



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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November 2019

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**



Wayside Pulpit

There is no limit to what
can be accomplished if it
doesn't matter who gets
the credit.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

November Minister's Column

Dear Channing Members and Friends,



Fall is upon us! What a colorful, crisp month it has been. We have worshiped, we have laughed, we have engaged in many meaningful conversations. As the weather shifts and the days become shorter, we focus on the theme of Attention. I invite you, today, to live mindfully in the world around us. I invite you to appreciate the sounds of a rainstorm, or the taste of a caramel apple. What do your senses notice as the seasons cycle?

We spent this past month reflecting on the theme of Belonging. We reflected on the power of listening to each other's stories, and the necessary, holy work of welcoming others into our lives. When I reflect on belonging, I think about Channing Memorial Church, and what a special place this is to belong to. We come together on Sundays to be something grander than our individual selves and to recharge for the week ahead. This month I saw people come out of the woodwork to help comfort each other and offer solace, as well as to do the important work of maintaining a religious community. How inspiring! This reflection brings me back to a poem we read in worship:

The time will come
when this blessing
will ask you to leave,
not because it has tired of you
but because it desires for you
to become the sanctuary
that you have found—
to speak your word
into the world.

-Jan Richardson

I ask you, Channing members and friends, leave! Become the sanctuary that you have found here. Speak your word into the world. Whatever brought you here, what feeds your soul, what keeps you coming back, let's share Channing with the world. These chilly days become warmer when we spend them in community with all of those we hold so dear, and with those who we perhaps have not even met yet.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Minister

Reverend Jane Smith

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minister@channingmc.org

President:

Julie Fitzer ('20)

Vice President: Maureen Hayes ('20)

Treasurer: Evelyn Grim ('21)

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Ken Hart ('20)
Colleen Rathbun ('21)

Newsletter Editors:

Cathy Fu
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 December issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 24, 2019.**

Channing Men's Group



**Thursday, November 7 and
Saturday, November 16**
10 am—12 noon
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.

Come, Rake Some Leaves with Us



On **November 10th**, Loving Hearts Helping Hands Youth Ministry (LH3) will be raking leaves at the pet cemetery lot at the Baltimore Humane Society, 1601 Nicodemus Road Reisterstown, MD 21136. The Baltimore Humane Society is a private, non-profit, no-kill shelter that has been serving the community since 1927. More information here [<https://bmorehumane.org/about/about-us/>](https://bmorehumane.org/about/about-us/)

In conjunction with this, we are asking for donations of pet food for the humane society on this day. Just bring the donations to church and we'll make sure they get to the shelter.

You are also invited to join us in raking after the service. We'll be there until at least 2 pm. Please bring your own rakes and tarps if you can. We hope to see you there!!



President's Column



(Straight from the archives, by popular demand!)

We're settling into our spaces at Park Avenue and Linden Hall. Things no longer feel quite so new. Now we can focus on the work of church each week, connecting souls in mystery and wonder. Below I'm answering five questions that people have asked - or that I wish people would ask.

Why aren't we lighting candles for our meditation time at Linden Hall?

Linden Hall does not allow open flames. This is based on Howard County fire codes. The schools rental that we also explored would not allow candles at all. We are using a glass cover on the chalice flame.

How is the board working on a longer-term space solution?

We are consulting with the UUA regional staff to gather resources. We will need to have conversations as a congregation about our needs and future plans in order to develop requirements and focus our search. In addition, we need to understand what our financial resources will allow us to pursue in the real estate market (rental and purchase) in Howard County.

What's the best thing about being the prez?

Working with so many dedicated members and friends. Thank you!!

How can we get off to a great start in partnering with Rev. Jane?

There is so much great energy now in the congregation. Many people have stepped forward to propose new programs. Keep dreaming and keep working as we build our beloved community.

What other big things should we look out for this year?

Our beloved annual auction, which serves as a great social time as well as a fundraiser, will be held at Christian Temple on November 16. Also, look for information elsewhere in this newsletter about the Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities webinar series and the Pi Day gathering in March 2020 at UU Gettysburg.

Support Channing When You Shop!



