



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 28, Issue 2

February 2021

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**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!**



## Wayside Pulpit

I can never be what I  
ought to be until you are  
what you ought to be.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

## February Minister's Column



This has been a difficult month. As you sit and read this note, I invite you to simply breathe.

This past month, we witnessed horrific violence at our nation's Capitol. Domestic terrorists and white supremacists followed the call of our former president to dismantle our democracy. As the images flickered across our television screens, I know many of us felt emotions of anger or fear or outrage. Yet we saw Congress return to certify the election, and we saw an inauguration held at that same site exactly two weeks later. Democracy prevailed.

As we grapple with the violence we witnessed and the hate that spurred this into being, I remind us of the wisdom of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Let us not respond to hate with hate, but instead be the light that draws out the darkness.

As a church, we are doing this anti-racism work – kindling that light of Dr. King – and I invite each one of you to join in. We are doing ongoing work in examining the proposed 8th Principle as suggested by the Unitarian Universalist Association. I invite you to join in on the monthly discussions hosted by our 8th Principle Committee as together we work to build Beloved Community. Our book club is reading *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson and welcomes all of you to join in this important discussion. Faith, love, and justice work will always overcome hate, and destruction. As many activists and faith leaders have reminded us, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” We can help bend this arc.

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, know that your community is here to help. Our Community Connections Committee continues to meet weekly to monitor and address any needs that may arise. You are all wrapped in the embrace of our sacred community, no matter what happens in the world around us.

I remind you this month and every month to take care of yourselves. Do what feeds you and what consoles you. Know  
*Continued on next page*

**Minister**

Reverend Jane Smith

410-203-0474 (office)  
[minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)

**President:**

David Fu ('22)

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Treasurer:**

Evelyn Grim ('21)

**Secretary:**

Kathleen Razmus ('21)

**Trustees:**

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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](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org)*

Send submittals for the March issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 21, 2021.**

*Minister's Column, continued from page 1*

that each and every one of you is held in love. You are good, you are whole, and you are loved. If the world feels overwhelming, I am here, and our community is here. This day, and every day.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

**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 hosting weekly drop-in coffee hours.** Anyone is invited to stop by and check-in. I will update offerings via email. Please reach out to me with any questions at [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)

I hope to see you there.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*



**Board Bits**

The January board meeting, held over Zoom, accomplished these items:

- Annual meeting date is set for May 23.
- Council of Committees will meet again in March or April.
- Bylaws revision will be recommended to congregation in May to require review at least every 4 years instead of every 2 years.
- Channing will join the Maryland Health Equity Coalition.
- A building/space fund will be established.
- The adjusted budget was approved.
- Planning for the Town Hall meeting on January 31
- Direction and figures were agreed upon to give to the Space Search committee.
- The charge of the 8th principle committee was further discussed.

— *Julie F.*

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## Soul Matters for February: Beloved Community

Dear Channing members and friends,



This month, we pause to reflect upon Beloved Community. Beloved Community is a space where everyone can join together and be accepted and held in loving embrace – people of any race, ethnicity, gender, class, education, sexual orientation, or identity. Author bell hooks writes, “Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.” Let us each embrace differences and claim our own unique identities! It’s about joining together in the interdependent web we hold so dear – all of us held in love, respect, and care. And let this spur us into action – to be a source of justice in the world – actively pursuing our call of bringing Beloved Community to the world around us.

Beloved Community is our worship theme for February, 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 for you 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 Beloved Community with you!

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

Wednesday, February 17 7:30-9pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young10>

All ages:

Saturday, February 20 10-11:30am

Wednesday, February 24 6:30-8pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul6>

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,

*Rev. Jane*

## President's Column



As I write this on a cold, but not bitterly cold, sunny January day, I find myself with warm feelings from last evening's live auction event, and I see that the competition for the silent auction items, especially those in the baked goods department, rages on. I'm sure the LDNC will have a proper and complete thanking, but right now I just have to give a shout out to Coleen R., the H.-V. four, Julie F., Patrick B., and Ken K. for their wonderful work.

