



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

### February 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.

#### FEBRUARY 7 SPEAK THEIR NAMES:

##### THE PRESENCE OF BLACK WOMEN IN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Rev. Dr. Qiyamah A. Rahman with Worship Associate Polly Pettit  
Sunday's homily introduces some of the historic Black women pioneers and their contributions. While Black women's presence represents a small aspect of Unitarian Universalism, their legacies deserve to be a representative part of the Unitarian Universalist history and discourse.

#### FEBRUARY 14 LGBTQ+ PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS

Rev. Russ Savage, Interim Caretaker Minister;  
with Worship Associate Nori Myrdon-Ward

This Valentine's Day service will celebrate the love of those who are often marginalized because of their gender identity.

#### FEBRUARY 21 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT

Guest Speaker Rob Boston, Americans United for Separation of Church and State; and Worship Associate Diana McFadden  
Religious freedom has traditionally been interpreted as the right to worship, or not, as you see fit. But in recent years, the Supreme Court has embraced a theory of religious freedom that threatens to open the door to discrimination and harms against others, especially members of the LGBTQ community, followers of minority faiths and non-believers. This sermon will examine the historic interpretation of religious freedom and explore options for ensuring that this vital principle is used as a shield to protect individual rights and not a sword to lash out at others.

#### FEBRUARY 28 NO ONE BUT US

Rev. Russ Savage; with Worship Associate John Barr  
Connecting in Community - Commitment Sunday with the Stewardship Campaign.

#### An Important Month

January is a month we will not soon forget. A New year, a new leaf, new resolutions to keep. I won't ask you how you're doing on your resolutions to lose weight, clean out your garage, or whatever else you promised yourself. I hope you are doing OK with them.

January is, of course, always a time for new beginnings, but every four years it's time for a special new beginning: the inauguration of the President and Vice President of the United States. My wife and I attended the 2009 and 2013 inaugurations of President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. Each time it was like a party! We rode the bus downtown, and everyone on the bus was laughing and having a good time. At the Mall, it was much too crowded to get very near the west front of the Capitol where the inauguration would take place, but giant Jumbotron screens showed us the action clearly. The mood was festive; many families were there with picnic lunches spread out on blankets despite the chilly weather. We didn't attend the 2017 inauguration; from the photos comparing the crowds at different inaugurations, lots of other people chose to stay home that day, too.

The 2021 inauguration was very different. Attendance was sparse for a reason. The pandemic which has already killed more than 400,000 Americans was the first reason, but even more important was the threat of civil unrest and violence from those who disputed the outcome of the election. Just two weeks before the inauguration, the Capitol was the scene of a violent insurrection in which five people died. As a result, the city of Washington was armed with tens of thousands of police, national guardsmen, and other law enforcement officials to keep the peace. Fortunately there was no violence, and we can be glad for that.

Let us hope the next four years bring us closer to solving the problems we face, that were outlined by President Biden in his inaugural address: the pandemic, the collapsed economy which has resulted from it, the racial injustice that has long been part of our nation's history, the divisions among us, and the need for action on climate change.

As the New Year unfolds, let us each think about what we as individuals and PBUUC as a congregation can do to help address these vital concerns.

*With hope for the future,*

*Rev. Russ*

Interim Caretaker Minister [ICM@pbuuc.org](mailto:ICM@pbuuc.org)

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## PBUUC Leadership Directory

### 🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2020-2021 🌀

email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto: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 Louison
Jim Flaherty	

### 🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
	Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING)
Adult RE	Leo Jones
Auction	Tricia Most & Kathi Yu
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	<a href="#">contact church office</a>
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	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

<u>Music Director &amp; Pianist</u>	David Chapman
<u>Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration</u>	Chris McCann
<u>Chalice Dancers Director &amp; Choreographer</u>	Sharon Werth
<u>Church Administrator</u>	Charles D. Bury, MBA
<u>Bookkeeper</u>	Hannah Oshin
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	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

*Beloved Members and Friends of Paint Branch,*  
I would like to begin by thanking all those who attended the first Session for Public Comments to the BOT on Sunday, January 24th. The conversation was rich and meaningful. The next such session will be on Sunday, February 21st immediately following the service. At these Public Comment Sessions we welcome feedback on agenda items scheduled for the upcoming meetings of the BOT and/or any items that are on your mind. In addition to your participation at these sessions, the BOT always welcomes you to send your feedback and questions to us at [bot@pbuuc.org](mailto:bot@pbuuc.org). We also welcome all to join us for our monthly meetings. Information for joining each month can be found on the Church calendar and will be published in the ContinUUm in the weeks leading up to the meeting. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 23.

