



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 28, Issue 1

January 2021

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January Minister's Column



As I write this column, I gaze out my window at those shrinking piles of snow covering the grass. Each season comes with its own gifts, and, to me, the gift of winter is that bright, crisp sometimes glittery snow. This week marks the beginning of that change, too, in the elongated days. We just celebrated winter solstice! The days are slowly getting longer again as we welcome back the sun.

December offered our church community a time to pause. Our theme this past month was Stillness. We reflected on the gifts of mindfulness – that sacred ability to be aware and present in our own emotions and in our surroundings. We also explored the blessings of the dark – time for introspection, to center and be with self, to rest. Teacher and author Eckhart Tolle writes, “We have forgotten what rocks and plants still know; we have forgotten how to be still, to be ourselves.” I invite us to be intentional about bringing this spiritual mindfulness with us into the months ahead – to remember the importance of that sacred pause. Thich Nhat Hanh, the Buddhist monk whose work we explored in depth, writes, “Peace, happiness, and joy is possible during the time I drink my tea.”

In the upcoming month, we will explore Imagination. We will explore how imagination ties into theology and liberal religion. We will engage with questions such as, “What do you thank your imaginary friend for?” I look forward to exploring this theme in worship, our Small Groups, and our new Soulful Home programming.

As the COVID numbers continue to rise, I want to reiterate what I say so often: schedule moments in your day for self-care. This can take so many forms! We can walk, we can immerse ourselves in nature, we can meditate or pray, we can bake cookies, we can listen to music or read. What’s more, we can simply allow ourselves to feel! It’s ok to be sad. It’s ok to be anxious. It’s ok to be joyful! It’s ok if these holidays drained your soul and it’s ok if the holidays fed your soul. It’s ok. You are good, you are whole, and you are loved.

Continued on next page

**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**



Wayside Pulpit

We make a living by
what we get, we make a
life by what we give.

—Winston Churchill

Minister

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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

Send submittals for the February issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24, 2021.**

Minister's Column, continued from page 1

Know that while you may feel alone, you are not alone. We always have this community. You are held in love every day.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

New Programming: Lectio Divina



Dear Channing members and friends,

I am introducing some new programming. **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.

If you are interested in joining, please check your email or reach out to Rev. Jane at minister@channingmc.org for the Zoom information.

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Stewardship Update



November 2020 Year to Date

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Total Operating Income | \$ 60,928 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$ 58,735 |
| Difference | \$ 2,192 |

Soul Matters for January: Imagination



Dear Channing members and friends,

This month's theme is Imagination. Author Robert Fulghum writes, "I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge. That myth is more potent than history. That dreams are more powerful than facts. That hope always triumphs over experience. That laughter is the only cure for grief. And I believe that love is stronger than death." What a powerful statement and worthy goal. We can make this a reality. The stories we tell, both in our minds and to those around us, provide hope and laughter and love when all else feels lost. This month, we join together to take control of the stories of our lives, to listen to children's poetry, and to explore works of fiction that have changed our lives.

Imagination is our worship theme for January, 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 you the packet 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 Imagination with you!

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

Wednesday, January 20 7:30-9pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young9>

All ages:

Wednesday, January 13 6:30-8pm

Saturday, January 30 10-11:30am

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul5>

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane



President's Column

As I write this during the Winter Solstice, I embrace the dark while looking forward to longer days and a better year ahead for all. Channing Memorial Church has been, and continues to be, a bright spot and guiding light for me, and I hope that this is true for you as well.

There is a lot going on in our little Church, but sometimes we don't realize it, because we can't see it happening. This has of course been exacerbated by the pandemic, which is a shame, because we are doing so much spirit-uplifting work! In an effort to combat this trend, the Board has decided to reconvene the Council of Committees, a quarterly meeting where representatives from the various teams and committees of the Church give brief overviews of what they have been up to. I look forward to seeing many of you at our first gathering in early January.

The Board have also been grappling with space and stewardship. Using our wish list from the "Stewardship for Us" report as a guide, the Space Team have researched three options: 1) buy, 2) build, and 3) lease. They looked hard at many properties and worked hard to crunch the numbers, but in all cases, the reality is that at this point in time our financial position, while good in many ways, is not sufficient to support the space of our dreams and desires.

So now what?

That's the big question. The Board is considering various options, but the vital component in every scenario involves our becoming proper Stewards of our Church and balancing our budget in a sustainable way. This is no small plan. We haven't done this in many years. That said, I believe that we are currently in a good position to balance our budget, and that doing so will lay a solid foundation for our future.

It is up to us.

—David

From Outreach: Share our Programming Resources!



This is a great time for Channingites to share with friends and families the gifts that the Channing community has to offer. Have you considered inviting a friend or family member to one of the engaging programs and activities at Channing? The church has a host of programs and activities including the Men's Group, Young Adults Game Night & Virtual Potluck, All Channing Book Discussion, Soul Matters, as well as special sessions such as Blue Holidays. These activities are not restricted to members or attendees of Channing, but are open to the public.

