



# BRANCHES



## PAIN T BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

February 2017

### SUNDAYS at 10:00 am

Nursery Care in Room 6 from 9:45-12:45  
Refreshments and Fellowship after the service  
Adult Enrichment Hour from 11:45-12:45  
Childcare until 12:45

### Minister's Column



I've shared with the congregation some of my thoughts about Donald Trump. One comment I have made more than once is that I find plausible the idea, suggested by some, that he suffers from a mental illness, namely some form of narcissistic personality disorder. I want to be clear about two things. One is that these remarks of mine are not intended as any kind of joking or ridicule; I'm not trying to blithely say, "He's crazy!" I actually find the prospect of a president with a serious mental illness quite terrifying. The other thing I want to make clear is that I am in no way implying that someone with a serious illness — mental or physical — couldn't or shouldn't be president, or have some other important responsibility. What terrifies me about Trump is not the possibility that he is ill; it is the likelihood that he is ill and seems utterly unaware that he has an illness. The problem is not the illness itself as much as it is a lack of self-awareness.

We all have mental, physical and yes, even spiritual challenges; no mortal being can escape them. They might limit our capacity to do certain things, but in many cases, they do not limit us if we are aware of those challenges and taking appropriate steps to manage our challenges. That can involve looking honestly at ourselves and facing things which may not always be pleasant to face. A person diagnosed with diabetes will probably have to look at eating habits, lifestyle choices, and may have to give diligent attention to things like medication regimens. One diabetic person I know doesn't enjoy the constant blood level checks, but says, "It beats the alternative!" There is a self-awareness in this, a healthy sense of responsibility that recognizes a difficult truth: in order to live well, we have to adopt disciplines of honesty with ourselves and of putting aside our personal preferences sometimes to do what's truly good for us, rather than succumbing to the temptation to do what may feel good in the evanescent moment.

Self-awareness is a spiritual discipline. When we participate in the life of our church, how self-aware are we? How honest with ourselves are we about our anger, our fears, our personal needs? How attentive are we to the need to manage our own personal challenges in a healthy way? Religious life calls us to these disciplines. It also calls us to be in community with others who are striving and struggling to be self-aware. Do we call one another to be our best selves in ways that are both honest and respectful?

As we do the work of the church in these times, we feel a sense of urgency about the challenges of our country and our world. PBUUC is also a congregation in search for new clergy leadership. Facing these opportunities and challenges, and managing in an honest and healthy way the anxieties they cause us, are among the most important disciplines of our shared faith journey.

- Evan

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister

[minister@pbuuc.org](mailto:minister@pbuuc.org)

### FEBRUARY 5 MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD IS NOT OPTIONAL

Guest speaker Rev. Judith Morris; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate  
Rev. Judy Morris, a retired Unitarian Universalist Minister and current member at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church will share thoughts about membership and its meaning for us as a community and as citizens.

### FEBRUARY 12 AS HEARTS BEAT AS ONE

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; Abby Wester, Worship Associate; the Chalice Dancers; the Children's Choir; and the Choir  
We gather in community to remember what love demands of us. \*\*\*This is an All-Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to remain in the Meetinghouse for the entire service. Nursery Care for the youngest is provided in Room 6.\*\*\*

### FEBRUARY 19 RECONSTRUCTING

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Paul Wester, Worship Associate  
Many in our congregation are reading the book "The Third Reconstruction" by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber. This book, and the moral movement it describes, has much to teach us.

### FEBRUARY 26 THE WORKSHOP OF OUR COMMON ENDEAVOR

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; Van Summers, Worship Associate; the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir  
Building and maintaining a beloved community of memory and hope demands much of us, and brings much joy and beauty into our lives.

