

Minister

Reverend Jane Smith

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President:

Julie Fitzer ('20)

Vice President: Maureen Hayes ('20)

Treasurer: Evelyn Grim ('21)

Secretary: Kathleen Razmus ('21)

Trustees:

Ken Hart ('20)
Colleen Rathbun ('21)

Newsletter Editors:

Cathy Fu
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

Send submittals for the June issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, 2020.**

(Minister's column, continued from page 1)
appreciation for those small things, like a funny joke or a cool breeze. We can take time to reconnect with folks from our past, folks we perhaps hadn't thought about for some time. We can fully appreciate the joy of gardening or the creative release in crafting or writing. In our pause, we are adjusting to a new way of living and anticipating a new normal. We miss so many things that were until recently so simple and common. Let us notice and appreciate all that we still have, and revel in the beauty and joy that we can continue to grasp onto.

Warmly, *Rev. Jane*

Soul Matters for May



Our Theme for May is Thresholds.

Often we focus on the destination and not the transition; we do not focus on that in-between space. Yet so much happens on the in-between! We often need to pay attention to the transition – the threshold – itself. Whatever we experience changes our hearts and minds; after any transition we are never the same. Joseph B. Wirthlin writes, "Those who stand at the threshold of life always waiting for the right time to change are like the person who stands at the bank of a river waiting for the water to pass so they can cross on dry land." There may never be a "right time" to change or to enter that threshold, yet we need boldly move ahead. Once we take that step, let us pause to honor and thrive in the in-between.

To sign-up for the young adult group (20s, 30s, 40s):

Wednesday, May 20, 7-9pm
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young4>

To sign-up for groups of all ages:

Saturday, May 16, 2:30-4:30pm
Saturday, May 23, 2:30-4:30pm
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-small8>

President's Column



I write this column with gratitude to our community for stepping into a "new normal" so bravely. We have shifted our activities online, and have experimented with online small group discussions and game nights. The worship leaders, staff, and technology team have all learned new systems quickly.

On the board, we are also adjusting to a new normal. The annual canvass is being wrapped up; look for more details from the treasurer at the Annual Meeting.

We continue to work on setting up a space search, while acknowledging that our plans may need to be flexible based on how the upcoming months go. We have, with the blessing of our incoming president, postponed the remainder of the bylaws review and any recommendations for the annual meeting to next year.

Maureen H. did an amazing job summarizing our Cottage Meetings data. Look for a summary report in the Annual Meeting packet coming out in early May.

We will continue to hold worship services and meetings online until further notice. The board will monitor health department and UUA guidance. While we do want to meet again in person as soon as we can, we have an obligation to do so responsibly. It may be the case for a period of time that we can hold smaller meetings with precautions in place, but not larger services until a later time. We will meet as a board to discuss changes as needed.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed to the fUUnZine in the past month and a half. My goal was to provide a place where we could get some relief from this stressful time, while we were going through some of the initial stages of shock and grief. It looks like I may be resuming some work in May, and our shut down has extended longer than we anticipated. I also am taking on some other projects. For these reasons, I will need to step back a little. The last issue of the fUUnZine will be on May 4. However, you may see some efforts in the newsletter to also provide some fun interaction opportunities.

If anyone has any ideas or would like to coordinate something new, please reach out to me or to the communications team. Anyone is welcome to submit columns to the newsletter by emailing newsshare@channingmc.org; the deadline is the Sunday after that month's board meeting.

-Julie



Mask + Hearing Aids = Caution

If you wear masks with hearing aids, be very careful when you take your mask off. Many people are losing their hearing aids because they don't pay attention when they take their masks off.

— Julie

Stewardship Corner



Canvass update

Our annual pledge campaign “officially” ended at the end of March, with an undefined extension into April due to Stewardship Sunday falling on the first day our worship services were held via Zoom. Thank you to all of you who have made a financial commitment for fiscal year 7/1/20 – 6/30/21 in these uncertain times. Presently, we have received \$116,962 in pledges, which is short of our goal of \$135,000. The good news is that this includes over \$10,000 in new pledges and pledge increases, which means we will be able to draw on our entire Match Fund of \$9,400. The Board and Stewardship Team have made phone calls to members who have not yet pledged, but if we missed you, please phone Treasurer Evelyn Grim. My phone number is listed in the Channing directory. We will, of course, accept new pledges at any time, but our budget for next year can only reflect pledge income from pledges we have in hand. If you are anticipating financial difficulties due to the current economic downturn, please reach out to Rev. Jane.

Pledge statements

Quarterly pledge statements have been delayed because I am spending less time in the church office these days and the finance team has had some unanticipated new tasks in April. My goal is to send contribution statements the first week in May to include all contributions (pledged and donated) through April, including PayPal contributions.

