



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

July 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

Excerpts from the Interim Minister's 2017 Annual Report:

I view this church's Religious Exploration ministry as of the healthiest and most dynamic elements of congregational life. I have striven to continue to give the new Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration my enthusiastic support. Multigenerational worship has been rich this year, and programming for children has continued energetically. I am especially optimistic about a new multigenerational program that the DMRE and the MRE Team have launched this spring: Food, Fun & Faith Fridays.

I think that one of the most notable achievements during the past two years was the placement of a banner in front of the church which incorporates motifs of the rainbow, a distinctive Standing on the Side of Love heart, and the phrase "BLACK LIVES MATTER." I feel like the process that went into this decision, culminating last June with a unanimous congregational vote to place the banner, was a constructive, inclusive and healthy one. I felt strongly that before the banner went up, there should be some dialogue with the local police, and I was gratified that congregational leaders reached out and participated in what I thought was a beneficial conversation with the local police chief and some members of his staff. I doubt I was the only person who was both saddened yet not surprised when our rainbow/SSL/BLM banner was stolen. We replaced it right away, with some congregants eagerly contributing money and time to the effort. While none of us can be glad that some ignorant, fearful person(s) stole the sign, it was an opportunity to reaffirm our resolve to witness for black and LGBTQ lives.

- *Evan*

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister

JULY 2 **DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND OUR UU PRINCIPLES**

PBUUC Worship Associate Annual Action Service

Pat Behenna won this service by the Worship Associates at our 2016 church auction and chose the topic. The WA's will reflect on our nation's history concerning racial justice, gender equality, climate justice, and peace vs. war. How do our UU principles relate to these large themes in terms of our past, present, and possible futures?

JULY 9 **EVERYONE IS DOING THE BEST THEY CAN. (EVEN ME.)**

Celinda Marsh, PBUUC member since 2007 and former Worship Associate; with Worship Associate Will Snyder

In the book *Rising Strong*, Brené Brown struggles with the question, "Is everyone doing the best they can?" She discovers that compassion and peace follow those who choose to believe it is true. To me, her reflections resonate with our first UU Principle - promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. But, as a workaholic perfectionist, the hardest part for me is not giving other people the benefit of the doubt, but imagining that (maybe) I am doing my best, too.

JULY 16 **UU STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS**

PBUUC Member Ebony Contreras; with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate

The seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalism help guide us in our lives, spiritual journey, and moral compass. Considering the unique interconnection and cascading effect that the 1st, 4th, and 7th Principles have on each other, how might we apply this knowledge for a more successful and happy life?

JULY 23 **A COUNTRY FOR ALL: THE PROBLEM WITH THE 'CHRISTIAN NATION' MYTH**

Rob Boston, Dir. of Communications, Americans United for Separation of Church and State; with Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate

This service debunks the idea that the United States was founded to be a Christian nation and explains why the myth persists and why it is dangerous. This topic is especially relevant now, with claims by leaders posing as defenders of our nation's alleged Christian heritage.

JULY 30 **WHERE DO WE COME FROM? WHO ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

GOING THROUGH THE DIFFICULT PLACES TOWARD BELOVED COMMUNITY.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT)

Annual Summer Service; with Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate

This Service will explore our past, present, and future in moving toward Beloved Community in our denomination, in our congregation, and in ourselves. Reverberations to follow Service.

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2016-2017 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Trustee	Kate Brett
Trustee	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Trustee	Sonny Katz
Trustee	Kay McGraw
Trustee	Tess Morrison
Trustee	Eric Most,
Trustee	Jessica Sharp
Trustee	Marguerite Summers
Trustee	Kathi Yu
Secretary	Erin Gebhart
Treasurer	Louise Waugh
Assistant Treasurer	David Nation

🌀 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)	contact_church_office
Legacy Fund	Patty Daukantas
Membership	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Ministry	Church Office
Nominating	Ken Montville
Personnel	Pat Behenna
Religious Exploration	[contact Board of Trustees]
Social Action (SAC)	John Bartoli
Stewardship	VACANT
	REcmte@pbuuc.org
	Janet Overton
	Chris Evans

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Sherry Mitchell
Children's Choir	Allison Hughes & Jeanne Judd
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	VACANT
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Meditation Group	Cory Carter
Men's Group	Keith Miller
Mental Health Support Group	Alice Tyler
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	Tess Morrison & 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

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

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

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

Multigenerational Religious Exploration



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Next Food, Fun, & Faith Friday

4 F'S

Join Us! July 7 for theme-based Religious Exploration for All Ages 1st & 3rd Fridays each month, 6:30-8:30 pm. (Note the new start time of 6:30 pm)

Our Summer theme is The Great Mystery-That Which Many Call God

- ◇ **The Focus Story:** The Hundredth Name of God, Oppenheim
- ◇ **Whole Group Project:** Decorate a hand to create a bulletin board
- ◇ **Ritual:** Small group ministry session, Is Google God? Characteristics of the Divine
- ◇ **Children's Activity:** Center activities focused on Islam for the kids and some interested adult assistants
- ◇ **Book Discussion:** The History of God, Armstrong; Ch. 5 Islam
- ◇ **Dinner: NEW TIME, 6:30 PM FOR DINNER/7:30 PM ACTIVITIES BEGIN**

Come to enrich your faith, families, friendships, and thus, our UU community. Invite a friend!



