



# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

### March 2021

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**SUNDAYS at 10:00 am**

#### **ALL SERVICES ONLINE ONLY**

Streaming on Zoom <http://zoom.us/j/91647186425>  
and Facebook <http://Facebook.com/PBUUC/>  
Online Orders of Service: <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.

#### **MARCH 7 THE NEW HERESY: ANTI-RACISM AND THE FUTURE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

*Deb Rubenstein, Chris McCann and the Conflict  
Transformation Team; with Worship Associate Clark Ritz*  
UUs take great pride in our heretical past and the  
people who took bold stands against toxic, limiting  
cultures. We have an opportunity to engage in a  
new heresy, standing in opposition to our current  
toxic culture of white supremacy and racism. Noth-  
ing less than the future of Unitarian Universalism  
depends on it.

*The service will be followed by a Town Hall Meeting  
to present the "Racial Climate Assessment Report."*

#### **MARCH 14 ITS BEEN A YEAR!**

*Members and Friends of PBUUC  
with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller*  
Its been a year (A YEAR!!!) since the world shut  
down for COVID. Many of us were touched di-  
rectly by sickness or death, and all of us have  
been affected by isolation and fear. Today's ser-  
vice will commemorate what we've lost and  
learned, and celebrate how our UU faith and this  
Paint Branch community have helped us cope.

#### **MARCH 21 INSPIRATION FROM A TEE SHIRT, PART I**

*Worship Associate John Barr with the  
Worship Associate Team; and Special Music*  
Auction Winner Carol Carter Walker's Tee-Shirt  
includes these words of inspiration: "Speak Like  
Frederick, Challenge Like Rosa, Write Like Maya,  
Build Like C. J."

#### **MARCH 28 TBA—WHAT DO YOU WANT SEE?**

*Our dedicated team of Worship Associates is seeking  
YOUR ideas for services on to be presented on  
Sundays originally planned for Interim Caretaker  
Minister Russ Savage. Some Sundays will be guest  
UU ministers from other Congregations, but we  
really want to hear YOUR voices. Email [WorshipAssociates@pbuuc.org](mailto:WorshipAssociates@pbuuc.org) to get involved.*

*Hello Beloved Members of Paint Branch,*

I would like to begin my report today with a message of sincere gratitude for the time Rev. Russ Savage spent with us. He answered our call at a time of great need in our community and has helped lead us through a time of anxiety and change. We are extremely grateful for the months he has spent with us and wish him all the best as he honors his own needs and those of his family.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) recognizes that the announcement of the resignation of Rev. Russ came as a shock to many of us and that many may again feel uncertain about what lies ahead. But we are Paint Branch, and we are strong. The BOT immediately started working to make sure that Church operations will continue to run smoothly and that our worship services will continue uninterrupted. As plans evolve, we will communicate with you about how we are moving forward. In the meantime, we welcome all questions and feedback to be sent to us at [bot@pbuuc.org](mailto:bot@pbuuc.org).

This resignation may also prompt many to ask about the status of the search for a developmental minister. The search committee is working diligently in preparation to evaluate applicants once their names are released to us by the UUA. We anticipate receiving those names within the next few weeks and are hopeful we will have good news for you by May.

In addition, this week we are all reading and processing the report on the Racial Climate Assessment completed by Green Psychological Associates working with our own Conflict Transformation Team (CTT). I know that this report has been long anticipated and we, again, thank you all for your patience as we have worked to finalize and roll out the report. I know that many of you are eager to discuss its contents and may have questions about it. We hope you will join us on Sunday from noon—2 pm as the CTT and BOT join together to review and discuss the report with you.

And while these two items remain at the top of most people's minds this week, including the BOT, we did have a productive February meeting on the 23rd during which several key decisions were made. First we have updated our Community Minister Affiliation Agreement with Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo to include work with the Congregation's Prince George's County Leadership Action (PLAN) team as her primary gratis work. Additionally, we have begun work around planning for a stronger leadership development function at Paint Branch as well as what Church will look like for Paint Branch as we begin to consider our post-pandemic return. The Continuity Committee has made initial recommendations of criteria to consider for a safe return, and further discussion of those criteria will be part of our March meeting agenda.

