



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 33, Issue 4

April 2026

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We are a Welcoming
Congregation

Wayside Pulpit

The middle way, the fine line. . .
Of course, we are incapable of
holding to it, but that is the
guiding principle that I must
learn to recognize. I must al-
ways be close to that attitude,
and not let myself be influenced
by the highs and the lows — all
these diverse movements.

- Michel Conge

Minister's Musings

Dear Channing Members and Friends,



I woke up this morning, as I do every morning,
and scrolled through the news. The headlines
were filled with words of violence, war, and ter-
ror. Images showed devastated cities and broken
people. Angry politicians spewing words of hate.
I ate my yogurt carrying the weight of the world.
And then I went to work.

I opened an email sharing the joys and concerns of our beloveds on
Zoom. I received a text about making crafts with the church chil-
dren. I opened my journal to prepare for that evening's meditation
class. In those small, sacred moments, I was reminded of the beauty
of our community—how we show up for those among us who are
struggling and those who are celebrating. How we travel together in
our spiritual journeys. And I knew, in that moment, that we will
make it through these broken times together.

We need one another. In times of hope and celebration, we need
one another. In times of fear, sorrow, anger, and uncertainty, we
need one another. This is why we gather in Beloved Community,
rooted in shared values and common purpose. This day, and every
day, we need the community of Channing Memorial Church.

We are a covenantal faith. To engage with this church is to enter
into covenant with Unitarian Universalism, committing ourselves
to justice, equity, pluralism, and love. It is a promise to participate
in a shared faith devoted to healing our broken and beautiful world.
When you join this congregation, you covenant to belong to a com-
munity of shared mission and shared values. We are spiritual so-
journers, journeying together, learning from one another's stories
and experiences.

Let us pause to remember our interdependence—the web that con-

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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 May 2026 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2025.**

Continued from page 1

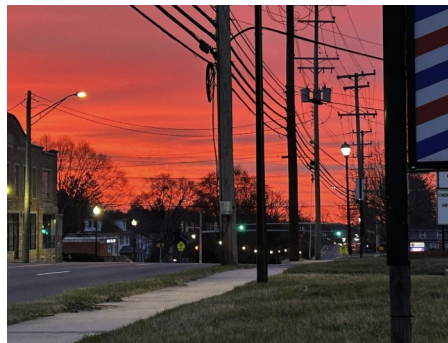
nects us to every living being. We are woven into the beauty of the world, and we are woven into suffering. When one human being suffers, we all suffer. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We witness so much pain in our time, and it weighs heavily on our hearts. That is why we lean on one another during difficult times. That is why we join in covenant - binding us together through both joy and hardship.

Together we sustain hope. Together we nurture faith in our shared humanity. Together we cultivate resilience. When the world feels broken, we gather in community. For this is our covenant: to care for one another and to help heal the world.

Together, this is Unitarian Universalism.
Together, this is Channing Memorial Church.

*With love,
Rev. Jane*

President's Column



The day after St. Patrick's Day, I was up before dawn. I decided to go to the grocery store to get a few items. I saw that the sun was rising and the sky was a beautiful magenta, and decided to drive where I could get a good picture with my phone camera. It was so beautiful - I was in awe. After I took my picture, I waited for traffic on Liberty Road so I could merge in, and wondered if everyone else was enjoying the gift we were all receiving. I wonder how often we miss the

beauty around us every day because we are too busy or too distracted by "life"?

I really am inspired this spring to soak in the joy of new plant growth and the warmer temperatures. I have planted tomato, basil, and broccoli seeds and am growing them inside for now. I also enjoy the bird song I hear so much louder now. Lastly, I am energized by my dog's joy at being able to play and walk with me outside now that it is warmer.

I hope you all can enjoy the joy and renewal that this season brings.

*With Love,
Angela*

Moving toward our Canvass Goal for

Steps toward Moving Forward Together				
Church year 2026/27				
GOAL: \$175,000 43 PLEDGES				
Week 4				\$167,564 28 pledges
Week 3			\$143,764 24 pledges	
Week 2		\$58,704 10 pledges		
Week 1	\$52,204 8 pledges			



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 F.*

An invitation to a ritual of hope



Easter is an ancient story of profound and enduring hope. The holiday reminds us that suffering and loss need not be the end of the story, but the beginning. Even from profound devastation, something new - something sacred - can emerge. As we see the newly budding trees and the first crocuses of the season, we see the promise of life after death. The earth, once crusty brown, is now an array of greens and whites. I cannot help but draw the parallel between the new life of spring and the Easter story.

