



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

March 2016

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

MARCH 6 ZEN TIES

Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; with Noel Monardes, Worship Associate; and the Children's Choir *

Let's celebrate the ways that multigenerational relationships can change us for the better at any age.

MARCH 13 WHAT IS YOUR MINISTRY?

Rev. Bruce Marshall; The Rev. Evan Keely; Will Snyder, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; and the Choir
Everyone can have a ministry. Not just those who are ordained, also lay people. Everyone can respond to the sense of something more to existence that may call us to service, to creativity, to a spiritual journey, to a mission. But not all ministries are the same. What is yours? **### Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night ###**

MARCH 20 HOLY, HOLI, HOLY

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; and the New Way Band
This year, the Hindu festival of Holi and the Christian observance of Holy Week coincide. They both have something to teach us.

MARCH 27 BRIGHT MORNING STARS ARE RISING

The Rev. Evan Keely; with Van Summers, Worship Associate; Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; the Chalice Dancers; and the Choir *
A celebration for all ages of Easter's timeless and universal themes of rebirth and renewed possibilities.

Minister's Column



What is each member and friend of PBUUC, as an individual, willing to do to affirm and promote the purpose of Unitarian Universalism and of this church?

If PBUUC disappeared tomorrow, what would be lost forever that no one else could replace?

What are we as a church doing now, and what must we do in the future that is a lived expression of Unitarian Universalism?

What are the things that we as a religious community must do and be? Not the things that we want to do and be, not the things that are comfortable and pleasant for us to do and be, but the things that, in our collective conscience and shared passions, we cannot refrain from doing and still be true to ourselves?

These are the urgent questions for this congregation as it faces the tremendous possibilities of the present and the future.

Exploring questions like these will empower the congregation's ministerial search committee, when it is commissioned this spring, with a clear and powerful narrative to share as they prepare for dialogue with ministers considering being the next settled minister of PBUUC. (Be sure and come to church on March 13 to learn more about the next steps in the ministerial search process.)

Exploring questions like these will motivate and inspire the congregation to engage in envisioning the next chapter of the life of this church: continuing to grow in commitment to being a justice-seeking, multi-generational, intentionally multicultural faith community; looking toward capital improvements of the church's facilities and developing new ministry initiatives.

Exploring questions like these will deepen relationships in the congregation as we share our dreams and visions with one another.

Exploring questions like these will enable us to continue in the path of the church's current strengths with renewed clarity, purpose and zeal.

Exploring questions like these will be our **Compelling Conversations**.

The whole congregation will be encouraged to participate in forums in which we will explore questions that will enable us to celebrate what the church has achieved and is accomplishing now, and to build a new future together. In March and April, the Board, Transition Team and I will be communicating with the congregation about how everyone can be involved in one of the Compelling Conversations.

I look forward to what we will discover and accomplish together.

Evan —

The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister
minister@pbuuc.org

*All-Ages Celebration; children and youth are invited to remain in the Meeting House for the entire service.
Nursery Care for the youngest is provided in Room 5.

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PBUUC Leadership Directory

🌀 Officers and Board of Trustees 2015-2016 🌀

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

Chair	Theresa Myrdon
Vice Chair	Liz Citrin
Vice Chair	Tess Morrison
Trustee	John Barr
Trustee	Mike McMenamin
Trustee	Marge Owens
Trustee	Ken Redd
Trustee	Carol Carter Walker
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Marilyn Pearl

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

Carol Boston (2013-16)	Beth Charbonneau (2015-18)
Noel Monardes (2013-16)	Will Snyder (2015-18)
Van Summers (2014-17)	Sophie Bernheisel (youth WA)
Carol Carter Walker (2014-17)	

