



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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## We are a Welcoming Congregation!



## Wayside Pulpit

We did not weave the  
web of life: We are  
merely a strand in it.

—Chief Seattle

## May Minister's Column



Each time I go outside the world seems greener and brighter. As I watch the ground and trees transition from brown to green, as the landscape becomes peppered with tiny purple and pink flowers, and as the bushes fill with color and their petals emerge, I cannot help but be grounded in gratitude. And yet my soul is filled with gratitude for more than the beauty and transcendence of nature; I am also grateful for our sacred community. I am grateful for each and every one of you.

So many of our dedicated folks offer their time, talent, and treasure to this community. We are wrapping up our pledge drive, and at this moment we have reached 95% of our goal. We will likely reach 100%. This is wonderful! Our church needs money to survive, and folks are thinking hard about what they can contribute. I offer sincere gratitude for each person who pledged this year. Every bit counts. Thank you.

Not only are we thriving monetarily, but also in maintaining spiritual connection. Due to the pandemic, over a year ago now, we shifted all church to a virtual format, highlighting inclusivity and a dedication to keeping everyone safe. Each committee and team was forced to adjust and to change how things were done. That was hard work. Each and every committee and team accepted this challenge with grace! Everyone took time to learn, grow, and adapt. Amidst all the pain and loss of this past year, we are still here, flourishing! Your hard work has not gone unnoticed. Thank you.

I am grateful to everyone who keeps showing up. This past year has been far from ideal, and I am so proud of this church for the strength and courage to keep on going, not only to survive but to thrive. It is such a blessing to serve such a dedicated, compassionate group of people. Last week in worship we spoke about the art of kintsugi, of fixing broken jars with lacquer mixed with gold. Even though we all faced loss and grief, our community has mended with gold, in many ways more beautiful than before.

Amidst all of this, we are also searching for our next home. The Search Team will send out a survey that I hope each of you can engage with. We have a couple different options ahead  
*Continued on next page*

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Reverend Jane Smith

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Cathy Fu  
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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)*

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Send submittals for the June issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 23, 2021.**

*Minister's Column, continued from page 1*

of us, including sharing space with another church. Following the survey, we will have a congregation-wide discussion. I eagerly anticipate engaging with you all as we begin another chapter in the saga of Channing Memorial Church. Together, as a treasured community, we will find our next home. I am thrilled to be on this important journey together!

No matter where we are, we remain Channing Memorial Church, filled with a wealth of dedicated members and friends. For that, I am truly grateful.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

**Next 8th Principle Discussion on May 2**

For the next 8th Principle Discussion, we will be reading the "Hospitality and Inclusion" section of the "Widening the Circle of Concern" report. Discussion of this reading will take place after the church service on Sunday, May 2nd.

To prepare for this discussion, please read the Introduction section. There is also an audio version at the top of the page if you'd like that to use that option.

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening/introduction>

Be on the lookout for future email notices about this effort.

Thank you!

Angela L. on behalf of the 8th Principle Committee



## President's Column

As I write this on a fine, Spring afternoon, I have a lot of important things to tell you about, so let's dive right in!

First, the Canvass has been a great success. We've raised 95% of our goal, and we'll likely reach 100%. We did it! I am so very heartened by our stepping up and showing both our collective love and our collective commitment to this community that means so much to us as we move into the future -- together.

And speaking of the future, the question of space, both for worship and for all the other functions of our Church, looms large. At this point, there are several possibilities:

- 1) We continue to rent separate spaces for Sunday morning worship and office/storage/ other functions, while saving and raising money for buying a future property.
- 2) We rent unified space from Dickey Memorial Presbyterian Church in Dickeyville, Baltimore, while saving and raising money for buying a future property. There will be a lot of information about this in a congregational survey.
- 3) We quickly conduct a capital campaign to buy an ideal property that is available now. This is hypothetical, but it wasn't just a little while ago. The Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall on Centennial Lane (just south of Frederick Road) was recently up for sale. The Board and Space Team want to gauge the willingness of the Congregation to make this kind of purchase if another opportunity comes up in the near future.

These possibilities are diverse, and the Board and Space Team really want input from the Congregation. To this end, there will be a congregational survey in your email boxes real soon now, and on May 16th after service, we will be having a facilitated congregational meeting to share the results of said survey and to discuss space related issues.

So now we have \*two\* big congregational meetings in May, the space meeting on May 16th and our annual meeting on May 23rd. With respect to the latter, I have an update. The 8th Principle Team wants more time to work through various issues with the Congregation and has requested that the Congregational vote on the 8th Principle be moved to Fall 2021. We will still have a vote on an update to the Bylaws, and you should have received a summary of these changes, with rationales, along with a link to the proposed updated Bylaws in your email.

Last, but not least, the UUA's General Assembly is coming up in June. It will be virtual, and Channing can send up to two delegates. The Church would pay the admission fee, and in return, delegates would attend in good faith and prepare a brief report about their experiences to share with the Congregation. This is a good opportunity to participate in the larger world of Unitarian Universalism, without travel costs! Please contact Reverend Jane or a Board member if you are interested

Phew! I'm just over 500 words, so I'll end here. Thank you for your attention.