Let us join to celebrate this transformation with ritual. I invite each of you to create a flower and bring it with you to church. Perhaps tissue paper, pipe cleaners, watercolors, or colored pencils inspires you and your creation! Just as the flowers in our gardens emerge from the earth full of new life, so too will your creations this Easter Sunday—each one a visual of hope, beauty, and possibility.

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 on April 16: *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout.

For June: *Somebody's Fool* by Richard Russo

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...



April 1st begins year three of our five year lease with Epiphany Lutheran Church. Our contract states that ELC may increase our rental rate each year by a percentage not exceeding the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers over the prior year. ELC did not increase our rent last year. This coming year our rental rate is increasing by 2.7%, an additional \$62/month. (The new rent will be \$2,362/month. Additionally, we pay \$195 for cleaning and \$37 for internet per month, for a monthly total of \$2,594.)

Our Corporate Square office space lease also begins its third year on April 1st. (This is year three of three.) Our office rent will increase by approximately 3%, in accordance with the terms of our lease.

The Board of Trustees is planning a Board Retreat for Saturday, April 11th.

Dear Channing Members and Friends,

During my sabbatical, I delved deeply into the teachings of Buddhism. One book that stood out as especially meaningful and applicable was *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pema Chödrön. Chödrön, an ordained Tibetan Buddhist nun, offers insightful guidance for navigating life’s inevitable challenges.

Drawing from the ancient wisdom of her faith tradition, she teaches that patterns of suffering and negativity can transform into pathways to “ease and boundless joy.” By moving toward painful situations—not away from them—we begin to open our hearts and tend to our minds with compassion.

I invite you to join me in a **book discussion held April 11 from 1:30- 3pm at the church office. Please RSVP by Friday, April 3.**

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Stewardship update
Year-to-date as of February 28, 2026

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 149,592
Total Operating Expense	<u>-125,320</u>
Difference	\$ 24,272



Men's Group

Friday, April 17 (10 - 11:30 am)



The April 17 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 Xennials, 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!



Casey Cares Pajama Party

Pajama collection on Easter Sunday, April 5

Casey Cares is a non profit organization that was started locally in Maryland. They support families with critically ill children. They help keep spirits high by arranging programming, sporting events and other activities that create memories for families with critically ill children. In April they are sponsoring a "pajama party" and will be providing critically ill children with new pajamas and a "pajama night" gift bag.

They have requested pajamas of all sizes including adults. They have asked for the pajamas to be 2 piece sets. Only new pajamas please.

Please bring PJ's on Easter Sunday and show our love and support. Questions to Cindy Williams.

Channing Open House

April 26



What do you love about Channing Memorial Church? Isn't it time to share what Channing means to us with family, friends and like-hearted people? Channing will hold an Open House on Sunday, April 26. In addition to our regular service, led by Rev. Jane, and an anthem by the choir, we will have a special coffee hour which will provide opportunities for questions and answers. The best way to invite a friend is to speak from the heart about what Channing Memorial Church means to you.

Help Make Blessing Bags

Saturday April 18 at 1pm Fellowship Hall at Epiphany Lutheran Church

As a community committed to compassion and justice, the Channing Justice in Action Circle (JAC) would like to invite you to contribute to a meaningful project that will support our unhoused neighbors. We are collecting items for blessing bags—small care packages filled with essential supplies such as toiletries, socks, non-perishable food, and warm clothing—that will be distributed to those in need. Your generous donations will provide a simple but profound way to offer comfort and dignity to individuals who are facing hardship.

And join the Justice in Action Circle on **April 18 at 1pm** in the Fellowship Hall at church to help assemble the bags.



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Passover Begins	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm Good Friday	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Easter	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Meditation w/ Rev. Jane 7:00-7:30 pm	<i>8</i> Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Covenant Circle 9:30 am Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm Outreach Outreach Team 6:00 pm	<i>11</i> Pema Chödrön Book discussion 1:30-3:00 pm
<i>12</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:15 - 1:15 pm	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	<i>15</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>16</i> Channing Book Club	<i>17</i> Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Bagel Bin Channing Game Night 6:00-9:00 pm Vernal Equinox	<i>18</i> Help Make Blessing Bags 1:00 pm
<i>19</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>22</i> Earth Day	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Channing Open House Choir Practice	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		

**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.