As you know, we are in the process of entering search for a Developmental Minister. In January, the Board of Trustees accepted applications for members of a search committee made up partially of Board Members per the recommendation of the UUA and partially of non-Board members in keeping with our desire to create wider participation in the process. Thank you to all members who applied. We had far more qualified volunteers than spaces available on the team. After careful consideration, the Board has approved the following team: Eric Eldritch, Kathi Yu, Muriel Morisey, Abby Crowley, Moe Cunningham, Carol Carter Walker and Melissa Graham. The expected time frame for the search process is February through April.

This month the BOT also approved [SOP-05, Use of Congregational Name to Support Social Justice Causes](#). *Since taking the role of Board Chair in August 2020, I have received at least six requests from individuals or groups in the Church to use the name of PBUUC in support or endorsement of a social justice issue or cause. Paint Branch did not have clear policies or procedures for when and how to vet and approve such requests. Upon research, it became clear that many UU churches do maintain such policies and procedures. These policies provide clarity to both those seeking and those approving these petitions as well as encourage intentionality and thought in the decision-making process so that those decisions align with Congregation values and mission and reduce any potential risk to the Congregation. The approved SOP outlines a vetting and approval process for the use of the name of PBUUC or a PBUUC committee or group in support or endorsement of a social justice activity or event. Anyone having questions about the policy is encouraged to reach out to the Board. If you are interested in learning more about other Standard Operating Procedures that have been adopted or are in process you [may review them here](#).*

Finally, we need you! We are currently looking for volunteers to join the Budget Leadership Team (BLT). No prior experience with budgets or finance is required. If you can balance a checkbook, are interested in learning more about the inner workings of Paint Branch, and want to have a voice in decision-making, then this is the team for you. Please contact Kathi Yu (BLT chair) ([kathiyu@gmail.com](mailto:kathiyu@gmail.com)) or any BOT member ([bot@pbuuc.org](mailto:bot@pbuuc.org)) for more information.

Additionally, if you are passionate about the possibilities of our proposed Capital Campaign we need you too. We are in search of a new Capital Campaign Steering Committee Chair beginning in March. The main criteria is a passion to keep the planning process moving forward and a willingness to coordinate with the consultant and various subcommittees working to make the campaign happen. For more information about the Capital Campaign, the Steering Committee and how you may be able to support this process, please contact Renee Katz ([raynies@hotmail.com](mailto:raynies@hotmail.com)) or myself ([boardchair@pbuuc.org](mailto:boardchair@pbuuc.org)).

Thank you,

*Melissa Graham*

Chair, PBUUC Board of Trustees



### Meet Our Guest Speaker

We are delighted to host Reverend Dr. Qiyamah A. Rahman as our Guest Minister for the February 7 service.

Rev. Qiyamah, as she called, is a Unitarian Universalist minister who resides in St. Croix, Virgin Islands where she served the UU Fellowship of St. Croix from 2012-2018. Besides her passion as a minister and writer, she is a social worker, researcher and community activist focused on social justice.

Inspired by the Interfaith and social justice witness of UUism, Rev. Qiyamah A. Rahman devotes her research to the richly diverse narratives of UU Black women and girls. With a doctorate in Africana Women's Studies, she has conducted research on violence against women in Ghana, South Africa and the United States. Rev. Dr. Rahman challenges us to expand our scholarship on the presence of Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Unitarian Universalists.

