



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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April 2021

## Inside:

Lectio Divina.....	2
President's Column.....	3
Soul Matters.....	4
Canvass Update.....	5
Stewardship Update.....	5
Installation Gratitude.....	5
Soulful Homes.....	6
<i>Me and White Supremacy</i> .....	6
Outreach Spread the Word....	7
Legislative Update.....	7
Board Bits.....	8
Cicada Madness.....	8
April Calendar.....	9

## April Minister's Column



I am delighted to be writing this column with my windows wide open, warm air filling the room, and sounds of happy children and singing birds ringing in my ears! Together, we enter spring. Seasons are nature's way of marking time, at least in our corner of the world. Trees blossom and bloom, feeding those birds and spreading their seeds. Eventually, leaves shrivel and fall, as barren branches pause for the months of winter.

We just marked another important moment, another mark in the passage of time. This past month was the anniversary of church transitioning from in-person gatherings to online gatherings. We have been living amidst a global pandemic for a year now. Anniversaries can elicit all sort of emotions and trigger memories. We can pause and sit with this.

Each one of us has experienced grief and trauma. Some have fallen ill or lost someone they knew. We have each faced loss - loss of time with those we love, loss of freedom, loss of peace of mind, loss of security. Each of us has reacted in our own, unique way. This shows up in day-to-day life in ways we may not even notice. This may look like irritability or anger or perhaps tears and sleeplessness. I know I can get grumpy, or feel my anxiety rising. I invite each one of us to be gentle with ourselves. I encourage you to accept and embrace whatever it is you may be feeling - whatever emotions you have right now are just right.

And yet as the air warms it brings with it hope. Hope is on the horizon as we slowly receive our vaccines. And this hope, to me, comes imbued with gratitude. Gratitude for the creativity this virus brought with it as we found new, novel ways to connect with those we love. Gratitude for networks and communities that were strengthened and revitalized. Gratitude for each other! Our own church community has flourished as we

## We are a Welcoming Congregation!



## Wayside Pulpit

Spring has returned.  
The earth is like a child  
that knows poems.

*Rainer Maria Rilke*

*Continued on next page*

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*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)*

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Send submittals for the May issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, 2021.**

*Minister's Column, continued from page 1*

discovered new ways of connecting for support and for fun.

As we enter this season of the celebration of Equinox, Pass-over and Easter I invite us to consider those special things in our lives that have sustained us through these months. I, personally, rejoice in the ritual my husband and I created of weekly hikes in the most remote of places. I invite you each to reflect – what is within your grasp that can fill your heart with gratitude? I invite you to hold this close, this day, and every day.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

### Lectio Divina



**Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month we will have the opportunity to join together for a practice of Lectio Divina.** This ancient practice allows us the opportunity to delve deep into a chosen text. This text may be a poem or a sacred religious text. Each gathering we will focus on one text. We will read through the selected text several times, with a different focus on every read-through. We will then pause for several minutes of silent meditation, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection.

**I look forward to this sacred time of meditation and reflection!** I will host these sessions the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 7-8pm. There is no prep work for these gatherings.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

## President's Column



As I write this on a stupendously sunny second day of Spring, still warm from a Sundays After conversation which featured covenant, hope, and cicadas, I am reminded of an Ogden Nash bit that former member Oscar Iseri loved to share:

*Spring has sprung.  
The grass is riz.  
I wonder where the birdies is?*

Yes indeed, Spring has sprung, and it is a time of hope and planting seeds for the earth, (at least the northern hemisphere), and our Church. I have three topics to cover.

First, the yearly Canvass has already met its matching goal, and I have really enjoyed all the thoughtful and heartfelt testimonials during worship this month. Thank you all for your pledges, and thank you for sharing what Channing Memorial Church means to you.

Next, it may seem far in the future, but our annual congregational meeting on May 23rd is fast approaching. In addition to our usual slate of business, we will be holding two congregational votes. The first is for some technical changes to our Bylaws, which were going to be voted on in 2020, but, well, you know what happened. In April I will send out a summary of these proposed changes, along with a link to a “marked up” version of the Bylaws, for your reading pleasure.

