



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 33, Issue 1

January 2026

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We are a Welcoming
Congregation

Wayside Pulpit

Truth is within ourselves;
it takes no rise
From outward things;
whate'er you may believe
There is an inmost centre in us
all
Where truth abides in fullness;
A perfect, clear perception—
Which is Truth..

- Robert Browning

Minister's Musings

Dear Channing Members and Friends,



I write this column sitting in my church office, with many of you stopping by to drop off presents for the Neighborhood Network families we helped. This reminds me of the true meaning of the holiday season - tending to the blessed among us who find themselves in a time of need. The table is progressively piling higher and higher with toys, coats, and gift cards!

Once you read this, the holidays will probably have passed. This is an invitation to breathe, dear ones! The New Year awaits us.

Every year, we have the opportunity to reflect upon New Year's resolutions. What do we want to bring with us to the year ahead? What do we want to let go of? In preparation, we can truly reflect upon the trials, tribulations, joys, and accomplishments of the past twelve months.

From last February to May, I had the blessed opportunity to go on sabbatical. I attended Buddhist retreats and weekly dharma classes, I spent a month at a Quaker retreat, I practiced yoga, I read novels and theology - I tended to my intellect and my spirit. What do I want to bring from these experiences into the New Year? The reminder to pause, center, and breathe. I plan to embody Buddhist and Quaker teachings. To rely upon insights of the spirit. To pursue the studies that truly engage me. The list goes on.

What were your experiences of the past year? Have you lost a loved one? Been diagnosed with a new illness? Or welcomed new life into the world, or reconnected with loved ones? I invite us to reflect upon what blessing, no matter how small, emerged from these experiences. Perhaps we feel stronger, more compassionate, or more insightful. Perhaps we were taught the importance of love or were offered the gift of forgiveness. We are each allowed to craft our own response to any experience we live through. So may we

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Minister

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

President:

Angela Lesperance ('26)

Vice President: Open ('26)

Treasurer:

Maureen Hayes ('27)

Secretary:

Ostara Hollyoak ('26)

Trustees:

Andrea Holt ('27)
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Kathleen Razmus ('26)

Newsletter Editors:

Chris Lynch
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

Please send submittals for the February 2026 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2025.**

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search to find a life-giving one. I invite you to bring these small blessings and lessons learned to the New Year.

I also invite us to let go of whatever burdens our spirits. For me, it is perfectionism. Maybe I can write this column with “good enough” in mind! I think of other common burdens, such as resentment, impatience, jealousy, or anger. We all have emotions that serve to bring us down periodically or even daily. Letting go is not easy, especially if they are ingrained within us. It takes work and intention. May I not get angry for an hour, or jealous for a day, or impatient for a week! If it feels like this falls into your New Year’s “to-do” list each year, break it up into smaller steps. It will be a true blessing.

So, go forth! Enter the New Year with hope, peace, excitement, and anticipation. We have such an opportunity for a blessed twelve months. It takes intention. It takes dedication. And it is freeing. We can each do it! I invite us to ponder and reflect upon the myriad possibilities that await us. I hope you have a blessed New Year!

With love,
Rev. Jane

President’s Column

Last year, in my January newsletter article, I wrote about my love for yearly planners. You might think that this means I’m a good planner, set a lot of goals, and am organized. Unfortunately, this is not the case. I think it’s more aspirational about the kind of person I want to be. This past year, I have had to change my eating habits to lose weight and lower my cholesterol level. My goal this year is to use my planner more by using it as a daily journal. Building this habit will hopefully help me be more like I want to be.

This past year, I have leaned into being more reflective and grateful. I am planning to keep these habits going into the new year. I am proud of the work we are doing on the Board. We are learning about the foundations of being a good Board by taking an online class. We talk about one module per month. My goal is to foster a healthy Board into 2026 and beyond.

Happy New Year, everyone!
Angela

Soul Matters Chalice Circles

Dear Channing Members and Friends,

Chalice Circles are a beautiful way to achieve greater spiritual depth. It is a time to gather with a small group of sojourners to contemplate insightful themes. Every time I participate in one of these discussions, I come away feeling nourished and fulfilled.

I invite you to a Soul Matters Chalice Circle!

Each month, we will meet as a small group for discussion. Our reflections will be guided by a monthly packet. Each packet will focus on a different theme, spanning from compassion to hope to resistance. We will work with packets because they provide an array of activities and a list of questions to draw from. I invite you to choose one activity and one question to reflect upon. After engaging in personal contemplation, we will each bring our insights back to the group to share.

I will hold these gatherings on either the 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month from 10-11:30 am. I will post each month's schedule in the weekly email. I encourage you to reach out to me by the first Friday of the month so I can send you the packet and give you ample time to prepare. These will be drop-in sessions; there is no commitment to attend each discussion. We will welcome different people into our midst each month.

Our January discussion will be held Saturday, January 24 from 10-11:30am at the church office. January's theme is "Practicing Resistance". Let's delve deep and explore the role of resistance in each of our lives.

I hope you will join me! Every discussion I have participated in has been a true blessing. I look forward to sharing this with our beloved faith community!

*Warmly,
Rev. Jane*



Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through February!

Please [use this link](#) to give us a hand with everything that makes the weekly worship service run.

If you have any questions or need help signing up, please email *Cathy F.* Thank you!

Channing Phishing Update

All,

Just reminding you to be attentive and very careful with requests for information about Channing, especially our directory. A couple more false incomings have been received in the last two days. Please remember to let Rev Jane and me know if you receive questionable requests.