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

Fran Caughey
Melody Lawrence

🌀 Chartered Committees & Task Forces 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Auction	Jane Trout (Visual Arts)
Budget Leadership Team	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds	Kathi Yu
Capital Campaign	Lowell Owens
DARTT (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
	Carol Carter Walker
	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
Denominational Affairs	Don Gerson
Electronic Communications	contact church office
Ethnic Dinners	Marilyn Pearl
Finance	Patty Daukantas
Green Team	Erin Gebhart & Kathy Bartolomeo
Leasing (contact)	Church Office
Legacy Fund	Ken Montville
Membership	Janet Overton
Ministry	[contact Transition Team]
Nominating	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Personnel	Jim Flaherty
Religious Exploration	Patricia Most
Site Improvement	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Social Action	Nancy Boardman
Stewardship	Chris Evans
Transition Team	Transition@pbuuc.org

🌀 Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Carol Carter Walker
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Liz Citrin
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Handcraft Circle	Ebeth Porter
Facebook Group	Ken Montville
Marriage Enrichment	Don Fairfield
Mediation Program	David Haberman
Meditation Group	Cory Carter
Men's Group	Mike Stark
Moms of Young Ones	Jessica Sharp
Mystery Book Club	Kathy Kearns
Nature Spirituality Circle	Katherine Earle
Quest Discussion Group	Lowell Owens
Paint Branch Community Learning Center	Carmelita Carter-Sykes
Poetry Out Loud	Shantida
Shamanic Journeying	Mary Tyrtle Rooker
Simplicity Circle	Raman Pathik
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Marge Owens
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Rene McDonald
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Pat Behenna
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Wendy Schlegel

🌀 Minister 🌀

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

[Interim 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](#)

Dayna Edwards

[Church Administrator](#)

Sharon Werth

[Administrative Assistant](#)

Charles Bury

[Bookkeeper](#)

Aisha White

Sunday Service/Building Managers:

VACANT

Child Care Providers:

Romeo Ndonfak

Wyatt Rexach

Jazmin Balbuena

Beth Judy

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tues), Will Snyder (Wed),

Alice Tyler (Thur), Janet Overton (Fri)

Board of Trustees Column

Fellow PBUUC'ers,

By the time you get this newsletter, the 2016 Town Hall will just be over. I can't write a lot about what was said there because other than the Agenda, I don't know everyone's talking points. On the agenda was a update on current projects from Buildings and Grounds, an update on the Multicultural and Multigenerational Plans, a presentation on Leadership Vacancies, a review of the Board Vision and overview of the Church Projects Process, an update on the Transition, and an introduction to the upcoming Compelling Conversations. My intent is to include more information on each of these topics in the April Branches.

Otherwise, the Board decided to offer a contract extension to Rev. Evan and he accepted. I'm not sure it was clear that per UUA recommendations our contract with him was for one year with an option to extend to a second. Evan will be with PBUUC through July 2017, which the Board is rather excited about.

It is with mixed emotions that we accepted Dayna's resignation. Our DMRE will be moving to a full-time DRE position in Rockville and while we'll miss her, we wish her the best of luck. This means the Board will need to appoint a hiring team to find us a new DMRE – if you're interested, please let one of the Trustees know.

We'd like you to keep two dates in mind:

March 13 - the Ministerial Settlement Representative will be meeting with the Congregation after Church to explain the Search Process and answer questions. Lunch and child care will be provided.

April 17 – Breakfast with the Board; before the service, come join the Board for Bagels & Coffee (no, we're not as ambitious as the Stewardship Committee) to share your thoughts and ask questions.

Thank you,

Theresa Myrdon,

Board Chair

March Board Meetings:

Thursday, March 3, 8 pm

Executive Committee (via Conference Call)

Saturday, March 12, 11 pm

Read-Aheads due to Board

(email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Tuesday, March 15, 7 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

Our Caring Community

March's We Care Coordinator is Fran Caughey. Please contact her if you, or a PBUUCer you know, is in need of meals; rides to church or medical appointments; visits; or cards. You can call her at 301-776-9648.

