



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 26, Issue 3

March 2019

Inside:

Interfaith Liturgical Calendar	2
Board Bits	2
President's Column	3
Search Committee Update.....	3
Roaring Into the 2020s	4
Stewardship Update... ..	5
Snack Table	5
Julie's Mother Sings at Event	5
Next "Final Friday" Potluck and Game Night.....	6
Men's Group	6
Channing Care Team .	6
Bridges to Housing Stability Event	6
Walk at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum.....	7
Faith Communities of Baltimore Presents Free Movie Night.....	7
March Calendar.....	8



In the Interim March 2019

Roaring Ahead

Time marches on, and here we are in March already! And Channing is roaring ahead. The annual stewardship campaign is underway, and I know you will be generous with your giving as you consider your vision for the future of Channing.

The season of Lent will begin on Wednesday, March 6. In recent years, more and more Unitarian Universalists have been exploring and marking this season. Following the extravagance of Carnival, Lent is a time of reflection and preparation. In the middle ages, it was a time of serious fasting. In contemporary society, it's common for people to give up something during the 40 days of Lent (these are 40 days exclusive of Sundays – so it works out generally to about 6 weeks). Those who choose to participate often give up something that might be a habit, or something they like, but that might not be good for them. So sometimes people give up smoking, or sweets, or soda. One year, I tried giving up complaining (THAT was HARD!).

If you're considering trying this spiritual practice, remember that Sundays are outside of Lent, so you may partake of your indulgence on Sundays.

But why bother to do this? Well, sometimes, by giving up a thing, we are able to focus better on the things that we have and the things that are truly important to us. The Channing community will have to give up the physical space at Corporate Court. This wasn't a choice that Channing made; it was forced upon us. Even so, by being placed into this position, the Church is in a position to consider what is truly important to this community. The 40 days of Lent is meant to mimic Jesus' 40 days in the desert (which in turn reminds us of the Israelites' 40 years in the wilderness). Forty days (biblical code for "a long time") to reflect and prepare.

How would you like to prepare individually? How shall we prepare as a community? I already know that you are
(continued on page 2)

We are a Welcoming Congregation!



Wayside Pulpit

True religion is the life we lead, not the creed we profess.

--Louis Nizer

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

(In the Interim - continued from page 1)

very generous and that you'll give of your treasure to make your visions a reality. What are your visions? For what are you preparing?

Let us enter this wilderness together – roaring in like a lion. For we know that we enter together and in faith. And we know that this time in the wilderness will end – Channing will emerge strong.

I hear you roar!

In shalom,
Pastor Madelyn

Interfaith Liturgical Calendar

March

- 5** Shrove Tuesday (Christian)
- 6** Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) (Christian)
- 20** Spring Equinox/Ostara (Wiccan/Euro-Pagan)
- 21** Norooz/Naw-Ruz (New Year) (Persian/Zoroastrian/Baha'i)
- 21** Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
- 21** Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)
- 21** Purim (Jewish)
- 28** Khordad Sal (Birth of the Prophet Zarathustra) (Zoroastrian)

Board Bits



At the February 19 Board meeting, much time was spent discussing our lease situation, and our need to have a new space by September. The Space Search Team will be engaging two new real estate agents, in an effort to find space that is affordable and meets our other needs. We are finding some interesting possibilities.

(continued on page 3)

(Board Bits - continued from page 2)

The rest of the meeting was mainly dedicated to policy work surrounding our Safe Congregations policy. The Safe Congregations policy is quite comprehensive, but at this meeting we worked on children and youth safety, facilities safety and disruptive behavior policy. Much of this policy work is being done offline by smaller teams, with the larger Board gathering at meetings to discuss the results and make the final decisions.

Sincerely,
Dan V., Board Scribe

President's Column

It's been an incredibly busy month at Channing.

The stewardship committee prepared for our annual canvass, and the search committee has been looking at settled minister candidates. The board met on a Saturday to work on a church structure document.

As stated in an email sent to the congregation, we have learned that we will not be able to get a new lease for our rental space at Corporate Court. We are going to engage a real estate agent and start looking at options. It will be helpful if the board can hear from you about what you hope we can find in a new space. Realistically, there will be constraints of time, budget, and the existing rental market. However, we want to do the best we can to find something that will meet our needs well for at least the next few years. Please reach out to Dan, Kathleen, or me with your wish lists.

There have been questions about longer-term issues with our space rentals. Do we, for instance, want to start thinking about purchasing an office condo down

the road? I think we realize that as long as we are in rental space, we will always deal with the uncertainty of working with landlords who may choose to sell property or decline to renew a lease. My suggestion is that we pause for now on these longer-term issues. When we welcome our new settled minister, there will be time to work together on a vision for the future of our church, including our meeting space. Please remember that we are a church of people, and our ministry extends beyond the walls of whatever space we occupy. I think about the Men's Group that meets at the Bagel Bin. They have been overheard by strangers who have complimented them on their manner of discussing current events. By meeting in a location outside of the church space, they have brought our faith out into the larger Ellicott City community. The goal for our next space should not be to be so comfortable that we can hide within the walls. Instead, the space should act as a base from which we carry our values out into the world.

In faith,
Julie

Search Committee Update



The Settled Minister Search Committee has moved on to the most exciting and busiest phase of the process. We have selected several promising candidates who have accepted our invitation to spend a weekend meeting in person with the search team, touring the area, visiting our church, and serving as guest minister at a nearby UU congregation enabling the search committee to experience the candidate leading worship. The locations and dates of these pre-candidating activities are required to

(continued on page 4)

(Search Committee Update - continued from page 3)

remain confidential.

