



BRANCHES



PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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

January 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

JANUARY 1 KWANZAA: AN ALL AGES CELEBRATION, ASSESSMENT AND FEAST

*Carmelita Carter-Sykes with Carla Miller, Director of
Multigenerational Exploration; Worship Associate
Will Snyder; and the Chalice Dancers*

This service sponsored by our Diversity/Anti Racism Transformation Team, (DARTT), will feature traditional music and rituals, drumming, stories, creation of art and the Chalice Dancers. In the Kwanzaa tradition of assessment as part of this end of year celebration, PBUUC members and friends will examine "Black Lives Matter." The service will be followed immediately by the Kwanzaa Sharing Feast.

JANUARY 8 RESOLUTION

*The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla
Miller, DMRE; and Van Summers, Worship Associate*
A new year is as good a time as any to renew our commitment to being who we truly want to be.

JANUARY 15 THE END OF THE OBAMA ERA AND THE RISE OF TRUMPISM

*The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller,
DMRE; Paul Wester, Worship Associate; and the PBUUC Choir*
Racism has always been part of American culture, but after a time of some progress, the nation appears to have regressed. And so the work of justice and compassion must continue.

JANUARY 22 LOVE, LOVE AND LOVE

*The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla
Miller, DMRE; and Mary Rooker, Worship Associate*
It's challenging to love, especially as we recognize that there are different ways to love, and that there are different kinds of love.

JANUARY 29 THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

*The Reverend Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla
Miller, DMRE; and Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate*
Clergy leaders of one kind or another have been present in every human civilization for thousands of years. What does clergy leadership mean to us?

Minister's Column

I can hardly express how honored I felt while listening to the performance last month of Rock of Ages, the Hanukkah cantata I composed for PBUUC. The choir, the vocal soloists, the guest string players, and of course this church's remarkable Music Director, David Chapman, all worked hard to bring about a meaningful worship experience, along with three of our very gifted Worship Associates.

The Hanukkah worship service reminded me of what I have learned, again and again, in all my years of music-making: extraordinary power and beauty can be unleashed when disciplined, focused people have faith in themselves and one another and come together for a common creative purpose.

On January 20th, a man who is manifestly unfit, unqualified for, and unworthy of the office will be sworn in as the 45th President of the United States. (At least that is what we anticipate at the time of my writing this; in this truly astonishing year of political surprises, none of us can say for sure what will actually happen.) Millions of us fear that in his cruel and reckless narcissism, he will be a menace to civil liberties, the rights and well-being of minorities, and the environment, though of course we ardently hope that these fears will turn out to be misplaced. We are preparing for a time of great uncertainty, and we are among those who are organizing to resist oppression and injustice, whatever its source. At this challenging time, the lessons of music-making should not be lost on us: to make contributions of lasting value to our country and our world, we will need to practice diligently, to listen to one another, to strive for our best unceasingly, and to work with one another creatively for a purpose that is bigger and nobler than any single one of us.

#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	Tess Morrison
Trustee	Ken Redd
Trustee	Elaine Shell
Secretary	Erin Gebhart
Treasurer	David Nation
Assistant Treasurer	Louise Waugh