Remember that Channing Memorial Church still sells **GIANT gift cards**. In case you haven't participated before, here is how it works. You purchase gift cards at face value, usually \$100, and use them as cash when you shop at GIANT. Channing receives \$5.00 for each \$100 gift card sold. Great news— there is a GIANT supermarket in Dorseys Search Village Center adjacent to Linden Hall. See Maureen or Evelyn on Sunday morning to purchase gift cards.

Channing is also enrolled in **Amazon Smile**. If you shop at Amazon.com, you can designate Channing Memorial Church to receive a small rebate on your purchase.

November Sermons 10 am at Linden Hall



Droplets on the Spider Web 11/3

Often in life we get caught up in urgency and forget to simply pay attention. Today we will pause; we will remind ourselves of the importance of living mindfully, of noticing droplets of water on a spider web or a flower peeking through the cracks of a sidewalk. We will take time to reflect on the practice of gathering our scattered thoughts and noticing.

The Cricket or the Coin 11/10

What catches our attention – the music of an insect or the sound of jangling money? How we navigate this world and the quality of our life rests on what we pay attention to. What we choose to notice can lead to appreciation or hardship.

What Do You Pay Attention To? with Virginia Voigt 11/17

Thinking hard about our priorities and what they mean to us.

Thanksgiving Bread Communion Service 11/24

Each year, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we join together for our annual Bread Communion Service. In this special tradition, all are 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. This special service is followed by a shared meal of these meaningful grains, brought together on this day from many corners of the world.

Sermons Available Online



With the support of Rev. Jane, we are now posting .pdf versions of Sunday sermons. Use these for those Sundays you can't make it to the service and share with others who may be interested in learning about Channing.

It's our goal to post sermons the same week they are delivered. Don't hesitate to remind us if we are late!

*Ken H.
Communications Team*

November Final Friday Potluck and Game Night



November 29th-- It's not just the day after Thanksgiving.... It's... The final Friday! If you're around, please consider joining in our monthly potluck dinner and game night. We'll meet at the church office (3677 Park Avenue, Ellicott City) from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to share (Thanksgiving leftovers are welcome!) Or, if it's not a good week for you to bring a dish just come!

Bring a board game or other table top game if you'd like to. After dinner, join in a game, or just socialize.

For questions, contact Ostara H.

Year of Learning and Connection for Smaller Congregations



Channing has registered to participate in the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities" series of webinars. There are four webinars, dates below— offered live twice on each date, 7 pm Eastern and 7 pm Pacific. They will be recorded and available at other times as well, so don't worry if you can't tune in on the exact time. The series culminates with a live, in-person event in Gettysburg on March 14th. We will send the link for the webinars once it is available. If you wish to receive the link, but are not already receiving church emails, send a request to newsshare@channingmc.org to be added to the list. Stay tuned as well for notices about small group viewings of the webinars.

- Smalls Making a Big Difference *held in October— watch here!*
<https://vimeo.com/367099254/44345ebda8>
- Right Sizing Your Congregation's Operations *November 13*
- Stewardship and Sustainability for the Long-Haul *January 15*
- Being Beloved Community *February 12*
- In-Person Event *March 14*

Board Bits



The Board met on Tuesday, October 15th. We reviewed the Minister's Start-up retreat that was held on Saturday, October 12th. One of the things Paula Cole-Jones suggested coming out of that retreat was that we start an Outreach Team. A lengthy discussion of outreach followed. Kathleen volunteered to be the point person initially for the Outreach Team. We are looking for other interested folks!

We also began the discussion about next steps for our space.

Finally, we discussed plans for our Christmas Eve Service. Linden Hall may or may not be a possibility. Rev. Jane is in contact with them about this. If not, we discussed other options including a get-together/service at the Park Ave. House. We will finalize the plans at next month's meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen R.



Greeter Spotlight— Interview with Kathleen R., über greeter

Channing Connection: How long have you been a member at Channing?

Kathleen R.: Hmm, I came to Channing about five years ago and joined a year later.

CC: Why do you come to church?

KR: I come to get spiritual encouragement, for the community. And for the snacks!

CC: Why is greeting important? What do you like about the job?

KR: Greeting is an important part of our ministry. We are the first face that visitors— in fact, not just visitors— see. When I greet, I like that I get to see everyone that day, to have a few words with each person.

CC: What would you like someone to know about being a greeter?

