



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 30, Issue 11

November 2023

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**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation**

## Wayside Pulpit

The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.

*Joseph Campbell*

## Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

Throughout most of our weeks, months, and years, we are siloed individuals. There is no community at the grocery store, no camaraderie while getting coffee, often no intimate connections at work. We are groups of solitary persons raised in a culture that values and promotes individualism. And yet in our hearts and souls we need so much more than that.

That which is so much more - that is church. We no longer are a group of individuals but a unified community. We become something greater than, something intimate, something stronger. These special, holy bonds foster purpose and love. We care and we find meaning. Together, we find ways to help one another in healing as we travel together on our spiritual journeys.

This love and companionship allows us to anchor ourselves in our community when there is tragedy around us. When we see warfare and carnage, we come together for healing, held in a place and time made sacred by our presence. This past month, we created a vigil where we were able to do together what one cannot do alone, feeling the power of a community immersed together in both mourning and in love. Those connections sustained us through music, ritual, and prayer, grounding us in love when hate seemed rampant. We joined as a community during worship to offer all of those suffering the prayers and meditations of our hearts - strengthened by our presence together. When we ask our community, "What can I do? What can I possibly do?" we receive in response a chorus of love, faith, compassion, and hope.

In our community, our special kind of love allows for a celebration of all of who we are. Everyone here is good, whole, and loved; you are sacred and beautiful. We know this because of the blessed bonds we form - bonds that become strengthened simply by sitting in the pews together. I invite you to see this in the eyes of your beloveds. We each share love. And when we have the opportunity, we can bring this love to the world. Recently we brought this unconditional

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Minister**

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

**President:**

Kris Tyssowski ('24)

**Vice President:** Open ('24)

**Treasurer:**

Maureen Hayes ('25)

**Secretary:**

Angela Lesperance ('25)

**Trustees:**

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**Newsletter Editors:**

Ken Grim  
Chris Lynch

*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 December 2023 issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 26, 2023.**

*(Minister's Column - continued from page 1)*

compassion and care to the community as we joined together at a Pride festival - offering a liberating, loving, liberal faith to those who may have been ostracized by their religion of origin. Because of the love we have learned to create together, we were able to bring to strangers a piece of what we bring to one another. We love each other and we love this aching world.

We journey together through all of life's ills, helping one another through death, illness, and mourning in a unique and special way. We tend to one another with great compassion and care not often found in the world at large. When journeying back into the broader culture of individualism, of business reports and advertisements and traffic, know that you are part of a sacred, boundless community that spans time and space. In each of your moments, you are held in community, held by the sacred, and held in sacred and secular love. You are beautiful, holy, and cared for.

With love,  
*Rev. Jane*

**Board Bits**



Kris shared that she met with a Central East Region consultant to plan for the Church Governance and Structure Retreat. The purpose of the retreat is to take a close look at our governance structure to ensure the healthy functioning of our church now and into the future.

The retreat will be held on January 6th. If you would like to lend your voice, experience and insights to this conversation, please let a board member know.

The Board scheduled a virtual Listening Session for Wednesday, November 29th in the evening via Zoom. This time will be for congregation members and friends to share their thoughts about worship at Epiphany Lutheran and our ongoing relationship with them.

*Angela Lesperance, Secretary*

## President's Letter



Dear Members and Friends,

Last April, we entered into a lease agreement with Epiphany Lutheran Church for a period of one year. As a congregation, we are now in the midst of considering what our future at Epiphany will look like. This moment calls for congregational involvement in an open, inclusive, and caring decision-making process.

Within our church community, there are various points of intersection where we come together and form meaningful relationships, support one another, and collectively pursue spiritual growth and service.

Some of us come together in worship services, while others connect in different ways. Some connect in small group ministries and religious education classes and workshops. Others of us work on committees and teams, help with short-term projects, and participate in social events. Still others intersect at important points with individual efforts relating to communication, social justice, stewardship, and connection to the larger UU community. Many of us intersect with our church community in more than one way.

In these places, where people, ideas, and activities converge, we do the communal work of manifesting our vision. We come to these points of intersection based on our unique needs and perspectives, each contributing our gifts in service to something larger than ourselves—a shared commitment to our core values and to our mission.