Additionally, on February 17th, we submitted our annual required census data to the UUA. As part of that census we submitted a membership of 150 members. Five years ago our membership was 193; ten years ago it was 208. At its height in 1996, Paint Branch had 292 members. In light of this, we will be holding a Membership Summit in April to bring together lay leaders and interested members from across the Congregation to strate-

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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	Jim Flaherty	Lynn Louison
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### 🔗 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
Community Relations Team	Paul Wester
Conflict Transformation Team	Deb Rubenstein
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
LGBTQ+ Group	Carolyn Byerly
Men's Group	Keith Miller
Mental Health Support Group	Alice Tyler
Mom's Group	Penney Hughes
Offertory Counter Coordinator	Marilyn Pearl
Pagan Group	Abi Hanley
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
Welcoming Congregation	Eric Eldritch
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Retreat	Anne Hoover

### 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

[Director of Religious Exploration](#)

Chris McCann

[Chalice Dancers Director & Choreographer](#)

Sharon Werth

[Church Administrator](#)

Charles D. Bury, MBA

[Bookkeeper](#)

Hannah Oshin

[Sexton](#)

Al Addison

[Administrative Assistant](#)

Philip Browne

### Office Volunteers

Elizabeth Scheiman & Mary Massey (Alternating Tuesdays)

Will Snyder (Wednesdays)

Janet Overton (Fridays)

Alice Tyler (Thursdays)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CONTINUED

gize for how we can be more intentional about welcoming visitors and onboarding new members both while we remain virtual and after we return to our beloved building. Please stay tuned for more news about this event. We also recognize that we must carefully consider how to avoid burnout for the smaller number of volunteers being asked to do the same amount of work. Decisions need to be made about how to evolve our practices to match our changing size and needs. As part of this work the Finance Committee and Budget Leadership Team will be joining forces as one team on a trial basis through June. Based on lessons learned from their experience, we will consider making this consolidation permanent. We will also consider in what other areas we may be able to work together in different and creative ways to help our congregation run smoothly as we strive each day to make our community and world a better place.

Finally, last weekend was the kickoff of our Annual Stewardship Campaign. Now more than ever Paint Branch needs its members to dedicate their time, talent, and, yes, treasure to help us grow together in love and strength. Please consider donating as generously as you are able.

As always, I remain hopeful,

*Melissa Graham* Chair, PBUUC Board of Trustees  
[bot@pbuuc.org](mailto:bot@pbuuc.org). We also welcome all to join us for our monthly meetings.



## MINISTER'S NOTES

### Vaccines for All

I got my flu shot this week. My wife Trish and I took a taxi downtown to George Washington University. The shots were being administered by the hospital, but not at the hospital. Because of the demand, they had taken over a large building nearby on the campus and set it up for vaccinations. We were early for our appointments but they took us right in. Everything was well organized and running smoothly, even though there were large crowds. Like most shots, the shot itself took 15 seconds, but the paperwork took 30 minutes! When it was over there was even a nice, socially-distanced place to rest for a few minutes to be sure there were no side effects. They even made our appointments for the second dose in three weeks. Three weeks after that, we are looking forward to a visit from our daughter and our baby granddaughter.

Getting the vaccine for us was reassuring, but what about everybody else? According to news reports, the availability and distribution of the vaccine is racially skewed, with less available to minority neighborhoods. This is not hard to believe, since we know minority neighborhoods are not as well provided with hospitals and other medical facilities as White neighborhoods. Thinking back to the crowds at GWU where we got our shots, there were some Black and Brown faces in the crowd, but the majority were White. This does not represent the racial distribution of the population in Washington, DC.

The availability and distribution of vaccines gives us one more example of the racial inequity which exists in our country. It is encouraging to see that President Biden is taking this as a major element of his plans to "build back better." Each of us has a role to play, too, in pointing out and working to overcome the instances of racial injustice we see around us.