Rev. Qiyamah was the Minn's Lecturer for 2020 and presented three lectures on Black UU women and Black UU clergy women. She is currently working on an anthology on Black Unitarian Universalist Clergy Women to be published by Skinner House Books. She has just received a grant from the UU Women's Federation to create a website devoted to Black UU Women and Girls featuring research, interviews, news and resources. Stay tuned!

Rev. Qiyamah earned her Bachelor's in Education and Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan. She has a Masters of Divinity from Meadville Lombard Theological School and a doctorate from Clark Atlanta University in Africana Women's Studies.



## FAMILY WORSHIP

Hello, my good people and happy February!

I am delighted to be back among you all, and I'm looking forward to what the future is bringing. This month, I am ceding my column to Fallon, our PBUUC student who spoke so beautifully at our January 10th service. The words she spoke follow, along with the reminder that we are not simply training our children to be leaders for the future. They are leading now, and aren't we lucky to be witness and support this?

"As UU people, we have different principles and some of them may indirectly reflect and acknowledge the issue of racism in our society. Principles such as; 1, 3, 5, and 6.

"However we now have a new proposed principal addressing racism. One that is clear and specific, highlighting this issue. The principle mentions two ideas that I think are important.

"A. the idea of promoting this new value within our own spiritual community as well as in the public. It dedicates our community towards addressing this underrecognized issue. And,

"B. accountability, helping us stay focused on the anti-racism actions that are required by this principle.

"To me, not having this principle included in our 'values and moral guides' is like saying 'all lives matter.' I think we all know that is clearly not specific enough. This principle gets the idea across directly so there can be no mistake, that, Yes, we mean those lives too. Every member of our diverse and multicultural society. So the 8th principle lets all people know where UU's stand.

"Now we have to talk about accountability! If we are to 'prove ourselves responsible for undoing racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions,' we will be accountable to each other to uphold this principle. We will be known by our work on this issue and by the way we treat each other. This idea of accountability includes within it the idea of loyalty. Pursuing this justice shows our loyalty to antiracism and each other. Our work to promote this is a step forward to a safer more welcoming culture, here at PBUUC and as we promote it we change the habits and culture of the world."

*Chris McCann,*

Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

## Jubilee and We

### Reflections on Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training

Jubilee III is a powerful, weekend-long anti-racism training. The stated goals of the program 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. Jubilee, in this context, refers to the Day of Jubilee declared when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law. In late fall of 2020, Paula Cole-Jones approached the Paint Branch Board of Trustees with an invitation to co-sponsor a Jubilee III Weekend Workshop, along with All Souls Church, Unitarian in DC and All Souls Unitarian in Indianapolis, IN. The Board asked the Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) to host the event. Eleven Paint Branchers attended the weekend. Four Board Members, Ebony Contreras (also DARTT co-chair), Sabrina Jones, Margaret McLellan and Carol Carter Walker; Director of Religious Education, Chris McCann; Conflict Transformation Team leader Deb Rubenstein, DARTT co-chair Carmelita Carter Sykes; DARTT Leadership Team member Eric Eldritch; Worship Associate Team co-leader and Religious Education co-chair Tricia Most; and active members Mike McMenamin and Mary Rooker. DARTT provided financial scholarships for some of these attendees. It is worth noting that during the training, Paula Cole Jones referred to Paint Branch UU Church as "small but mighty" and mentioned that Paint Branch has often been in the forefront of social justice work.

In the coming months, those that attended will be reflecting on their experience and learning during this training. I invite you to keep an eye on this space for those reflections and for more information about upcoming opportunities to attend Jubilee III and other anti-racism training. The next Jubilee III workshop is scheduled for March 19th-21st and registration is open now!

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/calendar/jubilee-3-0321>

*Chris McCann*, Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

## Finance Committee

### How to Donate to PBUUC when using Amazon

If you purchase items from Amazon, you can create a small donation to PBUUC by going to Amazon using [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). Once you register on [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) that PBUUC is your charity of choice for this feature, Amazon will automatically contribute .5% of each purchase to us. The [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) log-in will become an alternate log-in to your current Amazon account – keeping all of your Amazon data intact. A statement of contributions will be sent quarterly to you; and the collective contributions of all PBUUC [AmazonSmile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) participants will be deposited quarterly to the PBUUC checking account. Thank you for doing this if you use Amazon.

