

# BRANCHES



## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

# April 2021

# SUNDAYS at 10:00 am ALL SERVICES ONLINE ONLY

Streaming on Zoom <a href="http://zoom.us/j/91647186425">http://zoom.us/j/91647186425</a> and Facebook <a href="http://pauc.org/news/">http://pauc.org/news/</a> Online Orders of Service: <a href="http://pbuuc.org/news/">http://pbuuc.org/news/</a> 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.

#### APRIL4 SURVIVAL AND SALVATION: WHAT SAVES YOU?

Rev. Lynn Strauss, Minister; with Worship Associate Ebony Contreras and the Choir

Passover, Easter and Spring arrive to tempt us with life, even when it seems against all odds. Many myths, parables and stories speak and sing of resurrection. Are there moments in your own life when someone you loved invited you to begin again, to be born anew, to praise life in all its joys and sorrows? May we join together to practice revolutionary love—that is our heritage and our calling. Join us to consider the meanings of our lives.

### APRIL 11 THE ETHICAL JOURNEY OF GENE EDITING

Reverend Lynn Strauss, Minister; with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller

Rev. Strauss will offer reflections on the science and possibilities of gene editing as considered by author, Walter Isaacson, in his latest book, The Code Breaker. Keeping up with big scientific breakthroughs has been a liberal religious quest, beginning with the work of Darwin and up to popular scientist, Neil deGrasse Tyson, just to name two. Come with a curious mind and a heart that knows that nature is beautiful.

#### APRIL 18 SC MAGLEV - NOT THE SOLUTION

The PBUUC Green Team with Worship Associate Clark Ritz and Special Guests

The Green Team will present a service explaining the SC Maglev project. Implementing it would be done at great cost to our environment, to our lands, citizens, and wildlife. Speakers will be Sam Droege, a wildlife biologist at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and also Brian Almquist from <a href="Stop This Train">Stop This Train</a>. We will have time after the service for questions and how you can help by commenting on the DEIS.

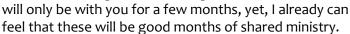
## APRIL 25 RESISTANCE, RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL

PBUUC Chalice Dancers—Sharon Werth, Director and Choreographer; with Worship Associate Nori Myrdon-Ward We have resisted by marching, advocating and working for justice, and thereby creating our own liberation. We have been resilient in finding a balance between self-care and self-determination as we focus on ourselves and our community. We dance so that we may renew and expand our sense of wholeness and oneness in a larger community within the web of life, light and love.

# MINISTER'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome I have received at Paint Branch. I know you have been through a lot of change, and I



I have served congregations in Knoxville, TN (1991-2000), River Road UU in Bethesda (2000-2005) and the Rockville UU Congregation (2005-2019). I retired from the Rockville congregation in 2019, took one year off, and then took up drawing, painting and walking during the COVID quarantine. I am pleased to have a chance to serve with you.

I am with you from March 15th to July 30th, 2021 as your half-time minister.

I live in Takoma Park with my husband Dave. We have four adult children and eight grandchildren. Our daughter Mariya Strauss and her husband and two kids live in Baltimore. Our daughter Kandra Strauss-Riggs and her husband and two kids live in Hyattsville. Our daughter Taryn Strauss and her husband and twin boys live in Atlanta where Taryn serves as senior minister of the Atlanta UU congregation. Our son Ethan and his wife and two kids live in Abingdon, MD.

My primary commitments to Paint Branch over the next few months will focus on Worship and Preaching, Pastoral Care, and Support to the Board and staff as well as to Volunteers. I love worship and the crafting of sermons, and I love participation and feedback on worship services and sermons. So send your thoughts and feelings and let's have meaningful fun together. You have an amazing leadership team in place, so I invite you to relax a bit as we welcome spring together.

My first worship service with you will be March 28th at 10 am on Zoom. The theme will be "Human Kindness Overflowing," a reflection how kindness is never far away if we pay attention. I will also preach on Easter Sunday, April 4th, offering a sermon titled; "Survival and Salvation: What Saves You?" On April 11th, I will draw from a recent book by Walter Isaacson, "The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race."

I look forward to discovering the history and essence of the Paint Branch UU congregation.