With hope for the future,

*Rev. Russ* - February 17, 2021

## CTT and CRT

You may have heard references to the CTT and the CRT and wondered what those acronyms stand for, what each group does, and who is serving on each team.

**Conflict Transformation Team (CTT):** At the June 2019 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to have the incoming Board appoint a team of members to find an appropriate mediator to help us "address both the obvious issues of communications protocols and what to do when they are breached, and to address the underlying issues that have received less attention." This motion was made in response to an item on the agenda concerning an open letter distributed by a lay leader which raised concerns about governance, right relations, and racism at PBUUC. In September 2019, the Board appointed a team whose current members include Paul Wester, Evangeline Wells, and Deb Rubenstein, and Carol Carter Walker (adjunct). Deb is the leader of this team and can be reached at [hrr95@gmail.com](mailto:hrr95@gmail.com) or 240-353-4905.

The CTT worked with consultants Carlton Green, PhD and Beth Douthirt Cohen, PhD on the creation of the Racial Climate Assessment Report, which was recently shared with the congregation and which we will discuss at the March 7 Town Hall meeting. Our consultants advised us that the first step in mediating any conflict - including race-related conflict - is to understand the dynamics that led to those conflicts. The goal of the CTT's work is to promote ways to consider how racism and white supremacy culture impact our dealings with each other, and how we can build a Beloved Community of love and justice.

**Community Relations Team (CRT):** In February 2019, the congregation adopted the [Covenant of Right Relations](#) and [Destructive Behavior Policy](#). These documents laid the groundwork for how to be in covenant with each other and how to address the situation when we are not. The members of the CRT serve as conversation facilitators when there is conflict and a need for support in having constructive and respectful conversations. They also facilitate some of the Reverberations sessions following worship services.

The members of the CRT are Lula Beatty, Carol Boston, Deb Rubenstein, and Paul Wester. Paul is the leader of this team and can be reached at [paulwester1@gmail.com](mailto:paulwester1@gmail.com) or 301-807-4299.

Building Beloved Community is deeply challenging work. It requires reflection, openness to change and a willingness to be comfortable with discomfort. We all have contributions to make in this effort. The members of the CTT and CRT welcome your feedback and ideas as we move forward.

*Deb Rubenstein*, CTT Team Leader, CRT Member



## FAMILY WORSHIP

Hello my beloved Paint Branchers, and happy March to you! Soon we'll be turning the corner to spring, to green things and blossoms. This is good news, because haven't we all been through it? Isn't it time to see things grow and bloom? What a complicated year it's been, in the world, in our country and our homes, in our congregation. And spring comes, as it always does. Filled with promise and renewal. What might we renew at Paint Branch? What might we need to prune so that we can flourish? What seeds will we plant and what do we hope to grow? Paint Branch has historically been a rugged place, finding ways to stay in community through even the hardest times. I know that Paint Branch has the resilience to face our recent challenges and to thrive as we consider what our future might be.

Last year, just before we closed the building, I invited our kids on a field trip to the lower level of the meeting house. You may remember, because we learned on that day that sound carries quite efficiently from the lower level to the upper. I asked the kids to dream BIG about how we could use that space. They delivered. They imagined rock climbing walls, a meditation space with fountains, a conversation pit with bean bag chairs. Showers and washing machines so that when we host Warm Nights, people would be able to avail themselves of those services. They understood that those things were not likely to happen, and we talked about how close we might be able to come to what they imagined. Because what they imagined was a space that could fill a lot of needs for a variety of ages, not just for our church community, for our wider community and those we serve.

My desire is for Paint Branch to begin imagining BIG, just like our kids on that day. What could we be for not just for ourselves, but for the wider community? What might we have to offer to each other and to our neighbors? What do we want to be KNOWN for? And how do we realize this big dream? How do we move forward through this long winter into a bright and blossoming spring? We have a lot of discernment ahead of us and I have confidence that we can realize our wildest dreams, one bloom at a time.

