



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

December 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

DECEMBER 4 A SIGN OF THE TIMES

The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, Dir. of Multigenerational Religious Exploration (DMRE); and Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate
We have a new sign at the front of our church, an important act of witness. Yet it is also a reminder to us as a faith community of our calling.

DECEMBER 11 LET US PRAY

The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Will Snyder, Worship Associate
Prayer means many different things. What might it mean for us?

DECEMBER 18 ROCK OF AGES

The PBUUC Choir; with Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; Carla Miller, DMRE; and Beth Charbonneau, Carol Carter Walker and Abby Wester, Worship Associates
This winter's Choir Sunday will feature a new cantata, composed for the PBUUC choir, that explores the ancient story behind the celebration of Hanukkah, which begins this year on December 24.

DECEMBER 24 4:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Beth Charbonneau, Worship Associates; and the Children's Choir
A Christmas Eve celebration for all ages.

DECEMBER 24 7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Abby Wester, Worship Associate.
A service of readings and song for Christmas Eve.

DECEMBER 25 ALL-AGES CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION!

Carla Miller, DMRE; with Mary 'Tyrte' Rooker, Worship Associate;
Christmas Day 2016 falls on a Sunday, offering an additional opportunity for holiday worship. Our Christmas morning service will be centered in story and your favorite carols. ***This is an 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 6.***

Minister's Column

Words can scarcely describe how humbled and honored I feel that the PBUUC choir, under the direction of our stellar Music Director David Chapman, will be performing on December 18 a new choral work I composed for them: a chorale cantata based on the Hanukkah hymn "Rock of Ages" (#223 in *Singing the Living Tradition*). When David and I agreed months ago that this would be the work presented at this winter's choir Sunday, we little imagined how fitting it would be as this year comes to an end.

Hanukkah commemorates an actual historical event which, like all of history, invites many different interpretations. One way to understand the revolution led by Judah Maccabee in the second century BCE is as an uprising of a people against an oppressor that sought to demean and even eradicate their core values and impose upon them a way of life that was repugnant to them, that violated everything that mattered most to them.

We all know that many different political perspectives are represented among PBUUC's members and friends — and thank God for that! We also know that as a Welcoming Congregation, a Green Sanctuary and a faith community witnessing for black lives, we cannot support the agenda of a presidential administration headed by the czar of the "birther" movement who has threatened and demeaned immigrants and Muslims, spoken scornfully of a judge's Mexican heritage, and declared climate change to be a hoax, any more than we can back the proposals of a Vice-President who has opposed marriage equality and supported medically discredited and morally wrong gay conversion "therapy." We have a long, difficult fight ahead of us. We will do well to draw strength and courage from many different sources, but let one such well of inspiration for us be Hanukkah (which this year, in a delightful coincidence, begins on December 24), which not only looks to a past struggle that appeared hopeless but ended in victory, but which points us toward an aspiration for the future, as the final verse of "Rock of Ages" declares: "the time is nearing / which will see / nations free, / tyrants disappearing."

#LoveOrganizeResist,

Evan,

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



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PBUUC Leadership Directory

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

email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org

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

🌀 **Worship Associates** 🌀

🌀 **Chartered Committees & Task Forces** 🌀

* Van Summers (2014-17)	Mary 'Tyrle' 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

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Auction	Emily Conover (Visual Arts)
Budget Leadership Team	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds	Kathi Yu
Capital Campaign	Lowell Owens
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)	contactchurchoffice
Legacy Fund	Patty Daukantas
Membership	Erin Gebhart &
Ministry	Kathy Bartolomeo
Nominating	ChurchOffice
Personnel	Ken Montville
Religious Exploration	Anita Williams
Site Improvement	[contact Ministerial Search Cmte]
Social Action	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
Stewardship	VACANT
Transition Team	REcmte@pbuuc.org
	Peter Wathen-Dunn
	Janet Overton
	Chris Evans
	Transition@pbuuc.org

