



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 25, Issue 12

December 2018

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## In the Interim December 2018



### Are You Ready?

It seems as though I just got here, and already the Thanksgiving leftovers are gone and Advent and Chanukah are upon us! I love this time of year. Do you?

There are some similarities between Advent and Chanukah. Advent is all about preparation, and there are elements of preparation about Chanukah, too. While Chanukah is mainly about remembering the re-dedication of the Temple and God's faithfulness, we use the story of the miracle of the oil that burned for eight days – part of the preparation of the sanctification of the holy space – to frame the story.

In Advent, we spend our time preparing for Christmas – for the coming of the Christ child. It's a time for self-reflection.

So what you are preparing for? Well the obvious thing, I suppose, is a new settled minister. And you've been doing great work around that. You've been thoughtful and engaged, and that's a great start. One way that you can prepare some more is to attend the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop on December 16.

Another thing that I hear you telling me a lot is that you want to grow the church. How are you preparing for that? And what do you mean by growth? Do you only mean growth in numbers, or is there more behind it?

We'll spend some time during this Advent and Chanukah season talking about growth – in lots of ways. And then in January I'll be holding a workshop where we'll be able to explore in more depth what your desires are around growth and what some strategies might be to move Channing forward the way you'd like. That will be on January 19.

As you prepare to celebrate the holidays of this season, I hope you'll also make plans to attend these workshops.

*(continued on page 2)*



We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!

**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)

**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 January 2019 issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 23.**

*(In the Interim - continued from page 1)*

On a personal note, I'm preparing right now for my next session of doctoral classes in England. I'll be gone from December 27 through January 14. If you have a pastoral care emergency during the time that I'm away, please contact someone on the board or on the care team. They will get in touch with the minister who will be providing emergency coverage for me in my absence.

In shalom,  
*Pastor Madelyn*

## Interfaith Liturgical Calendar

### December

- 2 Advent begins (Christian)  
Chanukah begins at sundown (Judaism)
- 6 St. Nicholas Day (Christian)
- 8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
- 21 Winter Solstice/Yule (Wiccan/Euro-Pagan)
- 25 Christmas begins (Christian)
- 26 Death of the Prophet Zarathustra (Zoroastrian)  
St. Stephen's Day (Christian)

### Volunteer for Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve



You've seen Pastor Madelyn telling Biblical stories, and now's your chance. We will have a Lessons and Carols service on Christmas Eve, and this is your opportunity to tell one of the lessons (you can get as much coaching from Pastor Madelyn as you'd like to have). There are slots for tellers and even a couple of slots for readers. Sign up on the SignUp Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084EA4E2FA5F94-christmas>

and feel free to contact Pastor Madelyn ([minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)) if you have questions.

## President's Column

Brrrrr. It's a cold Thanksgiving as I write this.

Thinking of Channing, however, brings a lot of warm memories. I loved our recent Auction night – so much fun, laughter, and friends. Many thanks to Colleen, the organizer of it all.

December will bring a Christmas Eve service, a workshop from our search committee, the annual Elf Squad, and more laughter and friends. These things will bring much needed light and warmth into the dark, cold winter.

If the winter holidays are often challenging for you- as they can be for many people- come to church and be among friends. Reach out to the care team or to the minister if you need extra support.

In addition to celebrating your family's traditions, you might consider focusing on one UU principle each day during Chalice, which starts on December 3 this year. Each day for a week, you do something that honors one of the seven principles. It's a nice way to step back from the consumerism and busyness of the season, and remember the values of Unitarian Universalism.

For more on Chalice: <https://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/chalice>

Finally, in the event of winter weather, check your email. Our goal is to announce weather-related Sunday church service cancellations by 8 a.m. If you are concerned about events outside of worship services, on other days of the week, please check with the organizer of the meeting or event.

See you at church,  
*Julie Fitzer*

## Search Committee Update



The CMC Settled Minister Search Committee has continued meeting weekly. Our focus has been on compiling the information and answering the questions required to provide a detailed profile of our congregation to prospective candidates. A significant portion of this has been sent to our Transitions Coach for review while a few items will be sent shortly. Following feedback and revisions, this information will be made available in December to ministers seeking congregations. In January we will begin receiving and evaluating “packets” of information from candidates interested in us.

What can you do? Attend the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” workshop on Sunday December 16. (See separate description in this newsletter.) We have been told that congregational participation in this is viewed very positively by ministerial candidates. And.... Stay tuned!

*Your Search Team-- Kris T., Patrick B., Cathy F., Ken K., Bernie N. and Lynne S.*



### Wayside Pulpit

Live out your imagination, not your history.