Blessings,

Reverend Strauss

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## **PBUUC Leadership Directory**

### Solution Street Service S

email: BOT@pbuuc.org

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

#### **Worship Associates**

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

#### Pastoral Care Associates

Kathy Bartolomeo Jim Flaherty Lynn Louison

#### Chartered Committees and Teams

Arts Council Pat Tompkins (Visual Arts-ACTING) Adult RE Leo Jones Tricia Most & Kathi Yu Auction **Budget Leadership Team Buildings & Grounds** Peter Wathen-Dunn Community Relations Team Paul Wester Continuity & COVID Response Reese Myrdon Diversity/Anti-Racism Carmelita Carter-Sykes, & Transformation Team (DARTT) **Denominational Affairs** Don Gerson, Chair

**Electronic Communications** 

Endowment Finance

Green Team (co-chairs)

Leasing Membership Ministry Multigenerational Religious Exploration Team (MRET)

Nominating Personnel

Racial Climate Leadership Team Religious Education Discernment Social Action (SAC) Stewardship

Pat Tompkins (Music)

Kathi Yu & Wendy Schlegel

Ebony Contreras, Co-Chairs

Bettie Young, cluster rep. contact church office

Chris Evans **Elaine Shell** 

Moe Cunningham & Kathleen Bartolomeo

Joe Dever VACANT

Chris Evans

Muriel Morisey & Jennifer Wright Katherine Darlington

& Tricia Most, Co-Chairs Carmelita Carter-Sykes (ACTING) Moe Cunningham, Sabrina Jones,

& Janet Overton Deb Rubenstein Chris McCann, DRE Kathleen Bartolomeo Groups and Activities

Bookstore Raman Pathik Sherry Mitchell **Chalice Dancers** Jeanne Judd Children's Choir David Chapman Choir Coffee Coordinator VACANT Community Café Alice Tyler

Community Learning Center Creative Force Writers Group

Food for Thought Handcraft Circle LGBTQ+ Group Men's Group

Mental Health Support Group

Mom's Group

Offertory Counter Coordinator Pagan Group **Quest Discussion Group** Shamanic Journeying

SAC Special Collections Coordinator

Spirituality Circle

Sunday Sound & Facilities Volunteer Team

Third Wednesday Lunch Club Ushers

Warm Nights Webmasters

Welcome Table Greeters Welcoming Congregation

Widowed Persons Support Group Women's Retreat

Carmelita Carter-Sykes

**Ebony Contreras** Mary Rooker **Ebeth Porter** Carolyn Byerly Keith Miller Alice Tyler Penney Hughes Marilyn Pearl Abi Hanley Tess Morrison

Mary Rooker Carmelita Carter-Sykes

**Amy Steiner** Keith Miller Cathy Helmold Lori Snyder VACANT Andy McIntire Mark Shute

Anita Williams Eric Eldritch Jeri Holloway Anne Hoover

#### **Interim Caretaker Minister**

Rev. Lynn Strauss

**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

David Chapman Music Director & Pianist **Director of Religious Exploration** Chris McCann Chalice Dancers Director & Choreographer Sharon Werth **Church Administrator** Charles D. Bury, MBA **Bookkeeper** Hannah Oshin Sexton Al Addison Philip Browne **Administrative Assistant** 

#### **Office Volunteers**

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

Alice Tyler (Thursdays)

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Good Day Members and Friends of Paint Branch,

I hope this month's letter finds you all well. Thank you to all who attended our Quarterly Town Hall Meeting on March 21st. In case you missed it, here are some key updates shared at that event:

- ♦ Welcome Reverend Lynn Strauss who is joining us from March 15 - July 30 2021.
- → The Capital Campaign is still in the planning stages. A postponement of one year has been implemented because of the pandemic and ministry transition. The Capital Campaign is now going to be held in Winter 2022 and Spring 2023 with construction planned for Summer 2023.
- ♦ Our Developmental Ministry Search Team is in the process of evaluating candidates and hopes to be able to make a recommendation to the Board soon.
- \* Religious Education is getting a makeover! Join our Director of Religious Education and members of both the Multigenerational Religious Education Team (MRET) and Religious Education Discernment Team during coffee hour on April 11th, May 16th, and May 30th as we explore what, why and how we "Come to Practice."
- ♦ Our website is also getting a makeover. Stay tuned for the rollout of this new and improved site by early summer.
- ♦ A Membership Summit is being planned for a Saturday in April (TBD). If you have ideas or thoughts about how we can better welcome visitors and onboard new members, please reach out to the BOT for more information about this event.
- ❖ In follow-up to the release of the Racial Climate Assessment Report, a Racial Climate Leadership Team composed of members of the Conflict Transformation Team and the Thriving Congregations Workgroup of the BOT is working to build a coalition to implement recommendations made in the report. Please stay tuned for more information coming soon. And if you haven't yet seen the video on the 8th UU Principle, please log into our YouTube channel and check it out.