The process of discerning our future at Epiphany will involve carefully weighing pros and cons, considering our values, and reflecting on our long-term goals. To do this, we need the input of members and friends from all points of intersection within our church community.

We each have our own perspective about how suitable a match Epiphany is for us, perspectives shaped by our experiences around church life and life in general. A member of the space team brings different experiences to the table than someone whose primary focus over time has been in religious education, and both are different from someone who has worked in the areas of stewardship and finances.

Those whose work over time has been in the area of fellowship and community building are informed by experiences that differ from those whose focus is in outreach and growth or social action. Issues of accessibility impact those who struggle to hear in the sanctuary or fellowship hall or have to go outside and around the building to access the fellowship hall or use the restroom.

The many perspectives present in our community must be part of the decision-making process regarding our future at Epiphany.

To this end, the board is holding a Listening Session on November 29 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Zoom. In addition to being a time of information sharing, the gathering will

*(Continued on page 4)*

*President's Letter - continued from page 3)*

allow members and friends to come together to express their thoughts and feelings, share successes and concerns, and give input. This will be a time of deep listening and reflection to understand better each other's experiences and perspectives about church life at Epiphany.

Your voice is important.

The Listening Session on November 29 will be recorded and made available for viewing so that anyone unable to attend it live can hear the important information and the perspectives and experiences of those who shared.

The board will also be soliciting input about our future at Epiphany via a survey, which will come out in early December. This will be another opportunity for members and friends to make their thoughts and opinions known.

Having input from Channing's members and friends when making this decision is crucial. Sharing our diverse experiences, perspectives, and insights will give us a broader understanding of church life at Epiphany. Each of our voices will contribute to a more thorough consideration of the potential outcomes and implications of our decision. And when we are sensitive to the needs and feelings of each other, we foster an environment of care and support.

The upcoming Listening Session on November 29 and the subsequent survey in early December provide platforms for your voices to be heard. Sharing our diverse experiences and insights is key to shaping a thoughtful decision about our future at Epiphany.

All my best,

*Kris*

**Stewardship update**  
**Year-to-date as of September 2023**

**General Operating Fund**

Total Operating Income	\$ 39,670
Total Operating Expense	<u>41,390</u>
Difference	\$ -1,720



## Welcome to Yet Another Electronic Channing Memorial Church Auction Weekend Extravaganza Announcement!



In addition to repeating the basic auction information at the end of this note, this message will focus on two topics: donations and RSVPing.

### **Donations: No donations = no auction!**

The deadline for donations is Real Soon Now – heck, it might even be past, so waste no time and get your donation submitted so we can create a most excellent catalog.

“I get that, I’m no dummy, but how do I submit an item for donation?” I’m so glad you asked, because there are not one, but **two** ways to submit a tantalizing description of your eye-catching item, your fabulous foodstuffs, your soul-feeding service, or your excellent event:

1. Fill out [this handy dandy Google form](#), one for each item you donate.
2. Email your donation description to [channingauction@yahoo.com](mailto:channingauction@yahoo.com).

### **RSVP: No attendees = no auction!**

“I get that, I’m no dummy, but how do I sign up to attend this most auspicious event?” I’m so glad you asked, because there are not one, but **two** ways to reserve a spot at the welcome table:

1. Go to [this SignUpGenius page](#), use the passcode GAVEL. You will be able to indicate any dietary restrictions.
2. During coffee hour after a Sunday service, find the Auction Planning Committee representative wearing the **Ask Me About the Auction Sign** and wielding the **RSVP clipboard of supreme reservation**. They will be able to get you all squared away.

### **Basic Auction Information (now with TIMES!)**

The 2023 Channing Memorial Church Auction Weekend Extravaganza will take place on November 10-12, 2023. Here are our well laid plans:

- **Friday, November 10th:** Online via Auctria: Silent auction and fixed price event signup open at 6:00p.m.
- **Saturday, November 11th: 5:30p.m.-- 8:30p.m.** At Epiphany Lutheran Church: Live auction will be an **in person dinner** with light entertainment.

*Continued on page 6)*

*Auction Weekend - continued from page 5)*

- **Sunday, November 12th:** Silent auction ends at 6:00p.m.

