



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 32, Issue 2

February 2025

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Dear Beloveds,



As I work this final week before my sabbatical, I am wrapping up loose ends and touching base with you, those I serve with honor and delight. Know that I hold you each in love, light, and prayer, this day, and every day. I know you hold one another as well; you are a special, committed group steeped in love and faith. It is in this spirit of faith, peace, joy, and love that I offer you my well

wishes. These are not wishes for my sabbatical, but wishes I offer for each day and each moment as we make our way through this beloved, precious, mortal, and finite life. I hope you, each of you:

- Find inner peace through spiritual practices that heal
- Find solace in the memories of those we have lost
- Reach out to treasured companions when lost or alone
- Work to heal our aching world, one act at a time
- With practice and contemplation, connect to all you hold sacred and holy
- Pause, pause, pause, and breathe
- Lean into practices that bring joy, peace, and solace
- Love from the bottom of your heart
- Forgive, when appropriate, to help release your soul from bondage

These are my simple reflections on wellbeing, peace, and hope that I bestow upon each of you. This list is not nearly complete. Please expand it with your own insights as well. You are each an expert on your own life, intimately understanding what you need to grow and thrive.

I will miss you! I also look forward to all that I have planned. I will return from this Sabbatical able to better serve each of you. Blessings on your journeys for these next four months. I look forward to hearing about it upon my return.

With love,
Rev. Jane



**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**

Wayside Pulpit

Every accepted truth hides perhaps another truth even more profound and contradictory.

-Aimé Michel

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

Please send submittals for the March 2025 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 23, 2025.**

From the President

Dear Friends,

Last week (January 20-25) was heavy with the news headlines that challenged my faith in the American experiment. Besides the news about an executive order that goes against the U.S. Constitution (birthright citizenship), there was the statement that Trans people aren't real people. I hurt when I heard this news from my youngest son. I hurt when I thought of all the people who are Trans people who heard the U.S. leader express this out loud.

I was heartened when I read the UUA president, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betencourt's press release. She said in part, "We should not need to repeat the basic truth that Trans people exist in this world. That our Transgender and Nonbinary beloveds – my family and yours – are not only real, but sacred. That each and all of us is in fact a vital part of the fabric of this nation, deeply beloved and deserving of protection, safety, and belonging."

You can read the entire release here: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/fierce-love-compels-us-action>
As February is often themed with love, I think her message title, "Fierce Love Compels Us to Action," is appropriate. In conjunction with soothing ourselves with loving words in community, we should also find ways to take action. Whether it's sending emails to representatives or standing up when we see an injustice, I encourage us all to look for ways we can show that we do care and we do love our neighbors. Love is at the center!

In love,
Angela

Meet Pastor Lora Powell-Haney Channing's Anchor Minister

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Trustees is delighted to introduce Pastor Lora Powell-Haney who will serve as our Anchor Minister during Rev. Jane's sabbatical leave.

Pastor Lora graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in May 2020 with a Master of Divinity; her study included a ministerial internship at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in Lutherville, Maryland, and a chaplain residency in Hagerstown, Maryland. She currently serves as interim Director of Family Ministry at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, and as an itinerant preacher, officiant, and pastoral care provider. Pastor Lora also served nine years as Director of Religious Education (DRE) at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF). She and her husband, Charles, live in a small town in Maryland and try to keep in close touch with three young adult sons who astonish them with their awesomeness. Lora loves reading, drinking tea, building Beloved Community, and standing barefoot on the earth.



Pastor Lora's love for ministry and thoughtful perspective stood out during the hiring process. She brings enthusiasm and inspiration to worship services and a warm, caring approach to pastoral care. We believe her skills and compassionate nature will support us well as we continue to engage in meaningful worship, navigate life's challenges, and uphold our strong sense of community during Rev. Jane's sabbatical. Pastor Lora's heartfelt energy will help us care for one another with compassion and purpose as we continue to grow together in the months ahead.

As Anchor Minister, Pastor Lora will lead one worship service a month and provide pastoral care during her time with us. She will officially join us on Sunday, February 2nd. After the worship service, you'll have the opportunity to greet her in a small group setting, both online and in person.

You can explore Pastor Lora's "bare bones" blog at <https://perambulations.blog/>.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Pastor Lora to our spiritual community. We look forward to the many blessings she will bring during her time with us.