The second vote will be on whether our Church will adopt the UUA's proposed 8th Principle:

*"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."*

In preparation for this vote, we have collectively done a lot of reading, listened to a lot of podcasts, and, of course, participated in a lot of discussions.

And last, but far from least, a possible opportunity for a 24/7 combined worship, classroom, office, and storage space has recently arisen and generated some buzz with the Board and Space Team. I emphasize that we are just beginning our investigations, that there is a lot of information that needs to be gathered, and that there are a lot of issues that need to be considered. Either way, I hope to have something more definitive to say in next month's column. In the meantime the Space Team will continue looking into separate Sunday morning worship and office/storage spaces.

—David Fu

## Soul Matters for April: Becoming



Dear Channing members and friends,

Our theme this month is “Becoming.” As Unitarian Universalists, our Fourth Principle highlights our covenant to join together on a free and responsible search for truth and meaning – constantly becoming. We do this both individually and together through the bonds of our sacred community. Folks on this journey of “becoming” are often moving forward after changing aspects of identity or faith to be in a more honest alignment of their true self. Theologian Albert Schweitzer wrote, “The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not.” Let us each embark on this path, knowing that our community will hold us in the process.

Becoming is our worship theme for April, and the theme for our small groups. These small groups are special because they allow each member to deeply engage with the topic in multiple ways. In preparation for each month’s Small Group, I will send each group member a packet. You are invited to select from this packet one spiritual exercise and one question to reflect on before our meeting together. **While reviewing the packet ahead of time is a great way to prepare for group, please do not let a busy schedule deter you from participating.** Whatever amount of time you are able to dedicate to preparation is just the right amount of time!

I ask that you sign up ahead of time. Please use the link below. Please provide me your email address so that I can send the packet for you to review. I will also provide all attendees a Zoom link the day of the Small Group. If the slot that you can attend is full, just let me know. We have opened our small groups to the public to share our gifts with the community. Feel free to invite friends. I am excited to explore the topic of Becoming with you!

Young Adults (20s, 30s, 40s):

Wednesday, April 21 7:30-9pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young13>

All ages:

Saturday, April 24 10-11:30am

Friday, April 30 1-2:30pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul8>

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,

*Rev. Jane*



### Canvass Update

As of March 21, Channing Memorial Church has received 21 pledges to our annual operating fund totaling \$120,539, which represents 83% of our goal of \$145,000. These pledges include increases of \$16,097, so we have met our matching challenge of \$13,000, but we still need additional increases to reach our goal if you are able.

If you have not been contacted to schedule a canvass meeting, please let me know. We would like to complete our canvass by March 31 so we can start making plans to put that pledged income to work in our next church year. Thank you all for your generous support of Channing's mission and programs.

—*Evelyn Grim*

### Stewardship Update

#### February 2021 Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$ 116,484
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 94,043
Difference	\$ 22,441



### Installation Gratitude

Dear Channing members and friends,

It was such a delight and honor to celebrate my installation as your settled minister this past month! I feel so blessed to be able to serve this special, sacred congregation. The ceremony was a beautiful way to honor our commitment to each other and highlight our bonds of shared ministry. What a joy!



Stoles with matching face masks by Colleen

So many of you dedicated your time and talent to make this day possible, and I offer my deep thanks. Pam dedicated many hours to serving as a worship associate for the service. Kris T. worked diligently on our Paperless Post invites. Colleen handcrafted two beautiful stoles with matching face masks. (In the excitement of the day, I did not see all of these gifts during the service!) We had many folks share their music with us, including Pam with vocals, Dan on drums, David on cello and Brian on guitar. Our Music Director Stephen worked tirelessly! Thank you to David for offering the Act of Installation, and Cathy and Eric for helping guide us through responsive readings. I am also grateful for a handcrafted cake from Cathy!

The Committee on Ministry has worked hard on this event. Last year they dedicated their time to planning and organizing an in-person event, and gracefully pivoted when an in-person gathering was no longer possible. I thank this year's and last year's members of the Committee: Pam, Kris, Rebecca, Ostara, Ken G., and Ken K.