I also take heart from this morning's after church discussion put on by the 8th Principle team. I believe that racism is a real problem in our lives, and I appreciate the team's efforts to help me learn about it. These conversations are not easy, and they are sometimes uncomfortable, but then again, I don't come to Church to be comfortable.

Next week we'll be having a Town Meeting after Church to discuss space and Stewardship. Last month I wrote that we need to "balance our budget in a sustainable way". This month I'd like to expand on what that means. It means paying for the operating expenses of the Church **with our yearly pledges**. We don't currently do this. In fact, we haven't done this for several years. We have been paying for yearly budget shortfalls with our Vision and Growth fund. The solution is simple: raise our pledges. This might seem like a tall order, but here's the thing: when we moved to Corporate Court, we ran a capital campaign to raise money to be put into the Vision and Growth fund. That is, we have already, in the past, effectively raised money in advance to cover budget shortfalls. We just need to do it differently this time around. I'll talk about why next month.

Speaking of next month, when I write next month's column, we'll be getting ready for Reverend Jane's Installation Ceremony. See Kris T.'s article below for more information. Excitement!

—David



### Installation Celebration!



On **Sunday, February 28, at 4 o'clock**, Channing Memorial Church will celebrate Rev. Jane Smith's installation as our settled minister.

An installation is a special service during which a church and a minister enter into covenant with one another. It is a ceremonial and celebratory occasion that formally highlights and affirms the bond between the two.

Originally scheduled for March 28, 2020, the installation was postponed due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. We hope everyone can join us virtually on February 28, 2021, when we honor the promises we make to one another as we enter into shared ministry.

A formal invitation and Zoom link will follow in early February.

— Kris T., Committee on Ministry

## Relational Health Advisory for Our Congregations and Communities: December 2020 and Beyond



By Rev. Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe

A confluence of events has come together to create a season of potential miscommunication, reactivity, and disconnection. The normal seasonal currents of grief during the holidays, colds, seasonal affective disorder, and family trauma have met with jets of quarantine, Covid, political foolishness, working too many hours, inability or failing to take healthy time off, and grief over recent deaths. This is creating unsuitable conditions for healthy communication. Expect higher chances of overwhelm, assumptions, heightened emotional response, and conflict for the next 3-6 weeks.

Seriously friends, we are in the heart of an overwhelming storm. None of us are operating at full capacity. Most all of us are exhausted. I am seeing a lot of our lay and professional leaders burned out and despairing. It is especially hard to serve right now. All religious professionals are dealing with what was already a stressful time- the holidays- while amid a pandemic and all that means.

Online communication in all the various forms can lead to miscommunication. I want us to remember back to the patience we had with one another when the pandemic started. The grace, patience, and care that we used then are the same tools we need now.

So, a few things to keep in mind this during this winter advisory:

1. *If you are feeling a strong reaction- take a beat.* Remember that any emotions we are feeling right now are heightened. There is no hurry. Take 24 hours. Speak with a trusted colleague. Check-in with the people you need to check-in with before you decide how to respond to any thing that has you concerned and/or upset.
2. *If someone is proving challenging or you have a concern, assume that it was a miscommunication first.* This is especially true with people who normally concern us or push our buttons. If we are not our optimal selves, you can be sure they are not. If it is someone you normally get along with, then REALLY assume it is miscommunication. Talk to them and get some clarification.
3. *If you don't HAVE to deal with it this month- don't.* Urgency is a normal response to anxiety and overwhelm. It is also dangerous and can cause more harm than good. Unless someone's life is at risk, there is a legal restriction, or a structural reason that something needs to be handled right now, change the timeline. Urgency can damage you, your leadership, and your community.
4. *We all need care right now.* If there was ever a time to put on your own oxygen mask- it is right now. Hold tight to your days or hours off. Take a real break from the work that gives you that necessary balcony view. You and your community are worth that space- you all deserve it.

This month will end. Until then, breathe, take your time, and do not give a lot of power to first emotions and first impressions. Emotions and reactions are a sign that something matters, but

*Continued on next page*

*Health Advisory, continued from previous page*

they can mislead you on how or why it matters. So, go bravely and carefully forward.