—Stephen R. Covey

## Ministerial Search – Congregational Workshop “Beyond Categorical Thinking”

Interested in helping attract a great candidate for our new minister? Want a free lunch as well? Attend the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” workshop following church on Sunday, December 16 (from approximately 11:45-2:45). Lunch will be provided. This important workshop is designed to promote inclusive thinking in the search process and is facilitated by a UU minister trained for this. It:

- Considers the hopes, expectations, and concerns members and friends have for a new minister
- Explores how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate.

How does this help find and select a great candidate? First....reread the second bullet above. Second, we have been told that having had a congregation complete this workshop is viewed as a very big plus by prospective candidates.

So...come help us attract and select the best minister for CMC while enjoying a free lunch.

Questions? Contact *Kris T.*, Search Committee Chair

## Religious Education

### Spirit Play



What is Spirit Play, you ask? Spirit Play is the sharing of spiritual stories with our younger friends. It is based on story, ritual play creativity, and exploration of spiritual stories using

the Montessori philosophy of teaching. For more information, go to this link:

<https://www.spirit-play.com/about>

Upcoming dates for Spirit Play are:

- December 2
- January 6
- January 27

If you have questions or want more information, see one of the RE Committee members or RE teachers: *Deanna, Lynne, Stephanie, David and Ashruf.*

## Board Bits



At the November 20th meeting, the Board went over the Interim Minister's report with Pastor Madelyn. There was also a bit of an auction debrief. The

most pressing order of business pertained to the Settled Minister Agreement, which will need Board approval by the end of November. The remaining discussion centered around the work being done on defining the Channing church structure. Having our structure defined will be a big asset as we move forward with new members and leaders.

Sincerely,

*Dan V.*, Board Scribe

## Welcome to Our Newest Member!



Channing welcomes Alex R. Alex, the Channing choir's *Basso Profundo*, signed the Membership Book on November 25th, and is now an official member.

## Elf Squad Rides Again!



Again this holiday season, we are sponsoring folks in need through Neighbor Network. We will buy gifts and gift cards for a family of seven to make their holidays a little brighter during a difficult time.

### **\*\*What should I buy?**

Items should be new. The "wish list" contains both specific gifts and gift cards. Choose what you would enjoy giving.

### **\*\*Want to buy a specific gift?**

That's great. The kids want some cool things. Try Amazon or another online source if it's a specific toy. For books, you can search online for the age and gender of the child to get some ideas.

### **\*\*Gift Cards?**

Although gift cards may seem impersonal, families love having the freedom to pick what they like and need.

### **\*\*Gift deadline/turn-in procedures?**

Gifts are needed on or before December 9. The LH3 kids will wrap your gift during their class that day. When you bring in your gift, please attach a tag with the given ID number. Cathy will happily take stuff on Sundays before that, of course.

### **\*\*Special driving elf needed**

I love Howard County, really I do, but it's great having someone else deliver the gifts. You would coordinate with the mom of the family (very nice woman) to drop off the gifts.

### **\*\* Feel free to ask if you want suggestions or need help.**

Here is the signup link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fa4ad2ba46-elfsquad2>

NOTE! Access code is "UU Elf".

Thank you for your generosity!

Cathy F.

## Thank You, Stephen



One of our coffee urns broke on November 18th. Into the breach stepped Stephen Deinger, our wonderful music director, who donated a new one. You'll

notice it's the coffee urn with two spouts. Thank you, Stephen, for your contribution to our required caffeine intake.

## Channing Auction Highlights and Thanks



Now isn't that an exceptional cake?

This is a summary of the Channing Auction held on November 17. Channing raised a substantial amount for its operations, and our members and friends had a chance to spend some fun time together. There was a silent auction, a live auction and an opportunity to sign up for fixed price items like the *Soup till you Droop* dinner. Once the dinner and socializing was over, the evening moved on to alternating periods of entertainment from the youth and others (the Jungle BUUK), and live auction by *David F.* with *Ken K.* stepping to spell David.

We had great participation from the community, with a full room enjoying the food prepared by the youth and participating in some very spirited bidding.

Special thanks to *Colleen R.* for coordinating everything, and to *Heather V.* for ably leading the entertainment. Many others played a role; without each and every person we could not have done it all. This includes all of the youth who cooked the food at *Lynne's* house (thank you, *Lynne*, for the kitchen) and helped out in other ways through the evening, *Mike L.* and all who were in the entertainment (the Jungle BUUK), and in addition, *Pam E.* who played a wolf, a snake, a buffalo and a village person. The folks who set up space [and those who cleaned and set it up for services the next morning] for the evening put in many hours and were indispensable as well. And, of course, *Dan* and *Evelyn* and *Ostara* managing the all important financial side. Apologies to all the others whose names aren't listed, but who are equally appreciated for their contribution.