🌀 **Ministerial Search Committee** - Search@pbuuc.org 🌀

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

Groups and Activities 🌀

Bookstore	Raman Pathik
Bridge Group	Penny O'Brien
Chalice Dancers	Wendy Schlegel
Choir	David Chapman
Coffee Coordinator	Liz Citrin
Community Café	Alice Tyler
Food for Thought	Mary Tyrle 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 Tyrle Rooker
Spirituality Circle	Amy Steiner
TWedHUULK	Elaine Shell
Ushers	Esther Nichols
Warm Nights	Evangeline Wells &
	Tess Morrison
Webmaster	Mark Shute
Welcome Table Greeters	Pat Behenna
Widowed Persons Support Group	Jeri Holloway
Women's Group	Louise Waugh

🌀 **Minister** 🌀

🌀 **Staff** 🌀

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

[Music Director & Pianist](mailto:MusicDirector)
[Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration](mailto:DirectorofMultigenerationalReligiousExploration)
[Director, Chalice Dancers](mailto:Director)
[Church Administrator](mailto:ChurchAdministrator)
[Administrative Assistant](mailto:AdministrativeAssistant)
Bookkeeper
 Sunday Service/Building Manager:
 Child Care Providers:

The Rev. Evan Keely
 David Chapman
 Carla Miller
 Sharon Werth
 Charles Bury
 VACANT
 Roy Friday, CPA
 Joel Yesupriya
 Jazmin Balbuena
 Beth Judy
 Joy Washington

🌀 **Office Volunteers** 🌀

Elizabeth Scheiman (Tues), Will Snyder (Wed),
 Alice Tyler (Thur), Janet Overton (Fri)

Board of Trustees

There have been some changes in the Board membership. We regretfully accepted Mike McMenamin's resignation from the Board, but understand his need to take care of himself and his life right now. We would like to thank him for his contributions to this Board for over two years, especially as the Board liaison to BAG! We also received word from John Barr that he needs to step down as Co-Chair of the Board, to take care of family and work obligations. Thanks for your leadership!

Ken Redd (wow, thanks Ken!) has agreed to be the Board Liaison to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, in place of Mike.

We are refining our lower level S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely) goals, so that we can progress and assess how we are doing against this year's Board goals.

- ◇ We are collecting an introductory for new Board members, and new Boards, that would give them a head-start on Board Operations. New Boards could use this as a starting point for review and modification.
- ◇ As tasked by the Board, the Finance Committee has developed recommendations to accomplish the required independent review of the Church's financial records, which were presented to the Board. There was much discussion, and several questions that were referred back to the Finance Committee, that should be able to be resolved by the next meeting. We are getting there.
- ◇ Incorrectly reported last month (by me) was that Ken Redd would be establishing a Task Force to develop a Strategic Plan. Actually, the Board's Goal was to "Pursue a Strategic Plan" (i.e. determine need, congregational support, potential scope), and this is the action that Ken has accepted. Leaders of the Church, you will be hearing from Ken!

Happy Thanksgiving from your Board Chair,

Liz

Ministerial Search Committee

Seasons Greetings from the Ministerial Search Committee!

I am delighted to report that the congregational record (CR) is complete and has been submitted to the UUA with approval from our Ministerial Search Representative. As I said in my MSC Minute a few weeks ago, we have put over 100 hours of work into making this document. We believe that we have put our best foot forward and delivered a good and accurate representation of our congregation. Starting December 1st, any ministers in search will be able to review our CR, which means we are one step closer to finding our new minister.

In thinking about the next steps in the process, I'd like to take a moment to look back at the Beyond Categorical Thinking (BCT) workshop we held in October. When I was writing November's BRANCHES article, the BCT workshop hadn't actually happened yet, so this is the first chance I've had to share some of my thoughts.

First and foremost, I want to thank you for "showing up" the way that you did; we had a full house. Beyond that, the participation level was high, we were honest about our concerns, and everyone seemed to be open to the process. It's a great sign for the work we still have ahead of us.