Yours,

*Chris McCann,*

Director of Religious Exploration

## Jubilee and Me

I came away from Jubilee changed in both my emotions and thoughts about race. It was not academic and it was experiential. I found it a safe place to share both experiences related to race and current fears and hopes with a group of people from a wide variety of racial backgrounds. Exploring our personal history of race, when we became aware of race and the events in our lives related to race brought back memories. One was moving to Texas at the age of six from a White fishing village in Canada. The Black part of town started two blocks from us, and I was told I was using the wrong water fountain at the grocery store. Another was remembering the real estate agent who sold a home in a White neighborhood to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and I sat in when she came to talk to my father about the threatening phone calls and hate mail she was receiving. These memories and many more set the stage for the weekend.

I cringed and at times withdrew during the presentation of the timeline of racism in this country, including details of slavery and lynching and legislation that enforced both actual and de facto segregation. A video that showed segments of movies, advertisements and pictures of products from around 1900 to 1970 made me squirm with discomfort. Most I remembered. With decades under my belt and becoming more aware of race, I viewed these clips quite differently than in the past and with a visceral reaction of revulsion. I wondered how I missed the implicit and at times explicit messages first time around.

The characteristics of White supremacy culture as described made it obvious to me that the culture of always trying to be nice I am from includes avoiding conflict, a sense of urgency, paternalism and an emphasis on perfection among other traits. I am pondering how these habits can be changed in myself, the PBUUC community, and the nation. A phrase that has stuck in my mind is "Whites need to learn how to repudiate privilege to restore community." Instead of being paralyzed by guilt and shame, I repeat to myself the call to action attributed to Gandhi, "be the change you want to see."

Much of what happened for me at Jubilee occurred in the breakout groups with deep sharing of our experiences. At one breakout session we related our personal racial history to a diverse group and the life experiences shared were gut wrenching to me and pointed out the White privilege I grew up in. During another breakout group, each group investigated the events around the deaths of one Black individual less known than Freddie Gray or Trayvon Martin. We then reported to the group. Similarities and differences in how the community, law enforcement and the judicial system handled the events were striking. It was painful to review the horror of these events.

In short, Jubilee jolted me out of feeling that there was little I was capable of doing to beginning to develop some action steps. I became an even bigger supporter of adaptation of the 8th principle since the Seven principles do not take us out of the dominant culture. The next Jubilee III workshop is scheduled for March 19th -21st, and registration is now open. More Jubilees are coming.

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

Yours in Faith, *Margaret McLellan,* PBUUC Trustee

## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Group



### PBUUC New LGBTQ+ Group and Welcoming Congregation Renewal Project

PBUUC's recently formed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) group met twice in February to get better acquainted with each other and to discuss the group's goals for social, spiritual, and educational activities in the new year. Sessions and activities are open to LGBTQ and allies who are either members of or newcomers to Paint Branch.

**Paint Branch LGBTQ+ Group:** At our first meeting February 5, 2021 we introduced ourselves and discussed the UUA Welcoming Congregation Renewal Project, an intersectional initiative that is being sponsored by PBUUC's Diversity/Anti-racism Transition Team (DARTT). At our second Meeting February 18 we shared a bit about our personal histories at Paint Branch. We also shared links for information provided by the UUA (see below) and discussed links to documentaries about LGBTQ+ history. We decided to continue with monthly meetings and monthly movie nights that further our social and educational goals. We will also undertake a project to retrieve LGBTQ+ history at Paint Branch soon.

**Welcoming Congregation Renewal (WCR):** In 1987 the UUA initiated the Welcoming Congregation Program. This effort was led at Paint Branch by Ed Kobe and his husband Al Usack who worked with wonderful congregational allies: Bettie Young, Marj Donn, and many more. In 1995, Paint Branch became a UUA Welcoming Congregation. Over the years, Paint Branch members in our congregation worked for social justice, including Marriage Equality, the Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell and overturning the Ban of Transgender Service members. Paint Branch has amazing allies in the LGBTQ+ community ... friends, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters who welcome LGBTQ+ people. We have so much more history at Paint Branch to research and document and post online. And now the UUA challenges the current 800 welcoming congregations to document, review and renew our welcome. (Watch the Branches for future information and updates on the WCR.)