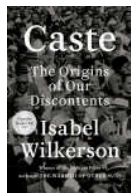
Please remember, you are loved, and you are not alone.

—Rev. Sunshine Wolfe

Congregational Field Staff for the Central East Region

swolfe@uua.org

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## Channing Book Club— February Selection

The book club has decided to switch its February read to Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. Most of you will know of this book; we believe it is a valuable learning and discussion opportunity which will serve us well. We look forward to an increased audience from Channing to read it and participate in the scheduled discussions in February. Here are the details on Caste:

Caste (The Origins of Our Discontents) <<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/653196/caste-oprahs-book-club-by-isabel-wilkerson/>> by Isabel Wilkerson

Copies are available through the usual outlets, such as Amazon and others. It's a recent book and may be difficult to obtain through the libraries or Maryland Overdrive. Should any member wish to request assistance in purchasing the book, you are welcome to contact Rev. Jane for arrangements. A generous member has agreed to support the Church's commitments in this area, which will be handled quickly.

Dates of Discussion: **Thursday, February 10th at 10 am** and **Saturday, February 13th at 10 am**. We added a Saturday morning date and are hoping for broad participation from the entire congregation. Hope to see you there!

—Ken H.

## BLM Poster is Up!

In July 2020, it was suggested by the Covenant Circle that a Black Lives Matter poster or banner be hung at the church office. The Board thought the Social Justice Committee was the appropriate team to take this on and so we did.



After much deliberation, delays, and post office woes, the poster is now up! Thanks to Rebecca B. and the Covenant Circle for the idea, and David F. for prompting of action!

—Social Justice Committee members: *Jim C., Ron M., Angela L., and Nova E.*  
*E.*

## Promoting Lectio Divina



Dear Channing members and friends,

**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.

### **Recurring Zoom link for second Tuesday sessions:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97448434928?pwd=NXd5bGUxTGhS2NIaTZzWW95cGI2dz09>

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 974 4843 4928 Passcode: 318291

### **Recurring Zoom link for fourth Tuesday sessions:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97255023504?pwd=eXh1VEZSdk9ZTnY4M1VXTXpSSiBQZz09>

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 972 5502 3504 Passcode: 692747

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,

*Rev. Jane*

## Stewardship Corner



On Sunday, January 31, there will be a Town Meeting immediately following our worship service. The session will include a mid-year summary budget review, giving folks a chance to ask questions about the current status of our operating budget for this fiscal year. In addition, there will be an update from the Space Search team.

We will also briefly discuss the upcoming annual operating fund pledge drive to be held during the month of March. This year we will engage in a person to person pledge drive. You will have the opportunity to meet via Zoom or a telephone call with a fellow Channing congregant, not just to discuss the budget and your pledge, but also to ask questions and let us know how we are doing as a congregation.

—*Evelyn Grim*, Treasurer

## MD General Assembly In Session – Contact Legislators



The Maryland General Assembly convened on January 13 and will remain in session until April, barring any unforeseen circumstances. I previously sent you a message enlisting your support to override Governor Hogan’s vetoes. It is also important to encourage your state senators and delegates to support four immigration bills that the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULMMD) is advocating for.

To contact your legislators to support these four bills and to learn more about them, visit our Channing Justice website <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice/immigration>. For more information about other bills on climate change, gun violence, affordable health care, medical aid in dying, visit the UU Legislative Ministry of MD, <https://www.uulmmd.org/> And for more information about UULMMD or the UU Service Committee or UU’s for Social Justice, contact Jim C.

Remember to stay safe, stay healthy.

—Jim C.

HOWARD COUNTY FAITH COMMUNITIES PRESENT

# SAVE THE DATE

## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS - VIRTUALLY



EACH TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY 2021

2 / 2 • 2 / 9 • 2 / 16 • 2 / 23

7-9 P.M.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

LIKE US ON



REGISTER AT: [WWW.HOCOCOURAGEOUSCONVERSATIONS.COM](http://WWW.HOCOCOURAGEOUSCONVERSATIONS.COM)



## Maryland's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and COVID-19 Vaccination

From the Maryland Department of Health

COVID-19 infections can be a minor hindrance or lead to severe disease or even death. Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough.

Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Getting the vaccine may keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19, and may also protect people around you from getting sick. Also, the vaccine may protect you for longer than immunity produced by the infection itself.

The number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that will be needed will depend on the type of vaccine that is administered. The coronavirus vaccines that have been approved so far require two doses. When giving two doses, they are usually given approximately one month apart.

After the COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that may indicate your body is building immunities to protect you from the virus. The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

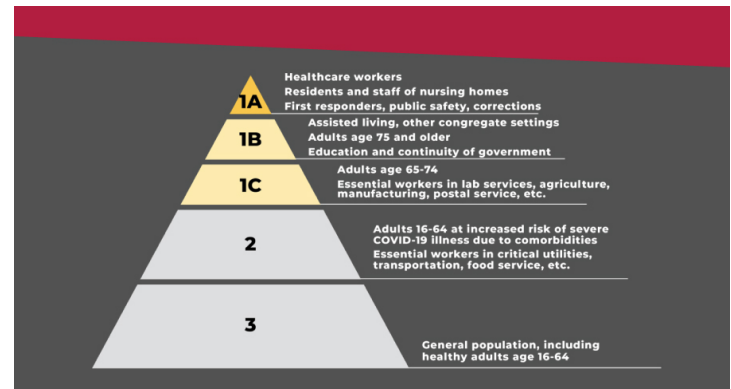
While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often and staying at least 6 feet away from others.

The draft [statewide COVID-19 vaccination plan](#) focuses on three major phases of vaccine availability and distribution. Phase 1 targets those at highest risk of exposure to or developing complications from COVID-19. Phase 2 targets essential non-healthcare and transportation workers, and people at moderately higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness. Phase 3 focuses on vaccinations for the general public. Our state is currently in Phase 1B, which focuses on those living in congregate facilities (assisted living, independent living in retirement communities, etc.), those over 75, and those involved in education and the continuity of government.

The state of Maryland asks everyone to **please be patient** as the available supply of the vaccine in Maryland works to catch up to the demand. The vaccine will eventually be available to all Marylanders.

For more information, see <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/>.

Brought to you by Channing Connections. Contact us at [connections@channingmc.org](mailto:connections@channingmc.org).



Maryland COVID-19 Vaccination Phases



## Soulful Homes February 2021

Dear Channing members and friends,

In partnership with First Church in Salem, UU, we are offering the Soul Matters program “Soulful Home.” **This is a small group ministry that welcomes families with children.** We will gather each month for a check-in, an interactive story, an intergenerational activity, and special time for guided discussion among caregivers. Each month, we join to reflect on a theme. February’s theme is Beloved Community.

**We will hold our gatherings the third Friday of the month in a Zoom room. Our next session will be held Friday, February 19 from 6-7:30pm.**

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


[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0nAi2xuiQKzYO\\_VSqKXedSpjOn5KwAXWgzpHBID4kwljh3g/viewform](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! Send me a note at [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)

Warmly,  
Rev. Jane




**Quick Note! Town Meeting for mid-year budget review,**

**Sunday, January 31 at 11:15am .**

**Be there!**

### Stewardship Update



**December 2020 Year to Date**

Total Operating Income	\$ 85,574
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 70,333
 Difference	 \$ 15,241



## Summary of 8th Principle After Service Discussion

On Sunday, January 24th, after being inspired by Pam E.'s Imagination sermon, we had another discussion about what adopting the 8th Principle might mean for Channing.

As a reminder, the 8th Principle reads,

*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.*

It was a lively discussion where multiple perspectives were heard and responded to. Here are a few ideas of what it might mean for Channing:

- Opportunities for internal growth regarding anti-racism individually and in our culture
- Becoming a more welcoming community to BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color)
- Listening to the experiences of others and seeing the humanity in everyone
- Any outreach should cause no harm
- It will be a process and not a light switch

Thank you to all who came and were willing to share your thoughts and ideas! Be on the lookout for future conversations about the 8th Principle.

