



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 30, Issue 1

January 2023

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation**

Wayside Pulpit

What I mean by spirituality is not theology, but attitude.

--Mary Oliver

30th Anniversary Issue!

This month marks the 30th anniversary of Channing Memorial Church. Channing's birthday is recognized as January 25, 1993. Or is it January 23? The sentimental favorite is Saturday, January 23, the date that the Interim Board of Trustees signed Channing's charter. That charter was received by the state of Maryland on January 25.

A number of interesting things happened in January 1993, including:

- Bill Clinton was sworn in as the 42nd President of the United States;
- Nancy Kerrigan won the U.S. Women's figure skating championship;
- Thomas A. Dorsey, writer of the hymn, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord," died on January 23;
- the #1 song was "I Will Always Love You," by Whitney Houston;
- the most popular movie that month was "Schindler's List";
- the estimated number of babies born world-wide on January 23, 1993, according to the U.N. Population Division, was 367,974;
- *and, most important of all, a new Unitarian Universalist church was born in Howard County, MD, to be known as Channing Memorial Church!*

30 Years Ago - Photo Gallery



Planning Channing's future: Steering Committee at work, Fall 1992

(continued on page 2)

Photo Gallery - continued from page 1)

Minister

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

President:

Kris Tyssowski ('24)

Vice President: Open ('24)

Treasurer:

Evelyn Grim ('23)

Secretary:

Open ('23)

Trustees:

Mel Currie ('23)
Sheri Thomas ('24)
Open ('24)

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

Send submittals for the February 2023 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 22, 2023.**



Saturday, January 23, 1993: Steering Committee toasts signing of Channing's charter. (L-R) Jim V., Brenda B., John B., Rebecca B., Ken G., Margot V., Andy G. (not present, Evelyn G.)



Charter Sunday Service - founding members signing the membership book

Charter Sunday Service - March 28, 1993. Pictured on left, seated: Galen C. and Margot V. Behind pulpit: Interim President Andy G.. In line to sign membership book: Ken K., Rebecca and Dunbar (Mike) B., Frank and Harriet B., Evelyn and Ken G.



Pointer's Run Elementary School - First Home of Channing in 1993



First Board of Trustees, 1993-94: (L-R) Hank O., Ken K., Rebecca B., Cindy R., Margot V. (Vice President), Evelyn G. (Treasurer), Andy G. (President), Lorraine O. (Secretary), John B.



Channing's 1st Thanksgiving Service



An early Channing Christmas Eve Service held at Epiphany Lutheran Church, Columbia Hills



Christmas Eve Children's Choir - 1993

Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

The winter solstice has recently passed, and we are now beginning to welcome a new season of warmth and light. Long, dark nights are slowly giving way to daylight. While nature begins this transition, we see an end in sight for the winter holidays. Soon, we usher in a new year, a new beginning.

We have spent the past month reflecting on the theme of Wonder, and throughout the month I have been considering a quote from Albert Einstein, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." I meditate upon the simple beauties around us that we could either ignore or remain in reverence of - it is up to us. We are invited each night to appreciate and revere the twinkling, dark sky, and to treasure in reverence each descending snowflake or raindrop. These reflections are what this month has left me with - an appreciation for the simple wonders in our midst. This, and the thought of the wild improbability that I am even alive! What reflections on wonder will you carry with you in the days, months, and years ahead?

After reflecting on Wonder, honoring darkness and light during our celebration of the winter solstice and Hanukkah, and celebrating hope and love through the holiday of Christmas, I am ready for a pause. I feel ready to find and connect to my center - what I call a "heart space." It is a time to connect with that still, small voice within. How can I - how can we - pause with all we hold sacred, with all that is transcendent, and with all that is immanent? This is what we will grapple with as a sacred community in the upcoming month - the theme of Finding Our Center. I invite you to connect to your own spiritual practices in preparation for this journey.

Again reflecting on that theme of welcoming the light, I wonder, just as we did while worshipping together, what light do you want to bring to the world? What goodness do you carry that you can graciously and generously share with all of those in our interconnected web of life? I wonder, what do you hold within?

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Let's Celebrate!

