



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation**



Wayside Pulpit

Goodness is the only investment that never fails.

—Henry David Thoreau

President's Column



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce that we have reached an agreement with Epiphany Lutheran Church for a one-year lease beginning on April 1, 2023. The agreement includes using the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and the rest of the premises on Sundays

and one evening during the week. We look forward to our association with Epiphany Lutheran Church and the opportunities that having a consistent and reliable meeting place will allow.

Both congregations have expressed an interest in renewing our lease for a longer term in the future and are committed to having regular times for communication to build on the already good rapport that has been established. As we move through the year and continue to evaluate the suitability of this partnership, we will be able to explore the possibilities of renting the building for uses other than worship and perhaps partnering with Epiphany on activities and programs. During this year, we will continue to rent our space at Park Avenue and use it as we presently do.

When considering whether renting at Epiphany Lutheran was a good match for us, the number one concern identified in the congregational survey and in conversation was its accessibility limitations, with the lack of an ADA-compliant restroom topping the list. With this in mind, our two congregations have committed to working together to get an accessible bathroom in the building. The planning and implementation of this project will begin as soon as possible. Our expressed desire is to have it completed during the term of this year's lease.

This is a very exciting time for our church! Our new home will allow us to focus more energy and attention on our mission and vision and the work needed to bring them to life. Just being able to leave things in one place from one Sunday to the next will be a relief for the teams who orchestrate our

(continued on page 2)

President's's Column - continued from page 1)

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 May 2023 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 23, 2023.**

worship services! A permanent space will allow us to more easily develop a solid multi-platform worship experience and provide a meaningful, connected time for all our members and friends. It will be a pleasure to sing hymns, listen to sermons, meditate, and pray in a beautiful sanctuary with great acoustics. Having space for children's activities opens the door to developing new religious education programming for our young people. Visitors interested in exploring Unitarian Universalism and what our church offers will know where to find us. And we won't have to rush out of the Fellowship Hall at the end of coffee hour.

As is true with all transitions, adjusting to our new space will take some getting used to. The details of Sunday morning worship and fellowship time will remain the same, but how they are implemented will differ. The Worship and the Worship-support teams have already been hard at work managing the particulars of getting things to run smoothly for us. In the weeks ahead, additional needs will arise as we settle into the rhythms and routines of using a new space.

Along with these new needs will come new opportunities to connect more deeply with our mission and vision and each other in a hands-on way. Volunteers will be looking for volunteers to help with various things, some of which will involve short-term commitments and others more in-depth engagement. It is important to realize that there are no unimportant tasks. Every request for help that will be made will be done to fill an existing need—something that must be done by someone. When you say yes, you will be part of building the future of our church. Along the way, you may meet new people, deepen relationships with those you already know, find pleasure in sharing your time and talents, and maybe even find yourself pleased to have stretched outside your comfort zone. Most of all, your efforts will be directly responsible for helping to create a welcoming, supporting, and caring community.

So, welcome home, everyone!

All my best,

Kris

Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

The world of nature within and beyond our homes and neighborhoods is coming to life. The cool breeze touching our faces is no longer paired with frozen silence but with the sounds of distant bird songs and the croaking of frogs. Stretches of grass are no longer cracked and brown but budding with greens and yellows and purples. In this transition between winter and spring, I am reminded of a poem by David Whyte,

Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet
confinement of your aloneness
to learn
anything or anyone
that does not bring you alive
is too small for you.

I invite us to view this past winter - each dark and quiet winter - as our “sweet confinement of ... aloneness.” May we welcome each spring as a time to reflect upon and to rid ourselves of that which has become too small. If this winter we have noticed judgements or criticisms within us, may we let it go. If we found fear, anger, resentment, may we let it go.

And yet I hope we found in this “sweet confinement” of winter those things that do bring us alive. Traversing our worship journey this winter, we joined in sacred time and space to explore the themes of change, wonder, and love. What have you garnered from this holy time as you gathered, weekly, with your faith community? Together in March, we explored beautiful transience, and I invite you to reflect on this transience as the flowers of spring begin to bloom. There is no greater reminder of the impermanence and brevity of life than the cycles of nature. So, release that which is too small and grab on to that which nurtures your fleeting, all-too-short life.

I remind us, too, that winter is a time for germination. A time when we plant seeds and tend to them in hopes that they blossom in the months to come. Together, we planted into the earth of our hearts our dreams and wishes of the future of our church. We tended to them, offering those spiritual practices of love, gratitude, and generosity. And what many of us have wished for has come to fruition as we settle into a new church home - a blessing and a gift. And something to be tended to. Our church community and our brick-and-mortar church home need to be nurtured through your contributions of treasure as well as of time and talent - we rely on the work and dedication of volunteers. You each know the special, unique gifts you have to offer, and we welcome those much-needed gifts with open arms! You each have something important to offer this community.