Something that stood out to me during the BCT weekend is the idea that the best fit is not necessarily the most comfortable fit. Our workshop facilitator, Amanda Schubert, likened it to a good meal - dinner was delicious, but you might need to pop the top button on your pants in order to start working on dessert. There are so many wonderful things about Paint Branch, but we will all need to be open to change in order to support our new minister and ministry.

Something else Amanda said that really stuck with me was the reminder that the minister is not the ministry; it does not belong to the minister alone. A ministry is a partnership and as with any partnership, it won't succeed without a commitment from both parties. So, what can each of us do to make our ministry successful? Will we volunteer, support, and collaborate? Will we bring our honesty, a listening ear, and a willingness to work? Judging by the numbers and participation I saw at the BCT workshop, I am confident that we will.

Ebeth Porter, on behalf of the Ministerial Search Committee

December Board Meetings:

Wednesday, December 7, 6:30 pm
Executive Committee (RE Bldg)

Saturday, December 17, 11 pm
Read-Aheads due to Board
(email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Tuesday, December 20, 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

Religious Exploration

Special January Unit:

Black People Matter

Next month, January 2017, our religious exploration classes will engage in a special curriculum, Black People Matter. This congregation has made a strong commitment to the work of anti-racism; grounded in our U.U. principles of worth and dignity of all people, and our search for a more peaceful and just society.

Our vision of a more just society will be not be sustainable, or even possible, without the engagement of our young people.

The curriculum Black People Matter was developed by the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, WI. The curriculum was written by members of FUSM, their Director of R.E., Beryl Aschenburg. Their work was supported and vetted by Reggie Jackson, an educator and curator of America's Black Holocaust Museum. Our plan is to devote the entire month of January to Anti-racism work.

January 1st, a Multigenerational Kwanzaa Service

January 8th, Session One of Black People Matter

January 15th, Session Two of Black People Matter

January 22nd, Session Three; extension activities from Black People Matter and Teaching Tolerance materials

January 29th, Children's Chapel for Change; What We've Learned and How We Live It

This is both a vital and sensitive subject, and I recognize there may be both hopes and concerns around how we bring this topic into Children's Religious Exploration Programming.

I invite and encourage all parents, teachers and other interested members of the congregation to attend a meeting after service on December 11th at which I will introduce our plans for this special month of learning, growth, and engagement for our children.

Carla Miller

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration
dmre@pbuuc.org

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

for All Ages!

Saturday, December 3rd

5:30 pm—8:30 pm

Decorate the tree in the sanctuary, deck the halls, enjoy a craft, and share dinner.

Arrive on time to sing-along from 5:30 pm to 6-ish with David Chapman. Contact Tina Van Pelt to offer your help with set-up, clean-up or a children's craft activity.

tinavanpelt@gmail.com

A group will be caroling before the party, 4:30 pm—5:30 pm, at Riderwood. Please contact DMRE Carla Miller to join in the singing. dmre@pbuuc.org, 410-707-9611

RE Announcements

Teacher Tea, December 4th, in the Kelley Room immediately following classes-11:15 am.

All teachers and assistants in RE are highly-encouraged to attend this important Teacher Tea and curriculum meeting. We will introduce lesson plans for the special one-month curriculum unit on race in January.



Sunday, December 11th, Kelley Room, 11:15 am—noon Black People Matter Parent Meeting

RE Parents and other interested members of the congregation are invited to attend this introduction to the "Black People Matter" curriculum. At this meeting we will introduce the plans for this special unit. Your questions, concerns, input and support are especially important in presenting the sensitive issue of race to our children.

Nursery childcare is available and children's activities will be provided in the Kelley Room.

After the meeting join in our "Indoor Glen Gathering" for December- a pizza lunch and indoor games for all ages.

