



Branches

THE PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

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

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LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Board of Trustees

Chair	Melissa Graham
Vice Chair	Janet Overton
Vice Chair	Wendy Schlegel
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Trustee	Ebony Contreras
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Church Officers

Treasurer	Tess Morrison
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Assistant Secretary	Andy McIntire

Worship Associates

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

Pastoral Care Associates

Kathy Bartolomeo
 Jim Flaherty
 Lynn Louison

Ministerial Staff

Minister	Rev. Lynn Strauss
Minister Emerita	Rev. Diane Teichert
Affiliate Minister for Social Justice	Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo

Administrative Staff

(Contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for staff listed)

Music Director & Pianist	David Chapman
Director of Religious Exploration	Chris McCann
Director & Choreographer	Sharon Werth
Sexton	Al Addison

Office Volunteers

Elizabeth Scheiman and Mary Massey (alternating Tuesdays)
 Will Snyder (Wednesdays)
 Alice Tyler (Thursdays)
 Janet Overton (Fridays)



JUNE 2021 SUNDAY SERVICES

ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AM - ONLINE ONLY

Streaming on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/93495780708> and Facebook <http://Facebook.com/PBUUC/> Online Order 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.

JUNE 6 • The 8th Principle: Building Beloved

Community

Paula Cole Jones with Worship Associate Ebony Contraras. Building Beloved Community is about building a culture of inclusion. Is this our unfinished business or is it the bridge to a vibrant future for Unitarian Universalism? Many UUs around the country are working to adopt an 8th Principle that calls on us to build the Beloved Community. Will we heed the call?

JUNE 13 • FLOWER COMMUNION

Rev. Lynn Straus, Minister, with Worship Associate Susanah Schiller. Let's explore concepts of communion, community, commune, congregation: Who are we as Unitarian Universalists? Where are our comfort zones, our boundaries? How welcoming can we be? Will you join a Crowded Table? "How much is too little? How much is too much? How much is just right?"

JUNE 20 • GIFTS OF FATHERHOOD

The Men's Group with Worship Associate Clark Ritz. For many of us our fathers played a large role in our lives. Many of us are fathers who play a large role in our children's lives. While those relationships can be complicated, there are often gifts that we receive from our fathers or from being a father. The Men's Group explores some of these gifts from our personal experiences.

JUNE 27 • How Is PBUUC's Spiritual Healing Going?

Rev. Lynn Straus, Minister, with Worship Associate Tricia Most. How Is PBUUC's Spiritual Healing Going? What has been revealed in this unusual year? How has Paint Branch adapted in spite of loss and trauma? How is our communal healing going? Reverend Strauss will preach the sermon.

MINISTER'S NOTES



Dear Friends,

"What would church be like without someone praying, singing, listening, working for justice?"

Rev. Kay Northcutt, from Kindling Desire for God

I love this quote from writer, theologian, and teacher Kay Northcutt, a Disciples of Christ minister. I believe that we Unitarian Universalists also wish to "kindle desire for good."

And Yes, I think church is a place where verbs come alive!

What verbs do you hope to practice at Paint Branch? What lessons have you learned in this Covid year that you wish to build upon?

As a young adult in my Methodist church, I was encouraged to "Say Yes to Life"! Now is a perfect time to practice "YES." After a year of loss and grief, a year of upset and restriction, a year of police violence and mob action against our capitol, what better time to take joy in being alive?

Waking every morning, may I say "Yes" to life.

With each breath I take, each meal I share, may I say "Yes" to life.

With my going out and coming in, in my grief and in my fear, may I say "Yes" to life.

Alone and in communion, may I say "Yes" to life.

In my work and in my play, may I say "Yes" to life.

With all that I love and all that I am, may I say "Yes" to life.

Knowing I am small and yet contain multitudes, may I say "Yes" to life.

Imagine all the “branches” on the Paint Branch Tree of Life. “Know that you are one among many. Have faith that the roots of this tree are deep and the buds of new leaves will flower in season, know that your love, your service, your “Yes” will nurture not only your bud or your branch, but the whole of the tree of life we share. Say “Yes.”

Blessings for the weeks ahead.

I look forward to seeing you in Zoom worship. (If you read my Branches last month, please let me know.)

REVEREND LYNN

BOARD CHAIR'S COLUMN

Hello Members and Friends of Paint Branch,

I hope each of you is well. I remind all members that our Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 6th. We invite you to attend using the link available in the ContinUUm for that week as well as on the PBUUC calendar in the Sunday UUpLink for June 6th.