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## PBUUC Leadership Directory

### 🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2016-2017 🌀

email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto:BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Co-Chair	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Co-Chair	Liz Citrin
Vice Chair	Tess Morrison
Trustee	John Barr
Trustee	Sonny Katz
Trustee	Ken Redd
Trustee	Elaine Shell
Secretary	Erin Gebhart
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Waugh

### 🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

* Van Summers (2014-17)	Mary Rooker (2016-19)
* Carol Carter Walker (2014-17)	Paul Wester (2016-19)
Beth Charbonneau (2015-18)	Abby Wester (2016-17)
Will Snyder (2015-18)	*Team Leaders

### 🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway  
Lynn Johnson  
Mike McMenamin  
Will Snyder

### 🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

vacant

### 🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Auction	Emily Conover (Visual Arts)
Budget Leadership Team	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds (co-chairs)	Kathi Yu
By-Laws Review	Lowell Owens & Peter Wathen-Dunn
Capital Campaign	Muriel Morisey
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
	Don Gerson, Chair
	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
	<a href="mailto:contact_church_office">contact_church_office</a>
	Patty Daukantas
	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
	<a href="mailto:Church Office">Church Office</a>
	Ken Montville
	Pat Behenna
	[contact <a href="mailto:Ministerial Search Cmte">Ministerial Search Cmte</a> ]
	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
	VACANT
	<a href="mailto:REcmte@pbuuc.org">REcmte@pbuuc.org</a>
	Peter Wathen-Dunn
	Janet Overton
	Chris Evans
	<a href="mailto:Transition@pbuuc.org">Transition@pbuuc.org</a>

### 🌀 Ministerial Search Committee - [Search@pbuuc.org](mailto:Search@pbuuc.org) 🌀

Jan Montville, Chair	Janet Overton
James Alexander	Elizabeth Porter
Jeanne Judd	Kathi Yu
Eric Most	

### 🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Liz Citrin
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Meditation Group	Cory Carter
Men's Group	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Community Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Rooker
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Elaine Shell
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Evangeline Wells & Tess Morrison
	Mark Shute
	Pat Behenna
	Jeri Holloway
	Louise Waugh

### 🌀 Minister 🌀

The Rev. Evan Keely

### 🌀 Staff 🌀

Please contact the Church Office at 301-937-3666 for staff listed

<a href="mailto:Music Director &amp; Pianist">Music Director &amp; Pianist</a>	David Chapman
<a href="mailto:Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration">Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration</a>	Carla Miller
<a href="mailto:Director, Chalice Dancers">Director, Chalice Dancers</a>	Sharon Werth
<a href="mailto:Church Administrator">Church Administrator</a>	Charles Bury
<a href="mailto:Administrative Assistant">Administrative Assistant</a>	Sade Ayinde
<a href="mailto:Bookkeeper">Bookkeeper</a>	Roy Friday, CPA
Sunday Service/Building Managers:	Joel Yesupriya
Child Care Providers:	Jazmin Balbuena
	Joy Washington

### 🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tuesday), Will Snyder (Wednesday),  
Alice Tyler (Thursday), Janet Overton (Friday)

## Board of Trustees

The BOT held a retreat at PBUUC on Saturday, January 14 facilitated by Rev. Megan Foley, Regional Lead Congregational Life Staff, all members attending. She worked with the BOT on reviewing the BOT Covenant. The agenda also included discussion of our successes, focusing our energies, strategic planning, Rev. Keeley's sermon on engagement, role of BOT as congregational leaders, and review of BOT goals.

All current members of the BOT attended the regular January meeting. Additionally the Secretary and Assistant Treasurer were in attendance. There were eight members of the congregation present for all or part of the meeting. Since the last Branches article the BOT has experienced the following changes: Muriel Morisey resigned and Carmelita Carter-Sykes assumed the vacant Co-Chair position and Tess Morrison became the Vice-Chair.

The Interim Minister, DRME, Treasurer and MSC submitted monthly reports.

Ken Redd presented his report as BAG liaison including a proposal for upgrading the sound system and a status report on the parking lot.

Carmelita Carter-Sykes will convene the BLT Committee.

There was a presentation by three long time members of PBUUC to the BOT discussing their concerns about financial and governance matters.

The BOT voted to:

- ❖ Have independent process review of the church's books this year followed by a full audit next year;
- ❖ To only include BOT voted on actions and discussions in the Branches article;
- ❖ To reimburse Liz Citrin for Amazon cards she bought for the staff;
- ❖ To establish a Council of Committees and Personnel led by Rev. Keely and By-Laws Review committee that will be worked on by Muriel Morisey.