Social Action Committee

Beacon House Christmas Gift Program

This holiday season, with a Trump presidency looming over all our heads, to at least one child we can offer a glimmer of hope. Many of you might remember past years when PBUUC partnered with Beacon House to give gifts to children who otherwise might not receive any. This year Beacon House and the UU Liaisons are piloting a new, more personal way to give holiday gifts to children and teens served by Beacon House.

The Beacon House staff has identified 81 children ages 5-17 who are the least well-off among a community of low-income families to create a Secret Santa list. For those kids, UU churches around the Beltway have committed to donating gifts—for all of them. Each child will receive two gifts, one in the range \$25 or under and a second gift \$50 or under. The children were asked to name two gifts from each price category so that buyers would have options.

SAC has offered to buy gifts for one child, a 7-year-old girl named Ta'zyiyah. For her \$25 or less gift, Ta'zyiyah has asked for a Real Cooking Ultimate Baking Starter Set or a Pokemon 10-inch Plush Figure. For her \$50 or less gift, she's asked for a Vtech Baby Amaze Happy Healing Doll Playset or a Little Live Pets Dream Puppy Playset - Tiara. If you would like to offer a donation to purchase these items, please send an email to SAC@pbuuc.org or contact Janet Overton at 301-725-9286.

Beacon House serves 125 children daily in their after school program plus many more children through their award-winning athletic teams and hopes to be able to offer something to as many children as possible. Extra gifts will be given to Beacon House's neediest athletes (including roughly 200 who do not participate in the after-school program, the children of Edgewood's janitorial staff, and other children who live on the property). A list of gift ideas in the \$25 and less range includes Peppa Pig Deluxe House playset, Power Ranger toys and figures, Saint Row PlayStation game, Fast and Furious car, Captain America Vision Helmet, basketball, football, and gift cards from Chipotle and two online clothing sites, H&M and DTLR. None of the gifts are to be wrapped.

A gift drop-off at Beacon House and an informal holiday event for the liaison team, to which all are invited, will be Sunday, December 18 from 2 pm to 4 pm. There will be treats to share along with a little surprise.

—Janet Overton, SAC Chair SAC@pbuuc.org

Are you on our email alert list?

A few years ago our Social Action Committee instituted an easy way to hear about and take action on many of the issues we care about. That alert network is still active and now includes environmental issues. For instance, you can choose to receive a message about global warming once a week or once a month. Usually, the message gives you an opportunity to send an already composed message to one of your legislators, perhaps joining a country-wide effort. Occasionally it is a message to a commission that is asking for public comment. It's very easy! And you can always choose to pass, by not sending the message on.

If you're ready to join or want more information, please email marjory.donn@verizon.net.

Upcoming SAC Meetings:

Saturday, December 17 at 10 am in Room 4

Saturday, January 21 at 10 am in Room 4

Saturday, February 18 at 10 am in Room 4

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The SAC Special Collection for December is for our Warm Nights and Community Café Programs.

During the two Christmas Eve Services the entire proceeds of the collections will be dedicated to PBUUC's participation in two programs helping those facing hunger and homelessness. Prince Georges County Hyperthermia Program, Warm Nights Homeless Emergency Shelter overseen by the Community Crisis Services Inc. (CCSI). Community Café works with other churches to provide hot lunches for persons in need. Both programs operate year round. Please make checks payable to PBUUC with Warm Nights in the memo line. Thank you.

—Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Special Collections Coordinator

SAC Needs Nominees to be Recipients of 2017 Special Collections

At its December 17th meeting, SAC will be choosing recipients for the Special Collections for at least January through March 2017. If you have candidates you would like to nominate, please forward them to Carmelita Carter-Sykes at cartercarmelita@aol.com and Janet Overton at janmo12@verizon.net.



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

ADORE (A Dialogue On Race & Ethnicity) Discussion of The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, And The Rise Of A New Justice Movement—UPDATE

Both the Tuesday and Sunday Sessions of our book discussion have had their first meetings. We are having difficulty scheduling the second meeting due to conflicts with other activities. So here's the revised schedule.

