



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

January 2021

MINISTER'S NOTES



SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

ALL SERVICES ONLINE ONLY

Streaming on Zoom at <http://zoom.us/j/91647186425>

and at <http://Facebook.com/PBUUC/>

Online Orders of Service at <http://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.

JANUARY 3 WHO WILL FILL THESE SHOES?

Worship Associates John Barr, Diana McFadden, Nori Myrdon-Ward, Polly Pettit and Susannah Schiller; with Special Music
A retrospective on honorable figures who passed this year.

JANUARY 10 THE NATURE OF HOPE

Rev. Russ Savage, Interim Caretaker Minister;
with Worship Associate Diana McFadden

Of all the living and sentient beings on the earth, it is likely that humans are the only ones who know of hope—and of despair. This is so because both hope and despair have to do with our expectations of the future, and the future is a complex intellectual concept probably not shared by other beings. What does hope mean to us in these troubling times?

JANUARY 17 MLK DAY OF SERVICE:

MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

Ebony Contreras, Worship Leader; with Members of DARTT; and Worship Associate Tricia Most

Let's empower ourselves to strengthen our community, bridge barriers, address social problems, and move closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community." The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. How will Paint Branch honor Dr. King's vision?

JANUARY 24 THE STRUCTURE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Russ Savage; with Worship Associate Clark Ritz

Forgiveness is not a simple social act, but a complex psychological and spiritual process with a definite structure and necessary steps. Let us examine this structure in light of our own personal needs to forgive and be forgiven, and in light of the current world situation.

JANUARY 31 THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SELF

Rev. Russ Savage; with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller
Each of us has a whole aspect of ourselves we hardly know. Sometimes it emerges when we are under stress or other unusual times. When it does, it may surprise and frighten us. Let us reflect on this unseen aspect of the self and how we might better know and understand it.

A Wish for the New Year

Garrison Keillor used to say, "It's been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon." It's been anything but a quiet month at PBUUC and in the world around us. Let's take a look at what's been going on.

The coronavirus pandemic rages on. As of mid-December, there are nearly 17 million cases in the U.S. and more than 300,000 Americans have died. Each day there are about a quarter of a million new cases, and hospitals across the country are overwhelmed.

The presidential election was six weeks ago, and its results have been certified by the college of electors. Nevertheless, the sitting president refuses to accept the results, claiming the election was somehow rigged. His followers amplify this charge and even resort to violence. In Washington, two historic churches were vandalized and their Black Lives Matter banners were stolen and burned in the street.

Also as a result of the coronavirus, millions are unemployed, facing eviction because they cannot pay the rent. Children are faced with a confusing mixture of in-person and on-line instruction, stunting their education in ways that will last for years.

Here at PBUUC, dissent continues over the recent departure of Rev. Rachel. Some members are so angry or disappointed about Rev. Rachel's departure that they have decided to resign their membership in the church.

Nevertheless there is hope. Distribution of vaccines for the coronavirus has started and will ramp up over the coming months. When it becomes available, I urge you to get your shot. I'm certainly going to get mine. If enough people get the shot, Dr. Fauci thinks the country may return to normal as early as the third quarter of 2021.

A new administration will begin on January 20. Whatever may be your politics, we all hope that the new administration will be calmer and more ordered than the chaotic and petulant administration of the last four years.

Here at PBUUC, the work of the Board and many others is helping us move toward a future in which we can all be comfortable with how things are working in our church. It is hard work, but together we can accomplish a great deal.

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 2020-2021 🌀

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

Happy New Year Members and Friends of Paint Branch, December was a busy month for Paint Branch and the Board of Trustees. First, we thank all those who have participated in putting together the moving holiday services that have inspired and uplifted us during these last weeks. As was highlighted by so many of you in our recent listening sessions, it is the people of Paint Branch that make our church strong and have helped us move through this challenging year with flexibility and creativity in the virtual environment. Thanks to you all.

