



# BRANCHES



## PAIN T BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

May 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

### MAY 7 WE MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER OR DIE

*The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate*  
Perhaps the choices for how to live a human life boil down to two: a defensive tribalism, or inclusion.

\*Featuring the world premier of a special Choir piece commissioned by Auction Winner Pat Behenna and composed by Markus Williams.\*

### MAY 14 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO MOTHER EARTH! ANNUAL FLOWER COMMUNION AND MULTIGENERATIONAL WORSHIP

*Carla Miller, Director of Multicultural Religious Exploration; with Abby Wester, Worship Associate; the PBUUC Green Team; and the Children's Choir*  
We will celebrate our beautiful Mother Earth, and honor her need for our loving attention. Please bring a flower for each family member attending. You will go home with a flower from another member of our church community.

\*\*\*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.\*\*\*

### MAY 21 SPIRIT OF LIFE

*The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with the PBUUC Worship Associate team; and the Choir*  
Carolyn McDade's "Spirit of Life" is truly among the most beloved of songs among Unitarian Universalists. What does it mean to us?

### MAY 28 RELINQUUNT OMNIA SERVARE REM PUBLICAM

*The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Mary Rooker, Worship Associate; and Carla Miller, DMRE*  
Memorial Day reminds us of the value of service and sacrifice to a greater good. We need this reminder now as much as ever.

### Minister's Column



I can appreciate that there are feelings of disappointment and anxiety for some in the congregation following the ministerial search committee's April 9 announcement that the search for a settled minister candidate is ongoing. Congregations invest a great deal of energy and expectation into a ministerial search — as well they should; it's an important process around a decision of no small consequence. I am sure I speak for everyone in expressing my appreciation for the ministerial search committee's hard work, dedication and devotion. I'm also aware that there had been a real yearning among some in the congregation for the search committee to announce a candidate in early April, as had been originally hoped. Surely no one "blames" the search committee — or anyone else — for this; this is just one of the ways that searches can unfold. Of the fifty or so UU congregations in search this year, about a dozen are still seeking a ministerial candidate. This appears to be a growing trend in our denomination, though no one seems to be sure why.

None of us knows what may happen. As I have with the other six congregations I've served as interim minister, with PBUUC I have tried to emphasize that a ministerial search can produce many different possible outcomes, and that the best thing a congregation in transition can do us cultivate a spirit of curiosity, open-mindedness and hope as it faces the future.

There's no doubt that enthusiastically calling a settled minister candidate this spring who joyously accepts could lead to wonderful things, and of course that result is still entirely possible. It's also possible that wonderful things could happen with many other configurations of professional religious leadership. These could include a third year of interim ministry with a new interim minister, a developmental ministry, or perhaps even new and creative arrangements that PBUUC has not experienced before. It may be tempting to see as "less-than" anything that isn't a settled ministry to begin in the summer of 2017. But in any undertaking, there are going to be challenges and opportunities. We already know from experience that PBUUC is up to the challenge of dealing with the unknown and the unexpected. What the congregation does in the days, months and years ahead will demonstrate the resolve of this people of faith as perhaps nothing else ever has. I see no reason to doubt that the good folks of PBUUC can face the future with courage and creativity.

- *Evan*

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister  
[minister@pbuuc.org](mailto:minister@pbuuc.org)

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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)
Adult RE	Emily Conover (Visual Arts)
Auction	Louise Waugh
Budget Leadership Team	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds (co-chairs)	Celinda Marsh
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
Electronic Communications	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Finance	Don Gerson, Chair
Green Team (co-chairs)	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
Leasing (contact)	<a href="mailto:contact_church_office">contact_church_office</a>
Legacy Fund	Patty Daukantas
Membership	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Ministry	<a href="mailto:Church Office">Church Office</a>
Nominating	Ken Montville
Personnel	Pat Behenna
Religious Exploration	[contact <a href="mailto:Ministerial Search Cmte">Ministerial Search Cmte</a> ]
Site Improvement	John Bartoli
Social Action (SAC)	VACANT
Stewardship	<a href="mailto:REcmte@pbuuc.org">REcmte@pbuuc.org</a>
Transition Team	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) 🌀

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

### 🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Children's Choir	Allison Hughes & Jeanne Judd
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 & Louise Waugh
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Pat Behenna
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Louise Waugh