Reminders

If you have incurred expenses on behalf of the church, please submit requests for reimbursement as soon as you can. Cathy F. and I are still going into the office about once a week (not at the same time). Bills still need to be paid. We will accept requests by email to treasurer@channingmc.org. Attach receipts if you can; otherwise, mail them to the Park Ave. office. You don't have to complete an “official” reimbursement request as long as it is clear what the expense is for and who needs to be paid.

If you lead a committee or team that will need to spend money next fiscal year, please send a budget request to me as soon as possible. The Board and Stewardship Team are currently drafting the preliminary budget for fiscal year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

—*Evelyn Grim*, Treasurer

	Stewardship Update
	<u>March Year to Date</u>
Total Operating Income	\$129,875
Total Operating Expenses	\$121,058
Difference	\$8,817

Annual Meeting is Nigh



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 am. Most likely, it will be held online via Zoom. Details on how to participate will be sent in early May. A packet will be emailed to you in early May with the agenda and various documents to review.

Agenda items and documents will include

- Approve last annual meeting minutes
- Receive annual report and church plan from board
- State of the congregation report from president
- Discuss board's budget for 2020-2021
- LDNC presentation of nominees
- Elect trustees and LDNC members for 2020-2021
- Summary of the cottage meeting discussions

Below is the slate put forth by the LDNC (Leadership Development and Nominating Committee), Dan V. and David F.

The LDNC is proud to present our 2020-2021 slate of candidates:

<u>Position</u>	<u>2020-2021 Slate</u>
President	David F.
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Evelyn G.
Secretary	Kathleen R.
At Large Trustee, Odd Year	Mel C.
At Large Trustee, Even Year	Colleen R.
At Large Trustee, Even Year	Patrick B.

LDNC Slot 1	Maureen H.
LDNC Slot 2	Dan V.
LDNC Slot 3	Lynne S.

Nominees are bolded. Non-bolded names are for those continuing in the second year of their term.

Channing Book Club Has A New Read



We have selected *If We Can Keep It: How the Republic Collapsed and How It Might be Saved* by Michael Tomasky

Quoted from Amazon: *Tomasky ranges across centuries and disciplines to show how America has almost always had two dominant parties that are existentially, and often violently, opposed. When he turns to our current era, he does so with striking insight that will challenge readers to reexamine what they thought they knew. Finally, not content merely to diagnose these problems, Tomasky offers a provocative agenda for how we can help fix our broken political system—from ranked-choice voting and at-large congressional elections to expanding high school civics education nationwide.*

We invite everyone to be a part of this group. The discussion will be on **Thursday, June 11 at 10 am.** Location TBA.

— Ken H.



Dear Channing Members and Friends,

As we hold each other in these uncertain times, I need to alert you all that there has been an increase in email scams lately. Scammers have been creating emails from addresses that are similar to mine and emailing out unusual requests. Please beware of any emails that sound unusual that claim to be from me. If something feels off, please delete and reach out to me directly if you have any questions. Do not click on any links that you are not sure of. Do not reply for any reason to a questionable email.

Know that I will never send out an email asking for money. Any email with a request for money is a scam.

We have a team working to keep our emails as secure as possible and we are monitoring the situation closely. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Music Corner



Want to listen to some music this month? Some YouTube finds...

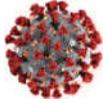
"Wake Now My Senses" - YouTube artist
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQDka_vN2Ns

"There is A Love" -
First UU Baltimore virtual choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfrO3O3dIyI>

—Julie

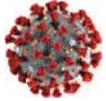
Covid-19 Haiku Challenge Winners

Thanks to all who participated in last month's haiku challenge, either by submitting a haiku or voting. Here are the results!



First place, Pam E.

Asked to stay home now
Opportunities abound
Just want to do naught



Second place, Cathy F.

Yikes, itch on forehead
Don't touch your face! Don't do it.
Coronavirus.

— Cathy Fu



Book Bingo May 15!

Join Julie and friends for a rollicking good time playing book bingo! We'll have 10 rounds and room for chat break times, too. Winners will choose from the list of prizes (used books!). Get your dauber ready...

RSVP to the signup by May 13
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ABAE22A7F94-bingo>

Changing Procedures

We have implemented procedures in Zoom to better secure our sessions from unauthorized access by others.

- When you enter a Zoom room, you may see a screen that says, "Please wait, the meeting host will let you in." Meeting hosts will manually let you into the meeting.
- Some features may be disabled at the start, such as screen sharing. The host of the meeting will have to enable these controls for participants to use them.
- Zoom IDs to use for access to online sessions will not be posted on the online church calendar. If you need or have lost an ID for a meeting, please reach out to Julie or Ken H. If you know of someone who is new to our online sessions, we'd appreciate knowing in advance of their name, last 4 of the phone number, and email address.
- If Zoom asks if you want to go ahead and update your Zoom app, please do so. We expect security improvements and fixes to be available in this way.
- Channing Zoom hosts are able to remove unauthorized users from a meeting should that become necessary.
- Channing does not and will not record online sessions-audio, video or chat. You will be informed in advance if any recording is ever considered.