January 15, 11:30 am



On **Sunday, January 15**, immediately after the worship service, let's join together to celebrate two important events -- **the 30th Anniversary of Channing Memorial Church** and the long delayed **installation and attainment of Full Fellowship celebration for Rev. Jane** -- at Robinson Nature Center. There will be a short program, light refreshments and coffee. We hope to see you there.

President's Column



I recently read that Julius Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future. (history.com)

For many people, myself included, what is often emphasized as the ball drops and toasts are made on New Year's Eve, is the looking-forward aspect of the new year, with just a glance toward the past, maybe to chide ourselves for not making more progress on last year's resolutions. Yet, as the god Janus suggests, a deeper reflection of the past can play an important role in helping us move into the future. And, I think there is an excellent case to be made to include more celebrating than chiding in this reflection, as this will give the confidence, as well as the insight, to move forward.

With this in mind, I am reaching into the past with a partial reprise of a newsletter column I wrote in 2011 when I was chair of the Religious Education committee. The column was based on a poem I found inspirational back then and continue to be inspired by today. Part of its inspiration for me is that it speaks to one of the beautiful aspects of our church community. One that has defined us since the founders first gathered in each other's living rooms to chart a path forward, and which continues to be a vital part of us to this day.

Rereading the poem makes me think about our past, which makes me feel hopeful about our future. The values and vision that informed our founders are alive and well today. Our long history of commitment to these values and this vision, despite challenges, reinforces my faith in our ability to move forward. As I look back, I can envision a future to celebrate.

On January 15, we will gather to celebrate Channing's thirtieth anniversary and the installation and Full Fellowship of our "new" minister, Rev. Jane. What a wonderful opportunity it will be to both look back and look forward! We can honor our past and the experiences that led us to this milestone and, at the same time, honor our commitment to a future under the compassionate and capable leadership of Rev. Jane. Yes, there will be many times in the days ahead when we will have to "strain in the mud and muck to move things forward." But we know we can do this, as we've been doing it for 30 years!

In 2011, I wrote that I was inspired by the work taking place around me here at Channing. I continue to be inspired by it today. It is such a pleasure to swim with seals in a common rhythm, building something made to be used.

I hope you enjoy the poem.

All my best,
Kris

(continued on page 5)

(President's Column - continued from page 4)

To Be of Use

by Marge Piercy

The people I love the best
jump into work head first
without dallying in the shallows
and swim off with sure strokes almost out of sight.
They seem to become natives of that element,
the black sleek heads of seals
bouncing like half submerged balls.

I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.

I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who stand in the line and haul in their places,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out.

The work of the world is common as mud.
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.
But the thing worth doing well done
has a shape that satisfies, clean and evident.
Greek amphoras for wine or oil,
Hopi vases that held corn, are put in museums
but you know they were made to be used.
The pitcher cries for water to carry
and a person for work that is real.

Channing Photos Needed!



Eric S. is preparing a slideshow featuring people and events in Channing's history, to be shown at our 30-year anniversary celebration on January 15.

If you have photos of Channing events or activities that might be included in the slideshow, please send them to Eric by January 8.

If possible, include information with your photos, e.g. the year and name of event, names of people shown, place, etc. Thank you for your help!

Worship Services at Robinson Nature Center

This church year, we have been alternating between fully virtual worship over Zoom and multi-platform worship at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044.

Typically, we will be at the Nature Center the first and third Sundays of the month. On Sundays when we are at Robinson Nature Center, we will hold live worship as usual. Online worship is not live streamed during the Robinson Center Services but will be recorded and can be accessed through our Youtube channel. Links will be posted on our website as well.

Our next services at Robinson Nature Center will be on **January 8** and **January 15**.

Lectio Divina

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 7-8pm we join together for a practice of Lectio Divina. 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 read-through, will pause for several minutes of silent reflection, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection. **I look forward to this sacred time of meditation and reflection!**

Saturday Gathering

Miss being together with the folks of Channing Memorial Church? Join Rev. Jane outside at Park Ave for a relaxed social gathering on Saturday, January 14 from 1-2pm. We will gather around the firepit with cookies and hot cider. I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

New to UU

New to Unitarian Universalism? New to Channing Memorial Church? Been around for a while, but want a refresher? **Join Rev. Jane after our Zoom worship service on January 22 from 11:30-1pm.** 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! I invite anyone who may be interested to join in on the conversation. I hope you will join me!