Our town hall was followed by the meeting of the BOT on Tuesday, March 23rd. At this meeting the BOT committed to prioritize paying our Fair Share contribution to the UUA in both this and future years. We also began discussion about when and how to begin resuming in-person activities. For now it is important to understand that Paint Branch is not resuming any in-person activities prior to June 30. All activities should remain virtual at this time. Decisions about how we may roll out changes after this date will be determined in the coming months. If you have any thoughts or considerations you would like to share with the BOT regarding the resumption of in-person activities, please send us an email or participate in our Public Comments Coffee Hours on the Sunday prior to each BOT meeting. Our next Public Comments Session will be on Sunday, April 25th.

I come to Paint Branch to practice commitment and hope. May commitment and hope guide us all as we move forward together.

Melissa Graham, Chair, Board of Trustees

## **Budget Leadership Team**

#### **Next Fiscal Year Budget Requests Are Needed**

Each new fiscal year a PBUUC budget is created based on projected income (committed Pledges, expected Leases/Rentals and potential general fundraisers). Expense budgets need to be established for church overhead costs (e.g., personnel, utilities, office operations, mortgage) and also for committees and teams led by volunteers. During the next few weeks the Budget development team has scheduled several opportunities for Committee/Team Leads to meet with the budget team to explain their requests for budgeted funds beginning with the July 1, 2021 start of the next fiscal year. If you chair a committee or team, please contact <a href="BLT@PBUUC.org">BLT@PBUUC.org</a> to submit your proposed budget requests and schedule a meeting time. Three levels of requests are desired: minimal, nominal and coveted. Once all requests from staff and team leads are reviewed and negotiated, a candidate budget will be submitted to BOT for changes/approval, and the resulting budget will be submitted to the congregation in June for approval. If you haven't yet heard from the budget team, contact the email above. The BLT is organizing listening sessions for April 11 and 18. If you are interested, please look for updates in the ContinUUm.

## **Warm Nights**

# PBUUC Members Directly Support Local Neighbors in Need through Community Service Solidarity

Many of you may be familiar with Paint Branch's Warm Nights initiative in partnership with Community Crisis Services Inc. (CCSI) This was an annual partnership in which Paint Branch hosted unsheltered guests in our sanctuary for a week each year. This provided much needed support to our neighbors in need who were going through tough times.

Now during the pandemic, instead of local places of worship sheltering those in need, CCSI has pivoted by hosting 260 home insecure people in need within a local hotel in our community.

Paint Branch members have committed to feed and support 100 people currently in the warm nights CCSI hotel-shelter on the last Saturday of each month until July (with the potential to continue if we wish).

The next Care Day is April 24th. Paint Branch members will drop off their food and donations directly to the hotel-shelter at 10:30 am. Paint Branchers have already signed up for 90 of the 100 meals needed to meet our April commitment (and as of this writing, it's not even April yet!)

To learn more and support our neighbors in need, please review the sign-up information sheet.

CCSI - PBUUC Community Service 4-24. Please contact Ebony Contreras <a href="mailto:eta-24">eta-24</a>. Please contact Ebony Contreras <a href="mailto:eta-24">eta-24</a>. Please contact

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

This month, I am reintroducing monthly anti-racism resources in the Branches and ContinUUm, and someday when we can hold paper orders of service again, they'll be there, too. These resources are meant to provide a variety of ways to engage anti-racism. Typically you will find an article from a paper or magazine, a podcast episode or series, a book, a song, a video, and something for specifically for kids.

