



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 26, Issue 2

February 2019

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Wayside Pulpit

When there is no vision,
the people perish.

--Proverbs 29:18



**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**

In the Interim February 2019



January has come and gone, and as I write this, the federal government is still in shutdown mode. We in the greater Washington-Baltimore area know more keenly than most how this shutdown is affecting people, and we also know that it is truly affecting the whole nation. It could have international implications as well, the longer it goes on.

Have you ever been in a situation where you've been unable to make a decision about something, and so you've shut down? It happens. We're only human, after all. Sometimes we just don't know what to do. In those times, it's good to have others to turn to for help.

Over my time with you, it's become apparent to me that you turn to each other. You're there for each other when it matters. How wonderful that you can rely on each other. This is a big part of what's keeping you strong and helping you to make decisions, even in difficult times.

I sincerely hope and pray that by the time you read this, the shutdown will have ended. I would like to believe that our elected leaders in government can do the right thing, just as you do regarding the church. But whatever comes our way I know that you will weather this together. You will continue to be the church. You will continue to reach out to one another if you feel stuck. You will make a way out of no way.

In shalom,
Pastor Madelyn

Channing Care Team

The Care Team is a group of Channing volunteers who respond when a member of the Channing community is in need. They visit, send flowers, cards, meals and provide other caring gestures when needed. You may contact the Care Team at careteam@channingmc.org.

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)
Open ('19)
Open ('19)

Newsletter Editors:

Ken Grim
Cathy Fu

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 March issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24.**

Interfaith Liturgical Calendar

February

- 2 Imbolc (Wiccan/Euro-pagan)
- 2 Candlemas (Christian)
- 2 St. Brigid's Day (Christian)
- 3 Setsebun-sai (Shinto)
- 3 Four Chaplains Sunday (Interfaith)
- 5 New Year (Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist)
- 8 Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- 14 St. Valentine's Day (Christian)
- 15 Nirvana Day (Buddhist/Jain)
- 26 Intercalary Days begin (Baha'i)

Board Bits



The main focus of the January 15 Board meeting was directed toward the Channing Policy Handbook. Pam E. joined the meeting to lend guidance and hand off work she had done previously on this topic. The first new policy that the Board will create is the Channing Safe Congregations Policy. The intention is to have this im-

portant policy well on its way to completion before our new minister arrives.

The mid-year Interim Report is coming due. The Board will be preparing and delivering the mid-year report by the end of February. The UUA requires this report as part of interim process.

Sincerely,
Dan V., Board Scribe

President's Column

In January, we held a “growth workshop” to talk about what Channing has to offer the world, the reasons we want to grow, the barriers to growth, and our vision for Channing in five years. The Search Committee is still hard at work, and the Board is taking a look at safe congregation policies. The Stewardship Committee has started planning the annual pledge canvass.

The next month is February, the month of love! The world could definitely use some more love. Let's spread some love in our congregation and out in the world. Some ideas:

1. “I love you more than fair trade coffee... almost.” Find this and other perfect UU valentines for your sweetheart or church buddy at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/image/uu-valentines>.
2. Read about a box of chocolates as a metaphor for love, at <https://www.uua.org/worship/words/sermon/love-box-chocolates>.
3. Pull out your church directory, and select five people at random. Send them Valentine's Day cards.
4. Read about the work of the UU Service Committee, <https://www.uusc.org/>.
5. Order some fair trade chocolate bars from Equal Exchange, <https://shop.equalexchange.coop>.
6. Do something kind for yourself at some point this month.
7. Come to church! Lots of hugs, smiles, and love every Sunday.

As a reminder during the winter season, remember that the parking lots, side-

walks, and steps at our office condo complex may be icy even if the roads are clear. Be especially cautious if you are attending an evening meeting, when black ice is harder to see. Watch your first step out of your vehicle, and hold on to the handrail when going up and down the steps.

-Julie

Search Committee Update



The Settled Minister Search Committee has moved on to an exciting and busy phase of the process – interviewing candidates. In early January we received the names of candidates who had read our information and were interested in further exploring the possibility of becoming our minister. Since then we have read their ministerial records, viewed posted sermons and worship services, and conducted video interviews with a number of very good candidates.

By the time you are reading this, we will have selected several minister's for pre-candidating weekends in February and March. During these weekends the candidate meets in person with the search team, tours the area, and serves as guest minister at a nearby UU congregation enabling the Search Committee to experience the candidate leading worship. The locations and dates of pre-candidating activities are required to remain confidential. Following this, both the Search Committee and the candidates rank their choices and submit them to the UUA, which puts all the pieces together.

We are looking forward to continuing the conversations in depth and in person during pre-candidating. We have been told by several candidates that

(continued on page 4)

Search Committee Update - continued from page 3)

CMC has a good reputation among ministers, which makes our job easier. For this, we are grateful to all members and friends, past and present. As always....stay tuned!

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

Stewardship Information Session

On **Sunday, February 24**, there will be a stewardship information session after the service. This will be in a "Sundays After" format, in one of the classrooms, as opposed to in the sanctuary. It will be more informal. The session will include a summary budget review, giving folks a chance to answer questions about the current status of our budget for this fiscal year. We will also briefly discuss the upcoming pledge drive, the [UUA fair share guidelines](#), and other questions you may have. Further information will be forthcoming.