Since the vacancy in our Church Administrator position, volunteers have been working daily in a variety of ways--from conducting the search, to filling in to maintain day-to-day operations, to cleaning and organizing both our physical and digital office spaces. As part of this work, we have learned a lot more about the role the Church Administrator has played in our congregation. This has raised many questions about what we expect our Church Administrator to do and how much time is truly needed to accomplish those tasks. At the same time, the Budget Leadership Team (BLT) has been hard at work crafting a budget for 2021-2022. As part of their work, they informed us that our proposed personnel costs for next year equaled the projected pledge income. Sustaining that proposed cost would result in a significant deficit and leave little room for more than the most basic of other expenses.

As a result, at the May 25th meeting, the Board of Trustees (BOT) officially suspended the search for a full-time Church Administrator until such time as (a) we can fully uncover what the position description should include and how many hours it should be and (b) the Developmental Minister arrives and can be fully involved in the search process. Furthermore, we approved a plan to delegate specific responsibilities of the Church Administrator position to lay leaders and committees in our congregation. [Please click here to learn more.](#) All groups identified in the plan

have received a separate communication regarding the specific role we are asking them to fill.

In the plan you will also note that we approved a six-month pilot adjustment to the professional portfolio and title of Chris McCann. During this time, she will serve as Director of Faith Engagement. While her Religious Education responsibilities will remain unchanged, she will lend professional support to our efforts at leadership development and member engagement. Chris has been involved at all stages of forming this new role, and we are excited about the possibilities this shift may present for Paint Branch. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

Additionally, this virtual year has not been kind to our aging deck. Volunteers and staff have noted a marked deterioration as they have begun to return over the last few months. The deck has been inspected by an engineer who has determined that the deck should only be used as a corridor--that is, for ingress and egress only. While repairs could be made to extend the life of the deck by up to three years, those repairs themselves would still not allow for us to safely congregate on the deck. Thus the Board of Trustees has authorized the development of construction plans and the obtaining of permits for the building of a new deck. We have further delegated two members to identify and bring back information to the BOT regarding mortgage options for funding the construction. Many of you may wonder how this will impact our plans for a Capital Campaign and our plans to resume in-person activities. We have similar questions. Yet, safety must be a priority, and we ask for your patience and flexibility as we gather information and formulate a timeline with that priority in mind.

And speaking of resuming in-person activities, we know that as the Covid data improves and local jurisdictions are lifting restrictions, many of us are excited about the day we can worship again together in our sanctuary. Others are anxious about whether doing so can be safe and inclusive for all. Some may be wondering what will happen to virtual options once we can be back. The factors for moving ahead are multifaceted and complex. And the BOT is committed to working through them in an intentional manner. In May, new recommendations for staff and for outdoor-only activities were adopted. In fact, our first outdoor Religious Education event under these new guidelines is happening this month. All are invited. We further expect to adopt updated guidelines for resuming indoor activities, including worship, at our June meeting. Until then we encourage everyone to continue to join us for our virtual services and meetings.

And as always, please reach out to the BOT at bot@pbuuc.org with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thanks,

Melissa Graham, Chair,

Board of Trustees

PAULA COLE JONES, GUEST SPEAKER JUNE 6



Paula Cole Jones is a life-long Unitarian Universalist and a Management Consultant with over twenty years of experience in designing and facilitating workshops and dialogues for leaders and organizations. She is an innovator of institutional change. In 1999, Paula founded ADORE, A

Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity. Her work includes being a leader in advancing the 8th Principle and the Community of Communities as practices of the Beloved Community. Paula is the author of a UU World Magazine cover story, "Reconciliation as a Spiritual Discipline." She is also the editor of a Skinner House book, *Encounters: Poems about Race, Ethnicity and Identity* and a contributing author to three Skinner House books, including the UUA Common Read, *Justice on Earth*.

Please consider donating your time, talents, and treasures to PBUUC.

Become a Volunteer!

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021 12 NOON—2 PM

Again this year because of the ongoing pandemic, PBUUC will hold its Annual Meeting on Zoom. As in past years, the meeting's focus will be on all that transpired the preceding fiscal year, current affairs of the church, and plans and expectations for the future. We will elect church officers to fill upcoming vacancies. Candidates to replace outgoing Board Members are Patty Daukantas, Abby Hanley, and Muriel Morisey; for the Nominating Committee, Anne Hoover, Jacqui Walpole, and Paul Wester; and for the Legacy Fund, Abby Crowley. The Zoom link will be posted in PBUUC's online calendar with link to documents related to the topics to be discussed. Only PBUUC members can attend this online meeting; everyone will be processed through the Zoom "waiting room" by the Board Secretary. Friends and non-members can view our proceedings on our Facebook page. The waiting room will be open starting at 11:30 am. Please plan to log by 11:50 am so we can start on time.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Hello, my good people!

And happy June! At the end of this month, we'll be halfway through the year. How does that even happen?

On Sunday, May 16th, we held an after service session about how we come to practice. There was a lot of conversation about "showing up," and that led me to think about how we're going to show up in the world now that it becomes more possible to do so. How will we practice self and community care? As local mandates are loosening, how might we react? I know that I anticipate feeling excited, joyful, fearful that I don't exactly remember how to behave in company, and that my introverted soul is going to need a lot of care after being in company, even a little of it. How about you?

I wonder how we can hold one another's responses? Will we remember, through our joy, to receive consent to touch others? Will those of us who are more cautious be able to hold those of us who are not, and vice versa? Will we be mindful to continue to protect the most vulnerable among us (in this case our children under twelve who are not eligible to be vaccinated and others who are vaccinated who may not be fully protected due to underlying conditions and those who may not be able to be vaccinated)?

I wonder how we will hold and care for ourselves? Will we allow ourselves to feel our feelings and to give ourselves tender care, especially when we surprise ourselves? Will we hold space for ourselves and others when things are still different than we expect, or remain the same in ways we don't expect? How will you, I and we engage in the practice of tender care of ourselves and each other? Let us remember that we belong to each other.

Yours in the belonging,

Chris McCann

Religious Educator

ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

Article: "Why Talk About Whiteness?" by Emily Chariello . [TT53 Why Talk About Whiteness.pdf \(learningforjustice.org\)](https://www.learnforjustice.org/TT53-Why-Talk-About-Whiteness.pdf).

Book: *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation* . https://www.amazon.com/Three-Mothers-Martin-Malcolm-Baldwin-ebook/dp/B088DRM82Z/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+three+mothers&qid=1621430744&sr=8-1

Podcast: Still Processing, hosted by Wesley Morris and Jenna Wortham, two Black, queer culture writers for the New York Times.

<https://www.nytimes.com/column/still-processing-podcast>

Video: Ta-Nehisi Coates, "[People were not slaves, they were enslaved](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9UtYtbCQrk)" Ta-Nehisi Coates | [Google Zeitgeist 2019 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9UtYtbCQrk). HuffPost Editor-in-Chief Lydia Polgreen interviews journalist and novelist Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Children's Story: "I Am Perfectly Designed," by Karamo Brown.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9UtYtbCQrk>

Song: "Never One Thing," by May Erlewine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH0qrHdb8jg>



DIVERSITY ANTI-RACISM TRANSFORMATION TEAM (DARTT)

DARTT Meetings, All Are Welcome.

DARTT will continue to meet over the summer. DARTT meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm via Zoom. The Leadership Advisory Council, comprised of the Co-Chairs, Vice President, and up to three appointed members, then meets on the second Sunday of each month to set the Agenda for the monthly meeting. Members and friends are invited to submit proposed Agenda items on the Friday preceding the LAC meeting. DARTT publicizes its many activities in the weekly Continuum, monthly Branches, and PBUUC's Facebook page.

DARTT Bookread Update

The DARTT Bookread Group finished discussing its second book, *Migrations of the Heart* by Marita Golden in April. An autobiography, Ms. Golden, a local author, with remarkable honesty and insight recounts her early life growing up in Washington, DC, losing her parents, being a student activist during the Black Power movement, her marriage to a Nigerian and life in Nigeria, the end of her marriage and her return to America with a baby. All of this before she was 30. There were many takeaway messages for us regarding friendships between women, sexism/gender roles, family dynamics, and the challenges and beauty of cross-cultural love and relationships. One takeaway message related to one of our UU principles is the need for compassion particularly as we view other people's struggles in growing love and families. Another practical takeaway we learned is knowing how to craft an escape plan!

The Group completed reading *Homemade Love*, a collection of short stories by J. California Cooper. You'll see our takeaways in the July *Branches*.

The next Bookread is *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. We'll discuss this book over five Wednesday evenings, from 7 to 8:30 pm in June, July, and early August, beginning June 9. Join in.

