



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 25, Issue 9

September 2018

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## In the Interim September 2018



Hello Channing! I'm so delighted to be with you, and proud to call myself your Interim Minister for this year. I know this third year of interim ministry isn't what you were hoping for when you entered into this interim period two years ago, but I hope you'll embrace this opportunity to try some things together.

No doubt you'll be wanting to get to know me, just as I'm getting to know you. We'll learn more about each other over the next few weeks and months. And in the process, we'll have an opportunity to learn more about ourselves, as well. I find that I learn new things about myself all the time and with every new ministry.

As we move forward together, learning about each other and ourselves, I encourage you to consider Ms. Frizzle from "The Magic School Bus." Ms. Frizzle always encouraged her students to learn by trying things out - to "take chances, make mistakes, and get messy!" We have an opportunity in our time together this year to do exactly that. To explore some things, to see what works, to see what doesn't.

So what are you hoping for this year? What would you like to try out? What scares you? What are your hopes and visions for Channing? What do you want to know about me? Over the next few weeks you'll have an opportunity to sit down with me and chat in small groups. I hope you'll sign up. And if you'd like to meet with me one-on-one, please just let me know and we'll arrange a time.

I'm looking forward to our adventure together.

In shalom, (that means "In the peace of God's wholeness")

*Pastor Madelyn*

## Wayside Pulpit

Be not something good; be good for something.  
-- Henry David Thoreau

**Interim Minister:**

Pastor Madelyn Campbell

410-203-0474 (office)  
[minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)

**President:**

Julie Fitzer ('20)

**Vice President:** Maureen Hayes ('20)

**Treasurer:** Ostara Hollyoak ('19)

**Secretary:** Kathleen Razmus ('19)

**Trustees:**

Ken Hart ('20)

Jason Grabelle ('19)

Open ('19)

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**Newsletter Editor:**

Ken Grim

*To place an event on the calendar, in the Order of Service announcements, in the newsletter or in an allchanning email, send an email to: [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org)*

Send submittals for the October issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 23.

## Interfaith Liturgical Calendar

September

- 3 Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
- 9 Rosh Hashanna begins (sundown) (Jewish)
- 12 Hijra (Islam)
- 13 Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)
- 18 Yom Kippur (sundown) (Jewish)
- 21 Ashura (Islam)
- 22 Mabon (Wiccan/Euro-pagan)
- 23 Sukkot begins (sundown) (Jewish)

## Search Committee and Transition Team Appointed

The Board appointed the Search Committee and Transition Team in late July. Thank you to these dedicated volunteers!

Settled Minister Search Committee: **Lynne Schaefer, Cathy Fu, Kris Tyssowski, Patrick Beben, Bernie Nebel, and Ken Kalumuck**

Transition Team: **Kathleen Razmus, Colleen Rathbun, and Ken Grim**

## Channing Care Team

The Care Team is a group of Channing volunteers who respond when a member of the Channing community is in need. They visit, send flowers, cards, meals and provide other caring gestures when needed. If you know of a need in the congregation, contact the Care Team at [careteam@channingmc.org](mailto:careteam@channingmc.org).

## Meet Pastor Madelyn!

Come join a small group to meet with Pastor Madelyn as she explains her Magic School Bus approach to Interim Ministry. That is, she hopes we will take chances, make mistakes, and get messy! Pastor Madelyn invites you to bring your questions and your vision for the church in the near future and beyond.

Three sessions are currently scheduled:

- **Wednesday August 29 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, September 16 at 1:00 p.m.**

All sessions will be held at Channing in the Middle School Classroom. Refreshments will be served. In order to keep these meetings small and dynamic, space will be limited to 8 attendees for each meeting. If these meetings all fill up, more meetings will be added.

Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f45abab23ab9-meet>

-OR-

see a member of the **Transition Team**: Colleen Rathbun, Ken Grim, or Kathleen Rasmus, to be added to the attendee list.



### Welcome Pastor Madelyn to the Pulpit!

Please join us as we welcome Pastor Madelyn for her first day in the pulpit on Sunday, September 2. Stay for coffee hour when we have special cake to celebrate!