A Discussion on Spirituality

One of the gifts of Unitarian Universalism is our 4th Principle: We covenant to affirm and promote "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning." We are - each of us - encouraged to question and create our own theologies, our own understanding of the sacred. Join Rev. Jane for a small group discussion in which we will have the opportunity to share our various beliefs and pose questions to the group. This session will begin with a brief synopsis of various theologies. **We will meet Saturday, January 21 from 1-2pm.** Please RSVP to Rev. Jane at minister@channingmc.org. The discussion will be held either in-person or virtually, depending on the preference of attendees.

SoulCollage®

Each month the SoulCollage® group spends an afternoon letting our intuition and imagination guide us to select images from magazines, creating collage cards with those images, and then reflecting on what spiritual and life lessons our created cards have to give us. SoulCollage® is a creative but not artistic activity that is accessible to everyone! If you're curious to try out SoulCollage®, contact Kris T. We would love to have you join us! The next meeting of our SoulCollage® workshop is **TBD**, on **Zoom**.

Young Adult Small Group

Each month, our Channing Young Adult group meets to share insights, stories, reflections, and questions. Our conversations are based upon the same monthly themes as our worship services, ranging 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 7-9 pm for dinner and conversation. 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!

Board Bits



The Board looks forward to meeting with parents of school-age children in January to hear their vision of religious education for their children. The Board does not want to launch an initiative in this direction without input from the primary customer. The tentative date and time for this meeting would be Jan 17th at 7:00 pm. However, that is subject to adjustment, depending on the availability of parents.

Mel

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of November 30, 2022

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 67,745
Total Operating Expense	<u>-70,670</u>
Difference	- \$2,925



Young Adult 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 are welcome. This event is open to the public and folks are encouraged to share this event with anyone who may be interested. Contact Patrick B. for information.

Channing Book Club



We meet on the second Saturday of the month, normally. The next meeting of the Book Club will be in January, as we have shifted the schedule due to the holidays and other reading obligations. See below.

Essay for January 14:

This is available on the web; an essay published by the literary magazine Granta.
[Mr Brown, Mrs White and Ms Black | Kei Miller | Granta](#)

Memoir for February:

The Forerunner by Cori Bush

From one of America's most transformative politicians and activists, a powerful and inspiring memoir that sheds light on a harrowing personal journey and reveals how urgently we need our political leadership to prioritize meeting the needs of our most marginalized communities.

"Piercing and gripping... Bush's words are beautifully devastating." —*The Cut*

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-forerunner-cori-bush/1141485209>

Nonfiction for March:

The topics in this book are ones the men's group has touched on in discussion more than once. Perhaps more of that group will participate in this read.

The Authority of the Court and the Peril of Politics by Stephen Breyer

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-authority-of-the-court-and-the-peril-of-politics-stephen-breyer/1139271552?ean=9780674269361>

What's on your book list? Or a poem or essay? 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.

Men's Group

Thursday January 5 at 10 a.m.



Everyone is welcome to join the men on the first Thursday of the month. We are on Zoom at this time. All are welcome. Email *Ken H.* for any additional information.

Starting in January, our plan to meet once a month on the first Thursday. We will soon do a congregational survey to gain interest and ideas to make sure this change serves the community.

Cookie Swap-- So Sweet!



Thanks to all the bakers and eaters who made our 3rd annual swap a success! We had a cold December day, perfect for hot cocoa and warm conversation. Special thanks to my elves Nancy H. and Kris T. for pulling everything together. See you next year!

Cathy F.

UU Legislative Ministry of MD Annual Kickoff Meeting January 21, 8:30 to 1:00 PM

UULM-MD will hold its annual legislative kickoff meeting on Saturday, January 21 at the UU Church of Annapolis and Online. Featured speaker is Del. Eric Luedtke, currently the House Majority Leader and named by Gov-elect Moore as his chief legislative officer. Learn about UULM-MD's plans to advocate for legislation that seeks to advance our UU values on Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Immigration Reform, Health Care, Medical Aid in Dying, Gun Violence. Learn how you can be an effective advocate for change.

