



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 26, Issue 1

January 2019

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In the Interim January 2019

Happy New Year!

By the time you read this, I will be busy studying in my doctoral classes in England. Going away to do this gives me a different perspective on things. Getting out from inside of something is a good way to understand more about where we were when we were inside.

Interim ministry works a bit like this, except that instead of you stepping outside the church, you ask someone else from outside to step in. And I must say, I am so proud of the work you've been doing during this extended interim time. You did some more of this out-of-the-box work when you participated in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop in December.

So what do we do with all of this perspective and new thinking once we have it? I mean, going to Cambridge is great. I enjoy the conversations we have in class, and the work that we do together, but what do I do with it then? Well, I come back to work and I apply what I've learned.

You've been making some changes, too. There are some obvious changes. You've likely noticed the projector hanging from the ceiling in the sanctuary. Perhaps you've also noticed some changes in the ways you're thinking about the next minister or how you'll work together with the next minister. I've noticed some things in my conversations with you.

When I return, we'll have a chance to talk about your ideas for moving forward and growing in a growth workshop on January 19 at 1:00 pm. I hope you'll attend.

For now, I wish you a wonderful start to the New Year. If you have a pastoral emergency while I'm gone, please call someone on the Board or the Care Team, and they will notify the minister on call. And I'll be looking forward to being back with you in mid-January.

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We are a Welcoming
Congregation!

Interim Minister:

Pastor Madelyn Campbell

410-203-0474 (office)
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

Send submittals for the February issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 20.**

(In the Interim - continued from page 1)

I'm also wondering how many people read this every month. So if you've read this and respond to me with the answer to where I will be studying in England (the answer is in here) and you are one of the first three people to respond, I will send you a postcard from Cambridge as a prize.

In shalom,
Pastor Madelyn

Interfaith Liturgical Calendar

January

- 5 Twelfth Night (Christian)
Guru Gobindh Singh birthday (Sikh)
- 6 Epiphany (Christian)
- 13 Maghi (Sikh)
- 20 Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)
World Religion Day (Baha'i)
- 21 Mahayana New Year begins (Buddhist)

Board Bits



At the December 18 Board meeting, the Board discussed the interim minister's report. Pastor Madelyn's time with us is almost half over, and her help with the congregation in general, and the Search Committee in particular, is most appreciated.

The Board is planning a half-day meeting in February to create a drafted baseline of how the church is structured. This effort is meant to get everyone on the same page about how Channing is structured and to encourage discussion and questions as they arise from congregants.

The Board is working with Pam El-Dinary on the Channing Policy Book. Having all Channing policies collected together in one place will be an invaluable tool for the
(continued on page 4)

President's Column

It's hard to believe that we are about to close out 2018 and welcome 2019. In December, we held a workshop on categorical thinking that hopefully will not only improve our minister search process, but also will help us be a more welcoming community to those who come through our doors.

We also supported a local family with the UU Elf project, sang at the Westside Shelter, and held our Christmas Eve service. The choir visited a couple of local senior communities. Spirit Play supported our children. We talked about different kinds of love in worship.

The Board continues to organize policies and clarify our church structure. While it's not realistic that we can address every nuance this church year, the discussions are ongoing and should continue into the next church year. We have recognized that clear organization and structure can be liberating, as opposed to constraining. People are more likely to share their talents and ideas if they feel comfortable.

Sadly, we lost Alex R. Many Channing members attended the memorial service, in support of the choir and Alex's family. I was so proud to hear stories of how Channing had become a home for Alex.

Looking forward, 2019 brings the 200th Anniversary of the Baltimore Sermon delivered by William Ellery Channing. He's the guy in the picture frame on the wall, who somehow "photobombed" the Board and staff picture in this year's Christmas cards. If you don't know much about him, the 200th anniversary might be a good time to do some reading and pay a visit to First Church downtown. Here's a Tapestry of Faith adult religious education unit about Channing:
<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/>

adults/movesus/workshop4

We'll also have a workshop in January led by Pastor Madelyn on the topic of growth. This is an important discussion to attend, because our collective understanding of our goals in this area will impact the decisions that we make in upcoming years about our space rental, staffing, and our budget.

See you in 2019!

Julie Fitzer

Search Committee Update



The CMC Settled Minister Search Committee has completed another milestone – pulling together and submitting our congregation's "packet", the compilation of a myriad of answers to questions, survey results, past minutes and budgets, photos, and other information that provide a detailed profile of CMC and what we are looking for in a minister. The packet has been reviewed and approved by the UUA Transitions Office and is likely being viewed by potential candidates as this article is being written.

We are looking forward to receiving "Ministerial Records" (akin to extended resumes) from interested candidates in early January and to conducting video interviews in the latter half of January and early February.

Thanks to all who attended the "Beyond Categorical Thinking" congregational workshop in December (see separate article in this newsletter). As we move into this next phase...stay tuned!

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

Growth Workshop
Saturday, January 19, 2019
1:00 PM

What is your vision for Channing? In what ways do you envision the church growing? In numbers? In other ways? And if you would like Channing to grow, for what purpose? We'll explore all these questions at our growth workshop on January 19 at 1:00 p.m. RSVPs appreciated. Please let the Transition Team know that you'll be attending.

(Board Bits - continued from page 2)

congregation, and hopefully can help the Search Committee answer any policy questions being asked by prospective ministers.

The meeting ended with a discussion about our space needs, given that our lease ends in September 2019. Lease negotiations with our landlord will start in the new year, as we firm up our plans for space at the end of 2019.