Thanks also to all who provided the Board of Trustees (BOT) feedback regarding which transitional ministry option we should pursue and what goals we should have during the time of transition. Many of you spoke with passion about your hopes and fears as we look to heal and grow together. To view the results of the survey and the notes from the listening sessions, please use these links:

[Results of Survey](#) and the [Summary of Listening Session Comments and Links to Notes](#)

Based on feedback that shows a stronger preference among survey and listening session participants for developmental ministry and a prevalence of named challenges that require deep introspection and cultural change work within our congregation, the BOT voted at our meeting on December 22nd to enter search for a developmental minister and draft preliminary goals based on the feedback. We have reached out to the UUA Transitions Office to begin that process. The Board also approved the formation of a search committee made up of five members of the congregation, including at least two members of the current Board. We will be working to form this committee in the coming weeks. If you are interested in serving on the search committee, please email the BOT at bot@pbuuc.org.

We in turn invite you to read the ContinUUm each week and the Branches each month. They are the primary way announcements and updates are provided to you. Especially during this time when we don't see each other to pass on the word, we are more than ever blessed to have these available to us. You can also explore the calendar on the PBUUC website to keep up with what is happening each week. Zoom links and other important information are often available in the calendar. Finally, please join the BOT for one of the other sessions described above or email us your thoughts or questions at any time to bot@pbuuc.org.

Also the Board acknowledges the call for increased communication with the congregation. We recognize that communication requires us all to be more attentive and intentional about how we both provide and consume information. Thus the Board has agreed to:

1. Increase attention and intention to make meetings and documentation accessible by:
 - ◆ Posting date, time, agenda, and link of board meeting in ContinUUm previous to meeting
 - ◆ Posting also on Facebook
 - ◆ Posting also on the Church Calendar, along with a link to that month's read-ahead BoardBook, no later than the Friday before Board meeting
 - ◆ Posting link to BoardBook and meeting minutes in ContinUUm the week after the board meeting
 - ◆ Campaigning to emphasize the importance of reading the ContinUUm, Branches and other communications from the Church
 - ◆ Campaigning to emphasize the importance of using the calendar on the current website as a tool to learn about and access events and meetings
 - ◆ Prioritize the completion of the new website
 - ◆ Clearly promoting and reminding congregation about the options below using available tools
2. Promote stronger relationships between the members of the Board and the congregation by:
 - ◆ Holding 30 minutes of meet and greet time with visitors prior to board meeting
 - ◆ Committing to each join a coffee hour breakout room at least twice month
3. Engage in transparent dialogue with the congregation around our work and the values and beliefs that uphold it by:
 - ◆ Scheduling 90-minute Town Hall meetings in early September, early December, and early March followed by the Annual Meeting in early June. Use the Town Halls to address topics of importance to the congregation in that quarter, highlight the work of the BOT working groups and other committees in the church, and address questions from the congregation to the Board and the Committees.
 - ◆ Being available in the main zoom room after Sunday service on the Sunday immediately prior to the monthly meeting of the BOT to take public comments from congregants on agenda items.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to again welcome the return of Chris McCann as our Director of Multi-generational Religious Exploration. Chris begins with us on Wednesday, January 6th. Her first Sunday will be January 10th. I hope you will all join in a merry welcome back to her as we begin our new year together.

In hope for a bright 2021,

Melissa Graham,

Chair, PBUUC Board of Trustees

HELP WANTED

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees is looking for congregation members to become Process Observers at BOT meetings.



Do you wonder what's going on with church business? Are you asking yourself what's behind certain actions and decisions? Wondering what your pledge payments are funding and why? Join us and find out the answers to those questions without leaving the comfort of your home.

Being a Process Observer is easy. Turn on your computer, click on the Zoom link, watch, and take notes while listening to the BOT meeting. We meet the fourth Tuesday of every month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. As the BOT Process Observer, your role will be to listen to the proceedings and determine how well the Board functions as a group.