So, as we emerge from the sweet confinements of winter, may we release ourselves of that which is too small for us - that which has been lingering in our hearts and souls. May we note the sacred transience of life and hold onto those things that enrich it. And in those life-giving reflections, may we take time to pause and appreciate this precious community and

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(Minister's Column - continued from page 3)

all that it has to offer. As a sacred, interdependent faith community, we are in need of the special, holy, and unique gift of each one of our beloved members and friends. In order to tend to that which gives us life, we are called to volunteer our time and talent - each one of us. Together, let us help our church thrive!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

About Our Worship Services

Our worship services are held in person at Epiphany Lutheran Church, beginning at 11:00 am. In addition, we are now experimenting on providing a live-stream of the service on Zoom.

For those gathering in-person:

*****Please note that, since the Covid risk level in our area is "low" at this time, **masks and distancing are optional, except while singing, when masks are required.*******

For those gathering online:

***** NEW!!! We are now providing a live-stream of the in-person worship service, starting at 11:00 a.m.*****

If you're unable to make it to the service at Epiphany Lutheran Church, please join us on Zoom. This new effort is currently in an experimental phase. Implementation may not be perfect at this time, but we have a team dedicated to providing and refining multi-platform worship, and they would love your feedback on the Zoom service. You're invited to contact the team with any input you have at: Zoom@channingmc.org.

Board Bits



On March 2nd the Board voted unanimously to move forward with negotiation of a one-year lease for Sunday services at Epiphany Lutheran church. Negotiations are ongoing.

As of the Board Meeting on March 21st, 24 total pledges were received totaling \$130,030, which is 79% of our goal. Go Channing!

A new multi-platform team has formed to work on livestreaming Sunday services at Epiphany. Dan V., Sheri T., and Chris L. have stepped up to be on this team. They will livestream the service on Sunday, March 26th and the Board and team will accept feedback on the experience.

The Council on Committees will resume meetings soon. Committee leaders: be on the lookout for an email from Kris!

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of February 28, 2023

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 154,714
Total Operating Expense	<u>-105,944</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 48,770</u>



CANVASS UPDATE

As of March 26, 2023, Channing Memorial Church UU has received 28 Operating Fund pledges for the 2023-24 church year totaling \$144,190. Just \$20,810 in additional pledges are needed to meet our goal of \$165,000.

The Language We Use **April 8 1-2pm**

During my time in seminary and as a student of anthropology, I learned the importance of language in any culture. *What we say and how we say it matters.* And, sometimes, it's hard to know what to say or how to say it! So, let's explore language together.

I believe any conversation about language needs to be framed in an understanding of microaggressions - commonplace slights that hurt marginalized groups. I'll explore this in greater detail when we meet.

This month, I have chosen two topics to explore: pronouns and ableism. We may have questions such as, what do "they/them" single person pronouns mean, and how can I use them correctly? Or, why do we say our pronouns when we introduce ourselves in worship? Or, how can being aware of physical ability or disability impact the words and phrases that I use?

Let's join together, watch some short videos, and have a conversation.

I would be delighted to continue this series with any other language questions folks might have. Just let me know!

Please RSVP and let me know if you prefer to meet in-person or on Zoom.

Rev. Jane

Wisdom Tales

**First Tuesday of the month, beginning April 4
Held at 11 am**

(This is a trial run! Rev. Jane will continue to host or not depending on participation)

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.

Lectio Divina

Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 7-8pm we join together for a practice of Lectio Divina.

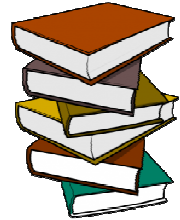
This ancient practice allows us the opportunity to delve deep into a chosen text. Each gathering we will focus on one poem. We will read through the selected text several times, with a different focus on every read-through. After each read through, will pause for several minutes of silent reflection, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection.

Channing Book Club

We normally meet on the second Saturday of the month.

Fiction for April:

Saturday, April 8 at 10 a.m. With an assist from the weather, we'll meet outside at Park Ave. Otherwise, zoom.



Amy and Isabelle by well known and respected American novelist Elizabeth Strout.

[Amy and Isabelle — Elizabeth Strout](#)

*“In her stunning first novel, **Amy and Isabelle**, Elizabeth Strout evokes a teenager's alienation from her distant mother—and a parent's rage at the discovery of her daughter's sexual secrets. In most ways, Isabelle and Amy are like any mother and her 16-year-old daughter, a fierce mix of love and loathing exchanged in their every glance. And eating, sleeping, and working side by side in the gossip-ridden mill town of Shirley Falls doesn't help matters.”*

From www.elizabethstrout.com

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.

We look forward to good fiction in April or May. Anyone have a suggestion? Ideas are needed and welcome.

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.

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!

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.