🌀 Worship Associates 🌀

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

🌀 Pastoral Care Associates 🌀

Jeri Holloway
Lynn Johnson
Mike McMenamin
Will Snyder

🌀 We Care Coordinators 🌀

vacant

🌀 Chartered Committees and Teams 🌀

Arts Council	Pat Tompkins (Music)
Auction	Emily Conover (Visual Arts)
Budget Leadership Team	Marguerite & Van Summers
Buildings & Grounds (BAG)	Kathi Yu
Capital Campaign	Lowell Owens
Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) (co-chairs)	Peter Wathen-Dunn
Denominational Affairs	Carol Carter Walker
	Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson
	Don Gerson, Chair
	Bettie Young, cluster rep.
	contact church office
	Patty Daukantas
	Erin Gebhart &
	Kathy Bartolomeo
	Church Office
	Ken Montville
	Anita Williams & Pat Behenna
	[contact Ministerial Search Cmte]
	Sabrina Jones (acting Chair)
	VACANT
	REcmte@pbuuc.org
	Peter Wathen-Dunn
	Janet Overton
	Chris Evans
	Transition@pbuuc.org
Electronic Communications	
Finance	
Green Team (co-chairs)	
Leasing (contact)	
Legacy Fund	
Membership (co-chairs)	
Ministry	
Nominating	
Personnel	
Religious Exploration	
Site Improvement	
Social Action (SAC)	
Stewardship	
Transition Team	

🌀 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 Tyrtle 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 Tyrtle 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 🌀

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
	Ross Horstkamp
Child Care Providers:	Jazmin Balbuena
	Joy Washington

🌀 Office Volunteers 🌀

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

Board of Trustees

Evan has reached out to the PG's People's Coalition, the PG's Muslim Association and has been participating in a Faith Advisory Council organized by a member of the PG's County Police Department.

The RE Team is looking to improve communications with the Congregation and the Leadership. The possibility of a Council of the Committee Chairs meeting occasionally to cross collaborate was mentioned. There have been a number of new families with children beginning to attend services and classes. How to connect with others in the church, or an orientation to PBUUC as a whole, not just children's classes? Questions were raised about adding Adult Education programming to Carla's job description.

The Church Administrator's recommendations for a new Administrative Assistant and Building Manager have been approved by the Board!

The Finance Committee will be asked to make a policy recommendation on where Building Manager's time should be billed for fundraising events. (Whether out of the general budget or out of the specific fundraising's funds.)

Treasurer's report: Credit card payments from the Auction are slow to be entered into the financial reports. The Total income from the Auction will come in around \$35,000 (\$29,000 is currently showing on the report.) This is terrific news!

The Board appointed the following to the Budget Leadership Team which is tasked with presenting a budget to the Board in the spring: Patty Daukantas, Peter Dowling, Deron Lavaas, Celinda Marsh, Tess Morrison, Carmelita Carter Sykes and Carol Carter Walker.

Parking lot update: Plans have been approved by the appropriate engineers and the Rainwater funds will cover the costs, so no cost to church! We should have this for our Town Hall meeting in February and they are expected to begin construction of our parking lot in early spring.

The Auction raised \$1,700 specifically to improve our sound system. BAC will be asking for a plan for upgrading our system with the aim to be able to install listening induction equipment.

Board members volunteered to be a point person for various Committees/Affinity Groups to enable smoother communications/questions to the Board, etc.

Happy New Year! from your Board Chair, *Liz*

January Board Meetings:

Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 pm
Executive Committee (RE Bldg)

Saturday, January 14, 11 pm
Read-Aheads due to Board
(email: BoardOfTrustees@pbuuc.org)

Tuesday, January 17, 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting (Room 4)

Stewardship

With the start of a new year your Paint Branch Stewardship Committee is well into the planning efforts for this year's annual campaign. Mark your calendars now as Commitment Sunday will be held on February 26th with a free breakfast (Hot Waffles!) before the service. We will also have several other events in February including a family friendly event with Commitment Sundaes (Ice Cream!), a giving event for congregation leaders, and two workshops for our volunteers and others interested in learning more about Stewardship at Paint Branch. More information on these events will appear in the coming weeks in the Continuum and Order of Service. We hope you can make time to attend one or more of these upcoming events.

As you start to think about what you can give in the coming year, we hope that you will consider increasing your pledge as so many of you did last year. Your next pledge will be for our first year with a new settled minister plus to meet the needs for all of our great staff, wonderful facilities, and excellent programs. Did you know that congregations in Prince George's County are the most generous in the entire DC area? Based on data from philanthropy.com the median contribution among all faiths was over \$4,800 or 5.2% of adjusted gross income. That's more than DC (4.0%) and Howard (2.7%), Montgomery (2.7%), or Fairfax (2.4%) counties. Just imagine what we could accomplish at Paint Branch with your generosity.