### Search Committee Revs Up



The Search Committee is just warming up for an exciting year. We are planning a retreat soon with our UUA facilitator, and will be reporting in periodically about our progress. Committee members are Kris Tyssowski, Lynne Schaefer, Bernie Nebel, Ken Kalumuck, Cathy Fu and Patrick Beben. Thank you for giving us time to do this work.

## Soul Stories

Thursday, September 13, 7:00 PM

Facilitator: Julie Fitzer

We'll listen to, and discuss, a short wisdom tale selected from the multi-cultural collection, Doorways to the Soul, compiled by a UU professional storyteller (ISBN: 9781556357404). It is not necessary to purchase the book. Julie will post a copy of the story on the church bulletin board for a few weeks. The book author allows for one copy to be posted in a common area for the purpose of sharing and discussing the stories.

In August, we listened to a Sufi tale about searching for buried treasure that was never found but the seekers found other, more valuable, things along the way. We talked about how we seek spiritual and other treasures in our lives through daily effort and discipline.

The story for September 13 is "A Drop of Honey," from Burma and Thailand, about small things causing big problems. We'll ponder the role of a drop of honey in the interdependent web of life, in social justice work, and in our relationships.

We will meet on the second Thursday of each month this fall as follows: September 13, October 11, and November 8, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Channing.



**Save the Date**  
**Afternoon Tea**  
**Fundraiser**  
**Sunday, October 21,**  
**2:00 PM at Channing**

More sweet and savory details coming soon!

## Memorial for Jewell Brenneman

George Brenneman's wife, Jewell Brenneman, passed away on August 1. George attended Channing Memorial church during Reverend Susan's time and has since moved to Bridgewater Virginia.

A celebration of life will take place at the Our Lady of Angels Chapel at 711 Maiden Choice Lane, Catonsville, MD 21228 at 1:00 on August 30, 2018. The Chapel is on the Charlestown Retirement Community campus. Immediately following the memorial will be a reception in the Fireside Gallery at Charlestown Retirement Community.

In lieu of flowers, please send a contribution to Baltimore Clayworks at 5707 Smith Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209, 410-578-1919.

## Toiletries Needed for the Westside Men's Shelter

So many of you travel frequently and are supplied with those little travel-size toiletries at hotels and on the plane. If you ever find you don't need them, please consider donating the extras to the men at Westside Shelter. We've put a box in the foyer for donations of individual toothbrushes and tooth pastes, razors, lip balm, hand sanitizers, combs, deodorant sticks, hand lotion, shampoos and conditioners. Diana M., Nancy H., Joe C. and Steve P. take turns delivering groceries to the Shelter and will take these over when they go each month.

## President's Column



Orioles games have rain delays. Channing gatherings have light bulb delays.

A kitchen lighting issue held up the August meeting of Soul Stories for a few minutes past the intended start time. Someone noticed the light problem, and the facilities team members (that would be one hundred percent of the meeting attendees, except for the leader) walked around the church and held a brief discussion. As the Soul Stories leader, I could have fumed. How dare a light bulb take precedence over the church president's carefully-prepared remarks on grand philosophical themes?

But, as the Sufi story we would read reminded us, much of spiritual life is not glamorous. We must engage in regular practices such as worship attendance, meditation, journaling, and discussion groups before we can hope to earn the treasures of spiritual fulfillment. One does not immediately become the Buddha.

Church life consists of many mundane tasks that support Sunday morning worship and our other ministries. We fix the lights, clean the toilets, balance the bank accounts, fold the bulletins. These jobs could function as a spiritual practice. We learn that smaller tasks prepare us for the larger moments in life.

Eventually, the facilities team disbanded their meeting and returned to their seats. After Soul Stories, the facilities meeting quickly resumed in the foyer. One of the attendees looked at

the church president and joked about "the facilities team resuming their meeting." The church president smiled and departed, grateful for those who take care of the chores that allow for the magic of Channing Memorial Church to touch souls week after week.