### 🌀 Minister 🌀

The Rev. Evan Keely

### 🌀 Staff 🌀

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

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

### 🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

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

## Board of Trustees

All current members of the BOT attended the regular meeting on April 18, 2017. Liz Citrin, Co-Chair, led the meeting. Additionally the Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer were in attendance. There were 10 members of the congregation present for all or part of the meeting. Since the last Branches article the BOT has experienced the following changes: Ken Redd informed the BOT of his intention to resign from the BOT effective at the end of the church year. There will be 5 vacancies to be filled for the next BOT beginning on July 1, 2017

The Consent Agenda items, the monthly reports of the DRME, Church Administrator, Treasurer and MSC were approved without discussion. The IM report was approved with the understanding that approval does not mean agreement in this case. The minutes and Charter Approvals were adopted with minor additions.

The BOT approved the BAG Sound System Upgrade presented by Van Summers and the Endowment Committee Grants as presented by Ken Montville. The sound system proposal allows for fund raising for this purpose. The Endowment Grants were for a scholarship for a GA attendee, a new energy efficient refrigerator for the Meeting House and AV equipment for the Social Justice Coalition Conscientious Projection Film Series.

There was a great deal of discussion about ministry options we have as a congregation in Round 2 of the selection process. A presentation by three long time members of PBUUC. John Bartoli, Carol Carter Walker, and Bettie Young to the BOT resulted in the adoption of a motion based on their plan to allow the congregation to participate by receiving information and giving input to the BOT as they make decisions about PBUUC ministry.

Carol Carter Walker and Sonny Katz gave an update on their progress toward establishing the All Church Council previously approved by the BOT.

There was brief discussion of planning for the June 2017 Annual Meeting.

**Carmelita R. Carter-Sykes**

BOT Co-Chair, [Boardchair@pbuuc.org](mailto:Boardchair@pbuuc.org)

May Board Meetings:

**Wednesday, May 3, 6:30 pm**  
Executive Committee (RE Bldg)

**Tuesday, May 9, 11 pm**  
Read-Aheads due to Board  
(email: [BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org](mailto:BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org))

**Tuesday, May 16, 7 pm**  
Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

## Ministerial Search Committee

Greetings from the Ministerial Search Committee!

As I'm sure many of you have heard, the MSC is extending our search and Candidating Week, previously scheduled for April 30 through May 7, has been postponed. The full announcement, originally delivered during service on April 9th, can be found here. Along with the extension, there has also been a change in leadership within the MSC. Jan Montville will remain on the committee but has stepped back from her role as chair for medical reasons. Janet Overton and I have stepped forward as co-chairs.

After our announcement, the MSC dove right back into the search process. We are in the midst of round 2 (which I have affectionately dubbed THE LIGHTNING ROUND) so we are as busy as we ever were, if not more so. We're reviewing ministerial records, scouring minister's packets, listening to audio and video sermons, and setting up interviews. All this, in the hopes that we will find the right minister to help us grow and move forward in our ministry. We are looking to schedule some pre-candidating weekends in the near future which will (hopefully) lead to a successful Candidating Week, date TBD.

It is our sincere hope (and probably yours, too) that we find a great minister in Round 2 and we are working diligently towards that goal, but please know that we absolutely will not ask a minister we don't think is right for us to be our candidate. If that means we have to extend the search again, then that is what we will do. So what happens if we don't find success in Round 2? While there is technically a Round 3 (DOUBLE SUPER LIGHTNING ROUND!), the most likely scenario is that the search would continue into next year. I know that doesn't sound too good but there is a silver lining. Though we would have to update it slightly, we won't have to write a whole new Congregational Record. We won't have to hold another Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop. We won't have to complete a new congregational survey. We won't have to (though we might) hold any more cottage meetings. We won't have to spend days, and weeks, and months carefully crafting the packet that perfectly sums up who we think we are and who we think we want as a minister. All of that work is already done and we don't have to do it again. Starting at the beginning of January, round 1 would begin anew. We would get a whole new list of ministers interested in us and we would start that part of the process again.

Hang in there with us a little while longer because we're still working and we're not done yet. We're here for the long haul, whether the long haul lasts six more weeks or whether it lasts another year. If you have questions about where we are in the process or what we're doing, please ask. As always, while some things will have to remain confidential, we will share what information we can. Above all, we want you to know that we are deeply invested in this process and in YOU.