With love,

The Auction Planning Committee [channingauction@yahoo.com](mailto:channingauction@yahoo.com)

*Cathy F.*

*David F.*

*Eric S.*

## **Music Director Search Team -- Update**



Over the past month, the Music Director Search Team has been expanding our advertising considerably, including a few more paid advertising outlets. Thanks to Ken H. for the suggestion to post the opening on the Channing website and Facebook page! We refreshed our advertising approach to include an inviting introduction to our congregation and how much we love music, with a link to the full job description.

Meanwhile, we identified an occasional substitute musician we can call on when Stephen would like a scheduled Sunday off.

We will keep you posted with any significant progress, as we continue to explore advertising options. As always, your ideas are most welcome!

The Music Director Search Team

*Pam E.*

*Ken G.*

*Jim V.*

*(with Rev. Jane)*

## Channing Events



### A Fun Day at Howard County Pride!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped staff the Channing table at Howard County Pride on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We had the opportunity to talk with many attendees, we met folks from other organizations, and we participated in the interfaith service held at the event. We spread the word about Channing Memorial church and gave away over 75 tote bags along with UUA flyers and an informational card about Channing. Rev. Jane was a rock star and people loved having the opportunity to meet and chat with her.

Participating in events like this gets Channing's name out there and allows people in the community to meet us and learn a bit about us. The Outreach team will be looking for other opportunities like this one and the more we do it, the better we'll become at it!

*Kathleen R.* for the Outreach Team

### ***The New Jim Crow: A Discussion with Rev. Jane***

Join Rev. Jane for a discussion of Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Today's justice system keeps Black lives at the bottom of society, continuing and maintaining a caste system in America. While we no longer live alongside slavery or in the Jim Crow era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Michelle Alexander reflects, "We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." To elaborate, "By targeting Black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the US criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control - relegating millions to a permanent second-class status - even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness." I look forward to this opportunity for reflection, discussion, education and growth. **The discussion will be held Saturday, Nov. 11, 10 till noon in person** at Park Avenue.

I hope you will join me!

## **Wisdom Tales**

Many faith traditions and cultures throughout millennia have shared wisdom, knowledge, and insights through fictional tales and parables. Each month, we'll explore a different story, allowing these ancient narratives to spark conversation and reflection. Join Rev. Jane to engage with these ancient tales.

Our standing meeting is on the **first Tuesday** of the month, **11am-12pm**, held on Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94007522019?pwd=MEhIT11KbDRIUWViTm9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Passcode: 665527

## **Lectio Divina**



**Our normal schedule is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Rev. Jane will send out the link and the poem; the link is also immediately below. Please let her know if you would like to be added to the list.**

This ancient practice allows us the opportunity to delve deep into a chosen text. Each gathering we will focus on one poem. We will read through the selected text several times, with a different focus on every read-through. After each, we will pause for several minutes of silent reflection, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93324550758?pwd=VFVLZkdES21odTNHK1pWZ1pZb114UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

## **Young Adults Game Night**



The Young Adults Game Night meets every **first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm**. We'll have games and conversation.

Anyone in their 20's, 30's and 40's is welcome. This event is open to the public and folks are encouraged to share this event with anyone who may be interested. Contact *Patrick Beben* for information.



## Channing Book Club

We usually meet outside at Park Avenue at 10:00 am, weather permitting, on the second Saturday of the month. See below. We'll fall back to zoom **if** the weather is not friendly or perhaps meet inside. Notice will be sent out if we make this change.



**1. Dec. 9- The Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold**  
<https://store.aldoleopold.org/products/a-sand-county-almanac>  
**240 pages, but an easy read.**

A well known conservation classic. In some respects, a segue from Ishmael.

"All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively the land."

Should be readily available in libraries and through resellers of used books.

**2. Jan. 13- Nobody's Fool by Richard Russo** First in a trilogy  
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/159152/nobodys-fool-by-richard-russo/9780679753339/readers-guide/> 549 pages. Also as a movie with Paul Newman (worth watching, now on Kanopy)  
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0110684/>

"Remarkable.... A revelation of the human heart." —***The Washington Post***

"Russo is a master craftsman....*Nobody's Fool* is a big, rambunctious novel with endless riffs and unstoppable human hopefulness."—***The Boston Globe***

"Simple as family love, yet nearly as complicated, Richard Russo's confident, assured novel sweeps the reader up in the daily life of its characters." —***San Francisco Chronicle***

You will find it readily available on used sites (Amazon, Thriftbooks, Alibris, abebooks, etc.), and at some libraries.