Stewardship

Bold Steps For Our Future:

What does the future hold for Paint Branch? We are mid-way through the Stewardship Annual Campaign for 2016-2017. Even if you missed us at Commitment Sunday, there is still time to make your pledge. A Visiting Steward will be contacting you soon or you can stop at the Stewardship Table any Sunday in March after the service. Every contribution will make it possible to reach these important goals for our community:

- Embark on a search to select a new full-time minister
- Expand our multigenerational community of explorers
- Support the UU Association with our Fair Share
- Improve and maintain our facilities to provide for future generations
- Support income equality through a living wage for our hourly workers
- Provide for professional development of our staff.

To have a successful ministerial search and reach our other goals means the budget needs to increase by around 10% to about \$426,000 for the coming church year. An increase in pledges to about \$330,000 will take us a long way towards meeting that goal.

So far, the response from the congregation has been terrific. As of Commitment Sunday we have received a total of \$210,000 in pledges which is 64% of our total goal. Have we received your pledge? If not, there is still time to make your pledge. We hope that everyone will share our commitment to Paint Branch by taking Bold Steps For Our Future by increasing their pledge. It's time to be Bold!

Legacy Fund

Each year the Paint Branch Legacy Fund provides grants for special projects that fall outside the normal operating budget of the church. This year there is a total of \$2,400 available. If your group would like to apply for a grant from the Legacy Fund, please contact Ken Montville at ken@mdsuburbs.com or 301-464-6298. Deadline for grant proposals is April 30, 2016. This is a hard deadline.

Religious Exploration

Last month, my husband and I traded-in our old car and bought a Prius. I started to think (as DREs are wont to do) about how car shopping and “church shopping,” might be very similar in the 21st century.

Like most young families, I started car shopping online in the evenings after the kids had gone to bed. My husband and I would email each other facts about different cars and compare notes, sometimes face-to-face, sometimes via text or email. If we were searching for a church, I imagine a similar exchange would have happened. We would have started online. We would have looked at the Facebook page of the church and of course the website. The UUA website states that, “some of Unitarian Universalism's most powerful outreach tools are websites, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media.”

In a car, gas mileage was the key factor for us. I am sure it is different for other young families in search of cars. Some families might want room for more kids. Some families might only drive green cars. So it is, I imagine, in church shopping. When looking for a church, families, and other seekers, are looking for whatever it is they have decided is important to them, and they are looking to see if it is there in the church's online presences.

Once we had narrowed our search to two possible cars, we called two different dealerships. We decided, that we didn't want to spend an entire Saturday (my only weekend day off) in a car dealership, so here's how my phone conversation went with the first dealer:

Me: “Hi I am interested in buying your 2010 Prius, but I have two small kids and don't want to spend the whole day in the dealership. I'd like to agree on a trade-in value for my old car and the price for the Prius over the phone and then we will come in sign all the paperwork.”

Dealer 1: “I'm sorry, our policy is that we don't negotiate over the phone, and we certainly can't give you a trade-in value without seeing the car.”

Me: “Ok, thanks. Have a nice day.”

Here's how my conversation with the second dealer went:

Me: (same as above.)

Dealer 2: “I have two kids too. I totally get it. If you have a CarMax report, we'll match their price on your trade-in. Can we agree to the online price for the Prius, we just lowered it \$1000 yesterday.”

Me: “Sounds great.”

The first dealer gave me the car dealer equivalent to the church answer of “but we've always done it this way. This is the way we do things” The second dealer, was flexible and found new solutions to meet the needs of a young family. The second dealer and I communicated through text and email throughout the day to finish the deal. This

allowed me to take my kids to dance, go grocery shopping and have lunch at a restaurant with my family. Then, once the kids were in bed with a babysitter, we drove to dealer and picked up the car.

I am telling you this story because, I wonder...

I wonder, how Paint Branch (and Unitarian Universalism) can be more like the second dealer. How can we be flexible and agile in the 21st century? How can we listen to the needs of those in our community and do our best to meet those needs in new and interesting ways? How can we leverage the tools available to us in the 21st century to reach more people and reach them in ways that work for them?