*In Faith,*

**Ebeth Porter**

On behalf of the MSC [search@pbuuc.org](mailto:search@pbuuc.org)

## Interim Ministry Options Town Hall Meeting

Did you know the UUA offers other possibilities for next year besides either a new Settled Minister or an Interim Minister? Would you like to learn about these other options, and have an opportunity to discuss and comment? While the Ministerial Search Committee continues to look for a Settled Minister, let's take a look at what these other options might offer. Our feedback will help the Board make decisions about the next step if we should not have a Settled Minister in place for the coming year. (Note that the Board hires an Interim Minister while the Congregation votes for a Settled Minister.)

With the unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees, we are organizing a Town Hall Meeting for Sunday, May 21, 11:30 am to 2 pm to provide an opportunity for open discussion and input. We encourage members to talk about where we have been in the last three years and where we may want to be in the future, including the possible directions we could take for another interim ministry, should we not be able to find a Settled Minister.

This meeting will include a presentation by a UUA Transitions Office ministry expert about our available options. After we have heard our possible choices, we will break out into facilitated small group discussions with structured questions and then regather into the whole group for reporting back recommendations for the Board to consider.

There will be no formal voting. We recognize that the ultimate authority rests with the Board, but we believe that the health of the congregation requires an opportunity for discussion and input from as many members as possible. All input will be gathered and provided to the Board. Your voice will be heard.

Again, this Interim Ministry Options Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 21, 11:30 am to 2pm. Child Care will be provided along with a light lunch.

Please RSVP to [IMOTaskForce@pbuuc.org](mailto:IMOTaskForce@pbuuc.org) if you plan to attend, so we can make appropriate space, food, and child care arrangements.

—John Bartoli, Bettie Young, and Carol Carter Walker  
Interim Ministry Options Task Force

## Stewardship

Our “Giving With Gratitude” annual campaign was successfully concluded on April 16. We hope many of you were able to enjoy our celebration during the enhanced coffee hour hosted by the Stewardship Committee on Easter Sunday. In just over two months, our Paint Branch UU community pledged over \$288,000 and with just a few more anticipated pledges to go we are hopeful that our final pledge total could reach \$290,000 for the 2017-2018 church year.

For those interested in the statistics, just over half of our 105 households who pledged increased their commitment over last year. Even more importantly, the total amount pledged was stable compared to last year even though we have received 12 fewer pledges to date. The average pledge per household this year increased by 11% to \$2,747 and the average pledge per person increased by 8% to \$2,046. The median pledge amounts were \$1,920 per household and \$1,300 per person. This is truly “Giving with Gratitude”.

We want to thank everyone who contributed their time, talent and treasure. These include our committee volunteers, everyone who helped with our many Stewardship events and the Commitment Sunday service, our Visiting Stewards, and of course to everyone who made a financial commitment to PBUUC. Thank you all for your generosity!

—Chris Evans, Stewardship Chair

[stewardship@pbucc.org](mailto:stewardship@pbucc.org)

## Join the Worship Associates Team in Planning Lay-Led Services for the Summer

Have an idea you'd like to present? Or a theme that you'd like to explore? Or something talked about during an Enrichment Hour that you'd like to deep dive into? Or maybe you are part of a group or know of one that would have an interesting topic to present. If we've piqued your curiosity, read on.

Paint Branch has a long history of providing quality services year round and this summer we plan to continue that tradition. Our Summer Services will begin June 18 and end September 3.

We're so fortunate to be able to draw on the talents of PBUUC members and friends sharing their knowledge and interests with each other through well-crafted services. Both individuals and representatives of various interest groups are welcome to contribute ideas and services. Also, if you know about potential outside groups or individuals who might be suitable, please bring their names to our attention. We are not able to provide honoraria for lay-led services; however, outside groups or individuals may sell books and/or promote their events after the service. As always, a Worship Associate will be assigned to each service to keep things running smoothly. Music Director David Chapman is happy to consult on music.

If you're interested, please send your idea to [WorshipAssociates@pbuuc.org](mailto:WorshipAssociates@pbuuc.org) by Monday, May 15. We'll be having a meeting some time in May to formalize the summer schedule. Look for updates in upcoming Bulletins and ContinUUMs.

## Multigenerational Religious Exploration

### In this Summer's Religious Exploration, Love Will Guide Us!

Did you realize that PBUUC's Children's Religious Exploration continues throughout the year? Our summer sessions bring children together in one multiaged group. Junior and Senior Youth are helpful leaders for the youngest children as all ages participate in discussion, creative art activities and games.

