



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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## Inside:

Lectio Divina.....	2
Greeters Wanted .....	2
President's Column.....	3
Board Bits.....	4
Stewardship Update ...	4
Canvass Corner.....	5
Young Adult Game Night .....	5
Men's Group.....	5
Soul Matters.....	6
Snack Squad Update .	6
Crisis in Ukraine .....	7
Mission to Ukraine.....	7
Channing Plant Sale ...	8
Social Justice Advocacy .....	9
Channing Book Club ..	9
Drain Sponsorship....	10
SoulCollage .....	10
GreenFest .....	10
April Calendar.....	11

**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!**



## Wayside Pulpit

If I cannot do great things,  
I can do small things in a  
great way.

—James Freeman Clarke

## Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

Each time I look out my window or go on a hike, I see more and more signs of spring. Crocus shoots are making their way through that crusty, winter soil, and vegetation grows greener by the day. Let us soak up the beauty of seasons in transition!

As we transition to longer and warmer days, our worship life is transitioning as well. The Worship Team is excited to begin the adventure of multi-platform worship. I want to give you a heads up of what you can expect; the Team cannot do everything all at once. As a Team, we are starting out small, as a seed in spring, and making incremental adjustments as we move forward. Our first goal is to make sure we are seen and heard by those joining us from home. Once we establish that, we progress to our next humble step. Through one small improvement at a time, we are committed to producing the best worship experience we can for each of you. To those of you who responded to our congregational survey about multi-platform worship, the Team is deeply grateful! Transitioning back to in-person worship also means we need more volunteers to help. Just as in previous years, we need ushers, greeters, and a Snack Squad. Please reach out to me if you have an interest in any of these positions. We thrive as a church when we each contribute our time and talent – and we have such a wealth of talented, committed members!

And yet, as we enjoy the coming of spring, we are also caught in a web of sorrow and fear. The war in Ukraine is the most recent of a string of wars and carnage affecting our siblings all around the world. Each day, headlines are filled with details of the terrors of this unprecedented war and cautions of horrifying escalations. I imagine many of you are filled with a multitude of emotions, just as I am. Let us pray that our commitment to love and our yearnings for peace are felt throughout our interdependent web of all existence. Spirit of Love and Life, hear and feel our prayers. If we feel hopeless, know that there are things we can do. We can

(continued on p. 2)

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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 May issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 24.**

*(Minister's Column - continued from p. 1)*

send money and aid if we have the resources, we can commit to voting pro-democracy, and we can adjust our lives to the inflation we are facing due to necessary sanctions on Russia. We can also remember to hold close to our dear community – when we join together, we may feel that hopelessness ebb away. We may not know where we are headed, but we know we will get there together.

With love,  
*Rev. Jane*

**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*



Now that more of us are attending Sunday Service in person, there's a big need for Greeters. Greeters are people with those indefinable qualities of friendliness and attentiveness (in other words, all of us at Channing) willing to take turns being at the door to offer a warm welcome, most especially to visitors. If you think you can possibly help with this important role, please contact Nancy H. or Marian V. You'll get some common sense training in "Greeter

Do's and Don'ts" beforehand in a brief Zoom presentation and we'll answer any questions you might have.

## President's Column

As I write this on a fine spring Sunday afternoon in late March after spotting a few crocuses on my walk with the dog, my thoughts turn to the following little chuckle:

*Spring has sprung.  
The grass is riz.  
I wonder where the birdies is?*



While often attributed to Ogden Nash, an internet search for its author was **not** conclusive. Go figure. I associate it with the late Oscar Iseri, the person who first welcomed me to Channing Memorial Church, so many years ago. Do you remember your welcome to Channing?

We have begun our yearly stewardship campaign, and an informational packet should be reaching your email inboxes real soon now. Kudos to the most excellent Stewardship Team, headed by the intrepid Dan V. One of my favorite things about our stewardship campaigns is the sharing of testimonials from our members, and today's service, featuring lovely sentiments from Lynne S. and Ken H., did not disappoint. You should be contacted by a canvasser to schedule a conversation in the coming weeks, and, while these conversations are not required, I would implore you to seize this opportunity to share with and better get to know about a fellow Member or Friend of the Church.

The pandemic seems to be on the wane, and as you may be well aware of by now, the Board has voted to relax some of the COVID-19 restrictions in our worship services. An email went out earlier this week with the details. We are hoping to continue in this vein as the pandemic measurements continue to trend downward.

Finally, I have some good (but not stellar) news to share with you about worship space. Starting sometime in April we should be holding worship services at Claret Hall in Clarksville. The facility has significant storage space, has a separate room to rent for children's RE, and is significantly cheaper to rent than Robinson Nature Center. We plan to rent for at least one year, which should give the Space Team a bit of a well-deserved respite. The location, while more of a haul for those of us from Baltimore County, is not far from Channing's first home, Pointer's Run Elementary School.

Care,  
David

## Board Bits



### Discussions and announcements:

- Congregational meeting to vote on adopting an 8th principle has been postponed to April 24
- Board is considering hiring a part-time treasurer/bookkeeper/administrator to reduce the Treasurer's responsibilities
- Effective mid-April we are changing our Sunday worship location from Robinson Nature Center to Claret Hall at River Hill in Clarksville

### Motions passed:

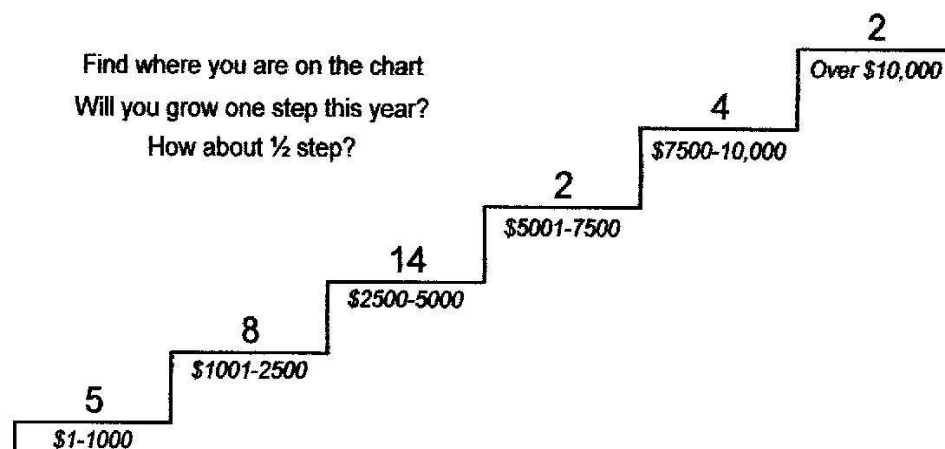
1. to authorize the conduct of a plant sale again this year.
2. to approve the [21/22 budget](#) revisions.
3. to Increase in-person attendance limit to 25.
4. to keep mask requirement for attendees, but worship team can go maskless from a distance.
5. to formalize dropping of mask requirement for outside socializing. People are always free to wear a mask outside, and their choice to do so should be respected.
6. To resume snacks, but not coffee, post service.
7. to rent Park Avenue for another year at \$2250/month + incidentals.

## Stewardship Update As of February 28, 2022

Total Operating Income	\$137,543
Total Operating Expense	<u>87,930</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 49,613</u>

## Canvass Corner

**A breakdown of Channing Memorial Church giving patterns**  
**Church Year 2021-22**  
**Number of pledges in each range**



## 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 B. for information.



## Men's Group

**Thursday, April 7 and Saturday, April 16**  
**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Join us for informal conversation and fellowship. Bring a topic to discuss, or just bring yourself. All are welcome. The meetings are by Zoom until further notice. Please see the Channing News emails for further information and the Zoom link.

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

Our theme for this month is “Awakening.” Often, when we think of “awakening,” we think of something brand new; an unknown miracle we have discovered. I invite us, instead, to reflect on the words by Alan Watts, “Awakening is not the creation of a new state of affairs but the recognition of what already is.” There is already so much beauty and goodness inside each and every one of us, and also in the world we are immersed in. Sometimes, we simply miss it. This month, I invite you to notice, to cherish, and to celebrate.



Sometimes, awakening comes when we realize, “I am enough just as I am.” Each one of us is just we who are meant to be in this moment. If this feels tender to you, I invite you meditate on the following poem:

A Poem: Who You Are, Right Now, by John Welwood

<https://lotusheartmindfulness.com/lotus-heart-blog/2019/5/28/forget-about-enlightenment>

**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. Please sign up using the link below.**

All Ages:

Friday, April 15, 10:30am - 12pm \*Outdoors at Park Ave\*

Wednesday, April 27, 7-8:30pm \*Held via Zoom\*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul18>

**\*\*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 for any questions\*\***

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

April 20, 7:30-9:00pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young23>

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

### **Snack Squad Update**

Barring any unforeseen issues, snack squad after services (outdoor only, weather permitting) will resume April 17. A separate message will be sent by early April with details and sign ups.

--Julie F.

## Social Justice/Social Action

### Crisis in Ukraine

Eighty years ago when Europe experienced horrendous refugee and humanitarian crises, the Unitarians, through their Service Committee, responded with aid and assistance. Now, Europe and the people of Ukraine face a devastating, aggressive invasion, violence and death. Again, Unitarian Universalists can respond. The UU Service Committee recommends donations to the following organizations that will be responding directly:

- [UUSC's Emergency Response Fund](#)
- [HIAS](#)
- [Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Ukrainian-American Crisis Response Committee of Michigan](#)

For more information about the UU Service Committee and its role in advancing human rights worldwide and responding to humanitarian crises, contact Jim C.

Visit [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

### Mission to Ukraine

Toni R. has identified an additional way to help Ukrainian refugees.

Toni learned from two associates, one of whom is from Ukraine, about a mission by two young men, Mark Kreynovich and Dillon Carroll, to provide aid during the catastrophic invasion of Ukraine. Mark is from Ukraine but lives in New York. He and Dillon went to Europe to help people fleeing from Ukraine, supplying them with crucial medicines, food and other day-to-day necessities. Toni has contributed to their aid fund and finds them to be credible and transparent.

Mark begins his story like this:

Hi, my name is Mark Kreynovich. I am from Kharkiv, Ukraine. My Grandpa is currently in Kharkiv. I immigrated to the US when I was six months old and spent every summer in Ukraine through college. I would be called to the front-lines if I was in Ukraine right now. Despite that, I'm sitting comfortably in NYC. My parent's childhood friends (now ages 50+) and my friends in Ukraine are actively fighting, and millions are displaced.

In a recent update, he indicated that after nearly two weeks on the ground, they have refined their supply chain to quickly and smoothly deliver critical supplies to Ukraine. They have learned the ins and outs of necessary customs forms for a variety of gear moving between Poland and Ukraine, packaged and repackaged sensitive goods like insulin, made close connections with two pharmacies in Vienna to fulfill

*(continued on p. 8)*



*(Mission - continued from p. 7)*

their direct orders from the trauma surgeons in Cherkasy, Ukraine, determined the best warehouses and distributions centers on the Ukrainian border, and more. They have reached their fundraising goal of \$80,000 and have now raised the goal to \$100,000.

To read the details of what he's doing and how organized he is, and to donate if you choose, you can go here: <http://spot.fund/fw6GKJ>

Contact Toni for any additional information.

## **Second Annual CMC Spring Plant Sale!**

Are you ready to fill your garden beds with beautiful plants again this year? It's time for our Second Annual CMC Spring Plant Sale. As you know, the plants are beautiful, hearty, and reasonably priced, provided by Walnut Springs Nursery. They will arrive in time for Mother's Day, and half of each purchase price goes to Channing.

- Order plants by Sunday, April 3 and pick them up at the church office on Saturday, April 30.
- Pickup will be outside and socially distanced at the Park Avenue church office parking lot, 3677 Park Avenue, Ellicott City, Maryland.
- Read through the catalog (located in a PDF attachment to the all-church email that transmitted this newsletter) to make your choices (please note that there are a few plants in the catalog that aren't on the order form - they are not available at this time).
  - ◇ Fill out the order form (also attached as a PDF to the all-church email) and return to Mike L./Colleen R. on or before April 3.
  - ◇ Include a check payable to Channing Memorial Church.
  - ◇ Please make sure to provide all contact information at the top of the form.
  - ◇ All plants (except pots) need to be purchased in flats of a single variety and color. If a flat is too much, split it with a friend!
  - ◇ Please feel free to circulate this information far and wide!

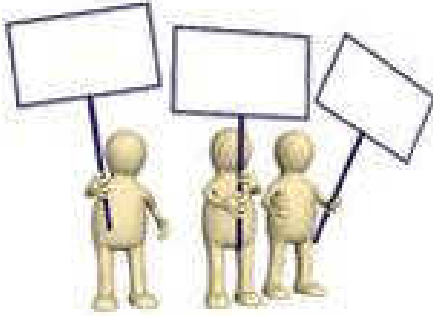


Thanks and happy planting!

*Mike L. and Colleen R.*



### Social Justice Advocacy



The Maryland General Assembly is now in session and will consider several bills that reflect our UU values regarding immigrants' rights, climate change, criminal justice reform and medical aid in dying. You are encouraged, during the session, to advocate for these bills. Watch for email messages that will ask you to contact your legislators. For information about the bills visit [www.uulmmd.org](http://www.uulmmd.org). For information about Channing social justice advocacy, visit our Channing Justice website - <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice> or contact Jim C.

### Channing Book Club



**Saturday, April 9:**

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

The book is available on Amazon and through other online vendors. Local libraries have copies, though at Howard County and Baltimore County there is an extended wait for hard copies as well as for electronic versions on "Libby".

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.

## Thank You for Drain Sponsorship

Many thanks to all who contributed to the special collection to sponsor two drains with EcoWorks. We have gotten a public shout out on social media and on their website- complete with a link to our church's website!

Many thanks to Kris T. and Nancy H. for volunteering to help with the drains.

To see where our drains are, click on the map on the bottom of their website.

Check it out: <https://www.howardcoworks.org/adopt-a-drain>

--Julie

## SoulCollage

Each month the SoulCollage® group spends an afternoon letting our intuition and imagination guide us to select images from magazines, creating collage cards with those images, and then reflecting on what spiritual and life lessons our created cards have to give us. SoulCollage® is a creative but not artistic activity that is accessible to everyone! If you're curious to try out SoulCollage®, contact Kris T. We would love to have you join us! (Online – Next on **Saturday April 30 1:30-4:30pm**)





# April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Membership Team Mtg. 2:00 pm Outreach Committee 6:00-7:00 pm	<b>2</b> Ramadan begins at sundown
<b>3</b> Worship Service 10:30-11:30am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm	<b>6</b> Space Search Team Mtg. 5:00-6:00 pm Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	<b>7</b> Men's Group 10 am-12:00 pm	<b>8</b> Covenant Circle 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Worship Team Mtg. 1:30-3:00 pm	<b>9</b> Channing Book Club 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
<b>10</b> Worship Service 10:30-11:30am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm LDNC Mtg. 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	<b>13</b> Stewardship Committee 7:00-8:00 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Soul Matters - All Ages 10:30 am - 12:00 pm outdoors at Park Ave. Good Friday Passover begins at sundown	<b>16</b> Men's Group 10 am-12:00 pm
<b>17</b> Worship Service 10:00-11:00am Easter	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	<b>20</b> Soul Matters - Young Adults 7:00 - 8:30 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Covenant Circle 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Earth Day	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship Service 10:00-11:00am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	<b>27</b> Soul Matters - All Ages 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> SoulCollage 1:30-4:30 pm

Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
3677 Park Avenue  
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On the web:  
[www.ChanningMC.org](http://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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