Maybe you know someone who would benefit from a Soul Matters discussion, or someone who would like to discuss current events at the Men's Group. Inviting someone to share in these offerings is one way for us to fulfill our mission to invite, connect and ignite! Who do you know that could benefit?

— Marian V.




A Note from the Scooby Gang



Did anyone here see that **ghost** that spooked Dan and Ostara? Or, better yet, *has anyone seen the missing painting??*



Fred, Daphne, Shaggy, Scooby, and I would like to remind you that we have a mystery afoot! *The mystery is ongoing. To be part of the solution on close attention to our upcoming auction announcements on*  *auction night, please pay Sundays!*



Board Bits



The board met over Zoom and accomplished these items:

- Adopted Stewardship Committee charge.
- Discussed and tabled 8th Principle Committee charge for further discussion.
- Adopted a holiday policy for church employees.
- Church will continue to be virtual through March, will revisit at that point.
- The Council of Committees is being revitalized and will meet in January.
- Received updates on auction, stewardship committee, minister's report, and briefly discussed bylaws.
- Town Hall meeting will take place January 31 on budget updates and other matters.
- Discussed space search progress.

— Julie F.

Coffee with the Minister



There is so much occurring in our country and our world. Many of us may need a time to simply pause, reflect, and share what is weighing on our souls. Others may want to share about that sacred joy and beauty that is surrounding us as well! **If you would like time to share and reflect about anything that is on your soul, I am re-introducing weekly drop-in coffee hours.** Anyone is invited to stop by to chat! I will update offerings via email. Please reach out to Rev. Jane with any questions at minister@channinmc.org.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane



Channing Auction - All the Scooby Details!!!

Our exciting annual event will be held on **Saturday, January 23, 2021**. Here are the details:

Meal:

- If desired, order and pay for your meal from Trattoria Amore in Dorsey Search Shopping Center (where Linden Hall is located). <https://trattoriaamore.com/> (410) 740-9903. When you order your meal, ask them to have the order ready to go at 3:30 p.m. on January 23. (Note - this is not a restaurant fundraiser, just an opportunity for a shared meal experience.)
- For those of you who are picking up your meal, we will congregate in the parking lot outside Trattoria Amore to wave to each other, offer socially-distanced hugs, pick up dinner, and receive Scooby treats.
- If you need your meal delivered, let Colleen know - she will arrange with our team of delivery volunteers to get your meal and Scooby treats to you. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals, please let Colleen know.
- If you are NOT ordering a meal, let Colleen know so she can arrange for your Scooby treats to be mailed or otherwise delivered to you.

Zoom Meal, Live Auction and Entertainment: We will return to our own homes, log in to Zoom (log-in to be provided - estimated start time 4:30 p.m.), eat, socialize, be entertained by the Amazing Baz and Company, and bid on Live Auction items. Bidding will be via chat within Zoom - the auctioneers will be able to see who typed their bid in first. Estimated end time for auction is about 8:30 pm.

Silent Auction: Here is the link for the Silent Auction, which will be held on Auctria, an on-line auction platform:

<https://event.auctria.com/b4e85f72-7afa-4f69-9a67-6617a6395364/>

If you click on the link, you will be able to register on-line - this will allow you to bid on silent auction items. You can register with or without making an account. (Making an account appears to make it somewhat simpler to get back into the site at a later date, but either way will work.) Silent auction bidding will open on Friday, January 22 and will close on the evening of Sunday, January 24. (There is only one placeholder auction item there right now, but we have received many wonderful donations of beautiful items that will be uploaded to the site well before the auction opens.)

Fixed Price Sign-ups: We will also provide a link to a Sign-up Genius for our very popular Fixed Price items - the link will go live Saturday afternoon, January 23, and will stay open until slots are filled.

Working Out Technical Issues: We will have two opportunities prior to the auction for you to Zoom in to work through any technical issues you may have related to bidding on Zoom, registering for Auctria, looking at Sign-Up Genius, or anything else on your mind. **The auction practice sessions will be on January 10, 2021 and January 17, 2021 - Time to be**

Continued on next page

Auction, continued from previous page

announced and Zoom information to be provided. In the interim, if you have any questions or concerns about the various platforms, please contact Colleen.

— *Colleen R.*

New Programming for Families with Children: Soulful Homes



Dear Channing members and friends,

In partnership with First Church in Salem, UU, we are offering the new Soul Matters program “Soulful Home” **This is a small group ministry that welcomes families with children** to explore questions such as, “What does it mean to be a family of Imagination?” in a warm, interactive setting. Each month, we join to reflect on a theme. **January’s theme is Imagination.**

We will gather each month for a check-in, an interactive story, an intergenerational activity, and special time for guided discussion among caregivers. Sometimes we go on treasure hunts, and sometimes we hear stories about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist! Caregivers will have a shared time to reflect on questions such as, “How has family life changed what you imagine about your personal future?”

We will hold our gatherings the third Friday of the month in a Zoom room. Our next session will be held Friday, January 15 from 6-7:30pm.