Please join us.

[Register Here.](https://uulmmd.salsalabs.org/2023-01-21-legislativekickoff/index.html) (<https://uulmmd.salsalabs.org/2023-01-21-legislativekickoff/index.html>)

For more information, please contact Jim C.

**Channing Memorial Church's Ministers
1993 - 2023**



*Rev. Garry LeFevre
1993-1995*



*Rev. James Shumaker
1995-1997*



*Rev. Vicki Weinstein
1999-2001*



*Rev. Susan LaMar
2002-2016*



*Rev. Jane Bennett
Smith
2019-present*

Interim ministers were:

- Rev. Sylvia Howe (1997-1998)
- Rev. Judy Cohen (1998-1999)
- Rev. David McMillan (2001-2002)
- Rev. Bob Renjillian (2016-2018)
- Rev. Madelyn Campbell (2018-2019)

The Channing Connection - Biblical Imagery From 1993

Our humble newsletter, *The Channing Connection*, is also celebrating its 30th anniversary. One of Channing's first newsletter editors (either Lew L., Bill W., Ron M., or Brenda B., we don't know which one, although Ron says he didn't do it) had a sense of humor and an ear for Biblical imagery. The editor wrote the following newsletter entry in the spring of 1993 to provide instructions for submitting articles for the newsletter in those pre-internet days.

The Channing Connection

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Channing, and the Word was Channing. And dwelling in that place were three scribes, Lew, Bill, and Ron. And the Steering Committee said unto them, let there be a newsletter, and THE CHANNING CONNECTION became a hardcopy soul. And the Steering Committee said, let it be bimonthly, and it was so. They looked upon it, and saw that it was good but could be better. So they said, let it be beautiful. And lo, also in that land there dwelt a woman called Brenda, who was blessed with a 486 and laser printer, who did make THE CHANNING CONNECTION fair in the sight of the Steering Committee. And the Committee saw that it was much better.

Full nine times hath THE CHANNING CONNECTION spread the WORDS throughout the land, and it speaks still, twice each moon. Thou that hast words to speak, make haste unto Bill, Ron, or Brenda, by eventide of that very Sunday upon which the Channing Memorial Church doth gather for worship or Adult Enlightenment, bearing upon thy person thy printed words, and if it meet with thy convenience, accompanied mayhap by a disk called Floppy, 5.25 inches in breadth, low of density, inscribed in WORDPERFECT whether 5.1 or 5.0. If thou wouldst have thy words known unto the multitudes, do thou thus.

We Come to Love a Church

By Andrew C. Kennedy

We come to love a church, the traditions, the history,
and especially the people associated with it.

And through these people, young and old, known and unknown, we reach out--

Both backwards into history and forward into the future--

To link together the generations in this imperfect, but blessed community of memory and hope.

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Worship Service on Zoom 10:30-11:30 am</p> <p>NEW YEARS DAY</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm</p>	<p>4 Space Search Team 5:00-6:00 pm</p> <p>Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p>5 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p>6 Outreach Committee 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	<p>7 Candle Lighting for Joys & Concerns 4:00-4:30 pm</p>
<p>8 Worship Service at Robinson Nature Center 10:30-11:30am</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm "Tuesdays After" 5:30-6:30 pm LDNC Mtg 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>11 Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Worship Team Mtg. 1:30-3:00 pm</p>	<p>14 Channing Book Club 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Saturday Gathering 1:00-2:00 pm Candle Lighting for Joys & Concerns 4:00-4:30 pm</p>
<p>15 Worship Service at Robinson Nature Center 10:30-11:30am 30th Anniversary Celebration 11:30 am</p>	<p>16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY</p>	<p>17 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm "Tuesdays After" 5:30-6:30 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Discussion on Spirituality 1:00-2:00 pm</p>
<p>22 Worship Service on Zoom 10:30-11:30am "New to UU" 11:30 am - 1:00 pm</p>	<p>23 Happy Anniversary! </p>	<p>24 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Worship Service on Zoom 10:30-11:30am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p>				

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.