This summer, children will engage in a wonderful curriculum from the UUA's Tapestry of Faith resources, "Love Will Guide Us." In this program, participants learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together we ask questions such as, "Where did we come from?" "What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures?" "How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?" "What happens when you die?" Sessions apply wisdom from our Sources to help participants answer these questions. Participants will learn that asking questions is valued in Unitarian Universalism, even as they begin to shape their own answers.

Each Sunday will include an opening circle, a story, a game and an art activity. Snacks of popcorn and popicles add to the relaxed atmosphere of summer. We'll plan to go outdoors for games and play each Sunday as weather permits.

Adult leadership is vital to the summer RE program; whether you volunteer to come once or many times. We need 2 adults each Sunday; one leader and one assistant. Again, this can be a one-session commitment or as many times as you would like..

Parents, we hope that each of you will plan to give of your time to the children for at least one Sunday. Non-parents, take this opportunity to join in RE on a one-time basis rather than a full-year commitment.

All plans, stories and materials are provided by Carla Miller, DMRE. Please see Carla about the dates on which you could volunteer and go to the SignUp Genius at: <http://bit.ly/PBREsummer17>

*Carla Miller, DMRE@pbuuc.org*

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

### RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

4 F'S

**FRIDAY, MAY 5, 6 PM - 9 PM OPENING NIGHT FOR OUR NEW 4 F'S PROGRAM!! FOOD, FUN, AND FAITH FRIDAYS**



**Theme-Based Religious Exploration for All Ages**, with each theme developed over one semester. Our Spring/Summer theme is The Great Mystery-That Which Many Call God.

**FOOD** We will have a yummy burrito bar. Donate \$5 per person or as you're able. **FUN** Socialize with old friends

and make new ones in this community gathering. **FAITH** Following dinner, Rev. Evan Keeley will lead us in a short worship circle. Then choose the Religious Exploration activity of your choice: A creative art expression based on the story, In God's Name by Rabbi Sandy Sasso, a book discussion of The History of God by Karen Armstrong, cooperative games, and a small group, informal worship experience. **FRIDAY** First and third Fridays of each month- Starting Now! Attend all or drop-in when you can!

*Come to enrich your faith, families, friendships, and thus, our UU community. Nursery care provided.*

**Our first 4 F Book Discussion, The History of God, by Karen Armstrong, will be led by Melissa Graham.** As described by Amazon, "In this stunningly intelligent book..., Karen Armstrong performs the near miracle of distilling the intellectual history of monotheism into one superbly readable volume, destined to take its place as a classic." **Books are on sale in the Foyer, \$11.**

**Have You Registered Yet for RE 2017-18?** Register children and youth <https://tinyurl.com/PBUUCRE-17-18> **THANK YOU for helping us to plan ahead** for a Religious Exploration ministry that forms our young UU's foundation in faith, and develops their teachers' UU faith too! (another good reason to teach)



**Have You Volunteered to Lead a Children's RE Class in RE 2017-2018?**

We need good adult leaders who will provide a warm and nurturing environment for our children and youth. You will get more than you give as an RE volunteer. Volunteer to teach and for other involvements [tinyurl.com/RE-Teach-PBUUC](https://tinyurl.com/RE-Teach-PBUUC) Speak to Carla Miller, DMRE, [dmre@pbuuc.org](mailto:dmre@pbuuc.org), or 410-707-9611, or Melissa Graham of MRE Team to volunteer, or sign-up on the board in the Foyer and we will contact you!

## Denominational Affairs

### Registration is Open for the 2017 General Assembly (GA) In New Orleans.

GA is the annual meeting of our denomination. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through use of the democratic process. There are many things to do virtually every hour of the day, beginning Wednesday, June 21 and ending Sunday, June 25.

Go to [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga) to get a panoramic view of 2017 GA programming, book a hotel, register, apply for financial aid, and volunteer. This year, we will have the opportunity to vote on the new President of the Association. There will be reports on the work being done by the Interim Co-Presidents of the UUA appointed to replace Rev. Peter Morales. Paint Branch is entitled to four delegates. So far, seven members have indicated that they are attending in person or off-site. If you plan to attend and if you want to be a delegate, please contact Don Gerson at ([dongerson@yahoo.com](mailto:dongerson@yahoo.com), or 240-293-6570).



