



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 29, Issue 3

March 2022

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**

Wayside Pulpit

Time does not change us. It just unfolds us.

—Max Frisch

Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

One of my favorite times of the year is approaching: spring! The budding flowers and abundant birds' nests rejuvenate me and feed me spiritually. On our weekly hiking trips, my husband and I are able to mark the transition Sunday after Sunday, traversing myriad ecosystems as we explore trails all around Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. We observe brown vegetation slowly becoming lush green as bird songs grow louder and more abundant.

Just as nature will blossom this spring, so too will our church community. As spring arrives and those buds begin to poke out from their hidden places, we are offered a multitude of ways to engage our own spiritual community on its path towards blooming. We are starting to delve deep into our new strategic plan. This is an exciting time to examine who we are, who we want to be, and what we need to do to achieve that. Each one of us, in conjunction with any committee work we may do, can examine the actions we can take to fulfill our dreams, steeped in the church's mission and vision. Together, we can Invite, Connect, and Ignite. The strategic plan is asking us to be intentional and reflective in all we do.

As we do the work of the plan, we thrive on the time, talent, and treasure of all of those in our faith community. For each piece of church work that each of you offer, I am profoundly grateful. We could not be the thriving church we are today without the dedication of each one of you. This time of year, we pause to reflect on our treasure, and all we can do to support our church financially. For all we are working towards, for attracting new members and friends, for engaging in justice work, for expanding our visibility and impact on the community, we need financial stability. As was presented in our congregational meeting, if we want desirable space for our church community, we need to increase our pledges as best we are able. Our dreams take substantial finances to come to fruition. Just as the sunlight and water

(continued on p. 2)

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Newsletter Editors:

Ken Grim

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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 April issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, March 20.**

Minister's Column - continued from p. 1)

feeds into the buds of the blossoms surrounding us on my weekly hikes, so too do finances feed into all of those blossoms we are working towards as a community. In this crucial time, we ask you to be as generous as you are able.

Know that this month, and every month, I hold each of you in love and light. I am so excited to be a part of the growth of this church in the months ahead. I, too, will focus my attention on those key elements of the strategic plan that I, as the minister, can fulfill. I, too, will reflect on all that I can add to my yearly pledge to keep us thriving. As I traverse those trails each Sunday, I am offered the gift of imagining the exciting future that lies ahead. I invite you to imagine, too.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Social Justice Advocacy

Contact State Legislators to Encourage Them to Support Immigrants' Rights Bills

The Immigrants' Rights bills that the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland has identified as priorities are now being considered by Senate and House of Delegates committees in Annapolis. If you are so inclined, you may want to contact your legislators to encourage them to support these bills. On our [Channing Justice website](https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice/immigration), you will find suggested messages that you can copy and paste into email messages to your Delegates and Senators. Here's the ink:

<https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice/immigration>

You can also find opportunities to advocate for Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform and Medical Aid in Dying at the [UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland's website](https://www.uulmmd.org/our-issues).

Link: <https://www.uulmmd.org/our-issues>

For more information, please contact Jim C.

President's Column



As I write this on a cold February morning, I know that there may be plenty of snowy and cold days ahead according

to the groundhog, but I find myself comforted by the inevitability of the coming Spring. Since I last wrote, our small, but lively and mighty Congregation has been busy. So without further ado, let's get to it.

The auction was very successful! I don't want to steal all the thanking thunder from the LDNC, but I'm going to steal a little... Thank you Colleen R. for being the main organizer and driving force behind this beloved event for the past several years. May you pass on your wisdom and talents to a worthy successor. Thank you auctioneer stalwarts Patrick B. and Ken K. And thank you H.-Vs, and Stephanie, Olivia, and Desmond B. for putting together the entertainment: the production, the music, the singing, the puppets, and the dance grooves all had me grinning constantly throughout. And last, but not least, I thank the Congregation for its generosity: we raised over \$5000 and had a fine time while doing so!

We just had a midyear Congregational Meeting. I'm pleased to report that our finances are in very good shape, and that we were able to further discuss and promulgate the Strategic Plan.