The second session of the Tuesday session will meet Tuesday, December 27; the third and final session will be Tuesday, January 24. From 7 to 9 pm, Room 4.

The second session of the Sunday session will meet Sunday, January 15; the third and final session will be Sunday, February 19. From 4 to 6 pm, Kelley Room, left side.

We have sold all of the books from the UUA and will place a third order for pre-paid sales. The paperback edition is \$16. This is a book worth reading.

The author, Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, is one of the prophetic voices of our times. He galvanized attendees at the June General Assembly of our denomination; inspired 1,000 at the August Washington, DC stop of his Moral Revival Rally, and, just after the national elections, mourned with and then reenergized over 1,000 listeners on a teleconference as he talked about the need to strengthen our fusion coalition to work for justice. This is a voice worth listening to. If you've got questions, or need further information, please contact DARTT@pbuuc.org or talk to Carol Carter Walker.

Come To The Kwanzaa Service & Feast Sunday, January 1

The Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation and the Multi-generational Religious Exploration Teams will co-lead the annual Kwanzaa Service on Sunday, January 1. Louise Waugh will be coordinating the potluck feast that will follow. For those who don't bring a dish, a donation of \$5 will be gratefully accepted for incidental costs. Children are our guests.

Order Poinsettias For The Holiday Season.

Deadline: Sunday, December 4

You have the opportunity to purchase poinsettias to:

- Decorate the Meeting House from Sunday, December 18 through Sunday, January 1; and/or
- Take home on December 17, December 18, or December 25 for gifting or home decoration.

There are four colors and three sizes: red, pink, white, or marble; in a 4 ½" pot (one plant); 6" pot (one plant), or 7" pot (two plants). Each size will be wrapped in a different color foil to easily distinguish them. Prices will be: \$7, \$12, and \$20, respectively.

You can place and pre-pay for your order by Sunday, December 4. Thank you for supporting this effort to beautify the Meeting House for the season. Questions? Contact Carol Carter Walker at carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net or in person.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) December Meeting By Teleconference

DARTT will meet by teleconference on Tuesday, December 13, 7 pm to 9 pm. Please email DARTT@pbuuc.org or contact at carolcarterwalker@earthlink.net or 202-636-8138 for the call in number and to place items on the agenda. It is an open meeting. All are welcome.

Topics will include: January 1 Kwanzaa Service & Feast; 2016 Poinsettia Sales; ADORE Activities; ADORE Book Discussion; Creating a DARTT Brochure; updating DARTT info on PBUUC website; governance review; and Budget Review.



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

The End of White Christian America and Its Implications for the 2016 Election

Sunday, December 11, 1 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA



UUCA is hosting a talk with [Robert P. Jones](#), the CEO of [Public Religion Research Institute](#) on Sunday, December 11, at 1 pm. Jones will discuss his new book, [The End of White Christian America](#), which has been hailed by The New York Times Review of Books as "quite possibly the most illuminating text for this election year." Drawing on decades of public opinion and demographic research, Jones challenges us to grasp a new reality—that America is no longer a majority white Christian nation—and examines what influence this had on the 2016 presidential election.

The presentation and discussion will provide unique insight into:

- The ways both political parties are responding to these shifts, including Donald Trump's surprising appeal to white conservative Christian voters;
- The stark disagreements between white and black Americans over the fairness of the justice system and the #BlackLivesMatter movement;
- The apocalyptic tone of arguments over same-sex marriage and LGBT rights;
- How these recent demographic and cultural changes are shaping—and often distorting—our understanding of principles such as equality, fairness, and religious freedom.

In addition, Jones will address the prospects for growth for churches in the Washington, DC, area. Please contact Allen Keiswetter, at Keiswetter@aol.com if you have any questions.

In and Around Paint Branch

HELP WANTED

PBUUC has two IMMEDIATE openings for paid, part-time positions at the church. Please share with anyone you think might be interested, however, please remember that it is PBUUC's policy not to hire PBUUC members into paid staff positions.