What's on your book list? Would you like to make it a selection for the book club so you can have good conversation about it? Let Ken H. know what you are thinking about, and contact Ken with any questions.

## Young Adult Small Group

Each month, our Channing Young Adult group meets to share insights, stories, reflections, and questions. Our conversations range from imagination to courage to vulnerability. Before each gathering, we engage in individual reflection guided by a monthly Soul Matters packet. Delving deep into our reflections each month leads to meaningful conversation, and the prep work offers thoughts to reflect on between our gatherings.

We gather the **third Wednesday of every month from 7-9pm** for dinner and conversation. The next meeting will be on November 15. Young Adults include anyone in their 20s, 30s or 40s. It is always a good time, and we would love for you to join us!

## Men's Group

**Thursday November 2 at 10 a.m. on Zoom and at the Bagel Bin in person, date TBD in November**

Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting, a link will be sent out via the distribution list for the group. If you are not on that list and are interested, check with Ken H. via email.



We will have to review the schedule for November and December given that we meet on the third Thursday and we have holidays each month.

All are welcome to these events. Email Ken H. if any questions.

## Volunteers Needed for Channing Services



Channing needs volunteers for a number of jobs at church! To signup, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fa4ad2ba46-sunday1#/> with access code: cmc

We are working to fill roles such as greeter, usher, snacks, zoom support, coffee, cleaning, and others. What can you do? More help is needed. Please volunteer to make the in-person and online services work each week.

Any questions, contact *Cathy F.*

**This Just In...**

**New to UU**

**November 5, 12:10-1:30 pm**

New to Unitarian Universalism? New to Channing Memorial Church? Been around for a while, but want a refresher? Join Rev. Jane after worship on November 5 from 12:10 -1:30 pm. We'll explore our history, our Principles, and what this means today. We'll also get a glimpse into the history and happenings of this special congregation. This is also an opportunity to get to know a bit more about one another. Rev. Jane invites anyone who may be interested to join in on the conversation.

**Bread Communion**

**Sunday, November 19**

Each year, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we join together for our annual Bread Communion service. In this special tradition, you are all invited to bring a bread or grain-based dish that is meaningful to you. Perhaps your special bread or dish comes from a religious, ethnic or cultural background! Perhaps it is a family favorite. It's definitely the most delicious service of the year!



# November 2023

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			<b>1</b> Space Search Team on Zoom 5:00-6:00 pm  Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	<b>2</b> Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am-12:00 pm	<b>3</b> Membership Team 2:00 pm  Outreach Team 6:00-7:00 pm	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm  New to UU 12:10-1:30 pm  Daylight Saving Time Ends	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Wisdom Tales 11:00 am-12:00 pm  Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm	<b>8</b> Stewardship Committee 7:00-8:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Silent Auction begins on Auction 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> "The New Jim Crow" 10am- 12pm  Live Auction and Dinner 5:30-8:30 pm  Veterans Day
<b>12</b> Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm  LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm  Lectio Divina 7:00 pm	<b>15</b> Young Adult Small Group 7:00-9:00 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship Service/Bread Communion 11:00 am-12:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm  Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Thanksgiving Day  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm  Lectio Divina 7:00 pm	<b>29</b> Listening Session on Zoom 7:00-9:00 pm	<b>30</b>		

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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.

We meet at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 9122 Sybert Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Our Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am.

**Directions to Epiphany from the North on Route 29:** Take Route 29 to Route 100 East, take first Exit Long Gate Parkway to stop sign (keep left at split). When traffic is clear, go straight across to Meadowbrook Lane, past the Park and Ride to the stop sign, turn right onto Sybert Drive; Epiphany will be on your right.

**Directions to Epiphany from the South on Route 29:** Take Route 29 to Route 108, head East on Route 108 to first traffic light (Bendix Road), turn left onto Edgar Road; at stop sign turn right, then in two blocks turn left onto Parkvale Road. Continue to stop sign, then turn left onto Sybert Drive. Epiphany will be on your right.