There was discussion of committee charters liaisons and POC's, housekeeping and office organization, the Member Review list that Chuck Bury is working on that is due February 1, 2017. BOT must schedule a meeting to approve it and work on the February Town Hall Meeting.

*Carmelita Carter-Sykes,*

Board Co-Chair

## Ministerial Search Committee

### Greetings from the Ministerial Search Committee!

Every month I feel like I share how busy we are, and every month feels like we're more busy than the month prior. Over the last few weeks we have received the much anticipated Ministerial Reports of the ministers interested in coming to Paint Branch. We had a nice number to work with and we took about a week to review them. After that initial review, we decided on those applicants with whom we'd like to exchange full packets. We took another week to delve deep into those packets and to get "virtually" acquainted with those interested ministers. We listened to audio files and YouTube videos of their sermons, we read some of their writings, and we tried to learn as much as we could about their ideas and experiences in ministry. We are now at the point where we are talking to the ministers we'd like to interview, which thanks to technological advances, will occur via video chat. All of this has happened in a matter of three weeks.

Before the next Branches comes out, we will all but vanish from Paint Branch and be off on several consecutive pre-candidating weekends. As such, I'd like to talk a little bit more about confidentiality.

Remember this bit from last month's article?:

"Going forward, as we begin interacting with these prospective ministers, who may or may not have a congregation with whom they may or may not have shared that they may or may not be leaving... you get where I'm going?"

You all know that we can't tell you who we're talking to or where we're going for pre-candidating. That's not new news; you've heard it before and will likely hear it again before all is said and done. What I want to talk to you about today is what to do if you discover this information on your own. The answer, if I may be so bold, is nothing. If you happen upon pre-candidating information on your own, we remind you that we can't talk to you about it and we ask that you don't talk to anyone else about it either. Even if, by happenstance, you're visiting another congregation and you notice us from across the room, intently listening to the guest preacher... don't be a stranger; come and say hi! But we can't talk to you about the minister. Even if after hearing the sermon, you think "Wow, they were great!" or "Yeesh, they stink!" we STILL can't talk to you about it. There are so many factors that are going in to our selection process that the sermon alone can't and won't determine whether or not we think a pre-candidate is right for Paint Branch. We appreciate your help with this, as always.

Staying on trend, the next month or so will be incredibly busy. We'll start (and finish) the initial interviews and make decisions on who our pre-candidates will be. We'll somehow coordinate and synchronize schedules for at least eight people and then we'll start the actual pre-candidating. There is so much left to do, but I can see a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. I hope you can see it too.

**Ebeth Porter**—On behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee

February Board Meetings:

**Wednesday, February 1, 6:30 pm**  
Executive Committee (RE Bldg)

**Saturday, February 18, 11 pm**  
Read-Aheads due to Board  
(email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto:BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org))

**Tuesday, February 21, 7 pm**  
Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

## Religious Exploration



### Registration is Open for UUMAC and other Unitarian Universalist Summer Camps

UU Multigenerational Camps are part spiritual retreat, part learning, part multigenerational community-gathering, and all-around fun! Many UU's are longtime campers and enthusiastic promoters of UU camps. Others attend once or twice, drawn to a workshop or theme, or feeling the need for a retreat. Many parents take the kids for a shared family experience. Are you curious? Intrigued by the possibility? Maybe you never knew that there ARE UU Camps! Now as camp registrations open for the coming summer; a good time to learn more!

So, what is it like to attend a UU camp? Let me guide you through a typical day at UUMAC, the UU Mid-Atlantic Community, and the only UU camp I've attended and have done so for many years. Located at De Sales University in Allentown, PA, UUMAC is closer to PBUUC than any other camp or conference. This summer I'll be back at UUMAC as children's director - and I cannot wait!