-Angela L. and the 8th Principle Committee (Kathleen R., Ron M., Rev. Jane)

## Live Transcription on Zoom is Here!



Live transcription (automatic captioning powered by speech recognition technology) has been enabled on the board Zoom account as an option. To use it, the host of the meeting must click on the "Live Transcript" button (you may need to make the Zoom window full screen to see it, or click on "More") and click on "Enable Auto-Transcript" at the bottom of the window that pops up.

Hosts should ask their meeting attendees at the start of a meeting if live transcription is desired and turn it on if requested. It will then show up for all participants.

—Julie F.

Editor's note: Participants can turn off subtitles if desired. Go to "Live Transcript" and select "Hide Subtitle".



## Scooby Doo Thanks You!

When I think of auction night, I think of a congregational party. Other than worship and congregational meetings, it is one of the few times we all come together as a group. And while it certainly is a fundraiser, it is more of a communal celebration. So, when faced with facilitating this group celebration during a pandemic, I was nervous about whether we could come close to the feeling of a party. Thanks to the amazing virtual auctioneers, outstanding, hilarious entertainment, and a congregation that is flexible, light-hearted, and just plain fun, it appears to have worked. Also, matching paper plates. Matching paper plates are, in my humble opinion, critical to having a party.

We have so much for which to be grateful:

- Donors of the wide variety of parties, dinners, tutorials, food items, and other treasures, with the added task of providing photographs in order to show off the amazing items
- Our auctioneers, Patrick B. and Ken K., who not only ran the auction smoothly with wit and humor, but also volunteered their time to run two practice sessions to prepare everyone
- Rev. Jane, for being here with us during this very difficult time, and leading us in grace, and Eric, who volunteered as the Chalice Tech Squad representative for the evening
- The Amazing H./V. family, who took the entertainment to a new level this year, spending hours writing scripts, wearing wigs in cars, videotaping, editing and, as we have seen, laughing joyously together as a family should do
- All the actors who prepared video clips for use in the entertainment
- An auction planning team (Toni R., Ostara H., and Julie F.) who helped noodle through the complexities of the different platforms needed to conduct the auction virtually
- Our Sign-Up Genius (genius), Julie F., who prepared the Fixed-Price sign-up list
- Dan V., for volunteering to be the auction accountant when all the dust settles
- The B. children for solving the puzzle that led to the capture of the painting-thief
- Our awesome communication team, Ken H. and Cathy F., who kept the congregation informed of all the complicated details
- Our delivery squad volunteers, Evelyn and Ken G., Kris T., Cathy F., and Diana M.
- The technology that provided different virtual platforms for the auction, allowing us to have our three traditional forms of bidding
- All the folks participating in the good-natured competition that is auction night

I hope that everyone felt a sense of togetherness in our virtual gathering. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way!

—*Colleen R.*

Editor's note: Thanks to the amazing Colleen for being our circus ringleader!

# February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online Committee on Ministry	<i>3</i> Space Search Mtg  7 pm Young Adult Game Night	<i>4</i> Men's Group 10 am  Clearing as Spiritual Practice 1pm	<i>5</i> Outreach, Connections, and Membership Meetings	<i>6</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting
<i>7</i> 10 am Sunday Service	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours LDNC  7 pm Lecto Divina	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Channing Book Club 10 am	<i>12</i> Covenant Circle, Connections, Worship Team Meetings	<i>13</i> Channing Book Club 10 am
<i>14</i>  9 am LH3 Meeting 10 am Sunday	<i>15</i>  PRESIDENT'S DAY	<i>16</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours  7 pm Board of Trustees	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Clearing as Spiritual Practice 1pm	<i>19</i> Connections Mtgs  Soulful Home 6 pm	<i>20</i> Men's Group 10 am  1 pm Me and White Supremacy Sharing Circle
<i>21</i> 10 am Sunday Service	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours  7 pm Lecto Divina	<i>24</i> Youth RE	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Connections Meeting, Covenant Circle	<i>27</i> 10 am Canvass Training
<i>28</i> 10 am Sunday Service 4 pm Rev. Jane's Installation! 				<b><i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i></b>		

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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.