## Social Action Committee

### Sanctuary Work: Justice, Equity, Compassion

Our Black Lives Matter/LGBTQ Rights banner has rematerialized. Its ties were cut and the banner removed the weekend of March 20; but thanks to two PBUUC members who covered almost the entire cost of the replacement, and to Lowell Owens for making sure we received and remounted the replacement, our banner is back. Although it was not reported as a hate crime, the theft suggests the work of elements in our wider community that won't tolerate the expression of different opinions or advocating for social justice.

The lack of tolerance for social justice seems to be growing fastest against members of immigrant communities. The current administration's rhetoric concerning immigrant populations—branding them thieves and rapists—and the recent revisions of immigration laws have placed immigrant families in the crosshairs of mean-spirited individuals and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). As a result, many immigrants live in fear.

At a Roundtable discussion, Monday, April 3 at CASA de Maryland, Senator Ben Cardin and Montgomery and Prince George's officials heard directly from members of the immigrant community and lawyers and other activists working with immigrants. The purpose was to bring to the attention of the Senator and others the disastrous effects federal immigration laws and punishments are having on immigrant families and individuals. Roxana, a mother of two little girls, talked of being picked up by ICE while eating lunch outdoors on her lunch break. She was released but afraid that at her next ICE check-in, she might not be allowed to return home to her children. (A CASA lawyer, Nick Steiner, accompanied her to her next visit and reported back that she was given an extension; not sure for how long.) A young Dreamer, who came to America when he was 2 years old lives in fear that at any time he could be sent to live in a country he's never known before he can finish school in the country he grew up in. Immigrants' Rights advocates told of people so afraid of being picked up, they refuse to go buy groceries or seek needed medical attention. This is the importance of sanctuary work.

Sanctuary DMV's Prince George's Cluster met Monday, April 10, at the Hyattsville Mennonite Church; at this meeting were 15 individuals from 7 churches. Updates on our progress revealed that two more PG churches have declared themselves Sanctuary Churches. In terms of political advocacy, someone mentioned the PG County Executive

declared PG police would not cooperate with ICE. It was also reported that Hyattsville recently declared itself a Sanctuary City. City Council members not in favor, however, noted that declaring itself a Sanctuary City was giving false hope to immigrants, since it provides no protections from ICE or the consequences of being picked up. Mixed reactions also came from cluster members who had attended a Sanctuary DMV Training the Trainer: Rapid Response training session. They noted that, given the potential for danger in those situations, rapid response work is not for everyone. We concluded, however, that this work is important and we will continue to recruit other churches and support each other's' efforts because lives depend on it. At PBUUC, SAC and DARTT scheduled a Training the Trainer: Know Your Rights session for Monday for April 24, presented by Julio Murillo-Khadjibaeva, Policy Analyst with CASA, offered to individuals not directly affected by immigration laws but who want to help those who are. At this writing, the training has not yet happened. More next month.

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

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### Next SAC meeting, Saturday, May 20, 10 am to noon.

Come and help us focus our social justice lens on the issues we as a congregation feel are most important. Join us as we work for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Live your social justice passions. Remember: May 20 in Room 4 in the RE Building. For more information, send an email to Janet at [SAC@pbuuc.org](mailto:SAC@pbuuc.org)

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### Write Here Write Now!

The DC Area UU Social Justice Advocacy Corp will be headed to Capital Hill on Tuesday, May 9 in support of Climate Justice Month. As a follow-up to the Peoples' Climate March, the UUSJAC is asking congregations to write letters to their members of congress to support full funding for climate research and to restore funding to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). After service on May 7, you can write letters to your members of congress and the UUSJ Advocacy Corps will deliver them to Congressional offices May 9th, so you don't even need a stamp. For more information stop by the table at the rear of the sanctuary after service. We will have talking points and letters available for you to sign. —Harry Schomberg

## Social Action Committee, continued

### Special Collection on Sunday, May 21

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. The Hyattsville Area CROP Walk is on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices in the world, today but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and you can help make it happen.

For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.

Stand with neighbors in your community who rely on food assistance programs. Partner with parents worldwide as they ensure a bright future for their children. Support those struggling in the face of grinding poverty and open up new doors of opportunity for them.