SUMMER RE "Love Will Guide Us," A Summer of Love! Please help to make this a fun summer for PBUUC kids by signing up to teach or assist one Sunday. Speak to Carla Miller, DMRE, today. Sign up for one session, or several. Or sign-up online

at <https://tinyurl.com/PBUUCSummer>



SAVE THE DATES -Teacher Orientations for the 2017-2018 RE Year

PBUUC RE Teacher Start-Up, Sunday, August 27 11:30 am—1:30 pm

Maryland Regional UU Teacher Orientation, "UU Are the Changemakers." Saturday, September 16, 8:45 am - 1:15 pm with lunch. The training will be held at River Road UU Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD. **Register** at tinyurl.com/uu-changemakers

Our First Day of the New Church-School Year Will Be Sunday, September 24. Multi-Generational Ingathering is scheduled for September 17th, 2017.

In and Around Paint Branch

TWedHUULK be Thai at Laurel restaurant in the Laurel Town Center shopping development located at the intersection of Cherry Lane and Baltimore Ave.

Lunch entree specials are \$13-\$14 and come with soup or an appetizer.



Mental Health Support Group Starting

Have you or a loved one or a family member had issues with mental health? Are you interested in learning about mental health? Did you know there is no treatment for mental illness without the mentally ill person's consent; unless they are endangering themselves or others? In Prince George's County Maryland the mentally ill person who commits a crime is protected by law from incarceration. They are released from the courtroom; often to the street. Did you know that the mentally ill are one of the most discriminated groups of people in society? Come join us for discussion and support for people who are affected by these challenges, during Enrichment Hour on the second Sunday of each month starting July 9, 2017. We will meet in Room 4 of the RE building. Contact: Alice Tyler Bobalice2@msn.com / 301-935-5279 / or Marge Owens lowellandmarge@verizon.net / 301-345-1572; or Louise Waugh louisemwaugh@hotmail.com / 301-474-5229.

Exhibition Features Mark Leatherman's Photography.

Our new exhibition in the Meeting House features the photography of Mark Leatherman. Mark is a member of River Road UU Congregation. Prior to his retirement from Montgomery County Public Schools, he taught 8th graders meteorology, astronomy and geology. As a landscape photographer, he incorporates the beauty and power of sunlight, rock, water, clouds and stars. He strives to spark awareness in the viewer of the deeper spirit he senses within and behind the magnificence of the natural world.



Social Action Committee

Passing the Torch

Saturday, June 17, Beacon House celebrated its 25th anniversary with a fund-raiser celebration to honor Rev. Donald Robinson, founder of Beacon House: a fund raiser for obvious reasons, a celebration because Rev. Robinson is retiring. Many in the PBUUC family have worked with Rev. Robinson and the children of Beacon House and know of the wonderful work that organization has accomplished.

Rev. Robinson founded Beacon House in 1991 to fill a need for youth-oriented social service programs and decided to start it in Edgewood, then a drug- and violence-plagued neighborhood. At that time, Robinson was a federal employee and an educator working with D.C.'s youth services administration. In a 2016 interview, Robinson said it seemed to him that the people he worked with "... were not concerned about improving the lives of the kids they were supposed to be serving." So he left his federal job and, using his own savings, began a program that today has provided educational, tutoring, mentoring, cultural, athletic, recreation, and nutrition programs as well as college and vocational training to thousands of at-risk, low-income children. Beacon House's educational and athletics programs have laid the foundation for hundreds of children to attend college, many on full scholarships, and go on to build prosperous, successful lives.

Based in the Edgewood Terrace housing complex, Beacon House serves not only the children of the complex but children throughout the neighborhood and D.C.; and since 1991, Edgewood has been transformed from a drug-infested blight to a welcoming community. In 2007, when the 31 members of the Beacon House Falcons 90-pound Peewee Division won the national football championship in the Pop Warner Super Bowl in Orlando, on their arrival back at Edgewood Terrace they were met with welcome-home banners and balloons as these 10 through 12 year olds arrived from the airport with their police escort, cheered on by a crowd from not only Edgewood, but from all over DC. Because of the Beacon House programs, a strong sense of community has developed. Dr. Monica Ruiz calls it "the Beacon House effect."

Monica S. Ruiz, PhD, MPH, is an assistant research professor at the George Washington University. In 2012, Beacon House asked GWU to formally assess its athletics program, measuring the physical and mental well-being of the youths and comparing them to their D.C. peers and young people nationwide. Dr. Ruiz took on the assignment and 57 Beacon House athletes were sur-

veyed in 2013. The finding was that compared to their peers, Beacon House athletes had higher levels of self-esteem, were more resilient, less likely to succumb to peer pressure, and more likely to stay in school. "The kids know that this community has their back," said Ruiz. "There's something about the community of Beacon House itself that really lends support to the kids. . . . We see this in the mental health variables."