UUA Central East Region Sponsors Jubilee Anti-Racism Workshop June 11 to June 13. DARTT Offers Financial Support for Attendees

This 2 ½ day workshop is open to anyone who wants to journey toward making a stand against racism. It begins Friday April 30, continues Saturday, and ends Sunday. Topics include: The history of racism and resistance to racism in the Americas; defining racism; the effects of racism on people of color and on white people; dismantling racism; and claiming and shaping an anti-racist identity. The cost is \$170. DARTT has again set aside funds to support Paint Branchers' attendance. Contact Carmelita Carter-Sykes at cartercarmelita@aol.com and Ebony Contre-ras at etaras1@yahoo.com if you are requesting this support. To register and get more details about the Workshop, go to <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/m2z6jkl1cis6mr> on the CER website



THE WIDER UNIVERSE

*By Carol Carter Walker, Intrepid
Denominationalist and Member,
Denominational Affairs Committee*

If You Can Do It, Go To General Assembly This Year!

I was going to write another dull article about General Assembly (GA), but I decided to change up.

I became a Unitarian Universalist in 1987 when I became a founding member of Sojourner Truth Congregation (STC) in Washington, DC. (STC was started as part of a UU initiative to grow black membership in the denomination by founding new churches led by black ministers.)

Two years later, I attended my first GA. It was held at Yale University, in New Haven, CT. Since then, I have attended 28 GAs. In UU parlance, I am known as a "GA junkie."

My sister, daughter, and oldest granddaughter used to make a family vacation of it. We got adjoining rooms and my granddaughter took great pleasure in going to UU child-centered programming and daycare, eating out daily, and having her mother, grandmother, and great aunt doting on her.

The tab for GA attendance was high. Registration, air or train fare, hotel, food, etc. easily added up to \$1,500 to \$2,000 a person. Some years, my registration fee was waived in return for 20 hours of volunteer work. At other times, when I was serving on a UUA or affiliated Committee, GA costs were reduced. But mostly, I paid the full cost of attendance. (Paint Branch, like most UU congregations, does not pay GA expenses, even for delegates.)

This year, the cost of attending an all-virtual GA is \$200. No travel, no eating out, no hotel rooms. For \$200, I will have access to a choice of 100 worship services, workshops, hearings, performances. What I don't get to experience then, I'll get to have access to afterward. I'll be able to see the discussion and be present at what will be an historic vote on a proposed Statement of Conscience, Undoing White Supremacy. If passed, this will be the formal position of the denomination. I will hear keynote speeches from Stacey Abrams and Desmond Meade. I will enjoy our former Director of Religious Education, the Rev. Dr. Natalie Fenimore, be one of the preachers at the

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Service of the Living Tradition, honoring new, retiring, and past religious professionals. I will get to see our new minister be recognized on her journey to full fellowship.

If you've ever wanted to go to GA, now is the time. I particularly recommend it to members and friends who want to become more engaged with the congregation and the denomination. If you'd like to know more, go to <https://www.uua.org/ga> or the Denominational Affairs Committee at dac@pbuuc.org. Hope to "see" you there.



VOTE YES FOR A BELOVED, WELCOMING COMMUNITY AT PAINT BRANCH

By Ebony Contreras and Eric Eldritch

As Unitarian Universalists, we are charged with advocating for justice and being a part of the solution to a better world. We are all called to be good stewards to the connected web of existence we are all a part of. Adopting the 8th Principle and renewing our commitment as a Welcoming Congregation will make clear our strides to putting our faith into action year by year, generation by generation.

Our past actions have built our present: We have already made a pledge toward Beloved Community when we passed our statement on being an Intentional Multicultural Congregation at the Annual Meeting in 2011.

"To more fully realize our Unitarian Universalist Principles, we, the Paint Branch Unitarian Universal

~ 8 ~

June 2021

ist Church community, declare ourselves an Intentional Multicultural Congregation. Therefore, we commit ourselves, the Board of Trustees, staff, committees, affinity groups and lay leadership to inclusive actions to transform all aspects of congregational life in ways that affirm our multicultural identity as the foundation of the church's strength."

After the UUA initiated inclusion of LGBTQ people in 1987, Paint Branch worked on and gained Welcoming Congregation status in 1995. Now, in 2021 we have an opportunity to advance our pledge towards our beloved community by voting YES to the 8th Principle on June 6th. We have an opportunity to revitalize values of inclusion by voting YES to launch Welcoming Community Renewal.