My hope is that you will try out one or all of these resources and maybe share the resource with someone and speak with them about it. I know that having trusted folx to speak with can help make practicing anti-racism less scary. I'm participating in Beloved Conversations, an anti-racism learning and unlearning experience offered by Meadville Lombard Theological School, and I am in a learning pod with fellow Unitarian Universalist professionals. My time with them is filled with sacred learning, hard conversations and community. We are covenanted together in this work, which creates space for us to be brave. So I wonder... with whom could you covenant to practice anti-racism? What would your covenant be? What sacred promises could you hold yourselves to? Could you create space to be brave? To make mistakes and to learn from them?

I invite you this month to find someone with whom you can have these conversations and check out the covenant website for UU Allies for Racial Equity <a href="https://www.uuare.org/covenant">https://www.uuare.org/covenant</a>. Perhaps you and your practice partner can use this covenant as a start for your own. And email me at <a href="mailto:dmre@pbbuc.org">dmre@pbbuc.org</a> and tell me about your covenant. Yours in practice,

Chris McCann

Director of Religious Exploration

## Jubilee III for Me

by Carmelita Carter-Sykes

I am a three-time attendee of the Jubilee Workshops. It just keeps getting better and better. The professional materials were well researched, prepared, and delivered to the attendees by a professional, experienced staff, completely knowledgeable in this content, process, and technology. In my opinion, Jubilee is the best workshop UUs have to engage in matters of race together. We were able to examine the development and continuation of white supremacy culture and the way it manifests itself in our daily lives. This Jubilee workshop feels like progress.

## **Anti-Racism Resources**

**Article:** New York Times Your Home's Value Is Based on Racism: http://nytimes.com/2021/03/20/opinion/home-value-race-taxes.html

**Book:** The Good Immigrant: 26 Writers Reflect on America edited by Nikesh Shukla & Chimene Suleyman

**Podcast:** Nice White Parents—A five-part series on building better schools and what gets in the way

https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/podcasts/nice-white-parents-serial.html (found wherever you get your podcasts)

**Song:** Brown Skin Girl by Beyonce <a href="https://www.youtube.com/">https://www.youtube.com/</a> watch?v=vRFSoMYTC1I

Children's Story: IntersectionAllies We Make Room for All https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRFSoMYTC1I

Mini-film: from the New York Times: Why We're Awkward https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000004818673/whywere-awkward.html?playlistId=100000004821064

## **Adult Faith Development**

#### Adult Faith Development (AFD) Program Launches In April

Come one, come all! The PBUUC AFD Program has launched with multiple classes in April and May. Classes include: (1) The History and Impact of the 8th Principle, (2) Earth Stewards, (3) How to Pray: Rediscovering Prayer from a UU Perspective, and (4) Hinduism – A Brief Overview.

Our program is structured similarly to an academic calendar with four terms: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The goal is to regularly host four classes per term via Zoom. The current Spring and Summer terms include PBUUC instructors and external instructors. All currently scheduled classes are free.

The benefits of the AFD Program are manifold, including:

- 1. Inter-congregational Collaboration
- 2. Public Outreach/Membership
- 3. Facilitate Connection & Growth

The long-term strategy is to build strong and collaborative AFD relationships with local UU congregations to share resources and expand our class offerings. Seven local congregations have been invited to participate in our program and the UUs of Central Delaware congregation will join us at the April 13<sup>th</sup> "The History and Impact of the 8th Principle" class as their congregation is in discernment of the Principle and hungry to learn more.

The AFD Program is ALWAYS looking for leaders to share their wisdom and expertise! We invite you to recommend yourself or someone else by submitting your Recommendation Proposal to Ebony Contreras at <a href="mailto:etaras1@yahoo.com">etaras1@yahoo.com</a>. Please share the title of the class, description, potential dates, and contact information for the instructor(s). Please put "PBUUC AFD" in the subject line. Proposals should clearly align with at least one of our principles and/or sources while deepening our understanding of our UU living tradition.