So, here is one UUMAC day, yawning and stretching as the sun slants through the dormroom blinds:

It's morning! The kids ride their bikes up the hill to the cafeteria for breakfast while clusters of adults and teens amble toward a much-needed cup of coffee. Some of us are in yoga pants and carrying our mats; others ride electric scooters or carpooling from the dorm.

After breakfast, worship gathers the kids, teens, young adults, parents and older adults in a truly multigenerational celebration of our UU faith. The children leave for their classes. The children's program focuses on the annual theme, and fills the children's mornings with creative camp activities, outdoor games and a social action project of the week. These kids will form the kind of group spirit and friendship that happens only at camp. UU camps are the best way I know to support your child's development of a strong UU identity.

Adults attend the Theme Talk, and then a workshop of their choice. This summer's theme at UUMAC is "Across Generations, Across Time," exploring the rapid cultural changes and resulting differences in experiences and perspectives of recent generations. After the theme-talk, workshops range from creative arts, dance and music, to intellectual discussions and spiritual / religious explorations. Lunch time brings my personal favorite: an awesome salad bar, and the kids' line-up for ice cream!

Afternoon activities include the excitement of white-water rafting and amusement park rides, quiet museum tours, and the ever-popular option of relaxing, reading or crafting on campus; while kids ride bikes and play.

After dinner there may be multigenerational games, a mov-

ie, or other activities. Every night, after children are tucked into bed, adult campers provide cooperative babysitting in the dorms so that parents can dance and socialize at the "Night Owls" gatherings, or attend the evening Vespers service.

 SUUSI, in North Carolina this year, is the next closest camp; and the largest in the nation. There are almost unlimited options for workshops and activities - though less opportunity to feel part of a close-knit community. (<http://suusi.org/>)

 Starr Island is a very popular retreat that runs weekly camps most of the summer. (<http://starisland.org/>)

 Our Church Administrator, Chuck Bury, has been going to Unirondack in upstate NY for 50 years and is the father of two youth campers there. He would be happy to answer any questions you have about that UU camp. (<http://unirondack.org>)

Find a full listing of all camps and conference centers on the Unitarian Universalist website. <http://www.uua.org/directory/where/camps-retreats-and-conferences>. Experience the joy of UU camp for yourself!

*Carla Miller*, [DMRE@pbuuc.org](mailto:DMRE@pbuuc.org)

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

## RE Announcements

### Early Elementary OWL class, for Grades 1-2, begins February 26.



≈ Important Parent Orientation Sunday, February 5 during Enrichment Hour.

≈ Class runs six sessions on Sundays February 26 through April 2, noon – 1 pm.

We are very excited to be offering this OWL class for the first time at PBUUC! The OWL comprehensive human sexuality program includes classes for early elementary, grades 4-5, Junior High, Senior High, Young Adult and Adult levels. At all levels, OWL places human sexuality in the context of core values of Unitarian Universalism; Rights, Responsibility and Relationship.

A MANDATORY meeting for parents of first and second graders will be held after service on February 5. Parental consent and involvement is very important at all levels of OWL. If you cannot attend the parent meeting, please contact me individually.

Parenting conversations will take place concurrently with each class session; covering OWL AND other parenting topics such as discipline, sibling relationships, chores, and any other topic you bring to the discussions.

Parents of ALL elementary age students (grades 3-6) are welcome to attend these parenting conversations. Child-care for siblings will be provided. Please contact Carla Miller regarding your childcare needs in advance so that we can plan appropriate staffing and activities!

## RE Announcements, continued

## Stewardship



Unitarian Universalist  
Mid-Atlantic Community

## UUMAC 2017

UUMAC gathers together on the campus of DeSales University, Allentown, Pennsylvania, for one week each year

to build community and deepen our Unitarian Universalist faith through fun, friendship, music, dancing, learning and worship.

Please join us at the UUMAC 2017 Retreat, July 9 – 15, 2017, at DeSales University, Center Valley PA. Registration is now open! Register by April 1, 2017, to receive the early bird discount.

The theme this year is Across Generations, Across Time: Our society is changing rapidly. In the midst of this change there can often be conflict among different generations. What are the defining traits of different generations? How can understanding our differences help us live more harmoniously? How must our congregations change to accommodate younger generations?