Please be patient with your hosts and church volunteers as we iron out new processes.

— Ken H.



Board Bits

The board met for the April meeting via Zoom. The board discussed the following:

- We will continue to hold services and meetings online until further notice. The board will continue to monitor health department and UUA guidance on when in-person worship and/or meetings may resume.
- Board will have a special work session on May 2 to finalize the annual report and gather space search parameters.
- Annual meeting logistics
- Received the LDNC slate for board trustees and LDNC members.
- Status of our current pledge drive
- Summarized our cottage meeting report findings and will share these with the congregation

-Julie

Breezy Willow Food Drive



Breezy Willow Country Market is starting to collect non-perishable food items for donation. If you are able to make a donation, it will be much appreciated.

Drop off is at Breezy Willow Country Market, 9090 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, 21042. They are open Thursday through Sunday, 10 am to 6pm.
www.breezywillowfarm.com

Westside Shelter Appeal – Sunday May 3



On Sunday, May 3 we will take a special collection for our Westside Shelter effort. Because the pandemic prohibits our shopping for and delivering food to the shelter, we instead plan to donate monthly to the Community Assistance Network (CAN), the Baltimore non-profit that runs not only the Westside Men's Shelter but also a food pantry and the Eastside Family Shelter. They are in desperate need for additional funds right now. To see what CAN is currently doing, check out their Facebook Page.

Our Westside Shelter fund is running low, with only enough left for a couple months. We know many at Channing may be facing serious financial challenges now, but if you are able would donate to this effort, it will replenish the fund and allow us to continue our monthly assistance during these dark days. You can send a check to the Park Avenue address (please write "Westside Shelter" in the memo line) or pay by credit card on our website— there is a PayPal button under "Donate" on the homepage. Please specify Westside Shelter Appeal in the comments area on the screen. Thank you all so much.

The W.S. Team: *Diana, Nancy, Steve and Joe*

So... what have you been doing during the pandemic?



J.L. and Charlie H: "We have the Paths!"



Jigsaw puzzle for Cathy and David F.



Evan S. (Holly V's boyfriend) discovered that getting to the last log to be split, can be a real bummer! But what to do?



Find the nearest dead oak



Problem solved!

Weekly Opportunities for Connection

Sundays

Church service at 10 am.

Tuesdays

1—4 pm Minister's Drop In Office Hours

4 -5 pm Spiritual Coffee Hour

Wednesdays

6—7 pm Joys and Concerns Candle Lighting

Fridays

11 am—12 noon Spiritual Coffee Hour



All activities by Zoom until further notice. Look for weekly emails with links and info.

Check the calendar on page 10 for more church activities.

May 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i></p>				1 Spiritual Coffee Hour 11 am—12 n	2
3 10 am Sunday Service	4	5 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 4-5 pm Spiritual Coffee Hour (online) Cinco de Mayo	6 Joys and Concerns Candle Lighting 6 pm	7 Men's Group 10 am—12 n	8 Spiritual Coffee Hour 11 am—12 n Choir online chat 7:30 pm	9
10 10 am Sunday Service 	11	12 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 4-5 pm Spiritual Coffee Hour	13 Joys and Concerns Candle Lighting 6 pm	14	15 Spiritual Coffee Hour 11 am—12 n Book Bingo Game Night 7—9 pm	16 Men's Group 10 am—12 n
17 10 am Sunday Service 11:30 Church Annual Meeting	18	19 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 4-5 pm Spiritual Coffee Hour 7 pm Board of Trustees	20 Joys and Concerns Candle Lighting 6 pm	21	22 Spiritual Coffee Hour 11 am—12 n Choir online chat 7:30 pm	23
24 10 am Sunday Service	25 	26 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 4-5 pm Spiritual Coffee Hour	27 Joys and Concerns Candle Lighting 6 pm	28 Groceries to Westside Shelter	29 Spiritual Coffee Hour 11 am—12 n	30
31						

Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
3677 Park Avenue
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.

Directions to Linden Hall: From the South:

Drive north on Rt. 29 from south of Columbia.
Take Rt. 108 West.
Turn right onto Columbia Road.
Turn right at the first light on Old Annapolis Road.
You will be behind the Dorsey Search Village Center. Take the third entry road on the left (Old Route 108).
The parking lot is immediately on your right. Overflow spaces available at other locations in the Village Center.

From Baltimore:

Take 70W to Rt. 29 south.
Take Rt. 108 West.
Turn right onto Columbia Road.
Turn right at the first light on Old Annapolis Road.
You will be behind the Dorsey Search Village Center. Take the third entry road on the left (Old Route 108).
The parking lot is immediately on your right. Overflow spaces available at other locations in the Village Center.