The 8th principle vote is still scheduled for March 20, and I've learned that more information about the details should be forthcoming. Keep an eye on your email inboxes.

And now to the first of the "perennial" topics: meeting in person. The pandemic metrics are trending significantly downward, and the Board has voted to begin in-person services again in March at Robinson Nature Center. We will be cautious at first, and there is some uncertainty as to whether March 6th or March 13th will be the first offering, so stay tuned.

Finally, the second "perennial" topic: space. The Board has voted to extend our lease at Park Avenue for another year. It disappoints me that we will have to continue to deal with its accessibility issues, but the rent is low, and this will also give the Space Team more "breathing room" in this difficult process. I don't want to say too much at this point in time, but it is looking like Robinson Nature Center may not be well-suited for our needs, especially those of hybrid-worship.

Care,
David

Board Bits

The Board met on February 15, 2022.

- The Board received an update on the work of the 8th Principle committee.
- Board discussed finding an auction coordinator for next year.
- Board discussed meeting in person. Using the Act Now risk assessment tool, the Board decided to restart hybrid worship meetings on Sunday, March 6th providing the metrics continue to decrease. RE will be offered as needed.
- Board received a report from the Space Team. On their recommendation, the Board decided to extend the lease at Park Avenue for another year.
- The Board discussed and finalized plans for the Mid-Year Budget review and Strategic Plan Meeting.

**Stewardship Update
as of
January 31, 2022**

Total Operating Income	\$126,751
Total Operating Expense	<u>78,813</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 47,938</u>

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, we 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!**

-- Rev. Jane

Young Adults Game Night and Virtual Potluck



The **Young Adults Game Night and virtual potluck** 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 Beben for information.

From the UUA: A Second Slice of Pi

Join online at the [UU Institute](https://www.uu.edu/institute) (UUI) on **Saturday, March 12th, 2022** for "A Second Slice" - an updated, pandemic safe conference for smaller congregations and covenanting communities! Second Slice features:

Lots of on demand, easy to access resources housed at UULI, especially curated for smaller congregations;

A live, virtual, two hour conference on March 12, 2022 from 3-5 pm ET/12-2 PT to connect with leaders of other small congregations on topics that matter to you;

Click the following link for details:

<https://www.uua.org/leadership/events/second-pi>

Soul Matters Small Groups ****New format!!****

I invite you to come to this group with nothing but curiosity and an open mind! There will be no prep work and no need to reflect on a packet. Together, we will reflect on wise words of others and grapple with some self-reflective questions.



Our theme for this month is “Renewing Faith.” Sometimes, for myriad reasons, we question our faith. And yet it is through this doubting and questioning that faith is kept alive. Faith allows us to keep going even when we have no idea what lies ahead. It allows us to trust in life’s goodness and the goodness held within Unitarian Universalism. Even amidst personal turmoil, climate crisis, and political divisiveness, can we be intentional in trusting that which we hold sacred?

Please sign up using the link below:

All Ages:

Friday, March 18, 10:30am-12pm

Wednesday, March 23, 7-8:30pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul17>

****Our Young Adult Group will continue to follow our traditional format. If you are joining our Young Adult Group (20s, 30s, 40s), I will send you a packet to review before the Small Group. I am available or for any questions****

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

Wednesday, March 16, 7:30-9:00pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young22>

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,

Rev. Jane

Soul Collage

Each month the Soul Collage group spends an afternoon letting our intuition guide us to select images from magazines, creating collage cards with those images, then reflecting on what spiritual lessons our created cards have to give us. Kris T., our trained SoulCollage® facilitator, generously guides us with a new theme each month.

For the new year, Kris invited us to select several of the cards that we’ve created over the past several months, using them to write a poem based on a model that she shared with the group. If you’re curious to try out SoulCollage®, contact Kris. We would love to have you join us!

Channing Book Club



March Discussion; Saturday, March 12, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Imbalanced: A Memoir by Channing Member Sheri T.

This book is a poignant, sometimes humorous look at physical disability, serious mental health issues and about how Unitarian Universalism led the author to her current role as a disability advocate.