DeSales provides food, comfortable dorm housing, and buildings for our use. Our week includes sharing, listening, building community, laughing, singing, thinking, reading, dancing, and getting to know each other.

UUMAC is many things to many people: a spiritual retreat, time for reflection and celebration, a reunion with friends, a time to revel in a community of fun-loving and like-minded people of all ages. Join us for a week which is as relaxing or action-packed as you like, and renew your spirit.

See UUMAC Retreat 2017 online at <http://www.uumac.org/> To learn more, speak to some of the Paint Branchers who have attended UUMAC! Carla Miller, Carmelita Sykes, Abby and Ed Crowley, Penny O'Brien, Noel Monardes, Carla Monardes, Montana and Milan. There are more, but these are folks who come to mind first as having years of UUMAC experience.



**On February 12 we will enjoy a multigenerational “Ice Cream Sundae” event** sponsored jointly by MRE and the Stewardship Committee! Following our Multigenerational Worship Service of February 12. Everyone is invited to join us after the service on Sunday, February 12 in the Kelley Room for a fun multi-

generational gathering. Let's play a game, enjoy some healthy snacks, sign-up for Mystery Buddies, learn about being good stewards at PBUUC, and build our own Commitment Sundaes (Ice Cream!). Attendees can also elect to complete their pledge for this year's Annual Campaign during this event. This event will take the place of our monthly Multigenerational Game Day / Birthday celebration.

## Giving with Gratitude

February marks the start of our 2017-2018 Annual Campaign. This year our theme is “Giving with Gratitude” as we reflect on all that we are thankful for in being part of the loving spiritual community at PBUUC. This year's annual campaign is especially important as your gifts will support our new settled minister and our continuing commitment to multi-generational religious exploration, promoting racial justice and social action, and caring for our Earth. We hope that you will consider increasing your pledge this year in gratitude for all that we have accomplished in the past and all that we can achieve together in the future at PBUUC.

First up, the Stewardship Committee will be hosting two Orientation Workshops on Wednesday nights, February 8th and 22nd at 7:30 pm, where you can learn more about Stewardship at PBUUC and consider becoming a Visiting Steward Volunteer. Please consider volunteering for this very important work of shared ministry.

This year the Stewardship Committee is offering three different ways for you to make your pledge to PBUUC:

**#1 – Attend a Stewardship Event in February:** We will have two events this month where all you have to do is show up. On February 12th, don't miss our fun and first ever Multi-Generational Stewardship Gathering after service where you can make your very own Commitment Sundae (Ice Cream!). On February 26th, we will be repeating the hugely popular Stewardship Breakfast (Hot Waffles!) before the Commitment Sunday service. Look for more information on these events in the ContinUUm and Order of Services throughout the month.

**#2 – Visit the Stewardship Table:** Every Sunday in February and March committee members will be at our Stewardship Table in the Foyer after services to talk about the annual campaign, answer your questions, and invite you to complete your pledge card.

**#3 – Meet with a Visiting Steward in March:** If you prefer a personal visit, our incredible Visiting Steward Volunteers will contact you to make an appointment to complete your pledge. Please say “Yes!” when called as these conversations can be very meaningful as we share why we are so committed to PBUUC.

If you have any questions about our “Giving with Gratitude” Annual Campaign you can talk to any committee member (Chris Evans, Harry Schomberg, Will Snyder, Pat Tompkins, or Anita Williams) or drop us a line at [stewardship@pbucc.org](mailto:stewardship@pbucc.org)

**Chris Evans,**  
Stewardship Chair

## Denominational Affairs

### Now Is the Time to Begin Planning to Attend the 2017 General Assembly-Our Denomination's Annual Gathering

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the denomination through use of the democratic process. There are many things to do virtually every hour of the day, from June 21 to June 25. Paint Branch will probably be entitled to four delegates and four alternates, but anyone who registers may attend.

This year's GA will be in New Orleans, Louisiana, one of America's most historically and culturally rich cities. Going to GA is a significant expense. However, there are ways to economize.