Yours in Faith,

Dayna.

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration

Announcements:

Sunday, March 6th at 11:30 am join us in the Kelley Room for a celebration of Unitarian Universalist March birthdays. There will be refreshments, celebration, and learning.

Deeper Dialogs: Starting Sunday March 6th at 11:45 am, in Room 1 (at the very end of the RE Building) join us for a deeper discussion of the topics touched on in the worship service. We will have Deeper Dialogs every Sunday after service in Room 1. All ages are welcome and childcare is available until 1 pm for our littlest friends. If you are interested in facilitating one of these dialogs, contact Dayna Edwards at dre@pbuuc.org.

Outdoor Classroom. Do you want to help out with the outdoor classroom, but you're not sure what to do? The MRE Team has created a list of jobs that you can do at a time that is convenient to you. Go to <http://goo.gl/p6Yly1> or contact Jessica Sharp for more information at span-gledangel@gmail.com

Multigenerational Women's Retreat

Register online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaab2ea2fb6-pbuuc> to attend the annual Women's Retreat at PBUUC. The retreat is now multigenerational, welcoming girls age 8 and above to participate with other family members (childcare available for young girls and boys). The retreat will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 8 am to 5 pm at PBUUC. There will be inspirational and enriching workshops, delicious food, and the opportunity to be revitalized and renewed. Contact Wendy Schlegel at waschlegel@gmail.com or 301-649-4976; or Anne Hoover at aehoover@hotmail.com or 301-384-8578 for further information.

Lay-Led Services

Join the Worship Associates Team in Planning Lay-Led Services during Enrichment Hour on March 20

If you've been around Paint Branch in recent summers, you may recall that we've generally had several consecutive weeks of lay-led services in July and August while our professional staff members enjoy well-earned time off. This year, we're planning for something different: a shorter period of lay-led services in the summer, with additional lay-led services interspersed with services led by professional staff throughout the traditional church year. Why this change? Our worship staff—including Interim Minister Rev. Evan Keely and Director of Religious Exploration, Dayna Edwards—want to stay in closer touch with the life of the congregation over the course of the entire year by spreading out their times away.

On the practical level, this means we'll be looking for lay leaders for the five Sundays in July plus one Sunday in August, and then four more times throughout the year. If you have an idea for a service you'd like to lead, either in the summer or later on, please come to our 2016-17 lay-led service planning meeting during Enrichment Hour, Sunday, March 20, in the Kelley Room.

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. In recent months, we've explored a great range of topics, from environmental concerns to public discourse to personal theology through music. Now we're looking forward to hearing what's on your mind for the coming church year.

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. Given budget constraints, 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, Worship Associates will be assigned to each service to keep things running smoothly, and Music Director David Chapman is happy to assist with music selections.

Can't wait until March 20 to propose something? Can't make the planning meeting? Send an e-mail describing your possible topic and availability (summer and/or later in 2016-17) to vsummers6@gmail.com, bethcharbonneau@yahoo.com, or carolboston@verizon.net.

The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

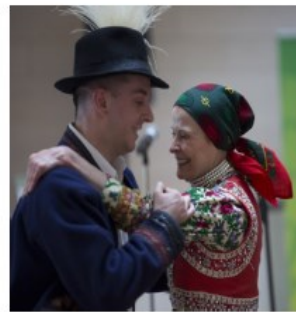


Let It Be A Dance!

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax invites you to join us to celebrate 25 years of partnership between UUCF and the village of Szentgerice, Transylvania with an evening of Hungarian dance presented by the:



SATURDAY MARCH 19th 7:30 PM



Adults \$20

Children 6-17 \$5

Partner Church Fundraiser



*Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax
2709 Hunter Mill Road / Oakton, VA 22124*



**Justice-Seeking
Executive Director
Sought:**

The Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region, a Washington DC based nonprofit organization, is seeking an Executive Director to deepen and expand its national advocacy-focused mission. We are seeking an experienced nonprofit professional, skilled in fundraising, and with experience in both grassroots and legislative advocacy. The successful candidate will have outstanding communications skills, be knowledgeable about social media, and be comfortable teaching and empowering others. This is a half-time position. For more information, please go to www.uusj.org.