What an honor and a delight! I eagerly anticipate the many years of ministry ahead of us.

With gratitude,  
*Rev. Jane*

## Soulful Homes: Becoming



Looking for ways to weave spiritual exploration into your routines with little ones and youth? In partnership with First Church in Salem, UU, we are offering the Soul Matters program “Soulful Home.” **This is a small group ministry that welcomes families with children.** We will gather each month for a check-in, an interactive story, an inter-generational activity, and special time for guided discussion among caregivers. Each month, we join to reflect on a theme. April’s theme is Becoming.

**We will hold our gatherings the third Friday of the month in a Zoom room. Our next session will be held Friday, April 16 from 6-7:30pm.**

**If you are interested, please register using the link below:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0nAi2xuiQKzYO\\_VSqKXedSpjOn5KwAXWgzpHBID4kwljh3g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0nAi2xuiQKzYO_VSqKXedSpjOn5KwAXWgzpHBID4kwljh3g/viewform)

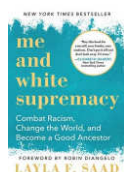
We will also offer a monthly [discovery packet](#) for those who wish to explore our themes and practices as a family.

In order to make certain programming sustainable for small churches, it’s helpful to partner with another small church. Working together with the First Church in Salem allows us to do just that! We are blessed to have another small congregation with an active RE program to work with. We are creating some exciting programming together!

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out! Send me a note at [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)

Warmly,  
Rev. Jane

### *Me and White Supremacy*



A small group of us read the book *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad. It was written as a 28-day guide, but we met weekly to discuss groupings of the chapters. The meetings were intense but meaningful as we looked within ourselves to identify the impact of white privilege and white supremacy on our lives. Each person was willing to be vulnerable and share their thoughts honestly. This work was uncomfortable at times, but we all felt it was valuable to reflect on these ideas and work to dismantle racism in ourselves and in our community.

At the end, there was a call to action and we all listed specific things we could do such as attend local board meetings, write to our representatives about legislation that we find important, widen the circle of voices we listen to, and speak up when needed. Some of us, including me, have agreed to be accountability partners to encourage each other to fulfill our commitments. There will be a future small group reading and book discussion, so be on the lookout if you’re interested!

Thank you,  
Angela L. for the 8th Principle Committee



## Help Spread the Good Word...

about Channing Memorial Church! We know what a great place Channing is. We are enriched by its spiritually satisfying worship services, its small group ministries, its discussion groups, its warm fellowship, its music, its wonderful music director and our inspiring minister. But Channing is still not well known in Howard and Baltimore Counties.

Channing members and friends can help remedy that. Several websites, our portals to the public (in addition to Channing's website itself) provide for information, comments and reviews of the church. These websites are: Channing's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChanningMemorialChurch> ; Yelp <https://www.yelp.com/biz/channing-memorial-church-unitarian-universalist-ellicott-city> ; and our Google page. There are no recent reviews of Channing on these sites. Your current reviews and comments would show that Channing is still here and is a vibrant religious community that spiritual searchers may want to explore.

In addition, if you have social media skills and would like to help keep our Facebook, Yelp and Google sites current, please contact any member of the Outreach Team (Kathleen R., Marian V. and Ken G.).

—Ken G.

## MD Legislative Update



The MD General Assembly will adjourn April 12. Thank you to all who have contacted your state legislators to support bills that reflect our UU values.

Several of the priority bills of the UU Legislative Ministry of MD, as of March 20, have successfully passed the House of Delegate or the Senate. Of note, immigrants' rights bills HB 16— Dignity Not Detention— passed the full House with a veto-override majority and HB 23— Data Privacy— received a favorable report from the House Judiciary Committee and should be considered soon by the full House. Universal Representation, HB 750 / SB 317, unfortunately will not likely make it out of committee because of fiscal/budget implications, and the Trust Act, SB 88, as of March 20, is still sitting in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Several Climate Change bills— Climate Solutions Now and the Plastic Bag Reduction Act— have been successfully reported out of committees. And the current racist state song has been repealed.