Register for classes here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ehxjx7nb">https://tinyurl.com/ehxjx7nb</a>
View the Spring schedule here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/vmc5ssw3">https://tinyurl.com/vmc5ssw3</a>

# We invite you to join us



# "Resistance, Resilience & Renewal"

Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am (Virtual)

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church <a href="https://www.pbuuc.org/">https://www.pbuuc.org/</a> 301-937-3666

The Paint Branch Chalice Dancers, Sharon Werth, Director Nori Myrdon-Ward, Worship Associate David Chapman, Music Director

Service link: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/91647186425">https://zoom.us/j/91647186425</a>
OOS will be available at <a href="http://pbuuc.org/news/">http://pbuuc.org/news/</a>

We have resisted by marching, advocating, and working for justice, and thereby creating our own liberation. We have been resilient in finding a balance between self-care and self-determination as we focus on healing ourselves and our community. We dance in collaboration as we glimpse a light of hope. We renew a sense of wholeness and oneness in a larger community within the web of life and love.

## **Social Action Committee**

Some good news regarding the SC Maglev. The deadline for commenting on the DEIS has been extended to May 24. We hope that Paint Branch members and visitors will make their voices heard by making a comment on this important issue.

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, historical areas and forest preserves. The cost is huge.

This site allows you to perform an address search and shows the routes of the SCMaglev. <a href="https://dcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?">https://dcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?</a> id=ae88f4ed5cff435cb96b999obc15e997

The BWRR released the Draft Environmental Impact Study on January 22, 2021. Please send your comments by email, letter, and web form, according to instructions at <a href="https://bwmaglev.info/index.php/contact-us">bwmaglev.info/index.php/contact-us</a> by May 24. You can comment many times.

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

-- Kathy Bartolomeo, Social Action Committee Chair



## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

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. <u>Circle 'Round for Justice • Healing • Courage</u> is the theme for GA 2021. GA is a time to circle 'round in community. We circle 'round in care and healing; for liberation and justice; and for love and courage.

Registration is \$200. There may still be financial assistance available from the UUA. Anyone may attend. Delegates from congregations are credentialed and authorized to vote.

Every congregation decides how to select member delegates, whether or not it will instruct delegates how to vote, and if it will provide financial support. Currently, Paint Branch does not provide financial support. Based on our certified membership of 150, Paint Branch is entitled to three delegates. If you are interested in being a delegate, please send your contact information to the Denominational Affairs Committee at dac@pbuuc.org. As is our custom, delegates will be named by vote at the June 6 Annual Meeting. At that time, the congregation will also determine whether or not delegates may vote their conscience or be directed by the congregation. Find out more about GA, including delegates, at uua.org/ga

# **Stewardship Committee**



A huge THANK YOU! to all who participated in this year's Stewardship Campaign. The final total of pledges will be announced with our celebration on Sunday, April 4. It is looking good so far. Our theme this year is "Connected in Community." Our visiting stewards focused on this theme with reaching out to everyone to build these community connections. If they missed you, or their email wound up in your spam email box, you can reach out to the committee at <a href="steward-ship@pbuuc.org">steward-ship@pbuuc.org</a>. Our campaign this year featured six testimonials, which you can view on the PBUUC youtube channel. Here is the link to the March 14<sup>th</sup> service: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX92gn7Rz7M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iX92gn7Rz7M</a>

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.

If you haven't already done so and are now ready to make a pledge, you can still do so by visiting the stewardship webpage: <a href="http://www.pbuuc.org/pledges/">http://www.pbuuc.org/pledges/</a>.

Lastly, as the Stewardship Campaign comes to a close we want to thank to the visiting stewards: Anita Williams, Carol Boston, Carol Carter Walker, Chris Evans, Jeri Holloway, Joan Griggs, Kathi Yu, Kathy Bartolomeo, Liz Citrin, Margaret McLellan, Mike McMenamin, Pat Behenna, Pat Tompkins, Patty Daukantas, Polly Pettit, Sonny Katz, Rene McDonald, Tess Morrison, and Trisha Most.