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

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!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane



From the 8th Principle Committee

On December 13th, we hosted an after service discussion about *On Being's* podcast featuring Isabel Wilkerson and how the themes of the podcast related to the 8th Principle. We had a meaningful and engaging discussion about the 8th Principle and what impact it may have if we decide to adopt it at Channing. It was noted that adoption of the principle would be a starting point, not the end goal.

As a reminder, the proposed 8th Principle reads as follows:

“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.”

We will meet again as a committee in early January to plan future discussions with the congregation. Do stay tuned to emails about upcoming events. Your participation is welcome and needed!

For more information about the 8th Principle, see this website: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background>. We found a wealth of resources inside the “Why Now?” tab. We encourage you to check it out.

Thank you!
Angela L.

Some Social Justice Advocacy Opportunities

On January 13, the Maryland General Assembly will convene for its 2021 session. There will be many bills of interest that reflect our UU values. You can learn about these bills and hear Senate President Bill Ferguson by attending the virtual UU Legislative Ministry’s Annual Kickoff Meeting on January 23. To register, visit <https://www.uulmmd.org/look-ahead>.



Also, the UU Legislative Ministry of MD’s Climate Change Task Force, headed by Phil Webster of UUCC, is looking for a liaison at Channing. So if you’re interested in Planet Earth, why not join UULMMD’s Climate Change Task Force. Contact me for more information.

—*Jim C.*



Baking Some Holiday Love

Thanks so much to all who participated in the first annual Channing Cookie Swap! We knew to expect excellence from the bakers of the congregation (and its minister) but who would have known the magic that our treasurer would create with wasabi peas?

A special thanks to my minion elves Kris and Nancy. The bakers made the day tasty; you made it fun. See you next year.

—*Cathy F.*

LH3 Needs Donations for The Howard County Food Bank. A letter from Charlotte on behalf of LH3 (Loving Hearts, Helping Hands)

Hello!



Our UU Channing youth group, Loving Hearts, Helping Hands (LH3), does a volunteer activity every month with the help of the church members. This month we're doing a food drive for people who need food but can't get it. We will donate to the Howard County (HoCo) Food Bank. They've asked us to get certain items. If you would like to donate, here are three ways you can.

1. The HoCo Food Bank has given us specific meal kits to put together. If you'd like, you can donate the following items. With the food you give us, we will put together meal kits for families so they can make their own meals. This specific meal kit is for Pasta Primavera.

- 16 oz box of spaghetti
- 15 oz can of mixed vegetables
- 14.5 oz can of diced tomatoes with Italian seasoning
- 14.5 oz can of green beans
- 12.5 oz can of chicken

Here is a link you can click on the sign up for the item donation. [Sign Up Here](#) Please drop the items off in the totes by the back door at the church office. We need these items by **Friday, Jan. 8th**.

2. You can also donate other non-perishable items by bringing them to the church office. You do not need to sign up for this. Just deliver them by **Friday, Jan. 8th**, and we will drop them off at the HoCo Food Bank for you. Please see the list below this email which will tell you what items are needed.

3. If you would like to provide a monetary donation to the HoCo Food Bank, here is a link for their donations page: https://cachc.formstack.com/forms/donation_form_newcc.

We appreciate your support.

Hope everyone has a warm and safe holiday and hope you have fun!

Thank you from Charlotte and the LH3 group!

—Kathleen R.



Most needed food bank donation items: Canned and dried fruit, hot and cold cereal, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna, 100% fruit juice, baby food, diapers, wipes, peanut butter, canned beans (pinto, kidney, black) and canned vegetables (low sodium).

January 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i> | | | |  | <i>1</i> Cov. Circle, Connections, and Member- ship Meetings | <i>2</i> |
| <i>3</i> 10 am Sunday Service | <i>4</i> | <i>5</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online Committee on Ministry | <i>6</i> Space Search Mtg 7 pm Young Adult Game Night | <i>7</i> Men's Group 10 am Clearing as Spiritual Practice 1pm | <i>8</i> Connections, Worship and Outreach Meetings | <i>9</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting |
| <i>10</i> 9 am LH3 Meeting 10 am Sunday Ser- vice | <i>11</i> | <i>12</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours LDNC Mtg 7 pm Lecto Divina | <i>13</i> | <i>14</i> Channing Book Club 10 am | <i>15</i> Covenant Circle, Connections Mtg | <i>16</i> Men's Group 10 am 1 pm Me and White Supremacy Sharing Circle |
| <i>17</i> 10 am Sunday Service | <i>18</i> <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday</i>  | <i>19</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours 7 pm Board of Trustees | <i>20</i> | <i>21</i> Clearing as Spiritual Prac- tice 1pm | <i>22</i> Connections Mtg. | <i>23</i>  Channing Anniversary Church Auction! |
| <i>24</i> 9 am Spirit Play 10 am Sunday Service | <i>25</i> | <i>26</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours 7 pm Lecto Divina | <i>27</i> Youth RE | <i>28</i> Donations to Westside  | <i>29</i> Connections, Covenant Circle | <i>30</i> 1 pm Me and White Supremacy Sharing Circle |
| <i>31</i> 10 am Sunday Service Town Hall Meeting | | | | | | |

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.