Administrative Assistant. 9 hours per week split over 2-4 weekday shifts. Provides publication, membership, electronic communications, and general office support. More information available at <http://www.pbuuc.org/staff/AdminAsst-12-01-2016.html>

Building Manager and Church Sound Operator. 2-4 3-7 hour shifts per month, primarily on weekends. More information available at <http://www.pbuuc.org/staff/PTRM-11-03-2016.html>

Easy Volunteer Fundraising Task You (Or Your Kids) Can Do Mostly At Home

What to do with Ethnic Dinner leftovers was a problem for about 4 or 5 years until we thought of those plastic containers which everyone hates to throw away "because they're still good and could be useful." Bringing them in for the leftover sales was the solution, and PBUUC received about \$200 additional income from each dinner!

Making leftovers available for a donation spread to other food events too, but there weren't always containers available. Ethnic Dinners is history, but events which include food are still popular and frequent. It's difficult to estimate how much food to provide even when the number of attendees is known in advance. Overestimating assures there will be enough, but guarantees leftovers, and that cost subtracts from income for the event. But we have a solution, so there's no good reason to stop using it if someone new can manage the containers.

This is not a difficult job; even kids as young as eight or nine can handle it. I will get you started off with my remaining containers. Then you will have to watch the church calendar for upcoming events which will involve food, and ask the organizers if they want the containers for leftover sales. That's it! If the supply gets low, run an announcement asking for more.

I will continue to provide them for any December 2016 events, but hope someone else will take them home and manage them from that point on. If there are no takers, I'll start putting them in recycling. If interested, please contact Marilyn Pearl, 301-805-1218 or buffalo_gal@verizon.net, or see me at church. —*Marilyn*

EXHIBITION IN MEETING HOUSE FEATURES ARTWORK OF ELLIE FLAHERTY AND SHARON VAN DUSEND

From the artists: We are long-time friends. Our families know one another as well. In fact, even our art now, when it has the opportunity to meet, will sing and talk together.

Although we work separately from one another, we both love the textures and three-dimensional qualities of fiber arts, both enjoy combining mixed media and found objects in our work, both delight in the natural world, both celebrate finding our voice in these creative affirmations of grace and mystery all around us.

We are deeply grateful to the Paint Branch UU community for providing a space for this synergy to be shared. Please join us after the service on December 4th for a reception and an opportunity to converse.

The exhibition will be on view through the end of January. If you are interested in purchasing artwork, contact Ellie at emfrn@verizon.net, and Sharon at windt-houghts4@gmail.com.

The Women's Group Holiday Cookie Exchange will take place on Sunday, December 18 in the Kelley Room during Enrichment Hour. All are welcome to bring a dozen (or more!) of your favorite home-baked cookies (and the recipe to share, if you like) to exchange for an assortment of our shared riches. Don't forget to bring a container to take your treats home in! Contact: Louise Waugh 301-474-5229 LouiseMWaugh@hotmail.com.

Spirituality Circle

- ❖ When life isn't making sense.
- ❖ When you wonder "what next?!"
- ❖ When one difficulty eases up only to be followed by another difficult situation?
- ❖ How do you cope?
- ❖ What helps you during difficult times?
- ❖ What are your touchstones, guideposts, trail markers you can follow to make it through?
- ❖ Are there times when even your most reliable touchstone isn't working or is out of reach?

Gathering together in Spirituality Circle is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to share individual touchstones. We invite and welcome the bringing of our individual strengths, challenges, and creativity to a safe place and time where we collaborate on discovering, strengthening, encouraging creative possibilities of how to make it through difficult times.

Join Us! We meet during first and third Sundays during Enrichment Hour in Room 4.

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.

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
3215 POWDER MILL ROAD
ADELPHI, MD 20783-1030
(301) 937-3666
WEBSITE: WWW.PBUUC.ORG
EMAIL: CHURCHADMIN@PBUUC.ORG