Ongoing Work with Article II

Dear Channing members and friends,

Our denomination is currently revising Article II, the bylaws of our faith. This section of the bylaws represents the covenant that all our congregations and communities commit to. You may be particularly familiar with the sections that include our Seven Principles and our Six Sources. This is a significant change within our larger faith and deserving of reflection and conversation. Angela and Rev. Jane enjoyed last month's preliminary discussion. Since then, a team has been established to continue to guide us through discussion and lead us in action steps. Watch your email for upcoming invitations to small group conversations. We strongly encourage each of you to join us. We are excited to be on this journey with you!

If you are interested in further information about the timeline and process of amendment consideration, go to this link: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/timeline>

Here are the main highlights:

- Anyone interested in proposing an amendment to be considered for priority should submit their suggested amendment idea through the Article II Amendment form, which will be live on the Article II Study main page starting April 1st. <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>
- In May, the Board (ModSquad) will host three amendment discussion workshops, which will be open to anyone.
- In June, after the final agenda is published and the delegate platform is open, delegates may submit amendments (limit 1 per delegate).

Warmly,

Angela, Paula, Ostara, and Rev. Jane

Snack Squadders Needed!



We're back in person and need to be fed. Can you join us and be a Squadder? Sign up below to bring 2-3 plates of food (low-effort is fine) for our after-service coffee hour. [We are all signed up through the end of March at this time. Thanks to all, and watch for the April sign up]

Here's the link:

[SNACKS](#) Use access code: Eat.

Any questions, contact Cathy F.

Thank you!

Cathy

Check Out What's new On Channing's Website and Facebook Page

I'm often asked how people can find out more about Channing or about how to explain to others what our spiritual community is all about.

Well, you could try to describe everything about Channing to everybody all by yourself. OR,

you could tell people how to find out more about Channing by going to our website at www.channingmc.org or by looking us up on Facebook at Channing Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist.

- If you haven't visited Channing's website recently, take a few minutes to scroll through the links at the top of our homepage.
- In the blue banner at the top, find out more about Channing by clicking on the Welcome, Worship, Community, Learning, and News links.
- Under the News link, you can find our List of Upcoming Events, Event Calendar, and recent issues of *The Channing Connection* newsletters. To find these links on your mobile phone, click on the three bars in the center of the blue banner.
- Also on the blue banner at the top of our website, to the right of "Donate," you can click on links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel, where you can watch recent recorded sermons.

On our homepage, we have lots of great information about Channing, including an invitation to join our community and a brief summary of the upcoming sermon.

Channing also has a Facebook page which you can find under "Channing Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist," which is now being regularly updated.

Do you have any fun pictures or news about Channing that you'd like to share on our Facebook page? Please send them to Sheri.

Thanks to Eric Smith for his work on Channing's website, and to ken Hart for sending out our weekly email blasts and updating our website.

Sheri

Help Spread the Word About Channing

We all know how wonderful Channing Memorial Church is, with our dynamic minister, spiritual and inspiring worship services, the many spiritual exploration programs and classes, our expanding social justice work, and the warm, friendly and supportive members and friends of this congregation, Channing is a special and unique place. If you, like us, would like the world to know more about Channing and what we offer, below is an easy way to help spread the word.

There are several websites that encourage people to leave comments or reviews specifically about Channing Memorial Church:

- Our own Channing Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ChanningMemorialChurch/>) allows comments and likes. We can definitely use more.
- Channing's Google page appears when you google "Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist." It permits reviews. Unfortunately, most of the Channing reviews are 4-8 years old. Let's update them.
- Yelp is a business-oriented site that includes basic information about businesses, but also includes churches. It encourages reviews. So far, there is only one review for Channing. The Channing site can be reached by googling "Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist" and searching through the listings for our Yelp page.

Outreach Team (Evelyn G., Ken G., Ken K.)

Men's Group

Thursday, April 6 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.

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship Service at Epiphany Lutheran 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	3	4 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 -4:00 pm Wisdom Tales 11:00 am	5 Space Search Mtg. 5:00-6:00 pm Young Adults Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm PASSOVER	6 Men's Group 10:00 am -12:00 pm	7 Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Comm. Mtg. 6:00-7:00 pm	8 Book Club 10:00 am "The Language We Use" Discussion 1:00 - 2:00 pm
9 Worship Service at Epiphany Lutheran 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EASTER	10	11 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm LDNC Mtg. 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	12 Stewardship Comm. Mtg. 7:00-8:00 pm	13	14 Worship Team Mtg. 1:30-3:00 pm	15
16 Worship Service at Epiphany Lutheran 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	17	18 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 -4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	19 Young Adult Small Group 7:00-9:00 pm	20	21	22
23 Worship Service at Epiphany Lutheran 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	24	25 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 -4:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	26	27	28	29
30 Worship Service at Epiphany Lutheran 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	31					

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.

Directions to Epiphany 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 to Epiphany 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.