Our current actions will build our future: Adopting the 8th Principle affirms our intention towards multiculturalism, equity, social justice, and beloved community. By adopting the 8th Principle, we will join the cadre of forward-thinking, beloved community-creating congregations who are ready for positive change aligned with our values. Taking a vote to gain affirm our Welcoming Community Renewal is

Renewing our commitment as a Welcoming Community continues the legacy of UUA faith in action: In 1987 the UUA initiated the Welcoming Congregation Program nationally. Locally, this effort was led at Paint Branch by Ed Kobe and his husband Al Usek who worked with wonderful congregational allies: Bettie Young, Marj Donn and many more. In 1995, Paint Branch became a UUA Welcoming Congregation.

The 8th Principle and Welcoming Community Renewal are an overlapping, synergistic and intersectional initiatives that are being sponsored by PBUUC DARTT for adoption by the congregation at our June 6 Annual Meeting. As we open ourselves to the communities around us, being clear about our commitment to multiculturalism and our LBGTB+ siblings, we signal to others our liberal, inclusive faith. Taking a public stand as a congregation affirms the work this congregation has done, is doing and will do. It all starts with a public act of faith, a congregational vote.



JUBILEE III AND ME

By Tricia Most

I was one of about 10 Paint Branchers who attended the January 2021 weekend of Jubilee III anti-racism training. I found this training to be far more effective than the three previous Jubilees I have attended because it included more history, which I, personally, find illuminating. NPR's tagline for "Throughline" comes to mind: "The past is never past. Every headline has a history." My learning about how our country has gotten to where it is continues.

I think attending Jubilee III now is especially important for white Paint Branchers as we strive to improve the racial climate in our congregation in order to widen our circle of inclusivity. The Central East Region is sponsoring another training during the weekend of June 11 and you can register and learn more at this link: [Jubilee Three Anti-Racism Training | Central East Region | UUA.org](#)

I believe it is all too common for white people to avoid discussions about race and to dismiss the significant role that racism played in the founding of our country and the many ways that racism pervades our present. Some seem to think the problem of racism is exaggerated, as though all is fine because they may observe, for example, that not every single person in their workplace is white. Consider that persons of color may find themselves feeling cautious in many settings throughout a day – possibly anticipating racial hostility, a police confrontation while driving, or social unwelcomeness. In contrast, some white people may feel that we are talking, and therefore thinking, about race too often. It is a luxury, a privilege, to not have to think about race every day – a privilege that people of color are unlikely to experience. Participating in a Jubilee III training can help white people develop a greater understanding of the experience of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color.

Our UU principles guide us to expand our awareness about justice, without specifically linking our actions to dismantle racism and other oppressions to our spiritual journeys. The proposed 8th Principle of Unitarian Uni-

versalism seeks to correct that significant omission. Our congregation will be voting on whether to adopt the 8th Principle at our Annual Meeting on June 6. On that day, the Worship leader will be Paula Cole Jones, who was instrumental in the development of the wording for the 8th Principle: "We covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

When white people (like me) find ourselves in a setting where most people are white, we can ask ourselves why there are not more people of color present. What is it about this place of business or this social situation that makes Black, Indigenous, and People of Color feel unwelcome? Though I have sometimes called attention to a white person's racially unwelcome behavior, there have also been times when I have been "polite and silent" instead. For example, I was present at a discussion about race when two different white men used the N-word to provide an example of what they heard while they were growing up. I, and every Paint Brancher present, obeyed the advance ministerial directive that each person would be allowed to speak – uninterrupted – without listeners trying to engage them in conversation; there was to be no cross-talk. I felt confused and stunned by hearing the unnecessary articulation and repetition of the hateful, dehumanizing word without intervention or comment from the minister leading the discussion. Authority figures are not always good role models. I hope I will have the courage and wherewithal to react appropriately and speak up the next time I feel that uncomfortable experience of thinking something wrong is happening, rather than waiting for someone in authority to address inappropriate language and/or behavior. Experiences like attending a Jubilee training help white people, like me, fortify our resolve to speak up against oppressive words and behaviors.

Even if you have attended a Jubilee training in the past, and especially if you have never attended one, I urge you to take advantage of the June 11 weekend Jubilee III training and to contact the co-leaders of DARTT (Carmelita Carter-Sykes CarterCarmelita@aol.com and Ebony Contreras ETaras1@yahoo.com) if you need financial assistance toward the \$170 tuition.

PBUUC COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Come to Our Annual Meeting June 6

On June 6, 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church will hold its 2021 Annual Meeting. For the second year, we will meet via Zoom to discuss the affairs of the church over the past and for the coming year and to elect members to leadership positions. The link to the Zoom meeting will be posted in PBUUC's online calendar of events along with documents related to the topics to be discussed. [Click Here for more information.](#)



Flower Communion

Celebrate the UU Flower Communion Tradition!