Read such emails very carefully, and if you have any reason at all to doubt their veracity, either ignore them or make a direct contact, one on one, with the person who is supposed to have been the source of the email. Do not reply to the request in any way unless and until you KNOW it is a valid request.

We apologize for continuing this thread about these bad actors, but our own awareness is the best way to keep them from impacting us.

Thanks for your help with this, as always.

Ken H (for the Board and Rev. Jane)

Dear fellow Channingites,

An opportunity to learn about issues and state legislation for the 2026 MD General Assembly-- gun violence, Healthcare, climate crisis, immigration, criminal justice, medical aid in dying -- at the UU Legislative Ministry off MD's Annual Kickoff meeting at the UU Congregation of Annapolis, Jan 31.

Join me.
Thanks.

Yours in faith and justice,
Jim C.
Lead Advocate, Immigration, UU legislative

Meditation Series with Rev. Jane



Meditation is a practice embraced by the world's religions. It is a blessed opportunity to calm the mind, settle the spirit, and cultivate a sense of mindfulness. This spiritual practice emanates beyond those ten, twenty, or thirty minutes of silent focus on the breath. It alters daily living, leading to a life of peace, intention, calm, and mindful presence. **On the first Tuesday evening of every month, I will offer a guided meditation practice from 7-7:30 pm at the church office.** Please **RSVP by Tuesday morning** so I know who to expect. I

look forward to sharing this sacred time with you.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Board Bits...



To ensure information about inclement weather closures is accessible to everyone, the Board has asked that decisions be posted on the website when an email about a cancellation goes out.

The Board discussed the flow of communications, and responsibility for organizing, when the church receives a request from outside groups to make a presentation to our congregation. The Board agreed that these requests be funneled through the Outreach Team (/ Kathleen). After considering the fit with our mission, Kathleen will pass the information about the request to the congregational group or team whose purview the request falls into, so that group can make a decision about whether there's time and energy to accommodate it.

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of November 30, 2025

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 116,546
Total Operating Expense	<u>-79,211</u>
Difference	\$ 37,335



Channing Book Club

We meet on weekdays as scheduled in advance. **We use restaurants or coffee shops as meeting locations at the time announced for each session.**

Please let Ken H. know if you plan to attend at least three days in advance so I have time to firm up dates/times/locations with those who intend to attend.



Next on January 8 —*Beneath a Scarlet Sky*:

Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager-obsessed with music, food, and girls-but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior.

Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret, his courage bolstered by his love for Anna and for the life he dreams they will one day share.

We'll meet on **Jan 8** based on currently available feedback..

Men's Group

Friday In-person January 16 (10 - 11:30 am)



The January 16 gathering will be at **Bagel Bin** off Rt. 40 west of Bethany Lane, at 10:00 am. **Please email Ken H. if you intend to attend.** We need enough responses to make this happen.

Xennials, 20/40s Game Night



The Xernnials, 20/40s 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 is 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.

Xennials, 20/40s Small Group

Each month, our conversations range 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 7-9pm** for dinner and conversation. Anyone in their 20s, 30s or 40s is welcome. It is always a good time, and we would love for you to join us!



Listening Sessions

Channing Memorial Church will offer two opportunities for you to join us for a Listening Session, facilitated by Ostara and Rev. Jane. Our first opportunity will be held after worship on **January 11th from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Epiphany Lutheran Church. Our second session will be held on **January 17th**, incorporated into an upcoming Justice in Action Circle discussion. We will meet at HCPLS Central Branch from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We encourage you to join us and share your voice! Each narrative we hear will serve to impact our community and the agenda for our upcoming 2026 election.



LISTENING CAMPAIGN



*What's your dream for your community, county, and state?
How can we make that a reality?*

OUR VISION

Building relational power to make our neighborhoods, county, and state places where everyone can thrive.

What is a listening session?

- A meeting to share values, hopes, and concerns
- Can be held in homes, congregations, schools or out in the community

LISTENING CAMPAIGN:

- **Listen** to people's stories and concerns
- **Connect** new people to ACT, AIM, and PATH
- **Build people power** for change
- **Establish issue agenda** for our work
- **Develop a statewide agenda** for the 2026 elections



➔ GET INVOLVED

We need hosts, facilitators, and participants!

- ✉ Contact your ACT, AIM, or PATH organizer or email tanushree@actioninmontgomery.org.

The Maryland Just Power Alliance

ACT (Anne Arundel Connecting Together) | AIM (Action in Montgomery) | PATH (People Acting Together in Howard)

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:00-7:00 pm	3
4 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:15-1:15 pm	5	6 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Meditation w/ Rev. Jane 7:00-7:30 pm	7 Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	8 Channing Book Club	9 Covenant Circle 9:30 am Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm	10
11 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	12	13 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	14 Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom	15	16 Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Bagel Bin	17
18 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:15-1:15 pm	19 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	20 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	21 Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00-9:00 pm	22	23	24 Soul Matters Chalice Circle 10:00-11:30 am
25 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	26	27 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	28	29	30	31

**Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
3525 Ellicott Mills Dr.
Suite A
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.

We meet at 9122 Sybert Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Our Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am.

Directions from the North on Route 29: Take Route 29 to Route 100 East, take first Exit Long Gate Parkway to stop sign (keep left at split). When traffic is clear, go straight across to Meadowbrook Lane, past the Park and Ride to the stop sign, turn right onto Sybert Drive. The church will be on your right.

Directions from the South on Route 29: Take Route 29 to Route 108, head East on Route 108 to first traffic light (Bendix Road), turn left onto Edgar Road; at stop sign turn right, then in two blocks turn left onto Parkvale Road. Continue to stop sign, then turn left onto Sybert Drive. The church will be on your right.