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) News:

Black Lives Matter at PBUUC

Saturday, January 30, PBUUC hosted the Third Black Lives Matter Summit sponsored by the Joseph Priestley District (JPD). The summit was co-facilitated by Paula Cole Jones, JPD Social and Racial Justice Consultant, and Kerridwen Henry, a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia and a Black Lives Matter organizer. The more than 60 attendees represented 18 UU congregations throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia. The event was billed as an opportunity to be in conversation and community with other UUs grappling with how to engage and to hear from those already deeply engaged in racial and social justice issues in the JPD region.

The day started with two separate caucuses—one for those identifying as people of color (including, but not limited to, people of African descent) and those identifying as white (including, but not limited to, people of European descent). The separate gatherings for the first 45 minutes of the Summit were to allow the two groups to bond and share among themselves their concerns as well as their hopes for the day.

When the groups came together, after an opening statement from Rev. Keely, we heard from a panel of activists involved in issues relevant to the Black Lives Matter Movement in Prince George's County. The panelists were:

- ◇ Elsa Lakew is an undergraduate economics major at Howard University, an organizer for Progressive Maryland, active in the Black Lives Matter DMV, and a member of the Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition.
- ◇ Jonathan W. Hutto is an organizer with the Prince Georges County People's Coalition, a doctoral student in the Political Science Department at Howard University, and author of *Antiwar Soldier: How to Dissent Within the Ranks of the Military*.
- ◇ Marion Gray-Hopkins is a retired banking executive who began her work as an activist in the movement for justice and for police accountability and transparency

in 2000, the year after her unarmed 19 year-old son, Gary Hopkins, Jr., was killed by Prince George's County Police Officer Brian Catlett. She is also active with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Code Pink, Progressive Maryland, Amnesty International, Mothers for Justice United, and ONUS Inc.

After each panelist's opening remarks about their work and the importance of becoming active in support of police accountability and Black Lives Matter, the floor was opened to questions from the floor. The panelists were also joined by Angela Angel, State House Delegate from Maryland's 25th District. Issues covered included other UU churches' experiences with hanging Black Lives Matter banners and with congregational discussions about the issues. We also learned about upcoming legislation relevant to police accountability. The UUs then separated into regional groups to discuss their congregations' events and experiences in supporting the Black Lives Matter Movement. Much useful information was shared.

The Summit provided not only a forum for open discussion but also an opportunity to develop new friendships and alliances.

As noted, this was the Third Black Lives Matter Summit. Each summit presents a chance for all to learn and share about the work for racial justice that has already been started and about how we as UUs can position ourselves to be effective partners in continuing that work while enjoying fellowship and food, inspiration, and music. The next UU Black Lives Matter Summit will be Saturday, March 12, hosted by the River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda. The focus will be on self-care. You can register online at <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/fourth-uu-jpd-racial-social-justice-summit/>. If you are interested in learning more about Black Lives Matter and the UUs involved, this Summit will provide that opportunity. Janet Overton janmo12@verizon.net.

Continuing the Conversation and Witness On Race Inside/Outside.

INSIDE WORK

The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) and other members of the congregation have formed a Steering Committee to work on Black Lives Matters to PBUUC. This group is working to set up a series of discussions on race and ethnicity facilitated by diverse teams of PBUUCers. Training will be provided. This initiative is in direct response to the congregation's felt need to work



DARTT News: cont.

on its own internal issues as revealed during a January 31 Enrichment Hour meeting when some members of color recounted their encounters with racism at Paint Branch. As the March Branches goes to press, we do not have details, but please contact DARTT at DARTT@pbuuc.org if you are interested in:

Learning more about being a facilitator. Training will be provided.