Tens of thousands of CROP Hunger Walkers are committed to building a hunger-free world. CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots, hunger-fighting development efforts around the world. In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs something CWS has learned through some 70 years of working in partnership around the world. Currently, well over 2,000 communities across the U.S. join in more than 1,300 CROP Hunger Walks each year. More than five million CROP Hunger Walkers have participated

### Call for SAC Special Collection Recipients.

If you want to nominate a worthy recipient for the June, July or August special collections, please contact Carmelita Carter-Sykes at [cartercarmelita@aol.com](mailto:cartercarmelita@aol.com) with a copy to Janet Overton at [janmo4868@gmail.com](mailto:janmo4868@gmail.com). Thanks.

— C. Carter-Sykes

## Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team



### Next Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2017

The next DARTT Planning Meeting will be Tuesday, May 9, from 7 to 9 pm in Room 4 of the RE Building. 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 all members and friends of the PBUUC community.

### DARTT Recommends:

**UU Racial Justice Gathering, Saturday, May 6, 9 am to 4 pm at River Road UU Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD**

Sponsors: Central East Region, UUA, & River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

We invite you to engage with UUs from the Capital Cluster as we explore UU multicultural ministries. We are being called to address White Supremacy and diversity in our movement. Together we will share the stories and photos from our own congregations and begin to strategize around skills and actions for growing our multicultural ministries and partnerships. We encourage you to make sure your congregation is represented for this event to help further our racial justice work in the Greater Washington, DC Cluster.

Cost is \$15 for lunch. Scholarships are available upon request to by emailing Paula Cole Jones at [pcolejones@gmail.com](mailto:pcolejones@gmail.com) (If requesting a scholarship, do not register online). Registration deadline is May 4. Please contact the registrar, Paula Cole Jones at [pcolejones@gmail.com](mailto:pcolejones@gmail.com) to register.

### All Souls Church, Unitarian Hosts University of Michigan Glee Club In DC Premier of Seven Last Words of the Unarmed

On Thursday, May 18, All Souls will present the University of Michigan Glee Club in a premiere of Seven Last Words of the Unarmed: A Work Honoring Black Lives. Tickets are \$20 and include a reception at 6 pm and the concert at 7 pm. Go to All Souls website <http://www.all-souls.org> and scroll down to purchase \$20 tickets online.



## The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

### First Unitarian Church of Baltimore (FUCB) Hosts Reverend Alma Faith Crawford In Commemoration of 1819 Channing Sermon.

FUCB is celebrating three bicentennials:

- ✧ the founding of the church in February 1817;
- ✧ the dedication of the building in October 1818; and
- ✧ the preaching of the famous "Baltimore Sermon" by Unitarian pioneer William Ellery Channing at the installation of our first minister, Jared Sparks, in May 1819.

On Sunday, May 7 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Rev. Alma Faith Crawford, former Professor of Worship Arts at Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA and founding pastor of Church of the Open Door on Chicago's south side will commemorate the Channing Sermon with: "Sanity While Black: Enduring Racial Trauma Without Losing Our Damn Minds."

First Unitarian Church Baltimore is at 10 W Franklin St, Baltimore, MD. There is limited street parking and reduced fee garage parking nearby. Doors open at 3:30 pm with combined choirs and orchestra as part of the celebration.



### Call for Delegates for the 2017 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The 2017 GA will be in New Orleans, LA from June 21 to June 25. So far I have heard from four people who plan to attend in person, and one to attend online. This is a wonderful opportunity to see representatives of our entire denomination, probably over 4,000 in person, meet our leaders, elect our next President, attend plenary sessions where you see our governance in action, and participate in that action, attend a huge assortment of workshops, and have a great time. It's time for any who plan to attend, to please contact me with your intentions and/or questions. I particularly need to hear soon from those who wish to be Delegates. We are entitled to four Delegates; those who officially represent our Church and can vote on issues at the GA. It's possible to attend in person or online, and it is possible to be a Delegate both in person or online. Please contact Don Gerson ([donaldgerson@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldgerson@yahoo.com), or 240-293-6570).

## In and Around Paint Branch

Our current exhibition in the Meeting House is a "Retrospective View of Jane Trout's Paintings." All of the paintings on exhibit are available for purchase, along with some additional unframed paintings and cards. Jane's family has generously offered to donate all sales proceeds to the church. If you are interested in purchasing a painting, please stop by the table in the Foyer after services.

### TwedHUULK at Riderwood on May 17

This month we will try someplace new for TwedHUULK but very familiar to many at Paint Branch. We will be dining at one of the restaurants located on the grounds of the Riderwood Community. More information will be posted in upcoming Bulletins and Continuums.