Board meetings are supposed to follow a process intended to ensure meetings are run smoothly and efficiently, that we treat each other with respect, remain open to others' ideas, wait to be acknowledged before speaking, and take turns speaking without interrupting each other. The Observer's job is to determine how well we accomplish that goal, then report on your observations at the end of the meeting, or you can provide your observations in an email a day or two later, after you've had time to process your own thoughts. Examples of what to note for each participant are:

- Were Board members and other speakers prepared to address the topics?
- Were participants engaged and contributing?
- Were comments appropriate and helpful or off-topic and distracting?
- What was the emotional tone during the meeting, i.e., tense, supportive, etc.?
- Was the discussion on point or did it digress?
- Were participants engaged in side conversations or other distractions?
- Did the meeting follow the agenda?
- Were topics sufficiently covered?

What was your overall impression of the meeting's value to the congregation?

Since we meet once a month, a cadre of three or four Process Observers would each need to observe a Board meeting only once every three or four months. We hope you'll take this opportunity to learn more about the functioning of your church by becoming a BOT Process Observer. If interested, contact us at execom@pbuuc.org.

The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Members Sought for Volunteer Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Positions



The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is reaching out for members to apply for many volunteer opportunities to work on behalf of the denomination. Applications for specific positions are due January 15, 2021. If you're not certain how your skills and interests might fit, you can submit a general application. Click Here for specific details and application forms.

General Assembly (GA) Will Be 100% Virtual.

Register Now for June 23-27, 2021

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the UUA. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Registration is now open. The cost is \$200 per person. Financial support for registration is available via volunteer opportunities and a payment plan. The UUA is also inviting proposals for GA programs. Go to UUA.org/ga for more details about registration details, and how to submit a proposal for a presentation.

Carol Carter Walker, Denominational Affairs Committee

FAMILY WORSHIP

Please check the ContinUUm Weekly for information on our Family Worship programs as we welcome back Dir. of Multi-generational Religious Exploration Chris McCann in January.

On Saturday, January 2 at 4 pm, Family Worship will focus on New Year's Traditions. We will share our thoughts about 2020 and hopes for 2021, when Chris McCann returns as our DMRE! The link and necessary passcode for our January 2 Family Worship is below:

Topic: MRE Team Family Worship

Time: January 2, 2021 4 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79543951649?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79543951649?pwd=TigaUnPLYUwvSTRiRGpqVWRnVnIldz09)

[pwd=TigaUnPLYUwvSTRiRGpqVWRnVnIldz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79543951649?pwd=TigaUnPLYUwvSTRiRGpqVWRnVnIldz09)

Passcode: 2ZebmR

Meeting ID: 795 4395 1649

If you missed the December 27, 2020 "Kwanzaa – All Ages Day of Celebration and Assessment" worship service, you can see it by going to YouTube and searching for the "[Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church](#)" channel. It was a very meaningful worship service in which eight participants of our RE Program participated: Amethyst Contreras, Onyx Contreras, Walter Lee Darlington Al-mallah, Caroline Ritz, Leila Pearl Darlington Al-mallah, Bennet Ritz, and Janaki Katz). Many thanks to Carmelita Carter Sykes, Mary Rooker, Margaret Morrison, Muriel Morisey, Lula Beatty, Clark Ritz, Kathy Darlington, Philip Browne, and Chuck Bury for their efforts on this wonderful All Ages worship service.

Tricia Most, MRET CoChair

Celebrating Winter Solstice and Yule a 20-year tradition at Paint Branch!

For over 20 years, the Paint Branch online sermon archive documents our congregation celebrating the Winter Solstice in late December annually. This year, 2020, church members, community members and children of the congregation continued the pattern. In addition to the morning worship service, we added an evening service as outreach to the wider community. Even though the evening community service could not meet in person, enjoy a potluck, nor roast marshmallows over a firepit out on the church deck, we were able to host family, friends and neighbors for this seasonal celebration.