The ongoing pandemic cannot stop us from enjoying a Spring Flower Communion Worship Service. Be sure to attend the Flower Communion Worship Service on June 13th at 10 am. Your videos and photos will be featured during the service. Let's have fun as we celebrate the legacy of our UU Flower Communion!



Light the Chalice for PBUUC

The Worship Associates welcome you to light and extinguish the chalice each Sunday. Lighting the chalice during

worship is a meaningful way to connect with our community. If you or your family have never been invited to light the chalice before, please volunteer. Email WorshipAssociates@pbuuc.org.



Volunteers Needed!

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at Paint Branch? Well, now is your chance to find out! PBUUC needs volunteers to provide temporary help with the Continuum, Branches, Sunday Streaming, and office coverage. Training and support will be provided. If you are interested in learning more about your church, opportunities await! Please send an email to BOT@pbuuc.org and ask for more information.



Donate to PBUUC When Using Amazon

If you purchase items from Amazon, you can create a small donation to PBUUC by logging into Amazon with [AmazonSmile](#). Once you register on AmazonSmile that PBUUC is your charity of choice for this feature, Amazon will automatically contribute 0.5% of each purchase to us. The AmazonSmile 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 participants will be deposited quarterly to the PBUUC checking account. If you use Amazon, thank you for donating through AmazonSmile at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-0674270>.

CHARTERED COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

Group Name	Chair/Co-Chairs/Lead
Arts Council - Music	Pat Tompkins
Arts Council -Visual Arts	Pat Tompkins (acting)
Adult RE	Ebony Contraras
Auction Committee	Tricia Most & Kathi Yu
Budget Leadership Team	Kathi Yu and Wendy Schlegel
Buildings & Grounds	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Committee on Ministry	
Community Relations Team	Paul Wester
Continuity & COVID Response	Reese Myrdon
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)	Carmelita Carter-Sykes and Ebony Contreras
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson, Chair and Bettie Young, Cluster Rep.
Endowment Committee	Chris Evan
Finance Committee	Elaine Shell
Green Team	Moe Cunningham and Kathleen Bartolomeo
Leasing Committee	Joe Dever
Membership Committee	Carol Carter Walker (acting)
Multigenerational Religious Exploration Team (MRET)	Katherine Darlington and Tricia Most
Nominating Committee	Carmelita Carter-Sykes (acting)
Personnel Committee	Moe Cunningham, Sabrina Jones, and Janet Overton
Racial Climate Leadership Team	Deb Rubenstein
Religious Education Discernment	Chris McCann, DRE
Social Action Committee (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
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
Sunday Sound & Facilities Volunteer Team	Keith Miller Third Wednesday Lunch Club
Third Wednesday Lunch Club	Cathy Helmold
Ushers	Lori Snyder
Warm Nights	Vacant
Webmasters	Andy McIntire and Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Anita Williams
Welcoming Congregation	Eric Eldritch
Widowed Persons Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Retreat	Anne Hoover

NOTE TO OUR READERS

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES FOR BRANCHES: All submissions for inclusion in Branches should be submitted by email to: branches@pbuuc.org.

The Leadership Directory (on page 2 of this issue) contains 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. If requested, a pbuuc.org email address specific to individual PBUUC committees, groups, or teams can be created.

Editorial Guidelines

The deadline for submission of articles and other content to Branches is on the 20th day of every month, except during the holidays.

Articles should be submitted in their final form and content should be 200-600 words. Please submit the name of the author and any other contact information as necessary. Reminder: Articles significantly over the word limit may be returned to the author for editing.

The deadline for submission of announcements and other content to appear in the Sunday Order of Service Bulletin is every Wednesday at 12 noon. Announcements received by the deadline will be included in the ContinUUm weekly email. Short announcements to be read by the Worship Associate during the Sunday Service are also due then.

Sunday Bulletin announcements should be submitted in their final form to bulletin@pbuuc.org. Content should be 120 words or less. Please try to keep announcements one paragraph with a clear headline or topic sentence. Please include day, date, location, time, and contact information. Announcements should be PBUUC related; non-PBUUC events must have an explicitly stated UU connection. Up to one paragraph more may be added for use in the ContinUUm weekly email.

All deadlines are now on the web calendar. Go to www.pbuuc.org, scroll down to "This Week" and click on "More Upcoming Events." Click on the Calendar grid to the left to advance to the next month.