### Longtime Attendees, Occasional or New Visitors, PBUUC Friends or Members who just want to review our UU faith and history:

Judy Morris will lead an upcoming (date TBD) Enrichment Hour discussion of [A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism](#) by John Buehrens, UU minister and past UUA president. Copies of the book are being ordered and will be available for purchase as soon as they arrive. All are welcome to attend. Extended child care will be available. Questions? Contact Pat by email at [behenna@verizon.net](mailto:behenna@verizon.net) or at home 301-776-4025.

### BAG Announcement on Sound System Upgrade

The Board of Trustees has approved a proposed set of upgrades to our current sound system. All attending our Sunday services and other events in our Meeting House will benefit from these upgrades which include:

- ◇ installation of an induction loop that will significantly improve sound quality for hearing impaired listeners;
- ◇ replacement of current loudspeakers by a speaker system that greatly reduces sound distortions due to reverberation; and,
- ◇ tablet/iPad control of microphone levels from inside the sanctuary.

The full upgrade will cost approximately \$16,000 and the Board has authorized special collections to fund this project. Two members of our church who strongly support the upgrades have offered to pay the difference between the amount that can be raised to support this project and its total cost. If you wish to donate, please contact Van Summers at [vsummers6@gmail.com](mailto:vsummers6@gmail.com). Please make checks payable to PBUUC and write "Sound System – deposit to acct 3114" in the memo line.

## In and Around Paint Branch, continued

### Update on Black Lives Matter/Rainbow/Standing on the Side of Love Banner

Thank you to Steve Bernheisel, Mike McMenamin Lowell Owens, and Peter Wathen-Dunn, and for purchasing and reinstalling a replacement banner on April 22. It is larger and more securely fastened than the original.

Thank you to the two donors who provided money to replace the banner with only a small dent in our operating budget.

We did report the vandalism to the police and asked them to consider it as a hate crime in keeping with guidelines from the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Janet Overton, Lowell Owens, and Carol Carter Walker met with three representatives from the Prince George's County Police on April 18. They:

- ☞ encouraged us to report all instances of property crime promptly. (We had not reported two earlier instances of having our rainbow flag disappear.)
- ☞ observed about the need for more parking lot lighting and consideration of security cameras.
- ☞ offered to do a complete inspection of the buildings and grounds to make recommendations on how to improve our security.
- ☞ encouraged us to reach out to the District Commander to increase patrols if we felt that any of our activities might attract unwanted attention.
- ☞ suggested using a sign up system for events that invited non-church members.

The meeting ended with a commitment to explore more opportunities for working together in community.

Submitted by: *Carol Carter Walker*



## GREEN TEAM



### These are busy times for the PBUUC Green Team!

Please join us and the Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Team after the service on May 7 to write letters to our Members of Congress sharing our personal concerns about the environment and urging full funding of the EPA and NOAA. On the following Sunday, May 14, we will write about ingredients in fragrances and their breath-taking effect on those of us with asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Recycling those batteries and light bulbs that can't be tossed into the recycling bin happens on May 21 (third Sundays).

And on May 28, our entire Green Team (hopefully all 20 + of us) will meet to celebrate successes of the year and make plans for the future. Please come with ideas for coming actions! We need everyone's help!

Questions? Contact Pat Behenna, Kathy Bartolomeo, or Marj Donn.

## ♪♪ Music at Paint Branch ♪♪

### “Music at Paint Branch” May 7 & June 9, 2017

The spring music series continues with 2 more outstanding performances. On Sunday, May 7 at 5 pm pianist Steven Silverman returns with a program entitled “Whimsy” featuring compositions by Beethoven, Hindemith, Schumann, Debussy, Chabrier and Chopin.

Friday evening, June 9 at 7:30 pm features our own mezzo soprano Allison Hughes accompanied by David Chapman with music by several local composers. The composers will be with us to discuss their music.

Both recitals are free and there will be a reception following each with the opportunity to meet the artists. Plan to attend; support the arts at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church.

### Paint Branch Choir Joins with 14 Other UU Choirs

Saturday, May 6 At 3:30 pm at All Souls Church, Unitarian. On Saturday, May 6, there will be a DC premiere of *America the Dream: Singing For Racial Justice* by African-American composer Rollo Dilworth. The Choir recently sang one of the pieces featured in this Concert during a recent Sunday Service. This event is free.

### 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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