



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation**



Wayside Pulpit

Unanswered questions are far less dangerous than unquestioned answers.

—Author Unknown

Minister's Column

Dear Channing members and friends,



As a young child, I lived in a house adjacent to a horse farm in Pennsylvania. My sister and I created new adventures every day - eating wild honeysuckle, chasing lightning bugs, naming small frogs we made a home for in an old sandbox. It was a calm place and a peaceful place.

When we were still very young, our parents divorced. We remained in Pennsylvania together for a while, but, within a couple of years, my father was laid off from his job at an energy company. The only replacement job he could find was located in Virginia, so he needed to move, and soon. As a divorced couple, there was no expectation that my mom would take her children and follow him. Yet, in order to keep her young children in close proximity to their father, my mother, sister and I moved as well. My sister and I shed tears from the unexpected change, and at that time probably did not fully understand the benefits. But we followed our parents and relocated several states and hours away, to our new home in Virginia.

The move, although for the greater good of the family, was anxiety-producing for all of us. We were all leaving the known for the unknown. Each parent was facing new job prospects. We still faced uncertainty about scheduling - how much time would my sister and I spend with our dad? With our mom? We had to navigate a brand-new apartment in a brand-new community with a brand-new school district. We were stressed!

We each made sacrifices. My mom gave up a home she loved, and her community, even though it was not required of her. My sister and I gave up our school, our friends, and our childhood home. We moved further away from grandparents, and cousins, and aunts and uncles, and we all felt that loss as well. There was loss, for all of us.

Yet this move was for the best. This move, for all the anxiety and sacrifice, was the best option for our family. My dad had a stable job, and our immediate family remained in close proximity. It was anxiety-provoking, and we each made sac-

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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 2023 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023. (Note that the due date has been moved up two days due to Feb. being a short month.)**

rifices, but, ultimately, our family was together, and my younger sister and I could continue to maintain close, in-person relationships with both our mother and our father, even if no longer in the same house.

Channing, too, is undertaking a change. Starting in February, we will begin a four-week trial period at a new worship space at Epiphany Lutheran Church. In addition to the sanctuary, we will have use of the fellowship hall and a room for Religious Education. If all goes well, we will consider signing a long-term rental. This space also has the potential to serve as office space, as small group space, as a location for potlucks and game nights. The Space Team has been searching so long, and so diligently, and we finally have a promising opportunity.

The move will be stressful. Change is inherently hard. Worries may bubble up within and between us that do not even seem to be related to the change. Some of us may have to make sacrifices; this space is not perfect. I believe this four-week trial is what is best for our church community. Let us all hold that in our hearts. We will have a beautiful space to worship in! Let us breathe together, and love together, and worship together, and change together. We are a sacred collective. May love for each other and for our community guide us towards peace and unity in the months ahead.

With love,
Rev. Jane

Photos from Channing's 30th Anniversary party and Rev. Jane's installation & attainment of Full Fellowship celebration on January 15



President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

As you know, we have long been blessed with an active and committed group of people searching for a home for our congregation. Our current Space Team, Maureen, Dan, and Ken G., do an outstanding job with this. As is true with so many church activities, what we see as a congregation is the tip of an iceberg—the result of an enormous amount of work taking place behind the scenes.

With thanks to our Space Team, the Board would like to make you aware of an exciting opportunity for our congregation. Epiphany Lutheran Church in Ellicott City is looking to rent its space to another church for Sunday morning worship. The possibility of renting the building for activities at other times also exists. The entire Board has seen the space and agrees that it warrants further investigation.

In brief, Epiphany Lutheran Church was once a 1920s dairy barn that was converted into a two-level church in 1962. It is located in a residential area of Ellicott City. Epiphany Lutheran offers dedicated worship space in a beautiful sanctuary with excellent acoustics. There are some Christian symbols in the sanctuary that would remain. It is available every Sunday at a price we can afford.

Downstairs, there is a fellowship hall for coffee and socializing that could also be used for religious education. The upper and lower levels are wheelchair accessible from the outside but not from the inside. Getting from one level to the other inside requires climbing stairs. The bathrooms are not currently ADA compliant and Epiphany Lutheran is exploring ways to correct this. The parking lot is small, but there is ample street parking.

With the approval of the Board, the Space Team negotiated a trial period of use for Sunday morning worship in February. This trial period will allow us to assess if the space meets our needs and to think through some logistical issues. Epiphany Lutheran is located at 9122 Sybert Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. We will meet there for in-person worship at 11:00 AM each Sunday in February.

The Board encourages everyone to attend at least one worship service at Epiphany Lutheran during the trial period. The opportunity to experience worship in the sanctuary and to consider the practical and logistical aspects of renting is fortunate and something to take advantage of. Personal experience will give each of us important information to help our decision-making. Please let board members know your thoughts and feelings as you weigh the pros and cons of renting at Epiphany Lutheran and how it will affect our ability to advance our mission and vision.