On Sunday morning, PBUUC celebrated "Welcome Yule!" to explore ancient and modern ways of celebrating this time when we stand on the cusp between light and dark. That same evening at 7 pm, we hosted a community Winter Solstice service which we described as "lifting our hearts to the sky, and yearn for the return of the sun. In this season of shifting light, we contemplate gifts of stillness." Both services were coordinated by Worship Associate Tricia Most and Lay Leaders Abi Hanley and Eldritch. During these two services, we enjoyed a mix of music provided by David Chapman, Music Director; Diana McFadden, cellist; Allison Hughes, vocalist and guitarist; and Keith Miller, pianist; along with online recordings.

Tricia Most reflected "In this season of shifting light, we contemplate gifts of stillness and honor all things restful, dormant and deep. We reflect upon the myriad ways we experience the Divine and anticipate the coming light." Abi Hanley's intention was read "Here at Paint Branch we welcome diverse groups of Pagan experience and also welcome those who respect and revere Nature as Solitaires — individuals who find inspiration in a private appreciation of Nature." Eldritch commented that "UU congregations also affirm and promote six sources that reflect diversity and inclusion of spiritual traditions including the spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature."

Paint Branch and Community Members created sacred space by Lighting a Chalice, Casting a Circle, Honoring the Cardinal Directions; Honoring the Divine (embodied as Male, Female, All Genders and Beyond Gender); and Honoring Ancestors and Descendants in a modern Wiccan format.

Church creativity and collaboration was evident in the music, artwork, poetry, and texts read throughout the services. Fallon Hughes, a participant in the RE Program, presented and described art work in the morning service that was created for the service by Caroline Ritz and Kathy Darlington. She presented Kathy's words: "These paintings speak of the wonder and beauty we experience

when we are blessed to gaze into the night sky and see the Northern Lights." Abi Hanley wrote an original poem "Fallow" and Penney Hughes wrote a guided meditation "Honoring the Darkness." See recordings of both services on the Paint Branch [YouTube Channel](#) (and please subscribe). To see the full orders of service, go to the [Paint Branch Worship Archive](#). Please enjoy viewing and reading more about services online. Join us on FaceBook at: PBUUC Pagans

Many thanks to the 26 participants (staff, church and community members) who collaborated on the two services: Chuck Bury, Philip Browne, Tricia Most, Abigail Hanley, Eldritch, Rev. Diane Teichert, David Chapman, Keith Miller, Allison Hughes, Cerridwyn Peerman, Angela Peerman, Louise Waugh, Fallon Hughes, Penney Hughes, Caroline Ritz, Kathy Darlington, Mary Rooker, Anastasia O'Neal, Tosha O'Neal, Mason Jean, Jonathan White, April Doyle, Joy Aquilla, Elizabeth Stephens, and Sonya Gross.

Fall aUUction 2020

Fundraising for Improved Online Worship Continues!

If you have been attending worship services online, you have noticed delays when the unmute button on the church computer in our sanctuary fails to respond. Investing in the Auction Paddle Raise to purchase and install professional, remote-control, pan, tilt, and zoom cameras provides a solution to this problem and would improve our worship experiences in many ways. Your donation will also help fund more performances by our Chalice Dancers and provide funding for professional website improvement – a vital means of attracting the community at any time, but particularly in this time when connecting and providing information is so important. Until January 7, 2021, you can make donations for this Paddle Raise by clicking on "Donate!" at the top ribbon of the auction website. You can make an online donation in any amount at: <https://charityauction.bid/2020AutumnAuction>

After January 7, our auction subscription runs out, but your donations will still be welcome. You can send a check to the church with "Paddle Raise" on the memo line. Please email Tricia Most to record your payment and check number in the Auction software. Many thanks!

IN AND AROUND PAINT BRANCH

Spirituality Circle will meet virtually on Sunday, January 3 at 11:45 am to welcome the New Year

Please be thinking about what spiritual practices help or have helped you in the past. We will be sharing these practices and tips on how to start or keep a spiritual practice going all year long.

Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89522658953?pwd=MXUrYjNMdFdLNXBPYjI1ZXhTVmJ4UT09>

Or call from any phone for audio-only: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 895 2265 8953 Passcode: 655584

Diversity/Antiracism Transformation Team (DARTT)



Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday, January 20 at 7 pm
DARTT's next meeting will be Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 7 pm, via Zoom. Access information will be published in upcoming ContinUUa. Send proposed agenda items to Co-Chairs Carmelita Carter-Sykes at cartercarmelita@aol.com and Ebony Contreras at etaras1@yahoo.com by Saturday, January 9. You can also e-mail Carmelita and Ebony if you'd like to be on our mailing list to receive meeting notices, agendas, minutes, and news. All are welcome. Come bring your energy and ideas!

12th Annual Kwanzaa Service Organized by DARTT Celebrated at Paint Branch

The Village Gathered. From Brazil, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia and Washington, DC. Close to 100 were gathered for the Service.

The Children of the Village Spoke of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa: Leila Pearl & Walter Lee Darlington Al-mallah, Amethyst & Onyx Contreras, Fallon Hughes, Janaki Katz, and Bennett & Caroline Ritz.

A Parent lit the Chalice, symbolic of the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism: Kathy Darlington

Dancers, Musicians, and Artists Marked The Occasion With Their Gifts: David Chapman, Music Director/pianist; Mary Tyrte Rooker, Drummer; the Chalice Dancers, Sharon Werth, Artistic Director, and Don Gerson, Photographer.

These Villagers—Staff and Volunteer—Made the Celebration Accessible Meticulously and Caringly: Chuck Bury, Philip Browne, and Clark Ritz.

The Worship Leader and Worship Associate wove a beautiful fabric from the many threads of the Village's resources: Carmelita Carter-Sykes and Clark Ritz.

The Women Gathered and Spoke Their Truths about Sankofa: Lula Beatty, Muriel Morisey, and Margaret Morrison.

The Community Relations Team Facilitated the Processing of All That Had Occurred: Paul Wester, Carol Boston, and Deb Rubenstein.

Our Ministers attended to mark the important event: Revs. Russ Savage, Karen Scrivo, and Diane Teichert.

The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team thanks all who made the 12th Annual Celebration of Kwanzaa At Paint Branch moving and memorable.

DARTT Leads Sunday, January 17, Service Honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

DARTT invites you to mark your calendars now for this Multigenerational Service honoring Dr. King: MLK Day of Service: Make it a Day On, Not a Day Off. Let's empower ourselves to strengthen our community, bridge barriers, address social problems, and move closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community." The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Paint Branch Co-Hosts Jubilee Anti-Racism Workshop January 15 to 17. Register Now!

This 2 ½ day workshop is open to anyone who wants to journey toward making a stand against racism. The workshop will benefit both first time as well as repeat attendees. It begins Friday, January 15, from 6 to 9 pm, continues Saturday from 9 am to 8:30 pm, and ends Sunday afternoon Sunday, January 17 from noon to 6:30 pm. Appropriate meal and other breaks are scheduled. Trainers are Paula Cole Jones, Dr. Leon Spencer and Lutricia Callair.

The workshop goals are to: develop a shared analysis of racism and its individual, institutional, and cultural manifestations; begin to apply this common understanding to the history, culture, and institutional structure of our society; and envision the next steps in taking action, particularly in a congregational setting. The workshop is open to UUs and non-UUs.

The Workshop Topics include: The history of racism and resistance to racism in the Americas; defining racism; the effects of racism on people of color and on white people; dismantling racism; and claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity.

The cost is \$160. The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team has set aside funds to support Paint Branchers' attendance. Go [HERE](#) to register and get more details about the Workshop. If you are requesting support to attend, click the "Check" option as part of your registration.