Planned Giving and Estate Planning Workshop

Have you taken care of your spouse's and children's needs if you passed away suddenly? Are your wishes known so that your heirs can share your assets with the people and organizations that you care about? Do you know all of the questions that you should address in a will or trust? These are tough questions and it covers an area that we don't like to talk about-our own mortality. Come learn what are the items you should address in your will/trust, how you can ensure that the people and organizations that you care about receive the gifts you would like them to have, and what are some great options to include in your planned giving outline.

Experts in estate planning and planned giving will walk you through what to consider while planning for your heirs and can answer concerns about navigating this process. You will also learn how to earn a good return on your savings, including income for life, combined with benefits to your congregation and, if desired, the UUA, after your death. Sponsored By The UU Congregation Of Fairfax Endowment Committee

Where: UUCF, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton, VA 22124

When: Saturday, February 11, 2017, 10 am.

Register: email ap@uucf.org to register to attend

Religious Exploration

Poetry as a Spiritual Practice for Cold Winter Days

I have discovered, or rediscovered, poetry in the past few years. Not writing poetry- though I have written the occasional piece of really bad poetry-reading it. Reading poetry; really reading and experiencing a poem; has become a meaningful spiritual practice for me.

Poetry engages my mind and spirit in a way that is unlike any novel or newspaper. The words intrigue, engage, move me and sometimes haunt me. The rhythm of the poem slows my breath. Reading a poem aloud, I hear and feel its cadence, which will play itself over in my mind like a song. The wisdom of the poet is revealed through thoughtfully chosen words, and the spaces between the words. The unexpected phrases stretch the limits of language in a way that awakes and delights me to its power once again. In the solitude and silence of reading a poem, I find a moment of mindfulness and restoration.

After the initial reading of a poem, to expand my experience and understanding, I revisit it, and revisit it again. I copy favorite poems into a poetry journal, and then type them into my computer's "poetry" file. I commit some of them to memory. There is something about knowing a poem "by heart." (Though they seem to slip out of my memory too quickly!)

I like to write a response to each poem in my journal- exploring some or all of these questions:

What does this poem say to me? How does it connect to my life? What moves me? What challenges me? What gifts does it bring? What does it ask of me?

Winter especially draws me toward poetry. There is something contemplative in the chill air and quiet earth of winter... the "shadowed quiet of winter's light" as Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker writes in "A Winter Blessing."

A Winter Blessing Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker

*In the shadowed quiet of winter's light
earth speaks softly
of her longing.
Because the wild places are in tears.*

*Come, she cries to us.
Kneel down here
on the frosty grass,
and feel the prayer buried in the ground.*

*Bend your ear to my heart
and listen hard.*

*Love this world, she whispers.
Distill peace from the snow
and water the cities
with mercy.*

*Weave wonder from the forest
and clothe grief
with beauty.*

*Rest in the rhythm of the turning year,
Trace the bending arc
Rounding the curve toward justice.
And vow anew to do no harm.*

*The winter trees stand watch
haloed in the last gleams of the slanting sun.
Glory sings here.
Heaven echoes the call:
Repeat the sounding joy.*

*Make your life an answer:
Bow.
Praise.
Rise.*

To explore poetry yourself this winter, you might start with some of these popular poets; Mary Oliver, May Sarton, Rumi, Wendell Berry, Jane Hirshfield, Denise Levertov and Maya Angelou. There are so many more! From the ancient sage Hafiz, to the incredible spoken word poets today, each poetic voice offers a fresh perspective and insight into our lives. Whether you choose to read aloud, to journal, to memorize or not, read the poem mindfully. Allow a moment of silence after reading; pause to simply feel and allow the poem to sink in; before returning to reread the poem with a more analytic perspective. Then return to consider its meanings and structures, ponder thoughtfully the nuances of this piece, the unanswered questions. Let it raise questions and bring a new thought or even a new way of seeing into your day. In the words of Jane Hirshfield, "One breath taken completely; one poem, fully written, fully read-in such a moment anything can happen."