We want to emphasize that meeting in person at Epiphany Lutheran each Sunday in February in no way indicates any plans regarding future online worship. We have yet to begin discussing this as a congregation. Instead, meeting in person every Sunday during the trial period simply opens up more chances for more people to experience the space we are considering renting. There will be an online worship service during the trial period on February 12, beginning at 11:00 AM, led by Sheri T. on Zoom.

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The Board looks forward to seeing you at Epiphany Lutheran Church in February. As we begin this period of discernment, please remember how important your voice is in our congregation's decisions.

Take care,

Kris Tyssowski
Evelyn Grim
Mel Currie
Sheri Thomas

**Channing's February Services
at Epiphany Lutheran Church
February 5, 12, 19 & 26
11:00 am**



**Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21043**

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; Epiphany 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. Epiphany will be on your right.

See map on page 9

It is advisable for most of us, if able, to use the ample street parking to avoid the outgoing traffic from the church's small parking lot and to leave space in the lot for those who need to park close to the building.

A Discussion of Article II

Interested in the happenings of Unitarian Universalism? Our denomination is currently revising our Principles and Purposes via the rewording of Article II. Our current Principles and Purposes include the 7 Principles and 6 Sources found at the following [link](#). The Article II Study Commission has proposed new wording, found at the following [link](#). Join Rev. Jane Saturday, February 11 from 1-2pm via Zoom to join in discussion with others from our church community.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93118452073?pwd=SWt3TWtaT05Ec01YbUhMY2NxU3dyZz09>

Meeting ID: 931 1845 2073

Passcode: 087352

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

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.

Miss being together with the folks of Channing Memorial Church? Join Rev. Jane outside at Park Ave for a relaxed social gathering on **Saturday, February 18 from 1-2pm**. We will gather around the fire pit with cookies and hot cider. I hope you will join me!

Young Adults 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.

MD Legislature in Session - Time to Advocate

The Maryland General Assembly convened January 11. UU's from across the state and at Channing will have the opportunity to advocate for bills that reflect our values. To learn about UU legislative priorities in Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Health Care and Reproductive Rights, Immigration Reform, Medical Aid in Dying and to learn about opportunities to advocate visit our UU Legislative Ministry of MD and our Channing Justice websites:

UULMMD: <https://www.uulmmd.org/>

Channing Justice: <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice>

During the three-month legislative session, you will receive alerts (not a lot) asking you to take action, often as simple as typing your name and clicking a mouse button.

For more information about opportunities to participate, please contact Jim C.

Thank you.

Channing Book Club

We meet on the second Saturday of the month. The next discussion will be on February 11.

Memoir for February 11:

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>

Note: Hard copies may be available at HCPLS.

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.

Board Bits



As its first action of the meeting, Angela Lesperance was welcomed to the Board and elected Secretary until the end of June. The vote in favor of Angela taking on this office was unanimous.

Space Team shared their efforts with securing space at Epiphany Lutheran Church and Claret Hall. The Board decided to move forward with a trial run for Sundays in February at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

Channing has joined the Health Care for All Resolution. The organization Maryland Health Care for All works to ensure that every Marylander has access to quality affordable health care coverage. Channing has also been designated as an Honor Congregation by the UUA. This means that we contributed our full requested contribution at the end of the fiscal year.

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of December, 2022

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 123,704
Total Operating Expense	<u>-84,830</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 38,874</u>



Do you belong to Amazon Smile?

Channing Memorial Church has received a small income from Amazon Smile purchases for several years. However, we have received notice from Amazon that they are discontinuing this benefit **effective February 20**. If you have been planning a purchase from Amazon, please try to place it before February 20 since this will be our last chance to receive this income.

Men's Group

Thursday February 2 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 is 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.

Howard County Faith Communities
Courageous Conversations

presents



This year you have the option of attending one, two, three or all 4 sessions. Attending all 4 will give you the full experience. You also have the option of attending virtually via Zoom or in person.

Tuesdays ~ Each session begins at 7:00 PM
February 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th, 2023

February 7th
Love of the Divine
St John Baptist Church
9055 Tamar Drive, Columbia, Md

February 14th
Love of Ourselves
Beth Shalom Congregation
8070 Harriet Tubman Lane, Columbia, Md.

February 21st
Love of Others (Neighbors)
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
6020 Ten Oaks Road, Clarksville, Md

February 28th
Love of Opponents
Dar Al Taqwa Mosque
10740 MD 108, Ellicott City, Md

