to all of you for your support.

There were many written and verbal announcements encouraging you to continue sending your ideas about donation items for this Auction, sometimes telling you that it was not too late. You continued to respond with new items to enter into the catalog right up to November 22—the day of the last online Auction event. Even these last minute contributions generated revenue for this important fundraiser. Thank you so much!

Paint Branchers answered the call for creative ideas that could be safely enjoyed by winning bidders. Some were oriented toward honoring the 7th Principle by promoting respect for the Earth's ecosystem such as documentary film showings, a tour of a new green nature facility, and a huge quantity of native, pollinator-attracting plants. There were many creative donations of online games, gatherings, discussions and cooking classes; delivery of prepared meals and delicious desserts; some safely spaced outdoor events like dinners and exercise classes; wonderful hand-crafted items; as well as vacations, worship choices, and more. And for this auction, we had young participants of our Religious Education Program offer their own donations to support our church community.

Most of the winning bidders have already paid by visiting the auction website (see above link) and clicking on "My Account" at the top of the homepage. You can pay online or use the new Auctria Software "Pay Later" option and send your check to the Church office with "Auction" on the memo line for the items you won or put "Auction Paddle Raise" on the check memo line if you choose to make a donation to Enhance PBUUC Online Presence. When sending checks to the church, please email Tricia Most at Patricia_Most@msn.com to complete the check-out process.

The Auction Team is so appreciative of Paint Branchers' ongoing generosity in this difficult time!

DARTT (CONTINUED)

DARTT Sponsors Paint Branch's 12th Kwanzaa Service, Sunday, December 27, 2020.

Kwanzaa is a holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture, primarily, but not exclusively, celebrated by people of the African Diaspora. It was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of Africana Studies. Kwanzaa as a seven-day cultural festival that begins December 26 and ends January 1. Kwanzaa is a Swahili word, inspired by African "first fruit" traditions. Paint Branch children, musicians, and dancers will participate in this multigenerational service—the first one to be done virtually.

DARTT Invitation to Monthly Meeting Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm

DARTT's next meeting will be Wednesday, December 16 at 7 pm, via Zoom. Please contact Co-Chairs Carmelita Carter-Sykes at cartercarmelita@aol.com and Ebony Contre-ras at etaras1@yahoo.com for the Zoom access information. Also, send any proposed agenda items to both of them no later than Saturday, November December 5. All are welcome. Come bring your energy and ideas.

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 is a member of the Columbia UU Congregation.

DARTT Invites You to Write an Op-Ed For Branches

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. The deadline for submission is generally the 16th of the preceding month to meet the Branches deadline of the 20th. The usual length is between 200 and 600 words. If you are interested in writing an OpEd, please contact Carol Carter Walker, Member, Leadership Council, at carolcarter-walker@earthlink.net

What My Grandchild Would Want Me to Preach

Mary Rooker shared the reading below during our Nov. 15 service, Personal Journeys of Transformation. She accidentally omitted the last three paragraphs, so we're printing it in full here. It's from [Rev. Scott Tayler](#), former Parish Co-Minister, First Unitarian Church of Rochester NY, April 22, 2007. [LINK](#)

It's really complicated honey. I'm only now understanding it myself. We weren't really thinking about it like you and your friends do. It's not that we didn't care about how it would impact you; we weren't really thinking about you at all. Oh that sounds terrible. I don't mean that the way it sounds.... It wasn't personal; we just didn't think that far ahead.... Our focus was mostly on our daily living, which felt hard and overly complicated as it was.

We had our hands full just trying to think about and find the time to spend with your mama and your aunt and uncle. I'm not trying to defend it. I just don't want you to think we were callous or selfish.

It's more like we were overwhelmed. And when you're overwhelmed it's hard to have perspective. I mean, a lot was going on....

But I don't get that, Grandpa, she'll say. You mean you could only handle one thing at a time? Didn't global warming also feel huge?

No honey, of course it felt huge, I'll say. And it's not that we could only handle one thing at a time.... We knew it was a huge and scary problem, we just couldn't feel it.... You're used to things as they are now. These "little things," as you call them, just didn't feel little to us. The idea of a smaller house, going without air conditioning, voluntarily paying \$5 for gas, or finding the \$20,000 to install solar panels just seemed too much and too big to wrap our minds and to-do lists around. And nobody else was really doing it.

And more than that: we were hopeful.... We actually believed the tide was changing, that bigger systems would begin to kick in and stimulate the changes for us.

She'll wrinkle her brow at this point showing confusion, so I'll try to explain.

Scientists, you see, weren't just telling us that we were on the verge of causing irreversible and dangerous climate change, they were also telling us we were on the verge of a technological break-through that would soon make alternative energy sources available and affordable... I think the best way to put it is to say that our optimism and our hope, well, it sort of betrayed us. We had hope in technology.

We had hope in politicians. And we had hope in our market system. It really felt like they'd save us without us having to do much. There was a saying back then: "Let go and let God." I guess we saw science, politics and the market as our gods--more powerful and knowing than us tiny normal folk. So we gladly turned the problem over to them and waited for them to change us.

IN AND AROUND PAINT BRANCH

Men's Fellowship Breakfast online: Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be back at the usual 2nd Saturday: 10 am Saturday, December 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. Please contact mensfellowship@pbuuc.org for more information.

Invitation from Zoom:

Topic: Men's Breakfast

Time: Dec 12, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Saturday

December 12, 2020 10 am

January 9, 2021 10 am

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?pwd=bXJnTlBbd1BLRWVwL0dpVC9LYXdxdz09)

[pwd=bXJnTlBbd1BLRWVwL0dpVC9LYXdxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?pwd=bXJnTlBbd1BLRWVwL0dpVC9LYXdxdz09)

Meeting ID: 409 162 940 Passcode: 638525

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,409162940#,,,,,0#,,638525# US (Germantown)

Call in from any phone for audio only:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Find your local number:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?pwd=bXJnTlBbd1BLRWVwL0dpVC9LYXdxdz09)

Sunday, December 6, 2020, **Quest Discussion Group** will NOT be meeting. We will meet Sunday, December 13, 2020 via Zoom at 11:45 am-1 pm during Enrichment Hour to read Chapter 4, The Reckoning of Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own by Eddie Glaude Jr. For more information about Quest or how to join the Zoom session, please contact Tess at tmorriso@illinois.edu

Finance Committee

End of Year Opportunity.

Remember that you may gain a 2020 charitable contribution tax advantage, if your FY21 pledge donations are deposited by us by December 31, 2020. If you can, send in a check, donate via Breeze, or donate stocks/bonds via our E*TRADE account (talk to Chuck Bury 301 937-3666 for our account number). We must receive your donation by Monday, December 28, in order for it to make our final deposit of the calendar year. Thank you very much for your generous donations to PBUUC. We are grateful for our members' generosity.

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 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.