For a full list of bills of concern to UUs – on immigration, climate change, gun violence, criminal justice reform, affordable health care – please visit <https://www.uulmmd.org/current-status-of-priority-legislat>. Again, thank you for your commitment and perseverance.

For more information about the UU Legislative Ministry of MD and how you can help, please contact Jim C. To learn more about Channing's Social Justice program, visit <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice>.

Thanks,  
Jim C.

## Board Bits



At the March 16th meeting,

- The Board approved the Worship Committee and LDNC charges.
- The Board discussed hybrid worship and reopening. No timelines were set, and no concrete plans were made, but the Board felt it is important to get started thinking about this.
- The Board asked the Connections team to gather information about where the Church members are with respect to their health and COVID-19 immunizations.
- The Treasurer reported that the PPP loan forgiveness process continues to progress, albeit slowly.
- The Board was joined by the Space Team. The Space Team reported on their recent inquiries into Sunday morning rentals, and there was also discussion about a possible combined space that the Board and Space Team have recently been made aware of.

—*David Fu*, President



## Here Come The Cicadas!

Has it been 17 years already? It's almost time for the Brood X periodical cicadas to emerge from the ground and raise a ruckus for a few weeks. Hooray!

Although we hear cicadas every summer, those are dog-day or annual cicadas. Periodical cicadas emerge every 17 years, with different broods emerging in different years. In Maryland, this year's Brood X is the largest group, last seen in 2004.

We'll see the adults emerge around mid-May. These cicadas will be smaller than the green dog-day cicadas, and they have more red-orange coloring. A week after emergence, the adult cicadas will mate and the females will deposit eggs at the ends of tree branches. The eggs hatch in six weeks and the young will drop to the ground where they burrow into the soil and feed on tree roots.

Cicadas and you:

- Cicadas don't bite or sting, and are harmless to people. They pose no health threat, but consumption in large numbers by pets should be discouraged.
- You may notice exit holes or "mud chimneys" in your lawn from the emerging nymphs. This will not permanently harm your lawn.
- Young cicadas feed on parts of trees, but there will be no lasting damage to established ones. If you have a new tree or a smaller ornamental or fruit tree, consider covering it with insect netting. If you're considering planting a new tree or shrub, you might want to wait until the fall.
- Cicadas will molt and leave the old shell behind. If you have a pond, consider covering it with screening during this time.
- Male cicadas have a droning mating song that you'll hear from trees. This can be a bit loud! Enjoy it while it lasts.
- Take a photo of your cicadas and send it to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org)!

Thanks to the University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center for this info.  
<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/cicadas>





# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i></p>				<p><i>1</i> Men's Group 10 am</p> <p>Clearing as Spiritual Practice 1pm</p>	<p><i>2</i> Outreach, Connections, and Membership Meetings</p>	<p><i>3</i></p>
<p><i>4</i></p>  <p>10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>Committee on Ministry</p>	<p><i>7</i> 5 pm Space Search Mtg 7 pm Young Adult Game Night</p>	<p><i>8</i></p>	<p><i>9</i> Covenant Circle, Connections, Worship Team Meetings</p>	<p><i>10</i> Channing Book Club 10 am</p>
<p><i>11</i> 9 am LH3 Meeting 10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><i>12</i></p>  <p>Ramadan begins at sundown</p>	<p><i>13</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours 5pm LDNC</p> <p>7 pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p><i>14</i> Youth RE</p>	<p><i>15</i> Clearing as Spiritual Practice 1pm</p>	<p><i>16</i> Connections Mtg</p> <p>Soulful Home 6 pm</p>	<p><i>17</i> Men's Group 10 am</p>
<p><i>18</i> 10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p> 	<p><i>23</i> Connections Meeting, Covenant Circle</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>
<p><i>25</i> 10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours 7 pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p><i>28</i> Youth RE</p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	

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Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
3677 Park Avenue  
Ellicott City, MD 21043



**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 a common spiritual center from Jewish and Christian roots while drawing 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.