Yours in community,

Kris Tyssowski, Sabbatical Coordinator
on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Meet February's Guest in the Pulpit

SaraRuth Wekoye Davis

February 16, 2025



SarahRuth Wekoye Davis resides in Annapolis, Maryland. She is a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School and is an Intern Community Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis and at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church. SarahRuth brings her multicultural background to her work, and her ministry is grounded in African, disability, and queer theologies. She holds degrees in communications, psychology, and business administration and she served in the United States Air Force as an Arabic linguist. SarahRuth is a disabled military veteran, the mother to five beautiful children, and enjoys kayaking, cooking, crocheting, drinking tea, and spending time with family and friends.

Sundays After: Exploring Spiritual Practices

Rev. Jane's sabbatical leave is not only an opportunity for her personal renewal but also a time for our congregation to deepen our spiritual well-being. With Rev. Jane's encouragement, we will offer monthly Sundays After sessions focused on **Spiritual Practices** during this time.

Each month, participants will learn about a new spiritual practice through sessions that emphasize active engagement, reflection, and the sharing of new insights. Plus, there will be plenty of time for coffee and fellowship afterward!

If you're interested in leading a session and need ideas, please reach out to Kris T. (tyssowski.kris@gmail.com or 443-690-5335). She can direct you to resources and help you adapt them to our time frame. We also welcome and encourage you to share any spiritual practice that is meaningful to you.

Sunday After Church Luncheons

Are you looking for a fun way to get to know your fellow Channingites? Join us at our monthly Sunday After Church Luncheons beginning in February.

Our first monthly luncheon will be on Sunday, February 2 at 1 p.m. at Carrabbas Italian Restaurant in the Long Gate Shopping Center at 4430 Long Gate Parkway in Ellicott City, right around the corner from church.

After church on February 2, grab a cup of coffee and/or a light snack at coffee hour, and then head over and join us at Carrabbas. Everyone will pay for their own lunch.

Our After Church Luncheons will be held the first Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. After February 2, our next two luncheons will be on Sunday, March 2 and Sunday, April 6. At our February luncheon, we can decide where we'd like to hold our next luncheon. Suggestions are welcome.

Come join us on February 2 for good food and good fun, and help us get our monthly luncheons off to a great start.

For any questions or suggestions contact Sheri at dsst1221@gmail.com

Channing Mid-year Financial Review

The Stewardship Committee is holding the Channing mid-year financial review on Sunday February 16, after the worship service. This all-church meeting is a good place to learn more about Channing's finances and get any questions answered. Folks joining the worship service via Zoom will also be able to participate. See you there.

Dear Channing friends,

Last Call: Seeking Sunday Cleanup/Closing Team

Cleanup and closing the building are among those tasks we need covered each Sunday morning. The easiest way to ensure coverage is via a rotating team. If we have four or five willing volunteers (myself included), we can easily cover each Sunday of the month. It's not hard, and you don't need a key to the building. If you're willing to help out with this task, please let me know (ostaramail@gmail.com or 410-489-7823) by February 9th. Thank you! Thank you!

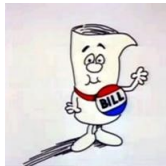
Justice in Action Circle (henceforth JAC)

Our group is excited to kick off a new initiative where we alternate between thoughtful discussions of social justice-themed books and meaningful activism inspired by their topics. Every other month, we'll meet to discuss a selected book that highlights pressing social issues, followed by brainstorming and planning concrete actions we can take to make a difference.

To start, we'll gather to discuss *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card*, an insightful and heartfelt memoir that explores the challenges faced by immigrants in America. After our discussion of the book, we'll shift our focus to identifying ways our group can actively support immigrant communities and advocate for their rights. Together, we aim to combine learning with action to drive meaningful change.

Meeting info: **Saturday January 25, 2025 @ 11:00-12:00 in the Carl Sagan Conference Room in the Savage Branch HoCo Library**

Translate Your Values into Action



February 8, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, UU Church of Annapolis. Join with other UUs around the state at the annual legislative kickoff meeting of the UU Legislative Ministry of MD. Learn about issues UUs will be advocating for in the MD General Assembly – gun violence, climate crisis, immigration, reproductive rights and health care. To register visit <https://www.uulmmd.org/>

For more information, contact Jim Caldiero, jimcal87@gmail.com.