Carla Miller

Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration
dmre@pbuuc.org

RE Announcements

Regular children's classes will begin again SUNDAY, January 8.

Glen Gathering / All-Ages Games takes place in the Kelley Room, January 15, 11:30 am to 1 pm. Everyone is invited for pizza, social time and Board Games! Bring your own favorite game to share, or learn a new game with someone else. We will celebrate our January and February birthdays in February's gathering - so don't worry, New Year's Babies, we will celebrate you next month, along with your Valentine baby friends.

Denominational Affairs

Denominational Action

A major part of Paint Branch being a Unitarian Universalist congregation is our interaction with the broader denomination via the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), an association of over 1,000 congregations. While we have access to the resources of UUA staff year round; e.g., facilitating retreats, counseling in our ministerial searches, etc., the major interaction among congregations and UUA staff occurs at the annual General Assembly (GA). One of the important actions at GA is the generation of Congregational Study/Action Issues CSAIs.

CSAIs are issues selected by Unitarian Universalist member congregations to reflect our positions on the great social issues of our time.

The process begins with congregations submitting social justice issues for four years of study, reflection and action. In the third year of this process, delegates at GA can vote to approve a Statement of Conscience (SOC) resulting from three years of congregational feedback on the CSAI. A fourth year is devoted to implementation. Statements of Conscience are used by UUs at the national, regional, and local levels to join with other organizations to lobby and advocate for related causes. Within each year of the process there are opportunities for Congregations to vote, and/or to provide input by way of comments.

There are currently two CSAIs which are part way through this process. The CSAI entitled "Escalating Inequality," initiated at GA 2014, is now in its third year, and a draft SOC has been prepared by the UUA's Commission on Social Witness (CSW). Our Congregation is being asked to 1) read the draft SOC; 2) vote on whether this SOC should be on the agenda at GA 2017 for further revision and potential adoption; and 3) submit comments. Our congregation's vote and comments MUST be submitted to the UUA by February 1, 2017. We also will have the opportunity to make comments to the UUA any time up to and at the 2017 GA.

The other CSAI entitled "Corruption of our Democracy," initiated at GA 2016, is now in its first year of the process. A Study Guide has been prepared by the CSW, and we are being asked to read the Study Guide and prepare comments to be sent to the UUA. These comments MUST be submitted by March 1, 2017.

You may participate in this congregational process by going to the following link on the UUA Website: <http://www.uua.org/statements/current> Here you can find a description of the process, a full text of the CSAIs under con-

sideration, and form on which you can make comments. The comments form can be submitted electronically to Denominational Affairs Committee denom@pbuuc.org by Sunday, January 15. Printed copies of these materials will also be available in the Meeting House Lobby January 1, 8, and 15. You can drop off your comments in the Denominational Affairs Box located there.

The Denominational Affairs Committee is in the process of reactivating. Right now, at the suggestion of the UUA, it is composed of those members who attended the 2016 General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio: Bettie Young, Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Don Gerson, Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson, Eric Most, Tricia Most, Lowell Owens, and Marge Owens, and Carol Carter Walker.

This Committee is calling a meeting open to all on Sunday, January 22, 2017, during Enrichment Hour. The major purpose of the meeting will be to discuss a summary of congregational input on the two CSAIs to be submitted by the deadlines.

Feel free to talk to any current members of the Committee, or contact me at donauldgerson@yahoo.com or by telephone at 240-293-6570.

Donald J. Gerson, Chair, Denominational Affairs Committee



The Wider Unitarian Universalist Universe

Mental Health Forum

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Chesapeake (UUC) will be hosting a Mental Health Forum on Tuesday evening January 24, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the library in Prince Frederick, MD.

The forum will consist of a viewing of the documentary: "Shattered Families: The Collapse of America's Mental Health System" by Stephen Seager and Nicole Forston. The committee is still in the planning stages for the forum, but so far the agenda will be to view the film and then have some time afterward for Q and A. Handouts will be available. All are invited.