Hosting a discussion in your home or other space. (You provide the space. DARTT will provide snacks, materials, etc.)

Joining the Steering Committee. We do our work via e-mail, teleconference, and an in person meeting once a month.

OUTSIDE WORK

Here are learning opportunities provided locally by the denomination.:

Jubilee I.

Friday, March 4-Sunday, March 6. First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. 1 W. Hamilton St, Baltimore, MD OR Friday, May 20-Sunday, May 22. Washington Ethical Society (WES) 7750 16th St NW, Washington, DC.

Cost: \$150 per participant (includes cost for trainers, meals, and materials). Scholarships available.

Jubilee Anti-Racism Training helps participants understand what is involved in nurturing a multicultural community and working against racism in all of its forms. This 2 1/2 day workshop is open to members of any congregation in the Joseph Priestley District. Church leaders are especially encouraged to attend. Register at: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/jubilee-antiracism-training-baltimore/> for the March session. Send an e-mail to DARTT@pbuuc.org if you are interested in the May Session at WES.

Building Authentic Diversity.

Saturday, March 5, 9 am to 4 pm. Cedar Lane UU Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD.

Cost: \$40 per participant.

This Workshop is being offered by Rev. Rob Keithan—the minister on the trapeze—who preached at PBUUC twice. Scholarship support for this event is available on a sliding scale. Is your congregation diving into racial justice or multicultural work, but struggling with how to

make connections across differences? Is your congregation interested in being more authentically open to new cultures and backgrounds? This Workshop will provide both an analytic framework and concrete skills for effectively developing relationships across difference—also known as intercultural communication. Participation is open to everyone regardless of previous experience with this kind of work. Register at: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/building-authentic-diversity>

Fourth Racial & Social Justice Summit

Sponsored by the Joseph Priestley District, UUA.

Black Lives Matter: Self-Care and Loving Resistance: Carrying the Past, Attending to the Present, and Organizing for the Future. Saturday, March 12, 2016 9:30am to 3:30pm (lunch included). River Road UU Church, 6301 River Rd, Bethesda, MD. Cost: \$20 per participant. Scholarships available.

Guest Presenters: Karen Scrivo, Ministerial Intern, UU Legislative Ministry of MD and Rev. Rebekah Montgomery, Assistant Minister of the UU Congregation of Rockville.

Those clergy, staff, lay leaders, members, and friends who feel called to live and work for the truth that Black Lives Matter are invited to gather for our 4th summit “Self-Care & Loving Resistance: Our guest presenters will share personal experiences with self-care and guide us through a self-care practice. We will devote a full hour to exploring self-care in our racial identity caucuses. Register by going to <http://www.jpduua.org/> and clicking on the Submit tab.

Meet Our Guest Speaker

Rev. Bruce Marshall to speak March 13

Bruce Marshall is Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Joseph Priestley District. He is retired from fulltime parish ministry, having served congregations in Michigan, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Maryland. Bruce is currently chaplain to the UU community at Riderwood Village. He is also a writer and is working on his fifth book, whose working title is, “Meaning and Spirit in Aging.” Following the service, Rev. Marshall will offer a presentation about the ministerial search process which PBUUC is entering into. There will be opportunities for questions and conversation.



And remember the night before - Daylight Saving Time begins. Please set your clocks AHEAD by one hour before turning in.

Social Action Committee (SAC) News

Heads UP!! Warm Nights Week is Sunday, April 17 – April 24, 2016

Paint Branch has been participating in the Prince George's County Hyperthermia Program offering a "Warm Nights" Homeless Emergency Shelter week organized by Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI) since 1993. Sign-up sheets will be in the lobby beginning in March for all kinds of volunteer opportunities from cot set up and take down at the beginning and end of the week to cooking, serving, and spending a night in the kitchen. Do you have an old, large suitcase that you no longer need? Many of our guests could use a large suitcase for their clothes. More news to follow. Tess Morrison and Evangeline Wells are coordinating our efforts this year.