Auction Team Search



The Stewardship Committee is on the lookout for a new team to help run next year's Channing auction. Remember how much fun this year's auction was? Well, the only thing more fun than attending the auction is taking part in planning the auction!

Channing on Social Media



Hey folks! My name is Ari and you may have seen me around taking pics at various services and other functions. I've been trying to boost our social media engagement and hopefully get some community members interested in seeing what Channing is all about. After a few months of tracking our posts, what I'm learning is that the things that get the most engagement and community interest are posts with pictures of real church members doing things with the church and out in the community. For example our post from the October Pride event is the most popular post made across any social media.

With that in mind, I'd love to encourage everyone to take pictures at your events and pass them along to me at arimudan@gmail.com along with a brief synopsis of what the meeting or event was about.

Here's the link to our Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/channingmemorial/profilecard/?igsh=MTBuNWZidWEzNDFiaA==>

or username is @channingmemorial

Facebook: [Facebook](#)

Youtube Channel For those viewing on YouTube: Click [Channing Channel](#) to see videos of our services.

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of December 31, 2024

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$128,833
Total Operating Expense	<u>-92,901</u>
Difference	\$ 35,932



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, we will pause for several minutes of silent reflection, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection.

Our normal schedule is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. On zoom; Rev. Jane will send out the link and the poem (the link is also immediately below). Please let her know if you would like to be added to the list.

Next Meeting: February 11.

Standard Link to join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93324550758?pwd=VFVLZkdES2l0dTNHK1pWZ1pZb114UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

Wisdom Tales

Many faith traditions and cultures throughout millennia have shared wisdom, knowledge, and insights through fictional tales and parables. Each month, we'll explore a different story, allowing these ancient narratives to spark conversation and reflection. Join Rev. Jane to engage with these ancient tales.

Our standing meeting is the first Tuesday of the month, 11am-12pm, held on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94007522019?pwd=MEhIT11KbDRIUWViTm9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Passcode: 665527



Men's Group

**Wednesday, February 5 (10 am - 12 pm) on Zoom
and In-person February 20 (10 - 11:30 am)**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **February 5**, a link will be sent out via the distribution list for the group. If you are not on that list and are interested, check with Ken Hart via email.

February 20 at 10 a.m. at Bagel Bin in Enchanted Forest shopping center on Rt. 40 east of Bethany Lane. **Please email Ken H in advance if you intend to attend.** We need enough responses to make this happen.

Channing Book Club

We meet on the second Saturday of the month, normally. See below. **We are going to try using casual restaurants (such as LeeLynn) or coffee shops as meeting locations at 10 a.m. weather permitting.** Other locations may be planned as well.

Please let Ken Hart know if you plan to attend at least three days in advance so he has time to firm up dates/times with those who intend to attend.



What's on your book list?

Would you like to make it a selection for the book club so you can have good conversation about it? Let Ken Hart know what you are thinking about, and contact Ken with any questions.

Xennials, 20/40s 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 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 Beben* 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. 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

CMC's plans for Rev. Jane's sabbatical have firmed up nicely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our Sabbatical Coordinator, Kris T. Her report to the Board in January included these plans for Sunday services:



- Rev. Lora Powell-Haney (Pastor Lora) will conduct services and attend coffee hour once/month.
- In addition to Pastor Lora's once/month Sunday services, arrangements have been made for four guest speakers during the sabbatical (i.e., one additional guest speaker per month).
- Speakers on the remaining Sundays of each month will be lay people from the congregation (mainly our beloved Worship Associates).

Landmark dates for the sabbatical period are:

- **Rev. Jane's last day** before her sabbatical leave begins: Saturday, *February 1st*.
- **Pastor Lora's first and last Sundays** in the pulpit: *February 2nd and June 1st*.
- **Rev. Jane's first day back** after sabbatical: Tuesday, *June 3rd*.

Additional Board discussions in January included the restroom renovation project (stay tuned for developments) and audio concerns.

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 Fu. Thank you!

-- Cathy Fu

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm	3	4 Wisdom Tales 11:00am-12:00	5 Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	6	7 Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30 pm	8
9 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Second Sunday Collection	10	11 LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	12 Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom	13	14 Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm	15
16 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm SaraRuth We- koye Davis in The pulpit	17	18 Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	19 Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00- 9:00 pm	20 Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Bagel Bun	21	22
23 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm	24	25 Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	26	27	28	

**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.