We are very excited about presenting a forum on this very important topic!

Please contact Marilyn Martin concerning the forum. mokie517@comcast.net.

Best regards,

Alice Yutzy,

co-president of UUC



Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team

Our Final Discussions of The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement by Rev. Dr. William Barber II

The third and final session of the Sunday section will meet Sunday, January 15 from 4 to 6 pm. The third and final session of the Tuesday section will meet Tuesday, January 24 from 7 to 9 pm. Both groups will meet in Kelley Room, fireplace side. Both groups will focus on Chapters 7, 8, 9, and the 14-point plan of action in the Appendix. We'll also view some film clips of Dr. Barber's speeches and interviews.

We have sold all of the books from the UUA and will place a third order only for pre-paid sales. The paperback edition is \$16. This is a book worth reading. Please contact DARTT@pbuuc.org or call Carol Carter Walker at 202636-8138, if you want to purchase an additional book.

The author, Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, is one of the prophetic voices of our times— a voice worth a deep listen.

Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 7 pm to 9 pm

DARTT will meet in person Tuesday, January 10, 2017 from 7 pm to 9 pm in Room 4. At the December meeting, we decided to meet in person, using teleconferencing only in inclement weather or as an accommodation for those cannot attend in person.

Please e-mail DARTT@PBUUC.org or see Emma Sue Gaines-Gerson or Carol Carter Walker to place items on the Agenda. It is an open meeting. All are welcome.

DARTT Recommends:

Cedar Lane Hosting Training In Non-Violent Direct Action Saturday, January 7 From 1 pm to 5 pm

Have you ever wanted to learn how to do a sit-in? How to march in the street in a way that enables you to get around obstacles? Or protest for a cause in a creative way? During this training, you will learn the importance of collective action, its connection to collective liberation, the basics of NVDA (nonviolent direct action) Theory, legal factors to consider & de-escalation tactics.

The training is free, but you must register at:

<http://bit.ly/non-violenttraining>

Cedar Lane UU Church 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD

Ministerial Search Committee

Happy New Year from the Ministerial Search Committee!

I am very pleased to announce that after many hours of organizing, writing, editing, reorganizing, and fighting with the UUA provided web platform, the ministerial search packet is complete (insert fanfare of trumpets here). All the t's and i's are respectively crossed and dotted and we are ready to "go live". While every member of the MSC did their share of work, Janet Overton, in her position as Packet Editor, was instrumental in making sure we got the job done. Mark Shute, our volunteer webmaster, has put in a tremendous number of hours over the last weeks and months, both in helping to clean up and update the existing church web page AND in helping us get our packet web page ready for prospective ministers to view. We can't thank him enough for the many hours of work he has put in on our behalf.

I know many of you are anxious to SEE the fabled congregational record and packet we've been working so hard to complete. We are excited to show it to you! Since the packet is actually finished now, we will be releasing the site address in the next couple of weeks. We will also have a couple of hard copies, in three ring binder form, available in the meeting house and/or RE building for those that don't have easy internet access. Everything we put into these documents came from the information you provided. Thank you, again, for completing your surveys and for showing up for the BCT and cottage meetings. This truly was a congregational effort and something we could not have completed without your input.

Now that the packet is about to go live, we will be transitioning into a new phase of the search. As you'll have noticed, we haven't been giving as many updates and MSC Minutes, because there isn't much we can share. Over the last few months, in an effort to be transparent, we have tried to provide the congregation with as many updates, in as many places, as possible. On January 2nd, we will be given the list of ministers who have expressed interest in PBUUC. We will then begin the process of sorting through and reviewing their Ministerial Records (which are just like Congregational Records - but for ministers!). We'll be holding phone interviews and hosting pre-candidating weekends and probably having a few extra meetings. Going forward, as we begin interacting with these prospective ministers, who may or may not have a congregation, with whom they may or may not have shared, that they may or may not be leaving. You get where I'm going? Confidentiality during this time is of utmost importance. We won't be able to share the names of the ministers with whom we plan to have phone interviews, where we'll be going on our pre-candidating weekends, or who we plan to see once we're there. We will still happily provide status updates when we have something we can actually share.