## Stewardship Corner

### Is an IRA Charitable IRA Rollover right for you?

As the year nears an end, we have received the following stewardship reminder from the Legacy Giving/Stewardship & Development Office of the UUA:

Did you know that giving through your IRA may help you save on taxes while providing support to our UUA (or to Channing Memorial Church)?

If you are 70 1/2 or older you are likely familiar with the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Each year, the IRS requires you to withdraw a certain amount from your IRA whether you need the funds or not, and you pay income tax on that withdrawal.

For some IRA account holders, the RMD is more than is needed for living expenses, and it can generate an unwelcome tax burden. For others, there are more than enough assets available inside their IRA plans to both meet retirement needs and make a more generous charitable gift than might otherwise be possible.

Consider these factors when deciding whether an IRA Charitable Rollover is right for you:

- (1) The IRS allows donors 70 1/2 or older to transfer up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to charity each calendar year.
- (2) An IRA Charitable Rollover can be used to meet all or part of an IRA required minimum distribution.
- (3) You pay no income tax on the rollover gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor

a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your taxes, and it is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts.

You can use an IRA Charitable Rollover to make an outright gift to Channing Memorial Church as well as to make a payment on an existing pledge.

Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA and specify that you want to make an IRA charitable Rollover. Be sure to let our Treasurer, Ostara Hollyoak, know about your plans, as the funds will be sent directly by your IRA plan administrator. Advance notice will help ensure that your gift is properly credited.

*Have a Happy Holiday Season from the Stewardship Team.*

### Stewardship Update

#### October Year-to-Date

<b>Total Operating Income</b>	\$55,034
<b>Total Expenses Paid</b>	56,947
<b>Difference</b>	\$(1,913)

### 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. See Maureen H. to make a purchase. A percentage of each gift card that you purchase through Channing goes to help support the church.

## New Membership Directory is Now Available

Please check it out. If you didn't receive an email, or you want a printed version, or a .csv file (for use in an online contact directory), contact membership@channingmc.org.

## In Case of Inclement Weather



There may be times this winter when a weather event will cause the cancellation of our worship service. The decision to cancel will be made by 8:00 a.m. the day of the service, and will be posted on the Channing Memorial Church website, [www.channingmc.org](http://www.channingmc.org). The congregation will also be notified by email. Not receiving the church emails? Contact membership@channingmc.org to be added to the list.

## UUSJ - Discussion With Rep. Jamie Raskin

Join Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) at 4:30 p.m. on [December 2](#) at River Road UU Congregation in Bethesda. Hear from **Congressman Jamie Raskin**, member of both the House Judiciary Committee and the House Oversight Committee, in a discussion, "New Congress: New Opportunities for Social Justice." This [fundraiser](#) will support UUSJ's advocacy work. [Tickets](#) and [flyer](#) available.

**Rep. Raskin**, just re-elected in Maryland's 8 District, has been an outspoken advocate on the environment, civil rights, immigration, and health care — all issues UUs care about and all issues UUSJ carries to legislative offices on Capitol Hill!

## Men's Group

December 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.

## Shop AmazonSmile to Support Channing

Channing Memorial Church is a registered charity with AmazonSmile, a program that donates a percentage (0.5%) of every eligible Amazon purchase to charity. Just go to AmazonSmile at <https://smile.amazon.com> and follow the prompts to select Channing as your designated charity.

## Peter Mayer Live in Concert

First Unitarian Church  
of Baltimore  
10 W. Franklin Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

December 8, 2018  
7:00 - 9:00 PM

**Admission:** Adult: \$25  
Student/Child \$5

Peter Mayer, composer and folk singer, will perform in concert in the church sanctuary to benefit the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. There will be a reception in the Enoch Pratt Parish Hall immediately following the performance, with a CD signing at the reception. Parking is on the street or in the parking garage directly across the street from the sanctuary entrance on Franklin Street.



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
Worship Service & Children's Spirit Play 10:00-11:00 am Youth Group Meeting 10:00 - 11:00 am First Night of Chanukah	2 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	3 4	5	6 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	7	8
Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am LH3 Meeting 10:00 - 11:00 am	9 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm Last Night of Chanukah	10 11	12	13	14	15 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop 11:45 am - 2:45 pm	16 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	17 Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	18 19	20	21	22
Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm	23 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	24 Christmas Day 	25 26	27	28	29
Worship service 10:00 - 11:00 am Youth Group Mtg. 10:00 - 11:00 am	30 New Years Eve 	31				

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)