**Sunday Morning Service:** LGBTQ+ issues were also featured in the Sunday Morning Worship Service led by Interim Caretaker Minister Rev. Russ Savage, with Worship Associate Nori Myrdon-Ward. Among many participants from across the congregation, Carolyn Byerly spoke about her experience with Paint Branch's welcome, the leadership of Rev. Diane Teichert, and her (Carolyn's) wedding to Kay McGraw at Paint Branch, as well as the formation of our new LGBTQ+ Group. Eric Eldritch spoke about his experiences with un-welcoming churches in comparison with Paint Branch's welcome. Both Carolyn and Eldritch expressed gratitude for the work that the congregation has done in past that led to our inclusion and experiences in the present. Both outlined hopes for future ways for all Paint Branch members to be involved.

#### Ways to Participate:

- 👉 Attend PB LGBTQ+ Group Monthly Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the Month at 7 pm via Zoom
- 👉 Attend PB LGBTQ+ Group Monthly Movies: 4th Saturday of Month at 8 pm via Zoom
- 👉 Join PB LGBTQ+ Group New Facebook Group
- 👉 View UUA Website Welcoming Congregations <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>
- 👉 Subscribe to UUA's Blog "UUplift" <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog>
- 👉 Write an email sharing your memories of Paint Branch becoming a Welcoming Congregation

Contact co-chairs: Carolyn Byerly ([cbyerly@earthlink.net](mailto:cbyerly@earthlink.net)) or Eldritch ([e.eldritch@me.com](mailto:e.eldritch@me.com)) to share a story, receive a Zoom links for meetings, or a Facebook invitation to join the PBUUC LGBTQ+ Group.

## Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee announces that they oppose the SC MagLev project (Super Collider Magnetic Levitation train) by BWRR (Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail).

Here are some of the reasons we oppose the train:

1. It is not the solution to reducing vehicles on our roads. Cost to ride would be an average of \$60 one-way and could rise to be an \$80 ticket. With this price the ridership needed to support this train is highly questionable.
2. The stops are only in Baltimore City, BWI and ends at Washington, DC providing no benefits to Prince Georges County or Anne Arundel County.
3. The destruction of Greenbelt Forest Preserve research at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC)—this the premier agricultural research in the United States, wetlands up and down the BW Parkway are in danger of chemical runoffs from the construction.
4. The impact on communities would be great, cutting through minority communities, destroying recreation areas, tunneling under and next to schools (tunneling for the Baltimore subway caused shifting foundations), ventilation shafts (using 1.5 acres) needed every 3-4 miles in case of fire—more land taken and release of dangerous gases and chemicals.
5. Cost is at \$16 billion presently. The cost to the California bullet train has risen by billions from its start, and millions more have been reported in the last few months. Maglev would need to be supported by the state and our taxes.
6. Maglev would most likely use five times the electricity now in order to cool the magnets. This means more energy, not less.
7. AMTRAK is the better alternative because of ridership cost, the upgrades, over 21,000 route-miles of track across 46 states. We need to keep supporting without diverting funds to an unproven experimental train. (The Japanese train is under changes that have not been finished.)
8. Safety - the German train in 2006 in Lathen ended with a crash where 70% of riders died and 30% were critically injured. This train is no longer running.
9. Radon gas is present in Anne Arundel County and elsewhere. Tunneling may very well release pockets of this gas.
10. The Rules of Applicability are not being applied to the process in reviewing the MagLev. This means that BWRR is not explaining how they will remediate problems until after they get permission to start construction. This could be an amazing rise in cost in order to fix problems as they work.

This is only a partial listing of concerns. Please visit the sites below and consider commenting on the DEIS (Draft of the Environmental Impact Statement).