Register Early. March 1 to April 30. After May 1, all fees increase.

Adult	\$360
Youth (Grades 9-12)	\$215
Off-site Registration	\$140 (You can participate in the general sessions, mini-assemblies, major worship services and view some workshops the day after they go live from the comfort of home, with the appropriate computer equipment.)

Apply For Financial Assistance March 1 to March 30.

Volunteer To Work At GA To Waive Your Registration Fee. March 1 to March 30.

Book Housing Early. The UUA Housing Website opens at 9 am on March 1. Inexpensive and/or close-in housing often sells out within hours. Once you have registered, you will be added to an online GA Forum where information on transportation and hotel/dorms options will be shared.

Go to [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga) to get a panoramic view of what the 2017 GA will be like in terms of programming. Or talk to last year's Paint Branch attendees: Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Don Gerson, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Eric Most, Tricia Most, Lowell Owens, Marge Owens, Carol Carter Walker, and Bettie Young.

## The Women's Group

The PBUUC Women's Retreat will take place Saturday, March 4, at the Church. The event, open to all members and friends who identify as female, is intentionally intergenerational. However, younger participants need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Child care will also be available. The all-day event includes opening and closing circles and communal breakfast and lunch, as well as two sessions offering a variety of smaller group workshops (or, time for journaling, socializing, knitting, day-dreaming, what have you, for those who prefer not to join a workshop.) It is a day to make and deepen friendships; many women find it is a high point in their year. A planning meeting will take place on Sunday, February 5, during enrichment hour. Contact Louise Waugh 301-474-5229 or [LouiseMWaugh@hotmail.com](mailto:LouiseMWaugh@hotmail.com).

## Legacy Fund

### Paint Branch Legacy Fund Grants for 2017-2018

The Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that the amount available for potential grants from the Paint Branch Legacy Fund is \$3,100 (total). The Endowment Committee will be accepting grant applications through March 31, 2017 for use during the 2017-2018 church year. *This is a hard deadline.*

Typically, money is available for projects that have not been funded previously and need to be completed within the church year. There are no multi-year funds available. The Endowment Committee will meet in April to select the project(s) to fund.

You can obtain grant request forms from Ken Montville – [ken@mdsuburbs.com](mailto:ken@mdsuburbs.com)

Your generous contributions or bequests to the Paint Branch Legacy Fund will allow larger amounts to become available to fund great projects that fall outside the normal operating expenses of the church. Contact Ken Montville at [ken@mdsuburbs.com](mailto:ken@mdsuburbs.com) to find out how you can help the Paint Branch Legacy Fund grow.



## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

### Stand up for Justice in Washington DC

Monday, April 3 through Wednesday, April 5, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 301 A St SE, Washington, DC  
For registration information, visit: <http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality>

The rising tide of inequality, intolerance and racism makes it more important for UUs to stand up for their values. UUJEC and UUs for Social Justice in the National Capital Region (UUSJ) are organizing a spring conference in Washington DC to give UUs an opportunity to advocate for a vision of a fair and compassionate society directly to decision makers on Capitol Hill. We cannot take a step back on progress in equality and human rights. Now more than ever we must act.

We will be joined by several of our justice allies, including Sister Simone Campbell and Chuck Collins, build advocacy skills and spend time on capitol hill talking with decisions makers. This is an exciting and important time to be in our nation's capital.

Join a community of like-minded people making a difference by not only defending our gains for social and economic justice but also join people standing for a world that is more compassionate and just.

Contact: Rachel Bennett Steury [uujec@uujec.com](mailto:uujec@uujec.com) at 260-837-8938. Conference flyer can be found [here](#).

## Social Action Committee

On January 8, the Prince George's Peoples' Coalition met here at Paint Branch. The meeting, initiated by Rev. Evan Keely and moderated by Jonathan Hutto of PGPC, comprised representatives from 17 organizations. About 50 people attended the meeting, together with many PBUUC members including members of SAC, DARTT, and the Green Team. Issues discussed included efforts to ban fracking in Maryland, to keep Metro from eliminating bus lines that low-wage workers depend on to get to work, to reform bail policies that unfairly disadvantage poor defendants, and to place citizens on internal police trial boards. The discussion included reports from organization representatives on progress and upcoming activities and provided opportunities to share information and volunteer to help.