## Diversity/Antiracism Transformation Team (DARTT)



### DARTT Co-Hosts Jubilee Workshop Over Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

Paint Branch, along with All Souls Unitarian, Washington, DC, and All Souls Unitarian Church, Indianapolis, IN, co-sponsored the second virtual Jubilee Anti-Racism Workshop. DARTT served as host and provided financial support for some of the 11 Paint Branch attendees. See [page 4](#) of this issue Branches for more details about the Workshop.

### DARTT Launches Book Group In March

Want to know more about the lives of African Americans through the lens of African American women? This DARTT-sponsored Book Group will explore the diverse experiences of African Americans as revealed through the writings of African American women. Life in all its fullness will be discussed, including love, family, identity, racism, sexism, spirituality, loss, resistance, class, friendships, and resiliency. Books include fiction (including short stories, science fiction), nonfiction (including a couple of autobiographies), and poetry. Discussions are intended to be enlightening and fun. Lula Beatty will be leading the group with Carol Carter Walker as logistical support. The group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, starting March 10. We'll read and discuss one book per month in two sessions. The first book will be *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs, published in 1861. It is widely available through local libraries, independent booksellers, Amazon, Kindle, etc. Other authors on our proposed reading list include: Octavia Butler, J. California Cooper, Roxane Gay, Mari-ta Golden, Zora Neale Hurston, and Isabel Wilkerson. Interested? Sign up at [dartt@pbuuc.org](mailto:dartt@pbuuc.org)

### Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday, February 17 at 7 pm

DARTT's monthly meeting will be Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7 pm, via Zoom. If you are already on our mailing list you will receive our agenda and link to the meeting. If you would like to attend and you are not on our list, please send your request for the link to Co-Chairs [cartercarmel-ita@aol.com](mailto:cartercarmel-ita@aol.com) and Ebony Contreras at [etaras1@yahoo.com](mailto:etaras1@yahoo.com). All are welcome.

### DARTT Recommends:

**The Three Lynchings Film Viewing & Discussion—Sunday, February 7 from 2 pm to 4 pm.** Followed by a panel discussion of the movie with film maker Jay Mallin and local historians. Reserve your spot at <https://bit.ly/3okb8fk>

### New Day Rising UUA National Conference

Saturday, February 27 from noon to 9 pm EST  
<https://www.uua.org/leadership/events/new-day-rising-2021>

### New Opportunity to Attend Jubilee Anti-Racism Weekend

March 19 to 21. Sponsored by Central East Region, UUA.  
<https://www.uua.org/central-east/calendar/jubilee-3-0321>

## Stewardship Committee



On Sunday, February 28, Paint Branch will kick off the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. The theme, "[Connected in Community](#)," reflects how much we need our Paint Branch connections while we are isolating in our homes.

"[Connected in Community](#)" reflects Paint Branch values in the importance of building a community that looks out for one another, that works for social justice, and that celebrates our free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Of course, it takes more than wishes to build community – which is where stewardship comes in. Stewardship is how we take care of the community, be it with the loving care of volunteer work or the provision of funds to pay for essentials. This year, like everything else during the pandemic, the campaign will look different. We regret that there won't be a waffle breakfast during the campaign. We do look forward to having stewards talk with every member of the church on the phone or through Zoom to build both connections and to receive pledges to pay for our church programs.

Next year, our church program will include a developmental minister; our fabulous MRE Director, Chris; our marvelous Music and Dance directors, David and Sharon; and our multi-talented office staff and sexton. Even though we cannot use the building to meet, right now, we hope that we will be able to meet in the new church year. In the meantime, we must care for it so that it will be ready for us when we are ready to go back.