Thousands of lives have been touched, perhaps hundreds saved as a result of Rev. Robinson's vision. And through the years, members of PBUUC have been actively involved in realizing that vision.

Rev. Robinson retires and PBUUC goes on, there is still so much work to do to make our world a better, safer place for all children. In doing the work of social justice, we work to make our world a better, safer place. We now begin a new chapter here at PBUUC, with our new minister. Let us now renew our dedication to UU principles and commitment to UU values because work done for the cause of social justice—wherever we see a need—is ultimately work in service to all children.

SAC Announcements

SAC meeting Saturday, July 22, 10 am to noon

(the fourth Saturday in July). Please come and help us focus PBUUC's 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: July 22 in Rm 4 in the RE Building. For more information, send an email to Janet at SAC@pbuuc.org.

Jubilee Anti-Racism Training at PBUUC July 14-16.

Jubilee Training teaches what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and how to work against racism in all of its forms. The workshop requires a weekend commitment. Former attendees say it's worth every minute.

WHEN: Friday, July 14 (6 pm to 10 pm); Saturday, July 15 (9 am to 9 pm); Sunday, July 16 (8:30 am to 5 pm)

WHERE: Friday and Saturday, PBUUC

Sunday at All Souls Church, 1500 Harvard St, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

FEE: \$160 per participant (includes cost for trainers, meals and materials). Contributions in support of this work are also welcome.

Enrollment is limited to 40 participants, so please register online today at <http://tinyurl.com/jubilee17>. You can pay online or mail your payment to: Central East Region, 100 W. 10th Street, #1008, Wilmington, DE 19801 Make checks payable to: Central East Region



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

The national Unitarian Universalist Association website has a *Climate Change Religious Education Curriculum*, <http://www.uua.org/environment/climate/curriculum>. The UUA also recommends a program called *Do One Thing*, <https://acespace.org/dot>; check it out for a musical video and ideas. For the importance of followers, especially the first follower(s), see *How To Start a Movement*, Derek Sivers, TED Talk, https://www.ted.com/talks/derek_sivers_how_to_start_a_movement.

Job openings at River Road UUC: We are currently hiring here at River Road for a full-time administrative assistant. It's a fair compensation position with full benefits, which we hope to hire by the first of August. We'll also shortly be searching for a full time facilities manager, also with a full benefits package, so if you know anybody who might be interested, send them our way. Contact for both positions is our congregational administrator Ana Lim at alim@rruuc.org or 301-229-0400.

The office assistant is the first point of contact for congregants and the general public alike. Duties include but are not limited to: maintaining the RRUUC calendar, coordinating all rentals, preparing and producing the weekly publications, providing IT support including website updates, occasional light bookkeeping, providing support to committees and staff, and performing general office duties such as answering phones and managing inventory of office supplies. The Administrative Assistant reports to Congregational Administrator.



It's not too late to register to spend a week having fun and fellowship with hundreds of UUs on the campus of Oberlin

College! Summer Institute is a week long event full of both playing and learning, with activities and programming for all ages. For more information, check out their website at: omdsi.org or contact sichair@omdsi.org. Registration deadline is June 30th.

Help Open Hearts and Doors in West Virginia

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Charleston, WV is **West Virginia's largest** and only minister-led congregation. For many years we have been a beacon of progressive religion and an incubator of activism in the capital of a red state. Since the election, we have been experiencing a **spike in attendance** during Sunday worship and throughout the week, which has made our already problematic entry spaces an even bigger problem.

People are coming for spirit and community and have been getting these – but our physical capacity has been preventing some of the folks who try to get here from getting inside. Whether an inability to find parking, get up our ramp, or open our doors – our physical space has prevented people from entering into the sanctuary they are seeking. **Help get more folks into our congregation in a time when our state is in need of space for community, healing and inspiration.**

Help us to:

- Purchase new entrance doors, as the current doors are difficult for many to open and close
- Fix entry ramp, as it has developed a large drop from ramp to lot, making it very difficult to get onto
- Repave parking lot, which is quite hole-y and therefore dangerous for people and their cars
- Repaint parking lot, as our lines are quite faded, preventing us from maximizing the cars that can park
- Order parking lot signage, to clearly mark handicapped spots and entry and exit ways.

Donate By July 3 at <https://www.faithify.org/projects/help-open-hearts-and-doors-in-west-virginia/>

WHEEL OF LIFE



Sabrina Jones is mourning the passing of her beloved mother who died in hospice care on Tuesday evening. Expressions of condolence may be sent using the following contact information. Sabrina Jones

16212 Gales Street
Laurel MD 20707
sabfin@verizon.net
H:(301) 776-1175

Pastoral Care Associate Jeri Holloway visited long-time member Ruth Bond Friday at Holy Cross Hospital where she was undergoing testing. Jeri is happy to report that she was awake and totally alert. They had a very long conversation about church, travel, Greenbelt, etc. And as of Wednesday, Ruth Bond was back at her home at Riderwood.

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.

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. 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.

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 EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG