



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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March 2026

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Minister's Musings

Dear Channing Members and Friends,



At this week's interfaith clergy gathering, we reflected on Exodus 25:1-9, focusing on the phrase, "Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them." Our conversation centered on a simple yet profound question: What makes a space holy? It brought to mind the journey of Channing Memorial Church. Time and again, we have transformed the ordinary into the sacred—storefronts, elementary schools, borrowed spaces. How did we do this? In part, through intention—the intention to worship, to connect with what is sacred, to invite the holy into our midst. We also create this through community, as a committed people embodying love, justice, and compassion. You were—and are—fellow sojourners on a shared journey of faith. It is the community that makes space sacred. Through presence and connection, we create holiness wherever we gather—whether a few of us or many. We see this in times of need and isolation, in joy and celebration. The rhythms of life become sacred because we move through them together. We need one another. We need one another as we mourn. This month, we lost one of our own. We hold sorrow and memory, and we hold one another in this season of mourning. May Dave rest in peace. May his memory bring joy and solace to all who knew and loved him. May Gail know love and strength in the days, weeks, and months ahead.



We are a Welcoming
Congregation

Wayside Pulpit

I look at my hands, and I know that eventually they will be no more. The question we struggle with is: Who or what will I be when these hands, this body, is no more? More importantly, who am I now?

- Omar Marwani

Dear Ones, March welcomes the sacred season of stewardship. It is a time to settle into commitment, gratitude, and embodied values. It invites us to ask: What do I value? What sustains my soul? What future am I helping to build? Church stewardship is sacred because it is love made visible. It is faith enacted. This year, our theme is "*Moving Forward Together.*" We gather as a collective—united in faith, love, and justice. Consider what we have already journeyed through together: COVID, a prolonged search for space. You

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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:

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Secretary:

Ostara Hollyoak ('26)

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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 April 2026 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, 2025.**

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worked your way through a ministerial search that did not unfold as you had hoped. And still, you endured. More than that, you continued to thrive. Now we ask: What lies ahead? What is the future of our Beloved Community? How will we move forward together? That future rests in our dreams and visions, in our shared hope and enduring faith. We shape it through our time, our talents, and our treasure. We sustain music and worship, companionship and justice, love and learning. We build small group ministries, nurture faith journeys, and weave a web of mutual care and support. So I invite you into this sacred season of embodied love and shared commitment. Let us offer our resources with intention and gratitude. Each contribution matters. Each gift strengthens and sustains our Beloved Community.

*With love,
Rev. Jane*

Soul Matters Chalice Circles

Dear Channing Members and Friends,

Chalice Circles are a beautiful way to achieve greater spiritual depth. They are times 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 10-11:30am. I will post each month's schedule in the weekly email. **I encourage you to reach out to me by the second 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 March discussion will be held Saturday, March 21 from 10-11:30am at the church office. March's theme is "Paying Attention". 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!



Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through May!

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!

-- *Cathy Fu*

Dear Channing members and friends,

I invite you to a discussion about a book that had a deep impact on me. Join me in reflecting upon *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz. Based on Toltec wisdom, Ruiz invites us to commit ourselves to concrete practices that help guide us towards a life of greater freedom, peace, and authenticity. Ruiz invites us into four agreements: being impeccable with our words, not taking anything personally, not making assumptions, and always doing our best. Through reflecting on quotes and themes discussed in this book, we will explore our relationships with ourselves and with others. I look forward to a deep and enriching discussion.

We will meet Saturday, March 14 from 9:30-11 at the church office.

Please RSVP to minister@channingmc.org by March 3rd. Reading the book is necessary for this discussion.

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

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 in March: *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout

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...



The Board discussed practices around voting by email when a vote is time sensitive. Nothing in our current policies addresses voting when a quick turnaround is required. A proposed policy will be drafted and a formal decision made.

Please note that Board meetings are held on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month and are open to the congregation (except in the relatively rare case of executive session). If you'd like to attend, contact Angela (President), or any other Board member.

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

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 145,725
Total Operating Expense	<u>-110,577</u>
Difference	\$ 35,148



Dear Channing Members and Friends,

I invite you to an important event held by People Acting Together in Howard (PATH). In January, many of you joined Ostara and me for Listening Sessions. On March 8th, the results of those Listening Sessions, as well as many others held around the county, will be brought to political candidates for Howard County. Each person who shows up to this important event truly makes a difference! We have a group of twelve ready to join together in this work for justice and democracy. If you can join us, **please RSVP to Rev. Jane at minister@channingmc.org by March 4.** See more below!

PATH Candidate Forum

Sunday, March 8, 2026, 3–5 pm

St. John Baptist Church, 9055 Tamar Drive, Columbia, MD

Help us make our democracy work for our communities!

Join PATH on March 8th as we ask candidates for Howard County Executive and County Council how they will address the top issues we heard in listening sessions with 700+ people: housing, immigration, youth, healthcare, food security, and inclusion.

This isn't just any candidate forum—we're bringing hundreds of people together in targeted action for meaningful change.

The event will include breakout rooms with candidates by council district. Interpretation into Spanish and childcare provided.

I hope to see you there!

Men's Group

Friday In-person March 20 (10 - 11:30 am)



The March 20 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!



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 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-	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:15 - 1:15 pm PATH Candidate Forum 3:00-5:00 pm	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	<i>11</i> Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i> Covenant Circle 9:30 am Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm Outreach Team	<i>14</i> <i>Four Agree- ments dis- cussion</i> 9:30-11:00
<i>15</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm St Patrick's Day	<i>18</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>19</i> Channing Book Club	<i>20</i> Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Bagel Bin Channing Game Night 6:00-9:00 pm Vernal Equinox	<i>21</i> Soul Matters Chalice Cir- cle 10:00- 11:30 am
<i>22</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:15-1:15 pm	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm				

**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.