How you can be involved: As mentioned earlier, the kick-off will be on Sunday, February 28. But you can get involved earlier by taking the training to be a visiting steward either on Thursday, February 18 from 7 pm to 9 pm or Sunday, February 21 from noon to 2 pm. The team will be presenting testimonials weekly starting on Sunday, February 14. Let Chris Evans know if you are interested in providing a testimonial. During the month of March, you will either make calls as a visiting steward, or you will receive a call from a visiting steward. We will wind up the month of Stewardship on Sunday, April 4 with a virtual celebration.

The team hopes that you can take a few minutes to reflect what the church means to you and how you can best ensure the church will continue to be there for you and future generations.

## Social Action Committee

### PBUUC to Celebrate as a Founding Member of Prince George's Leadership Action Network (PLAN) You're Invited!

With SAC's approval and the Board's support, PBUUC is poised to become a founding member of PLAN—Prince George's Leadership Action Network. PLAN is an affiliate of the IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation) which is the nation's largest and longest-standing network of local faith and community-based organizations doing grassroots organizing. Several other affiliates already exist in our metro area—in DC (WIN), Northern Virginia (VOICE), Baltimore (BUILD), and Montgomery (AIM), Howard (PATH), and Anne Arundel (ACT) counties.

PLAN is committed to training and developing neighborhood leaders to address pressing community issues in Prince George's County (e.g., affordable housing, public safety, youth, job opportunities, education, etc.), initiate public action on their issues, and hold elected and corporate officials accountable. It is a broad-based, multi-racial, multi-faith, strictly non-partisan citizens' power organization, rooted in local congregations and associations in every section of the county, reflecting its theological, racial, geographic, and economic diversity.

By adding our voices and our efforts to those of other congregations and communities, we can ask political and corporate leaders to make necessary changes that bring greater opportunity to everyone in Prince George's, but especially those who have been marginalized. We act consistently and persistently for change.

**PLAN is holding its Founding Convention on Tuesday, February 16, at 7 pm. All members of the thirty-five founding organizations or congregations are invited to this virtual conference. Please come, create a PBUUC presence, meet the other member congregations, and learn about PLAN's future in our county. Go to PLAN's website ([planmd.org](http://planmd.org)) to register for this event.**

If you're interested in learning the strategies and tactics of grassroots community organizing and/or are looking to bring systemic change to your community, let us know of your interest. PLAN's leadership team at PBUUC urges you to join in the action: Carol Carter Walker, co-chair, [carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net](mailto:carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net); Joan Griggs, co-chair, [griggssd@aol.com](mailto:griggssd@aol.com); Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo, Affiliated Minister for Social Justice; [karen.scrivo@gmail.com](mailto:karen.scrivo@gmail.com); and Kathy Bartolomeo, SAC Chair, [kbartolo30@gmail.com](mailto:kbartolo30@gmail.com).

### Maryland Superconducting Magnetic Levitation Train

Are you aware of the SCMaglev (superconducting magnetic levitation) train project? No, it's not the Purple Line, Beltway expansion, or the Hyperloop!

The SCMaglev train is proposed to be constructed along the Northeast Corridor (I-295) starting in Washington, DC, and ending in Baltimore, with one stop at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. It will affect residential property, parkland, federal property, a waterfront park, and forest preserves.

This site allows you to perform an address search and shows the routes of the SCMaglev. LINK: <https://t.ly/yF7T>

The BWRR releases the Draft Environmental Impact Study on January 22, 2021. Usually, public comment is 45 days: **(March 8, 2021) and may be extended.** Please send your comments by email, letter, and web form, according to instructions at [bwmaglev.info/index.php/contact-us](http://bwmaglev.info/index.php/contact-us).

To make sure your mail/email comments are entered into the formal project record, clearly label them as SCMAGLEV Comments.

Kathy Bartolomeo, SAC Chair, [kbartolo30@gmail.com](mailto:kbartolo30@gmail.com).

## Join the PBUUC Website Team

In recent months, Andy McIntire has been working out the technical features of a new website for PBUUC based on a WordPress template developed by the UUA. We know the church website/mobile app is a critical method of outreach and communication, and we want to move this project forward for the benefit of the whole community.