Enjoy the New Year, Paint Branch!

Ebeth Porter, on behalf of the MSC

Social Action Committee

Last Sunday, after all the gifts brought by the UU Liaisons were piled on the tables in the Beacon House meeting room, what looked like at least a hundred gifts had been delivered. And thanks to donations from PBUUC, we were able to add many of them as “wild card” gifts including a basketball, a puzzle, two solar-powered race car kits, two pairs of binoculars, an Engino Inventor model building kit, and \$65 in Chipotle gift cards. We were also able to give 7-year-old Ta'zyiyah two of the gifts she wished for—a Pokemon 10-inch Plush Figure and a Little Live Pets Dream Puppy Playset - Tiara. Thanks to you, and other area UU churches, many of the children in Edgewood Commons will have a happier Christmas than they might have expected.

Expectations for the new year, given our new President, might seem less happy, but a very bright spot is the continued and growing resistance to regressive political, economic, and social forces. As you all know, the Women's March on Washington is scheduled for January 21st, the first day of Trump's term in office. People from all over will gather at Independence Ave and Third St SW, near the U.S. Capitol, at 10:00 am on January 21, 2017. Groups of UU women and men are making plans assemble. Kathy Kearns is ably spearheading PBUUC's efforts and has been a valuable information resource, particularly for housing out-of-towners.

Sunday, January 15, the Sunday of Martin Luther King weekend, at 11:30 am-1:30 pm, the UU Congregation of Rockville will host a criminal justice reform to discuss police accountability in Maryland. The discussion will address ways to work for concrete change. The title of the program, *Where Do We Go from Here?*, is taken from the last work of King's life, published at a time when the U.S. was in deep turmoil. We'll talk about healing the wounds and addressing the pain and anger of people in the affected communities. The program will focus on some of the major criminal justice issues in the upcoming 2017 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

On January 28, the UULM-MD will hold its Annual Meeting to review legislation related to UU values that is expected to come before the next session of the Maryland General Assembly and to prepare for action. Please consider joining us as we work to develop strategies and resources to bring about the beloved community we seek through legislative means.

Speaking of the Beloved Community, the Interfaith Network Prince George's County welcomes you to join them. Adelphi Friends Meeting hosted the initial planning meeting to see if there would be interest among other faith communities in Prince George's County in working together on issues of violence, policing, community relations. More than 30 people from a variety of faith organizations responded. The second meeting was at Paint Branch on November 15. The discussion addressed concerns of those who came representing quite a few organizations, including a Muslim organization from Lanham. The group's third meeting place was Mishkan Torah on December 21. They will meet again the third Wednesday in January. UU Silver Spring or Reid Temple in Lanham are possible meeting places. We will let you know where. Please consider joining us.

—Janet Overton, SAC Chair SAC@pbuuc.org

Upcoming SAC Meetings:

Saturday, January 14 at 10 am in Room 4
(note change to accommodate Women's March)

Saturday, February 18 at 10 am in Room 4

Saturday, March 18 at 10 am in Room 4

In and Around Paint Branch

Photos of 2016 Events Needed!

We are looking for a few photos from PBUUC activities/events that could be used in the Stewardship brochure and Campaign. If you are willing to share please contact Harry Schomberg. He can provide a link to a Google folder for uploading the photos. Photos need to be print quality at least 300 dpi. Contact Harry at Stewardship@pbuuc.org



The Women's Group

Save the Date! The PBUUC Women's Retreat will be held here on Saturday, March 3. This all-day event is open to all members and friends of PBUUC who identify as women. Detailed planning will begin after the New Year, until then please mark your calendar and join us for a day of fellowship, fun, learning, and spiritual exploration. Questions or comments, contact Louise Waugh LouiseMWaugh@hotmail.com or 301-474-5229.

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.

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