Special Collection News:

Supporting Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) in the National Capital Region with our March 27th Special Collection: Paint Branch has been a member of this important regional UU organization since its founding in 2000. It includes about 25 area congregations in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia as it coordinates advocacy and educational opportunities in our national capital area. Priorities include the environment and climate change, immigration reform, LGBT rights, and the widening wealth divide. For example our own Carmelita Carter-Sykes received a UUSJ award at their annual gala for her leadership as the coordinator of our Paint Branch Community Learning Center where English classes help international students improve their speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Recently UUSJ members joined with interfaith groups at the Dar al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church, Virginia to help pack thousands of blankets and coats collected by the mosque for shipment to refugees in Syria and Iraq. UUSJ leaders have held meetings with congressional offices about federal legislation of importance to UU's and given social justice awards to members working with the Black Lives Matter movement. And much more too!

Please be as generous as you can when we have our special collection for UUSJ on Sunday morning, March 27th. You will be helping Paint Branch meet its fair share contribution to this important regional UU organization which represents our faith so actively and meaningfully. Thank you! *Nancy Boardman* - SAC chair and PB representative to the UUSJ Board

Our Contribution to Kenya and Clean water

We had to re-think our October special collection, because the UU Church of Tallahassee did not make their goal. After getting input from others in the congregation, the Social Action Committee has decided to give \$643 to an orphanage in Kenya and \$200 to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund, a consortium of groups dealing with children's health in Flint, Michigan, where the drinking water was poisoned by lead. The orphanage runs an elementary school and then supports their students throughout whatever other education they have the talent for. Most of these children are orphans because of the wide prevalence of AIDS among heterosexual people in that part of Africa. - *Marj Donn*

Recent Special Collections

On December 24, you contributed \$2000 to run our Warm Nights program (when the homeless spend one week in our church).

In January, you gave \$607 to the International Rescue Committee, which helps refugees through several stages of getting resettled, in the US and around the world. Thank you for your generosity.

On February 28, \$239 was raised for the Capital Area Food Bank. If you weren't able to give in church that day, you can make a contribution online at <https://my.capitalareafoodbank.org/donate>—please put "PBUUC Special Collection" in the "Campaign/Event" box.

Upcoming Special Collections

- ❖ March 27 — Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) in the National Capital Region.
- ❖ There will be no Special Collection Sunday in April, but donations of time and food will be needed during Warm Nights week. See article above for more information.

Social Action Committee (SAC) Meeting Schedule:

Here are the SAC monthly meeting dates through June 2016. They are held in Room 4 of the RE Building.

- ❖ Saturday Morning, March 19, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, April 16, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, May 21, 2016, 10 am
- ❖ Saturday Morning, June 18, 2016 (tentative)

In and Around Paint Branch



FINAL ETHNIC DINNER ~ IRELAND

It has been said "You are what you eat" and, "For St. Patrick's Day everyone is Irish". So, why not combine those?

You've probably heard that the next, and final, Ethnic Dinner, Saturday, March 12, will be Irish. You may wonder why we chose a cuisine not among the most popular in culinary circles. The date of course, is close to St. Patrick's Day. The theme, suggested by an Ethnic Dinner committee member, was agreed to by a majority of those who responded. Ireland lies in a climate zone compatible with our March weather. We've done it before, in March 1996, so have some great Irish recipes which, by the way, are not easy to find.

But, if you think of Irish food as Bland, Boiled, Blah and Boring, well, forget that Blarney! Here are a few reasons you might want to be there. If you think only the French cook with wine, be there! If you think you've sampled all the ways to prepare potatoes, be there! If you never think of seafood in connection with Ireland (it is an island!), be there! If you're vegetarian but don't object to dairy or eggs, 11 of our menu items should meet with your approval. If you also eat seafood, that increases to 14 out of 16 dishes on the menu! If you have any other food restrictions, let us know when you get your ticket. We can sometimes make adjustments to some dishes. And if you enjoy a wee nip of some beverage (alcoholic, or non) with your Irish food, you are in luck with Mike Stark and Sonja Meredith in charge of our "pub". So, be there!