One chore area that needs more support are our church cleaners (contact Diana M. to help). If you search on Google for "spirituality of cleaning," you will find plenty of resources- some Buddhist, a few Christian- on how to turn your cleaning routine into a spiritual practice. Perhaps you will be inspired to, metaphorically, scrub away your inner demons on the toilets. I learned of a cleaning company in Cape Town that provides its janitorial services with a spiritual twist, with themes of love, humility, and presence. They also teach others in workshops about cleaning as a practice for healing the painful past in South Africa, transforming people from abusers to protectors. Check them out online at [www.zenithcleaners.com](http://www.zenithcleaners.com), then come to church and tell me what you think.

With love and faith,  
*Julie Fitzer*



**Channing Auction**  
**Saturday, November 17, 5:30 PM**

Channing Memorial Church will hold its Auction on Saturday, November 17, 2018. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to start bidding on silent auction items and signing up for single-price items. Dinner, prepared by our very own High School Youth Group, will be served at 6:00 p.m. This year's theme will be The Jungle BUUK, and the menu includes Chana Masala, Butter Chicken, Basmati Rice and Naan. Cost will be \$10 per person; children 5 and under are no charge. Please sign up to attend by November 11, 2018.



Child care is available - please let Colleen Rathbun know as soon as possible if you will need child care.

We need lots of help with this big event! Some tasks are needed as early as the beginning of October, such as helping to advertise the event and assisting with collecting donation information. Please see the list of items we need help with at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0f45abab23ab9-channing>

We will have three types of items this year:

1. Live auction items and events
2. Silent auction items and baskets
3. Single-price events for multiple attendees with a sign-up opportunity at the auction

**Stewardship Update**

**Stewardship Update for Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**

**GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$143,611</b>
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>\$163,005</u></b>
<b>Difference Operating Fund</b>	<b>\$(19,394)</b>
<b>Vision and Growth Drawdown</b>	<b>15,944</b>
<b><u>Transfer from Reserves</u></b>	<b><u>3,450</u></b>
<b><u>Ending Balance 6/30/18</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

**VISION AND GROWTH FUND**

<b>Beginning Balance 7/1/17</b>	<b>\$87,001</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$6,677</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$48,575</b>
<b><u>Ending Balance 6/30/18</u></b>	<b><u>\$45,103</u></b>

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**Next "Final Friday" Potluck and Game Nights at Channing!**  
**Friday, August 31**  
**Friday, September 28**  
**6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Please consider wrapping up the months of August and September with some friends and fun!! Join us on Friday, August 31 and September 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a potluck dinner and game night!

What to bring:

1. A dish to share. (Something homemade or pick it up on your way.... Or, if it's not a good week for you to bring a dish, just come!)
2. A board game (or other table top game), if you'd like to.

After dinner, join in a game, or just socialize. We'll have a movie available for young children who might want to just chill and watch.

If you have any questions, see Deanna Grabelle or Ostara Hollyoak.

**Scenes From the July 27th Potluck and Game Night**



## "To You I Give"

Last month, I put forth an article titled, "From You I Receive." If you missed it, I will summarize: "Come to church to be nurtured." And I hope you *are* coming to church-- to learn, to be with friends and to receive support. So what about the next line of hymn 402, "To you I give?" While I wrote that people don't come to church to be on a committee, it's also true that, with the exception of a few paid staff, our church is run by volunteers. "What should I do to serve?" is an important question.

It may be that the answer to that question is "Nothing." If you are new or are going through a tough time, just "let church be church" for awhile. Come to hear a good sermon, to sit peacefully or to be inspired by music, and let that be enough. Receive the gift when you need to.

When you are able, look around a bit-- there are things that need to be done for Channing to continue to be the place that we love. It can be overwhelming to think about, and a challenge to make it not seem like a chore. In the last few years, some of us have begun to think of church work as part of our spiritual growth instead of as a duty. I can see it when folks sign up for Snack Squad, excited to keep us fed and happy after the service. My kids' RE teachers commit to a year of co-teaching, not to pass on dogma, but to keep our children and youth excited and questioning. (One teacher told me, "I think I'm learning more than the kids!") I try to do church work I am interested in, that satisfies something in me as well as getting a job done. (And I occasionally clean the bathrooms, too.)

We all have different gifts to offer. After you have let Channing nurture you, I hope you will grow in nurturing our church.

--Cathy Fu, your outgoing Membership person

## Fall In To Snack Squad

It may not be obvious, but fall is coming, and it's time to keep your love for snacks at church alive. After all, Pastor Madelyn brought her cool statue for us to see-- don't we owe her great snacks after worship? Of course we do.