Email Sheri to request a free digital copy that can be read on your phone, tablet, computer, etc. Paperback copies are also available at the Howard County Library.

April Discussion:

Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy by Jaime Raskin

Do you have a poem or an essay you'd like to talk about in the future? Let us know. 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 H. know what you are thinking about, and contact Ken with any questions.

Afghan Refugee Support

Many agencies and faith groups are working to assist the thousands of Afghan refugees that are expected to be moving to the United States in the coming months and will need support as they transition to American life. A small group of Channing folks is joining in the effort. Our first event will be an informational session during an After Service Sunday Zoom meeting on March 13th. We look forward to discussing ways that you can help us in this important work.

While you are waiting, consider making a purchase to support Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) Northern Virginia's Amazon wish list:

<https://lirs.us14.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1ba26e3c84448d9ea4814c790&id=b4104d8013&e=2920a7b08e>

Thank you!

-- Angela L., Toni R., Kris T., Nancy H., and Jim C.

**Pledge Campaign Kickoff
March 13, 2022
“Joy in the Journey”**

The Stewardship Committee faced an interesting challenge this year when deciding on the goal amount for this year's pledge drive, which starts mid-March. The commitments that people pledge in March and April are to pay for operating expenses the church will incur from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Our current lease at Park Avenue ends April 30, and we have not yet secured office or worship space for next fiscal year, so that expense is a bit of an unknown.

I presented this chart after worship last Sunday. There are a few points I'd like to make about these charts.

Stewardship Canvass Goal Calculator		Historic Rent Examples	
Non-pledge Income (auction, etc)	\$12,400	Corporate Court	\$46,800
Non-rent Expenses (salaries, insurance, etc)	\$130,000	Park Ave. + Linden Hall	\$40,800
Rent Expense (unknown)	\$37,400	Space Maximum If Pledges Don't Increase	\$27,400
Total Expenses	\$167,400		
		Last Year's Canvass Income	\$145,000
Pledge Amount to Cover \$37,400 of Space	\$155,000	This Year's Canvass Goal	\$155,000

If pledges remain at last year's level, then we will not be able to have full time in-person worship in a similar venue to Linden Hall. We would likely need to skip one or two Sundays of in-person worship each month. However, if we stay at Park Ave. and the rent is lower than it was pre-pandemic, and we reach the goal of \$155,000, we will be able to have a full time in-person worship experience. \$155,000 is about a 7% increase over last year pledges. The Stewardship Committee is committed to balancing our budget next year. With an average of a 7% increase in pledges, we can achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

Dan V., Stewardship Chair

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p><i>1</i></p> <p>Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>Committee on Ministry Mtg. 6:30 - 8:30 pm</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>Space Search Meeting 5:00-6:00 pm</p> <p>Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>Membership Team Mtg. 2:00 pm</p> <p>Outreach Committee 6:00-7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>Canvass Training for Pledge Campaign</p>
<p><i>6</i></p> <p>Worship Service 10:00-11:00am</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm</p> <p>LDNC Mtg. 5:30-7:30 pm</p> <p>Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>Stewardship Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>Covenant Circle 9:30 am - 12:00 pm</p> <p>Worship Team Mtg. 1:30-3:00 pm</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>Channing Book Club 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>
<p><i>13</i></p> <p>Worship Service 10-11am</p> <p>Afghan Refugee Support Presentation after service</p> <p>PLEDGE CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time begins</p>	<p><i>14</i></p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>Soul Matters - Young Adults 7:30 - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Purim begins at sundown</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p> 	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>Soul Matters - All Ages 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>Men's Group 10 am-12:00 pm</p>
<p><i>20</i></p> <p>Worship Service 10:00-11:00am</p> <p>Congregational Vote on Proposed 8th Principle</p> <p>First Day of Spring!!!</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>Soul Matters - All Ages 7:00 - 8:30 pm</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>Covenant Circle 9:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>
<p><i>27</i></p> <p>Worship Service 10:00-11:00am</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i></p>		

Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
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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.

NURTURE Your Spirit.
Help HEAL The World.



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