And, if you still haven't found sufficient reason to come, consider the addition of some lively (emphasis on LIVE) Irish music from a band Allison Hughes has invited to join us. We all know where Allison is, there is wonderful music. So, be there!

The menu has been available, with tickets (\$15 per adult) being sold and volunteers signing up following the services on Feb. 21 & 28, and will be once more on March 6. If you missed it all in February, and can't make it March 6, you can still request reservations by contacting Marilyn Pearl at 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net. Please do so by mid-day Tuesday March 8, so the cooks can be contacted that evening with an accurate number to plan for. Any new members who received Ethnic Dinner coupons can exchange them March 6 for their ticket, or let us know by the 8th that you plan to attend. The volunteers we're looking for include cooks of course, but if that's not what you do, we need people to come around 5:00 to help set up, and more folks to stay later to clean the sanctuary and kitchen, or launder tablecloths.

Never been to an Ethnic Dinner or not been recently? Here's your final chance to discover what has made them so popular for almost 28 years. This will be our 70th dinner, and sadly, also the last. Be there!

MUSIC NOTES

Music at Paint Branch is back and excited to present "Strata", a trio featuring Audrey Andrist - piano, Nathan Williams - clarinet and James Stern - violin/viola. on Sunday, March 6 at 4 pm. Ms. Andrist has appeared many times as a substitute pianist for services during the summer months at Paint Branch. She has performed in recital at PBUUC as a soloist and with her husband James Stern, violinist. They will be joined by clarinetist Nathan Williams. All three performers are Julliard graduates and will play selections by Menotti, Bruch, Larsen, and Wilson. The recital is free but donations are always welcome. There will be a reception after to meet the musicians. This promises to be one of the best programs ever presented at Paint Branch. You will want to be here for the exciting music.

Next on the recital series will be 10 year-old piano prodigy, Madeline Wang Xu on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 4 pm. Madeline gave her debut solo recital at Paint Branch in April 2015 [view on YouTube at <https://goo.gl/slHLvp>] and returns this spring with the music of Bach, Schumann, Chopin, Haydn and Mozart. In June 2015 she made her Russian orchestra debut performing with the St. Petersburg State Symphony and the Siberian State Symphony Orchestra. This will be an exciting program for both children and adults.

"Opera Night at Paint Branch" on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 7 pm; a huge fundraiser for Paint Branch provides the excitement and beauty of opera here in our own space. Opera scenes will be sung in English (mostly American opera and foreign operas that will be translated into English). Performers will be Don and Sherry Mitchell, Allison Hughes, Arun Ivatury, Margaret Stricklett and husband Michael Atkinson, Ebeth Porter, Jim Flaherty, Deron Lovaas, Pat Tompkins, Alexandra Dilley, Muriel Morisey, Debra Street, Markus Williams and Montana Monardes in an acting role. David Chapman will act as accompanist, director, producer, and choreographer. Bring friends and fans of opera to this exciting fundraising event.

— Jeri Holloway

Remember The Alamo on March 16

The Third Wednesday Lunch Klub (TWedHUULK) will meet at 1 pm at the long-established Mexican restaurant in Riverdale, **The Alamo**. They serve all the usual specialties. Price is moderate. **Directions:** Drive south on Kenilworth Avenue, pass the light at Rte. 410 (East-West Highway) and proceed two more short blocks. The Alamo is on the right. Easy parking in front. Everyone is welcome. Contact Elaine Shell 301-776-4271, elaine@greville.net if you would like to know more.

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.
- **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.

Check here if you no longer wish to receive this mailing and return to PBUUC

EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG

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