We're looking to assemble a small team of five to six more people who can meet to review the test site as a group and create a plan of action to review the entire site and update content, including reaching out to other groups for missing information, so that the site can go public within the next two months.

It's likely that each person will come away from the kick-off meeting with the assignment of copy editing, proofing, and checking links under a single tab. We'll also keep a wish list of features for improvement since website development these days is done in rounds of iteration rather than once and for all.

If you're skilled in content and/or technical development and/or usability and can provide 10-20 hours of work on this in the next two months, please email [carolboston@verizon.net](mailto:carolboston@verizon.net).





## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

### New Day Rising Conference National

*Identifying Your Congregation's Next Faithful Steps in Changing White Supremacy Culture*

*Worship ~ Workshops ~ Caucusing with plenty of breaks*

#### New Day Rising Conference February 27

Are you ready to take a new step in racial justice work? Want to learn what your fellow congregations are working on, and how you might apply it at home? Join a continent of UUs as we explore next steps in creating Beloved UU Communities.

On Your Own: Watch compelling video TED-talk style testimonials from selected congregations around the continent sharing their learnings, hopes and next steps in their quest for racial equity in their congregations

Together: Worship·Workshops·Caucusing (with plenty of breaks) Saturday, February 27, noon-9 pm

Registration is open! Fees are on a sliding scale of \$20-\$50 per person, congregations sending a team should pay \$20 each. Learn more and register. Brought to you by the UUA. <https://t.ly/T2sU>

General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a 100% virtual event. All details can be found at the UUA GA website.

Circle 'Round for Justice · Healing · Courage is the theme for General Assembly 2021. General Assembly is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage. We share stories of the work happening at our Association. and in our congregations. We study ways to implement and live into our mission. UUA GA 2021 will incorporate recommendations from the Commission on Institution Change report, "Widening the Circle of Concern" and dialogue with the Article II Commission about our Principles and Purposes.

• Registration is open! Registration for virtual GA 2021 is \$200 per person. Learn about registration details. <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

• Volunteer Applications are open for those who want to volunteer to lower their costs to attend. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.

## IN AND AROUND PAINT BRANCH

### Spirituality Circle will meet virtually on Sunday, February 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=MXUrYjNMeFdLNXBPyjI1ZXhTVmJ4UT09>

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

### Men's Fellowship Breakfast online

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be back on the usual 2nd Saturday, February 13 at 10 am. 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](mailto:mensfellowship@pbuuc.org) for more information. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/409162940?pwd=bXJnTlBbd1BLRWVwLodpVC9LYXdxzd09>

Meeting ID: 409 162 940 Passcode: 638525

One tap mobile +13017158592,,409162940#,,,\*,638525# US (DC)

Call in from any phone for audio-only: 1 301 715 8592 US

(Washington DC) Meeting ID: 409 162 940 Passcode: 638525

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdTeosGa25>

### Virtual Third Wednesday Lunch

We'll meet online again Wednesday, February 17 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. -Keith

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/636354510?pwd=R2ZsK3lkZmpvbERTcitZUFBLkJKWZz09>

Meeting ID: 636 354 510 Passcode: 134047

One tap mobile +13017158592,,636354510#,,,\*,134047# US (DC)

Call in from any phone for audio-only: +1 301 715 8592 US (DC)

Meeting ID: 636 354 510 Passcode: 134047

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcg7GR2b17>

### Invitation to Light the Chalice

Upcoming worship themes include: Connecting in community; our racial climate; inspirational Black leaders; Spring, rebirth, renewal; Earth Day; "Bomba" dance – resilience and resistance; Updating US History; Mother's Day; Choir service. Perhaps one of these themes particularly resonates with you. You can volunteer to light and extinguish the Chalice for the service of your choice. The Worship Associates appreciate all who have participated in this way of connecting with the congregation in this time of zoomed worship services. You can discuss dates for volunteering to light the chalice by emailing [WorshipAssociates@pbuuc.org](mailto:WorshipAssociates@pbuuc.org)

### Note to Our Readers:

The Church Administrator is responsible for the production of the newsletter.

**SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES:** All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to: [branches@pbuuc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.