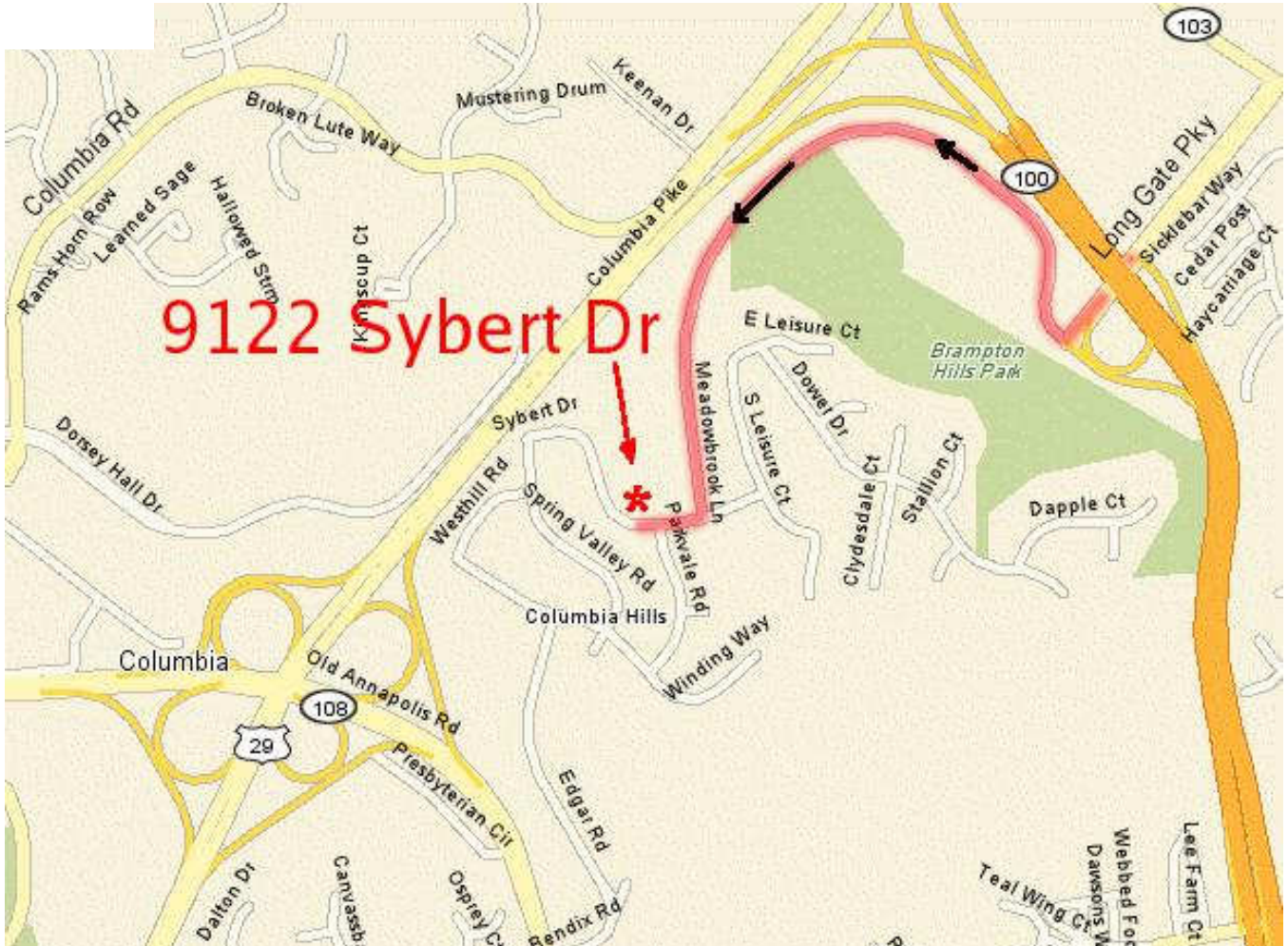


Registration is now OPEN!

To register go to
www.hococourageousconversations.com or use the QR Code

Like us on Facebook

Map With Location of Epiphany Lutheran Church



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p><i>1</i> Space Search Team 5:00-6:00 pm</p> <p>Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>2</i> Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> 	<p><i>3</i> Outreach Committee 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	<i>4</i>
<p><i>5</i> Worship Service at Epiphany 11:00 am-12:00 pm</p>	<i>6</i>	<p><i>7</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm</p> <p>"Tuesdays After" 5:30-6:30 pm</p> <p>LDNC Mtg 5:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p><i>8</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<i>9</i>	<p><i>10</i> Worship Team Mtg. 1:30-3:00 pm</p>	<p><i>11</i> Channing Book Club 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>
<p><i>12</i> Worship Service at Epiphany 11:00 am-12:00 pm</p> <p>Online Zoom service 11:00 am</p>	<i>13</i>	<p><i>14</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>"Tuesdays After" 5:30-6:30 pm</p> <p>Valentines Day</p>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<p><i>18</i> Saturday Gathering 1:00-2:00 pm</p>
<p><i>19</i> Worship Service at Epiphany 11:00 am-12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>  <p>Presidents Day</p>	<p><i>21</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>"Tuesdays After" 5:30-6:30 pm</p> <p>Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<p><i>24</i> Newsletter Deadline</p>	<i>25</i>
<p><i>26</i> Worship Service at Epiphany 11:00 am-12:00 pm</p>	<i>27</i>	<p><i>28</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>"Tuesdays After" 5:30-6:30 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.