# **Nominating Committee**

#### PBUUC needs you!

Members are needed to serve on the Board of Trustees, the Legacy Fund, and the Nominating Committee. To suggest a candidate or indicate your own interest please contact one of the following members of the Nominating Committee:

Carmelita Carter-Sykes at <u>cartercarmelita@aol.com</u>; Carolyn Byerly at <u>cbyerly@earthlink.net</u>; Karen Donovan at <u>kjcmonkey@gmail.com</u> Jaqui Walpole at <u>walpoljs@pgcc.edu</u>



# Diversity/Antiracism Transformation Team (DARTT)

### DARTT Next Monthly Meeting Wednesday, April 21

DARTT's next monthly meeting will be Wednesday, April 21 at 7 pm, via Zoom. If you have agenda items you'd like to submit for consideration, please send them to Co-Chairs Carmelita Carter-Sykes at <a href="mailto:cartercarmelita@aol.com">cartercarmelita@aol.com</a> and Ebony Contreras at <a href="mailto:etaras1@yahoo.com">etaras1@yahoo.com</a> by Friday, April 9. If you're already on our mailing list, you will receive our agenda, draft minutes and meeting link. If you would like to attend and you are not on our list, please send your request for the link to Carmelita and Ebony. All are welcome.

### The History and Impact of the 8th Principle Class Tuesday, April 13 from 7:30 pm-9 pm. Instructor: Bruce Pollack-Johnson, co-author with Paula Cole Jones of the 8th Principle

The 8th Principle reads: "We covenant and affirm journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." About 40 UU congregations and groups have adopted it, with a similar number planning to do so by June of this year. This interactive presentation will focus on the history and impact of the 8th Principle on Unitarian Universalism. Spiritual aspects of dismantling systemic racism and other oppressions will also be explored. Registration information will be available in upcoming issues of the ContinUUm. Stay tuned.

### Takeaways from First Book Group Read: Incidents In the Life of a Slave Girl

DARTT's newly-formed Book Group finished its first discussion. We read Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl by Harriet Jacobs (published in 1861). Considered one of the classic books written by African American women before 1865, the autobiography is the first published book describing a woman's life as a slave and her escape to freedom. Miss Jacobs, who hid for seven years in a tiny garret before escaping to the North, vividly describes the everyday atrocities of enslaved life. It was an insightful and painful read. We had rich discussions about resilience and strength, anger and trauma, friendship, religion, trust, a mother's heartache and the meaning of family, and making difficult decisions. Two takeaways stood out: First, no matter how painful the truth is, we must be willing to search for, hear and accept truth in order to make amends and changes to improve life for others and ourselves. This is particularly true when it comes to racism, especially as experienced by Black people in this country. Second, reading of the brave actions taken by the enslaved and abolitionists to gain freedom and end slavery, we recognized the difficulty at times of acting on our principles but the necessity to do so. We were reminded that as a congregation, actively living out loud our UUA principles matters. The value of embracing the proposed 8th principle was further substantiated for us.

2nd Book Group Discussion—Wednesday, April 14, 2021 Please sign up at dartt@pbuuc.org to join us on Wednesday, April 14 at 7 pm when we will be discussing Migrations of the Heart by Marita Golden. You can get it at libraries, bookstores, and Amazon, in print and e-book.

## IN AND AROUND PAINT BRANCH

#### Men's Fellowship Breakfast online

Our next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be back on the usual 2nd Saturday, April 10 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 for more information. Join Zoom Meeting

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/409162940? pwd=bXJnTlBBd1BLRWVwLodpVC9LYXdxdz09

Meeting ID: 409 162 940 Passcode: 638525 1-tap mobile +13017158592,,409162940#,,,,\*638525# Call from any phone for audio-only: 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 409 162 940 Passcode: 638525 Find your local number: https:// us02web.zoom.us/u/kdTeosGa25

#### **Virtual Third Wednesday Lunch**

Virtual Third Wednesday Lunch: We'll meet online again Wednesday, April 21 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://uso2web.zoom.us/j/636354510? pwd=R2ZsK3lkZmpvbERTcitZUFBLbkJWZzo9

Meeting ID: 636 354 510 Passcode: 134047
One tap mobile +13017158592,,636354510#,,,,\*134047#
Call from any phone for audio-only: 301 715 8592
Meeting ID: 636 354 510 Passcode: 134047
Find your local number: https://
uso2web.zoom.us/u/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

#### **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: <a href="mailto:branches@pbuuc.org">branches@pbuuc.org</a>.

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 <a href="mailto:bulletin@pbuuc.org">bulletin@pbuuc.org</a>. Content should be 120 words or less. Please try to keep announcements <a href="mailto:one-paragraph">one-paragraph</a> 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.

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