Sincerely,
Dan V., Board Scribe



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:

- 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.

Successful BCT Workshop – Thanks to All!

Thanks to all for the tremendous support and participation in the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” congregational workshop led by the Rev. Donna Dolham following worship on Sunday, December 16. Thirty members and friends participated in the workshop that produced deep heartfelt discussions and many things to think about. The level of congregational participation (more than 50% of our official membership) will certainly demonstrate to potential minister candidates the commitment of our members and friends. Thanks also to the Transition Team (Colleen R., Ken G., Kathleen R.) for providing a wonderful lunch.

Care Team Donation

The Care Team made a donation on behalf of Channing Memorial Church to the Brain Association of Maryland (as suggested by his family), to celebrate the life of our church member Alex R., who died last month.

Elf Squad -- Thank You

Thanks so much to all who participated in Elf Squad this year. Special thanks to Angela L., my brave HowCo Driving Elf, who crossed the Patapsco and ventured into Columbia to get the job done.



I know our family of seven had a brighter holiday because of your efforts. Thank you!

-- Cathy F.

Men's Group

Thursday, January 3 and Saturday,
January 19
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Bagel Bin at Enchanted
Forest Shopping Center



Join us for informal conversation, fellowship, coffee and bagels. Bring a topic to discuss, or just bring yourself. All are welcome.

Thank You to the Channing Memorial Church Choir!



The Channing choir helped spread joy and holiday spirit during the week before Christmas. On the evening of December 19th, the choir led caroling for many residents of the Frederick Villa Nursing Home in Catonsville, the Alta at Regency Crest senior apartments in Ellicott City and the Courtyards at Waverly Woods East condominium community.

On December 23rd, the choir led caroling at the Westside Shelter, which was much appreciated by the men living there.

David F. Performs in Christmas Concert



On Sunday, December 9, David F. represented our church as a cellist in the Christian Temple Christmas Concert in Catonsville. He was introduced to the appreciative audience as a member of the "Channing Unitarian Orchestra."

Not only do we have a famous choir - now we are known for our orchestra.

Well done, David!

--Julie Fitzer

Stewardship Update

	<u>November Year-to-date</u>
Total Operating Income	\$69,105
<u>Total Expenses paid</u>	73,501
<u>Difference</u>	<u>\$(4,396)</u>

Some of you have expressed concern that we typically report a deficit from month to month. There are two reasons for this. One, income and expenses are not spread out evenly throughout the year. Therefore, the difference between income and expense will vary from month to month. Second, some of our operating expenses, relating primarily to rent and maintenance costs, are budgeted from our Vision and Growth Fund. However, this is based upon an estimate and we don't make the actual transfer from the Vision and Growth Fund to the Operating Fund until the end of the fiscal year, when we know the exact amount needed to balance income and expenses. So we are pretty much on target with our budget as projected.

Your DNA and Your Ancestry: The Elizabeth Warren Conundrum

Wednesday, January 16 at 7:00 PM

Mel C. will lead a discussion on the basics of using DNA for ancestry analysis. We will also discuss some of the ethical dilemmas that can arise.

At the end of the discussion, the audience will participate in a drawing for Mel's book, *Mathematics: Rhyme and Reason*, which was recently published by the American Mathematical Society.

This auction event costs \$10.00 per participant, with proceeds benefiting Channing Memorial Church.



Audio and Video Recording on the Website



Several members and Pastor Madelyn have been exploring various approaches to audio and video recordings of the service or portions of it (Story for All Ages). Links to several recent sermons and a recording of a Story for All Ages have recently been posted on the church website. Check them out! Recordings are important to Channing because they provide a means for members who could not attend on a particular day to listen; also, potential visitors browsing our site have an opportunity to listen or view, which adds a dimension well beyond the written word. Making this happen on a regular basis will require people time to get it done. If you might be able to help, or have equipment that might help us, please talk to Ken H. or Joe C.

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. The congregation will also be notified by email. Not receiving the church emails? Contact membership@channingmc.org to be added to the list.

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.

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.

The Regional Structure of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

For those who are curious about the relatively new regional structure of the UUA, the following explanation is extracted from the UUA website.

Unitarian Universalist congregations are organized into *regions*. Each region approaches congregational collaboration and identity differently. Some regions have districts with distinct governing boards, others retain their district identities but have transferred governance to our UUA Board, and still others have let go of districts and focus on one single regional identity.

Each region is served by a Regional Lead and a team of Congregational Life Staff. These staff members provide a wide variety of congregational services. All of the Regions and the Congregational Life Staff are led by the Director of Congregational Life.

There are five regions: New England Region, Mid America Region, Southern Region, Pacific Western Region and our own Central East Region. Our [Central East Region](#) (CER) includes the former Joseph Priestley, Metro New York, Ohio Meadville, and St. Lawrence districts, which includes congregations in Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Each congregation in the Central East Region has a Primary Contact, who is someone with whom you can build a close working relationship, who will have an intimate knowledge of your congregation's blessings and challenges, and can be proactive in helping you to share those blessings and meet those challenges.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day	2 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	3	4	5
6 Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am	7 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am	14 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	15 Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	16 Your DNA and Your Ancestry 7:00 pm	17	18	19 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Growth Workshop 1:00 pm
20 Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm	21 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm Martin Luther King Day	22 Transition Team Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	23 Channing's 26th Anniversary	24	25 Groceries to Westside Shelter 6:00 - 7:30 pm 	26
27 Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am	28 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	29	30	31		

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

On the web:
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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Unitarian Universalist
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