Stewardship Committee

This year's annual Stewardship Campaign will celebrate how we are "Connected in Community." Right now the committee is recruiting volunteers to serve as virtual visiting stewards. Visiting stewards will attend training over Zoom in February and will be assigned five to six members and friends from our community to connect with during the month of March. Please reach out to our team at stewardship@pbuuc.org for more information or to volunteer. Keep your eyes open for more information about our annual campaign in the weekly ContinUUm.

Social Action Committee

Paint Branch to Become a Founding Member of Prince George's Leadership Action Network (PLAN)

PLAN is a 501c3 organization that is working to establish a chapter of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in Prince George's County

IAF is the nation's largest and longest-standing network of local faith and community-based organizations. IAF partners with organizations at the local level to build broad-based organizing projects across the lines that often divide our communities. PLAN, like other IAF Chapters, is funded primarily through its membership organizations—churches, synagogues, mosques, unions, and non-profit organizations in the County.

Paint Branch was introduced to PLAN through a February 2020 meeting with our Minister, some Paint Branch social justice leaders, and Coleman Milling, Lead PLAN Organizer. He, along with Rev. Karen Scrivo, Paint Branch's Affiliated Minister for Social Justice, participated in a March 1, 2020 Service and Enrichment Hour gathering about PLAN. Paint Branch was asked to be a founding member of PLAN, along with approximately 40 other organizations, mostly religious institutions.

PLAN's model, one of building the organization through forming and nurturing relationships through meetings with community members, was severely impacted by the pandemic. Its funding plan—asking for a membership due of one percent of operating budget from each founding member—was also severely impacted by the downfall in organization revenues from its founding organizations.

After a retooling of its plans PLAN resumed meeting in late fall of 2020. It plans to formally launch the organization on February 16, 2021, with the virtual participation of its founding members and special guests. Paint Branch's contribution of \$1,000 from the 2020 Roland Bequest dissolution will serve as our PLAN dues for this fiscal year.

Kathy Bartolomeo, Chair, Social Action Committee, is working on recruiting a leadership team—ideally two co-chairs—at least one a resident of Prince George's County—to focus the rest of us on the next steps Paint Branch might want to take as an institution. This is an opportunity for us to work in partnership with our neighbors and contribute to work that will help many in our County.

Many UU congregations in the metropolitan area are active members of IAF Chapters, specifically:

All Souls Unitarian and Washington Ethical Society--(WIN) --

Washington Interfaith Network

UU Church of Annapolis (ACT) -- Anne Arundel County Together.

UU Church of Arlington-- (VOICE)--Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement

First Unitarian of Baltimore (BUILD) --Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development

Cedar Lane and River Road-- (AIM) --Action in Montgomery [County]

UU Congregation of Columbia (PATH) -- People Acting Together in Howard [County]

If you are a member or friend of Paint Branch who would like to become involved or be kept informed, please send your contact information to Kathy Bartolomeo at PLAN@pbuuc.org.

SAC Special Collection for January 2021

The recipient of the SAC Special Collection for January 2021 is the [Capital Area Food Bank](#). They continue to serve our neighbors in need during these uncertain times. To account for site closures and social distancing needs related to COVID-19, they have modified and consolidated their services, offering food in different formats and locations. They will continue their operations until or unless they receive guidance from local or national government that they cannot remain open. Because they believe that hunger exists in every zip code and in every time, the Capital Area Food Bank is committed to helping our neighbors get the food they need to thrive, no matter where they live.

In ordinary times the Capital Area Food Bank distributes food through partner networks and through direct distribution programs including:

- ✦ Afterschool meals for kids
- ✦ Monthly groceries for seniors
- ✦ Mobile markets and monthly pop-up markets for families
- ✦ Large scale emergency food aid when needed

Donate at the website: capitalareafoodbank.org/donate or mail your check payable to "Capital Area Food Bank" to:

Capital Area Food Bank
4900 Puerto Rico Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20017

Please notify SAC of your gift: cartercarmelita@aol.com and kbartolo30@gmail.com

Thank you,

Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Special Collections Coordinator

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.