KR: It's a basic, important part of church— to make people feel welcome, to explain where the sanctuary is, where the restrooms are. My job is to give them the information they need so they'll feel like an insider from the very beginning.

Office Hours for Rev. Jane

I'll be at Park Avenue on Tuesdays from 1 - 4 pm for drop-in appointments. I am also happy to meet throughout the week for scheduled appointments. Please email me at minister@channingmc.org or call (410) 203-0474. Monday is my day off.



Rev. Jane

Stewardship Update



September Year to Date

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Total Operating Income | \$52,034 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$43,389 |
| Difference | \$8,645 |

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE CHANNING AUCTION!!

ROARING INTO THE '20s AND ALL THAT JAZZ!



It's almost here folks! The Channing Auction will be held on **Saturday, November 16, 2019** in the Fellowship Hall at the Christian Temple at 5820 Edmondson Ave. in Catonsville. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to start bidding on silent auction items and signing up for single-price items.

Following on our Stewardship Drive this year, our theme will be "Roaring into the 20's and All That Jazz!" 1920's costumes are welcome and encouraged!

The cost will be \$10 per person; children 5 and under are no charge. The charge will cover paper goods, drinks, dessert, and the cost to rent the space. Please sign up to attend by **November 10, 2019**.

The dinner main dish will be a Chili Cook-Off, with the winner going on to compete in the Bridges To Housing Stability Chili Cook-Off on March 2020. You can sign up to bring chili, cornbread, or salad. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45ABAB23AB9-channing1>.

Auction Entertainment Director, Baz V., has created a fantabulous show for us, featuring selections from the hit musical Chicago. He has even invited a Special Guest Star to appear with the Channing Players!

We still need help with this big event! We especially need folks to help set up on the afternoon of November 16, and a bid tracker at the auction. See the signup genius for opportunities: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45ABAB23AB9-channing1>

There is plenty of space for donations of items to be auctioned! Please use the auction donation form to describe your donation. Completed copies may be given to Colleen R. at church. You can also send Colleen an e-mail. Please provide all donation information to Colleen by **8:00 p.m. October 27, 2019**.

If you are donating an item, please drop it off at the Park Avenue church office or give to Colleen R. at the service at Linden Hall. Please do NOT leave any donations at Linden Hall, as we do not have access to that space outside of Sunday services.

If you don't feel you have anything to donate this year, that's quite all right. Not everyone needs to donate. We would be happy to have your support in any form, including helping to set up or clean up, attending, bidding, or just warm thoughts. Thank you!

AUCTION DONATION FORM



Return to Colleen R. by **October 27, 2019**

1. Title of Item:

2. Description of Item, Event, Lesson, Service: Please include enough information to show people why they might want to bid on your donation.

3. Price Per Participant (if fixed price):

OR

Minimum bid (if auction item):

4. Maximum number of participants (if applicable):

5. Event date/s & time (if applicable. Please include day of the week and calendar date.):

6. Location (if applicable):

7. Name/s, e-mail address, and phone number of donor/s:

8. Other information (lead time needed, etc.):

Religious Education (RE) Update



You may be wondering what RE is up to this year?? So many wonderful things are going on. A big thank you to Mike L. and Kathleen R. who have joined the volunteer teacher team.

Spirit Play Spirit Play is a multiage group geared towards our younger youth and typically meets the first Sunday of the month. Mike will be working with David F. to share stories with our younger friends. The stories in Spirit Play fall under several themes: source stories, wonder and awe, science and reason, UU Principles, and world religion stories. In September, the class began by exploring the topic of Love in the story “I’ll Love You Forever” by Robert Munsch.

LH3 Kathleen has committed to two years with the LH3 (Loving Hearts, Helping Hands -Youth Social Justice group). Her first year will be assisting Anne K. with the community outreach projects chosen by our youth. In the second year (2020-21), Kathleen will be leading the group in their social justice endeavors. LH3 began in September by creating their goals for the upcoming year. In October, the youth (including our younger friends) have created “blessing bags” that can be passed out to any person in need that you may see in your daily routines. If you were not able to grab a bag on October 13th, you can find them at Linden Hall on Sunday mornings, and in our office space while supplies last! Please check in with Anne or Kathleen if you have any questions.