Facebook [facebook.com/groups/CitizensAgainstSCMaglev](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CitizensAgainstSCMaglev)  
 Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit at [mcrt-action.org](http://mcrt-action.org)  
 Feel free to contact - Kathy Bartolomeo at 301-928-4326 or [kbartolo30@gmail.com](mailto:kbartolo30@gmail.com).

## Stewardship Committee



March heralds the arrival of Spring and the 2021 Stewardship Campaign “[Connected in Community](#).” As with all things during COVID-19, we have gone virtual! Anita Williams has created a webpage on the PBUUC website where you can find all things stewardship. You can even fill out your pledge card. Of course, we will have visiting stewards to reach out to talk to you over the phone, or zoom to answer any questions you have about pledging. Check out the page at: <http://pbuuc.org/pledges/>

Why are we asking for pledges? The church spends at least \$380,000 for personnel, maintaining the building and grounds, providing enriching RE and worship programs, working for social justice and contributing to the UUA. With about 150 members and 100 pledge units that works out to \$3,000 per average pledge which is only slightly higher than our average pledge last year. Increasing your pledge even more will allow us to purchase new music, increase our contribution to the UUA, program a meaningful ingathering for when we are able to resume in-person gatherings, and provide for continued streaming services.

All pledges, large and small, help us maintain your church programs and facilities, and show your commitment to Paint Branch. Pledges from our members and friends comprise 80 percent of our budget. The other two major sources of income are leasing to Silver Oaks and the annual auction. Knowing how much we can count on contributions from our congregations allows for better programming.

The Connected in Community Stewardship Campaign will end at the end of March, so don't delay making your pledge. You have several options to complete your pledge: 1) print out the pledge card from the webpage and fill it out, then take a picture of it with your smart phone and email it to [stewardship@pbuuc.org](mailto:stewardship@pbuuc.org) or 2) Tell your Visiting Steward how you want to pledge and they will complete your pledge card for you and we will email you a copy.

After the service on Sunday, April 4 we will all celebrate the end of the campaign.



## Budget Leadership Team

Springtime means a reawakening of the earth. It is also the time to begin planning for the next church year. The Budget Leadership Team (aka BLT) has begun meeting to build the budget for next year. To do this we take information from the Stewardship Team on expected pledge levels. We reach out to the Board of Trustees, committees and the membership to determine the congregation's priorities. We ask each committee what they expect to spend next year. We compile this information to build a budget that we hope reflects the best use of our congregation's money.

Where are we now? The members of the BLT are reaching out to committees and church leadership for their proposed programs. We are asking for three levels of requests – “the pie in the sky” level, “the keep programs strong” level, and the “bare bones” level. An example of a very worthy proposal that qualifies as “pie in the sky” would be the installation of electric recharging stations in the parking lot. An example of “keep programs strong” would be additional training in Our Whole Lives (OWL), the lifespan sexuality education program, for RE. I am sure the congregation knows what “bare bones” budget request look like.

Predicting expenses for the 2021-2022 church year is extra difficult because we have no idea when we will be able to gather in person once again. The BLT is making an aspirational assumption for budgeting purposes that in-person church programming could resume in October 2021. We don't know that this will be true, but it could happen.

What can you do as a member or friend of the congregation?

- ☞ Increase your pledge through the Stewardship Campaign.
- ☞ Work with committee leadership to brainstorm programming ideas, and how much they cost.
- ☞ Volunteer to present the request to the BLT during the month of March and April.
- ☞ Come to Open BLT meetings in May to express your opinions about the draft budget.

The members of the BLT look forward to learning more about committees and church plans and goals.

## Rev. Diane Teichert, Minister Emerita

### Time to Topple Maryland's Musical Monument to the Confederacy!

Bills to repeal the current pro-Confederacy State Song have been introduced and were heard in the House on February 24 and are scheduled for hearings in the Senate on March 11 at 1 pm.

It's time for you to contact your Legislators! Don't assume which way they will vote—they should hear from their constituents regardless.

If you don't know who represents you, enter your address here: [Members - Find My Representatives](#)

If you happen to be represented by a Senator who is a member of the Health and Government Operations Committee in the House, we **really** need you to contact them ASAP, because the Bills will be heard by that committee on March 11th! To quickly find out who the committee members are click here: [Committees - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee](#)

By including the link to the video, which features PBUUC's Allison Hughes, Arun Ivatury, and Montana Monardes in our advocacy messages in favor of Repeal, we are introducing our legislators to what we think is the strongest contender for its replacement. This will help its chances down the road!

Here is a sample email (or script for a phone call) to use or adapt as you wish:

Subject: Support Bill (HB0389/SB 0008) to Repeal Maryland's Confederate State Song

Dear Senator/Delegate (name),

As your constituent, I urge you to vote to repeal Maryland's Confederate State Song.

Maryland is the only state in the country with a Confederate symbol for its State song. Its lyrics glorify Maryland's shameful slave-holding history. To think that children have been singing this awful song for seven decades makes me cringe with angry embarrassment.

Let this be the year for us to topple Maryland's musical monument to the Confederacy and send a strong message that all are welcome in today's Maryland.

Members of my faith community are among the diverse Maryland singers to record a virtual chorus performance of a contender to replace the old song with one that is fun to sing, with lyrics we can sing with pride. Plus it is a great teaching tool, with its images of famous people and places of Maryland. When you have five minutes, please watch our video [Maryland, My Maryland: The Free State Song](#). Please vote to Repeal the current State Song in 2021! Let's choose a replacement after the pandemic subsides.

Sincerely,  
(name)

(you must include your address so they can tell that you are a constituent; including your phone number is optional)

## Diversity/Antiracism Transformation Team (DARTT)



### DARTT Launches Book Group Wednesday, March 10

Want to know more about the lives of African Americans through the lens of African

American women? This Book Group, led by new member Lula Beatty, 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. The group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, starting March 10. Our 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. Interested? Sign up at [dartt@pbuuc.org](mailto:dartt@pbuuc.org).

### Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday, March 17

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

### DARTT RECOMMENDS

#### Jubilee Anti-Racism Workshop Learning Together About Systemic Racism

Friday, March 19 to Sunday, March 21

Sponsored by Central East Region, UUA

Do you wish to deepen your understanding of how race and ethnicity play out in our institutions and our daily lives? Are you ready to take a leading role to nurture a multicultural future in the face of opposing cultural currents? Come join us for this life-changing weekend! Several Paint Branchers have attended past sessions of Jubilee and found it a valuable tool to add to their skills. More information and registration at: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/calendar/jubilee-3-0321>

## IN AND AROUND PAINT BRANCH

### Quest Discussion Group

TIME CHANGE!!! This Sunday, March 7, 2021, Quest Discussion Group will meet via Zoom at 3:00-4:15pm after the Town Hall meeting to discuss the Chapter 6, *The Sorting Machine of The Tyranny of Merit: What Has Become of the Common Good* by Michael Sandel. For more information about Quest or how to join the Zoom session, please contact Tess at [tmorriso@illinois.edu](mailto:tmorriso@illinois.edu)

### Men's Fellowship Breakfast online

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be back on the usual 2nd Saturday, March 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=bXJnTlBBd1BLRWVwLodpVC9LYXdxdz09>  
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/409162940?pwd=bXJnTlBBd1BLRWVwLodpVC9LYXdxdz09>

### Virtual Third Wednesday Lunch

Virtual Third Wednesday Lunch: We'll meet online again Wednesday, March 17 at 1PM. Have your dining area and your lunch ready to show off. To commemorate the date, have some green beer, green tea, or green vegetables.

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=R2ZsK3lkZmpvbERTcitZUFBkLkZWZz09>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/636354510?pwd=R2ZsK3lkZmpvbERTcitZUFBkLkZWZz09>

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/636354510?pwd=R2ZsK3lkZmpvbERTcitZUFBkLkZWZz09>

### 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.