Stewardship Corner--Looking Ahead

Plans are under way for the 2019/20 church year. Our recent Growth Workshop really emphasized how much our church has to offer to the larger community. It also reiterated where we would like to see ourselves over the next five years. This is also the time when we give special thought to the financial resources needed to support Channing Memorial Church's mission and programs throughout the year.

Our next church year will begin to lead us into a new decade and our theme will be ROARING INTO THE TWENTIES.

Stewardship Sunday will be held on **March 3**. Details are being worked out, but an informational canvass packet will be emailed in mid-to-late February. Either during or right after the worship service on March 3, we will all have an opportunity to place our pledges of financial support for the coming year in a special pledge box. Newcomers will be contacted for a stewardship visit beforehand so we can answer any questions they may have. Anyone -- newcomer or old-timer -- who would prefer a personal visit can also meet with someone from the stewardship team.

Due to the success of last year's matching fund drive, new pledges and increases to existing pledges once again will be matched, up to a limit to be determined, so pledge increases will have a double impact on our operating budget. Stay tuned for further information.

-- Evelyn G.

Men's Group

Thursday, February 7 and Saturday, February 16
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.

Stewardship Update

	<u>December Year-to-date</u>
Total Operating In- come	\$97,098
<u>Total Expenses paid</u>	87,073
Difference	\$10,025

Note that at calendar year end, we are halfway through our fiscal year and our income statement reflects a substantial surplus. Before we get too comfortable, keep in mind that many people pay their full pledge balances in December; therefore, our income typically declines in the months from January through June. Pledge statements for tax year 2018 are on the table in the church entrance. Be sure to pick yours up if you haven't already done so (or request that it be mailed to you). As always, your continuing financial support of Channing's mission is deeply appreciated.

Snack Squad



Needed!

One of the things we do really well at Channing is coffee hour! We love to hang out after church and discuss the service, show hospitality to our visitors, catch up with each other and generally build our beloved community. One part of this activity is good snacks. Please help keep the love flowing by volunteering to provide these snacks. Visit the SignUp Genius link below and enter the access code "FeedUs" to sign up, or see Cathy F., Snack Squad Captain.

Here's the link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.SignupLogin&urlid=20F084FA4AD2BA46-sunday>

Remember that Snack Squad comes in two parts: healthy food and "fun food." If you can fill both slots, bless you. If you can just do one of the slots, that's ok--- hopefully someone else will take the other task.

(Note: When signing up for a slot on SignUp Genius, make sure you hit the "Sign Up" button at the bottom of the page, or your signup will be lost.)

One last thing: please clean up and take your dishes home after all have been served.



**Next "Final Friday" Potluck and Game Night at Channing!
Friday, February 22nd, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Please consider joining us on the final Friday in February to share food, friendship, and fun! After a break over the holidays, Final Friday Potluck and Game Night at Channing resumes on February 22nd, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

What to bring:

1. A dish to share. (Something homemade or pick it up on your way... Or, if it's not a good week for you to bring a dish, just come!)
2. A board game (or other table top game), if you'd like to.

After dinner, join in a game, or just socialize. We'll have a movie available for young children who might want to just chill and watch.

If you have any questions, see Deanna G.

All-Channing Emails

Are you receiving all of the all channing emails?

We do understand you don't know if you didn't get something. However, if you think you may be missing, for example, the weekly Channing News, weekly "This Week at Channing" or the monthly newsletters, please send Ken H. an email. Specifics are always helpful, and Ken would like to know if you NEVER get emails, or just sometimes.

**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 Channing Detective Agency formed to tackle Mystery Mansion at Breakout (auction item). We were not successful but had fun.

**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.

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.



Happy Valentine's Day!

FAITH COMMUNITIES OF BALTIMORE
WITH PRIDE
Presents
FREE MOVIE NIGHT
"NANETTE"
March 7, 2019 • 6:15 pm
First Unitarian Church of Baltimore
514 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
RSVP [here](#)

Faith Communities of Baltimore
with
PRIDE

604760
★ FREE PIZZA & DRINKS ★
★ DISCUSSION AFTER FILM ★
604760

RSVP by opening the link:
<<https://bit.ly/2Wbe38q>

There is on-street parking which will be free after 6 pm, but it is busy so carpool if you can! There is free will donation to cover the cost of food.

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship Service and Children's RE 10:00 - 11:00 am	4 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	5	6	7 Men's Group 10:00 am - 11:00 pm	8	9
10 Worship Service and Children's RE 10:00 - 11:00 am	11 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15	16 Men's Group 10:00 am - 11:00 pm
17 Worship Service and Children's RE 10:00 - 11:00 am	18 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm Presidents' Day	19 Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	20	21	22 Groceries to Westside Shelter 6:00 - 7:30 pm Final Friday Potluck and Game Night 6:00 - 9:00 pm	23
24 Worship Service and Children's RE 10:00 - 11:00 am Stewardship Info. Session 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	25 Choir Practice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	26 Transition Team Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	27	28		

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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