Youth Group is led by Lynne S. and is geared towards our older youth. This group meets at least once a month, usually more frequently. This year, they are using Soul Matters themes to help guide and expand their discussions.

We look forward to sharing our year with everyone at Channing. Thank you all so much for your continued support of the youth and our programs.

Warmly,

Deanna G.
RE Committee Chair

Can You Keep It** Clean?!



Our new church home at 3677 Park Avenue in Ellicott City is very charming and welcoming. Could you volunteer some time to help keep it clean and neat as we use it for church offices, choir practice and social activities? The rooms are much smaller that those at Corporate Court and see much lighter use, especially true for the kitchen. You can clean any day & time that is most convenient for you. More information and cleaning slots can be found at the link : <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4FA8A92CA75-cleaning>

** Park Avenue, of course



Social Justice at Channing Memorial Church

Social activism can take many forms. It might be Unitarian Universalist blasphemy to embrace the trinity. Not that one, but a trinity of Awareness, Advocacy and Action. These are the elements of a successful social justice program. Each element offers opportunities to become involved in social justice with activities that range from a more intensive commitment of perhaps 10 hours a month to less intensive supporting roles of a couple hours a month or year.

A recent survey indicated that members and friends of Channing are most concerned with Climate Change and Immigration. We can apply the elements of awareness, advocacy and action to these issues, and the way to start is to establish core groups that can organize activities and then roll out these activities for larger congregational participation.

Here is a sampling of activities that core groups can organize and the whole congregation may want to participate in:

Awareness:

Participate in or organize a clergy-led or lay-led worship service, presentation, film or film series, get an expert speaker, teach an RE class

Advocacy:

Research an issue, write a suggested message to legislators to share, write, call or email your legislator, respond to action alerts from the UU Service Committee and the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland, attend rallies and vigils and public hearings

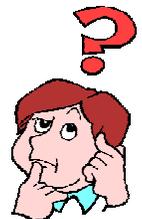
Action:

Participate in or organize social service activities such as volunteering with the Westside Shelter, organizing food bank collections and so on.

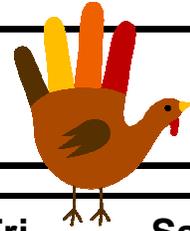
If you are interested in joining a core group on Climate Change or Immigration or if you want to suggest another issue to pursue, please contact us at ignite@channingmc.org.

Are you on Channing's Social Justice/Outreach Sharing List?

Sign up to be included on the email list ignite@channingmc.org by sending an email to webmaster@channingmc.org. Notices sent to ignite@channingmc.org will go to everyone who has signed up. Members and friends of Channing are involved in a variety of advocacy organizations and activities. Get on the list and get involved!



November 2019



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Spirit Play | 4 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 5 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours | 6 4—9 pm Private music lessons | 7 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons | 8 | 9 9 am—1pm Private music lessons |
| 10 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Leaf raking at Humane Society | 11 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 12 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours | 13 4—9 pm Private music lessons | 14 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons | 15 | 16 9 am—1pm Private music lessons 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin |
| 17 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall KidZone (nursery) | 18 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 19 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 7 pm Board of Trustees meeting | 20 4—9 pm Private music lessons | 21 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons Groceries to Westside | 22 | 23 9 am—1pm Private music lessons |
| 24 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Bread Service | 25 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 26 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours | 27 4—9 pm Private music lessons | 28 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i> Groceries to Westside | 29 <i>BLACK FRIDAY</i> 6 - 9 pm Final Friday Potluck and Game Night | 30 <i>Small Business Saturday!</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons |

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

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 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.

Directions to Linden Hall: From the South:

Drive north on Rt. 29 from south of Columbia.
Take Rt. 108 West.
Turn right onto Columbia Road.
Turn right at the first light on Old Annapolis Road.
You will be behind the Dorsey Search Village Center. Take the third entry road on the left (Old Route 108).
The parking lot is immediately on your right. Overflow spaces available at other locations in the Village Center.

From Baltimore:

Take 70W to Rt. 29 south.
Take Rt. 108 West.
Turn right onto Columbia Road.
Turn right at the first light on Old Annapolis Road.
You will be behind the Dorsey Search Village Center. Take the third entry road on the left (Old Route 108).
The parking lot is immediately on your right. Overflow spaces available at other locations in the Village Center.