Following these weekends, we will extensively discuss and evaluate how each candidate fits the priorities of the congregation expressed during the survey, cottage meetings and other discussions over the past two years. Our preferences then go to the UUA Transitions Office, and they conduct a matching procedure between candidates' preferences and ours. We should know the results of this in the first part of April.

Stay tuned as this exciting time progresses.

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

ROARING INTO THE 2020's



Please join us for worship next Sunday, March 3, and “Hear Us Roar” as we observe Stewardship Sunday. At the end of the service, you will have the opportunity to make a pledge of financial support to the mission and goals of Channing Memorial Church for the upcoming church year. If possible, wear your Channing shirt or something 20s-ish to help us get a head start entering a new decade in support of Channing's mission.

If you are new to Channing, one of our members will be in touch with you to answer your questions about Channing Memorial Church. If you are a long time member or friend who has questions, contact a Board or Stewardship Team member and we will be happy to meet with you. If you need some time to think about it, please come to the service on March 3 anyway. A stewardship representative will contact you some time during the month of March.

Inspired by the success of last year's matching pledge challenge, all pledge increases and new pledges will be matched up to \$5,600, thereby doubling the impact of your increase on our operating budget for the July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 church year. See you Sunday.

Sincerely,

The Stewardship Team

*Evelyn G., Anne H., Ken H.,
Ostara H. Diana M.,
Dan V.*

Stewardship Update

January Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$101,479
Total Expenses paid	98,211
Difference	\$3,268

Snack Table



March 3 is still open. Don't let that continue!

Other future dates beginning with March 17 are now open on the signup sheet as well. Remember that **Snack Squad** comes in two parts: healthy food and "fun food." Sign up now, you won't have to think about it later! If you can just do one of the slots, that's ok--- hopefully someone else will take the other task. (Feel free to con a friend into this job.)

(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. Oh no!) Here's the link. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fa4ad2ba46-sunday>

The access code is "FeedUs", entered exactly how it appears here. Of course, let Cathy F. know if you would like her to sign up for you.

One last thing: It's hip to be tidy, so please clean up and take your dishes home after all have been served.

**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.

If you have any questions or want more information, contact Deanna G.

**Julie's Mother Sings
at Event**

Julie's mom sang a solo at a Black History month event at Alta Regency Crest. Panelists at the event included the Howard County Executive and the Registrar of Wills.

**Next "Final Friday" Potluck and Game Night at Channing!
Friday, March 29, 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

Please join us on the final Friday in March to share food, friendship, and fun!

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 Grabelle*.

Men's Group

**Thursday, March 7 and Saturday,
March 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.

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.

**Bridges to Housing
Stability Event**

**Sunday, March 17, 3:00-6:00 PM
At Main Event, 10300 Little Patuxent
Parkway #2520, Columbia, MD 21044**

Bridges to Housing Stability is partnering with **Main Event**, a family entertainment venue, to put the FUN into FUNdraising! Come catch the luck of the Irish while enjoying all the fun activities Main Event has to offer including: bowling, laser tag, 100+ arcade games, billiards, and shuffleboard! This Saint Patrick's Day join us at **Main Event** to help Bridges to Housing Stability with "the raising of the green"!!

20% of the sales of food, gift cards, non-alcoholic beverages, and all activities listed above will go to Bridges to Housing Stability to help end homelessness and housing instability in Howard County! **To have a portion of your purchase benefit Bridges to Housing Stability you must drop your receipts into the receipt drop box at the BRIDGES table.** We hope to see you there! Event page is <http://bridges2hs.org/events/bridges-at-main-event/> .

Walk at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum (Oella) to look for spring frogs

**Saturday, March 16, 2019, 9:15am- 2:30pm
(followed by lunch at a local restaurant)**

This is from the UU Church in Annapolis Outdoor Club. They do lots of hikes and outdoor activities around the region. They plan to walk on March 16 at Benjamin Banneker. Eloise Hoyt, their organizer, is a volunteer at the museum. If you'd like to join in on the walk, please let Julie Fitzer know by March 2 and she'll forward the names and emails of folks to expect from Channing. The optional lunch afterwards is planned to be at Dimitri's (a Greek restaurant). From what I hear, Dimitri's has vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free options. Let Julie know if you plan to join the group afterwards for lunch. There is plenty of parking at Banneker, but if folks prefer to carpool from Channing, let Julie know.

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.

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Stewardship Sunday Wor- ship Service 10:00 - 11:00 am Spirit Play 10:00-11:00	4 Choir Prac- tice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	5	6	7 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	8	9
10 Nursery Open 9:45 am-11:30 am Worship Ser- vice 10:00 - 11:00 am LH3 10:00- 11:20 am	11 Choir Prac- tice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	12	13	14	15	16 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
17 Nursery Open 9:45 am-11:30 am Worship Ser- vice 10-11am St. Patrick's Day	18 Choir Prac- tice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	19 Board Meet- ing 7:00 - 9:00 pm	20	21	22	23
24 Worship Ser- vice 10:00 - 11:00 am	25 Choir Prac- tice 7:30 - 9:30 pm	26 Transition Team Meet- ing 7:00 - 9:00 pm	27	28	29 Groceries to Westside Shelter 6:00 - 7:30 pm Final Friday Potluck and Game Night 6:00 - 9:00	30
31 Worship Ser- vice 10:00 - 11:00 am						

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.



Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
www.channingmc.org