In addition to giving us the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of important issues that we need to support in our wider community, the meeting gave us the opportunity to witness firsthand the kind of coalition building advocated in Rev. Barber's book, *The Third Reconstruction*. We will keep you informed of future meetings and hope you'll consider coming to learn about what's going on and how you can help.

On January 18, SAC hosted training for Bystander Non-Violence Intervention sponsored by the Women's March on Washington. Trainers provided by the Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition (MOCO) trained participants in non-violent strategies to de-escalate tensions in situations of bullying, sexual harassment and assault, intimate partner violence, and race- and gender-based violence. The training was offered in advance of participating in the Women's March on Washington, January 21.

Fortunately, the training wasn't necessary. The March, with a crowd estimated at more than 500,000 in Washington alone was energetic yet peaceful, angry yet joyful. To participate along with hundreds of thousands of people—millions worldwide—in such a historically significant and righteous demonstration for inclusion, love, and resistance was, for me, a soul expanding experience that, I hope, resonates for a lifetime. With all of that, though, the struggle continues. On their website on January 22, March organizers thanked the millions of people around the world who, on January 21, came together to raise their voices for peace and sanity but noted that the “march forward does not end here.” The organizers ask us to now join in a new campaign: 10 Actions for the first 100 Days (see their site). The March and the PGPC are steps on the way to a beloved community. It's nice to know we've got so much company walking with us as we go forward.

—Janet Overton, SAC Chair [SAC@pbuuc.org](mailto:SAC@pbuuc.org)

The SAC Special Collection for February 2017 is **DC STRIDE (Strengthening Transformative Relationships in a Diverse Environment)**. This group of young adult leaders works to create access for youth in the greater Washington area to attend summer camp and to create a community of radical inclusion at Shiloh Quaker Camp. Shiloh Camp provides opportunities for enrichment and leadership building in a wilderness environment. It is committed to ensuring that young people from all racial, geographical, and economic backgrounds have the opportunity to benefit from such an environment. Additionally, they feel strongly that the young people they work with, contribute a lot to the communities they are a part of and that all participants benefit from their presence at the camp. Furthermore, research has shown that intergroup contact in collaborative settings builds cultural competence and lowers bias for all. To this end STRIDE provides tuition assistance, gear, transportation, and orientation to families in the program as well as inclusion and equity training and consulting to camp and organizational staff.



## Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

### Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting: Monday, February 13, 7 pm to 9 pm

DARTT will meet in-person Monday, February 13, 2017 from 7 to 9 pm in Room 4. We're meeting on Monday rather than Tuesday, this month. We will be meeting in person using teleconferencing only in inclement weather or as an accommodation for those who cannot attend in person. Please e-mail

[DARTT@pbuuc.org](mailto:DARTT@pbuuc.org) or see Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson or Carol Carter Walker to place items on the Agenda. This meeting is open to members and friends of the PBUUC community.

### Black Lives of UUs Convening In New Orleans, LA.

The very first Black Lives of UUs Convening will take place in New Orleans, LA on March 9 - 12, 2017. This historic event will bring together Black Unitarian Universalists from across generations. Over the course of four days together we will co-create spiritual nourishment and healing through ritual, worship, and pastoral care. As a community we will help design what we want for ourselves and our faith now and for the future. Financial support to attend this conference is available. To obtain more details and to register go to <http://blacklivesuu.com/convening2017>

### DARTT Recommends:

#### Sunday February 19 Service and Enrichment Hour to Focus on William Barber's Work

On Sunday, February 19, 2017, Reverend Evan Keely will lead a service and facilitate an extended Enrichment Hour on the words and work of Rev. Dr. William Barber II, author of *The Third Reconstruction*, which many of us have read. Please come to the Service and join the conversation. If you would like to purchase the book, contact [DARTT@pbuuc.org](mailto:DARTT@pbuuc.org) to place an order.

### 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 re-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.**

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