Remember that Snack Squad has been split into two parts: healthy food and "fun food." If you can fill both slots, bless you. If you can just do one of the slots, that's ok--- hopefully someone else will take the other task. (Feel free to con a friend into this job.)

Check church email for instructions for signing up for a slot on SignUp Genius, or let Cathy know if you would like her to sign up for you.

One last thing: It's hip to be tidy, so please clean up and take your dishes home after all have been served.

Thanks,  
Cathy Fu

### Men's Group

**September 6th and 15th  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Bagel Bin at Enchanted  
Forest Shopping Center**



Join the men of Channing for informal conversation, coffee and bagels. Bring a topic to discuss, or just bring yourself.

**Bridges to Housing Stability's Restaurant Day  
at Shannon's Saloon  
Thursday, September 13th**

Bridges to Housing Stability ("Bridges") is hosting a restaurant fundraiser all day on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at Shannon's Saloon in Ellicott City to help Bridges move closer to its vision of alleviating and preventing homelessness, by providing housing stability in Howard County.

A portion of all proceeds from your check will go to Bridges to support your community's children, youth and families who are homeless or on the verge of being homeless, and to help them become self-sufficient.

**Don't forget to bring a flyer to participate! Flyers are available in the church lobby.**

Visit [bridges2hs.org](http://bridges2hs.org) for more information.

**Church Cleaners Needed**

Keeping our church clean is a big part of creating a welcoming and inviting place. Channing does not have a janitor or a paid cleaning crew. A small cadre of dedicated volunteers clean, scrub, dust, vacuum, and otherwise keep the place looking great. Help is needed! Won't you consider lending a bit of your time to help keep the church looking great? For more information on volunteering to clean, please contact Diana Mosley.

**Buy Gift Cards Through  
Channing Memorial Church**



Support Channing Memorial Church while doing your weekly grocery shopping! Grocery cards are available for Giant, Safeway and Weis. There are also a few Lowes cards available. See Maureen H. to make a purchase. A percentage of each gift card that you purchase through Channing goes to help support the church.



**William Ellery Channing**

# September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	August 27 Choir Practice 7:30-9:30 pm	August 28	August 29 Small Group Mtgs. with Pastor Madelyn 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm	August 30	August 31	September 1
2 Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am	3 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm  LABOR DAY	4	5	6 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	7	8
9 Ingathering Service and Water Ceremony 10:00 - 11:00 am	10 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	11	12	13 Soul Stories Discussion 7:00 - 8:00 pm	14	15 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
16 Worship Service and Children's RE 10:00 - 11:00 am	17 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	18 Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	19	20	21	22
23 Worship Service and Children's RE 10:00 - 11:00 am	24 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	25 Transition Team Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	26	27	28 Groceries to Westside Shelter 6:00 - 7:30 pm  Final Friday Potluck and Games Night 6:00-9:00 pm	29
30 Worship Service and Children's RE 10:00 - 11:00 am						

Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
3220 Corporate Ct.  
Suite C  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

On the web:  
[www.ChanningMC.org](http://www.ChanningMC.org)

### **Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist**

Our mission is to invite seekers into spiritual community, connect souls in mystery and wonder, and ignite compassion into action.

We are a church of liberal religious worship that inspires its members on their spiritual journeys. We derive inspiration from other world religions; promote religious education for all ages; create a welcoming, supporting, and caring community; and work together to build a better world.

**Directions to 3220 Corporate Court: From Catonsville and east:** Rt.40 West. Right on Pine Orchard Lane (one light after Bethany Lane). Take 4th right onto Corporate Court, then take the first right into the parking lot. Suite C is in middle of building on right. Parking is available in front or at end of building and in back of building.

**From Carroll County and west:** Go east on I-70 to Rt 40 east; at 4th light (Pine Orchard Lane), turn left. Take 4th right onto Corporate Court, then take the first right into the parking lot. Suite C is in middle of building on right. Parking is available in front or at ends of building and in back of building.

**NURTURE Your Spirit.**  
**Help HEAL The World.**



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[www.channingmc.org](http://www.channingmc.org)