Care,  
*David*

## Soul Matters for May: Story



Dear Channing members and friends,

We are each shaped by stories: of our own direct experience, of wisdom from those we love, of experience from trusted strangers, of transcendence found in a novel, or of survival found in our history. Stories help make us more compassionate, teach us lessons, and remind us of our roots. Stories, whether truth or fiction, even fairy tales, are why we are who we are this very day! Neil Gaiman wrote, “Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.” How can stories give us the strength to keep on going, to defeat our dragons? How can we share our own stories, offering our wisdom to the world?

“Story” is our worship theme for May, and the theme for our small groups. These small groups are special because they allow each member to deeply engage with the topic in multiple ways. In preparation for each month’s Small Group, I will send each group member a packet. You are invited to select from this packet one spiritual exercise and one question to reflect on before our meeting together. **While reviewing the packet ahead of time is a great way to prepare for group, please do not let a busy schedule deter you from participating.** Whatever amount of time you are able to dedicate to preparation is just the right amount of time!

I ask that you sign up ahead of time. Please use the link below. Please provide me your email address so that I can send you the packet for you to review. I will also provide all attendees a Zoom link the day of the Small Group. If the slot that you can attend is full, just let me know. We have opened our small groups to the public to share our gifts with the community. Feel free to invite friends. I am excited to explore the topic of Story with you!

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

Wednesday, May 19 7:30-9pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACA2AA1FC1-young14>

All ages:

Saturday, May 22 10-11:30pm

Wednesday, May 26, 6-7:30pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACA2AA1FC1-soul9>

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,

*Rev. Jane*



## Board Bits

The Board approved the 8th Principle Committee charge. The 8th Principle Committee will continue to lead the congregation in working through the proposed principle, looking toward a possible vote on adopting the principle in Fall 2021.

The Board decided to seek interest from the congregation for individuals to serve as delegates to this year's UUA General Assembly. (See page 8 for more information.)

The Stewardship Team reported that we are at 95% of our canvass goal.

The Worship Team briefed the Board on costs and needs associated with offering online/in-person hybrid worship once in-person worship becomes viable.

Rev. Jane reported that the Worship Team is working with Cedarhurst UU Fellowship to share some virtual worship services over the summer.

The Space Team reported on the space search. At this time, in-person worship space is difficult to find due to COVID-19 restrictions, but the search continues. The team is looking at potential options to replace our current office/storage/small meeting space, and will also approach our current landlord at Park Ave. to determine a path forward. They are also meeting with members of Dickey Memorial Presbyterian Church, which has presented a possible space option. The Space Team will be presenting a survey to the congregation regarding possible space options; this will be followed by a congregational space search discussion on May 16.

—Colleen R.

## Stewardship Corner



We are so close! Channing Memorial Church has received 33 pledges totaling \$137,797 which represents 95% of our canvass goal. Thank you to all of the volunteers who called on people this year to make our annual pledge drive such a success. If you have not yet returned your pledge form or never received a call, please contact me at [treasurer@channingmc.org](mailto:treasurer@channingmc.org). We just need a few more pledges to make it to 100%.

The Stewardship Team is currently in the process of drafting the budget for our next church year which runs from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. If you serve on a committee or team or have a project in mind that requires funding, please submit your request to [treasurer@channingmc.org](mailto:treasurer@channingmc.org) as soon as possible

Thank you for your continuing generous support of Channing Memorial Church's mission and ministries.

With appreciation,  
*Evelyn*

## You are invited to explore SoulCollage® as a spiritual practice.



Introduction to SoulCollage® Workshop

Sunday, May 2 from 1—4:30 pm

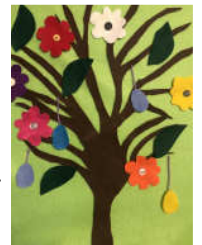
Workshop will be held on Zoom.

SoulCollage® is a fun and creative method of self-discovery where participants, guided by imagination and intuition, create a deck of 5"x8" collaged cards with deep personal meaning. The process and the cards are designed to help you connect with your inner wisdom, explore life's questions, and lead you to insights that are often surprising and full of meaning. SoulCollage® can be a transformative tool for self-discovery and personal growth. It requires no special skills, so everyone can enjoy this expressive process! This workshop is open to all members and friends of Channing at no charge.

If you are interested in participating in this workshop or have questions, please contact Kris T. by April 28.

## Good Church

In these dark times, being a part of the Channing community brings hope. During the April 4 Easter service, members and friends shared their hopes for the future, with Rev. Jane placing a flower on the lovely felt tree (made by Colleen Rathbun) for each hope.



Lovely felt tree

Here are some hopes shared that day:

Hope that reason will prevail. ♥♥ Hope for a world recovering from the pandemic.  
I hope for a more united country after healing ♥♥ Hope for more justice.  
A hope for flowering trees-- a new gift every week. ♥♥ Hope for ending the climate crisis.  
Hope for tolerance of differences. ♥♥ Hope for a recovering, sustainable economy.  
I hope to see my family soon! ♥♥ Hope that those struggling with mental illness will find relief.  
Hoping the lessons from the pandemic months will guide me to being kinder and to better practice patience, appreciation and gratitude. ♥♥ Hope for aging parents -- that they may find comfort and peace, and that loved ones will find discernment for compassionate care.  
Hope for an enriching in-person school experience for all the young students in the fall.  
Hope for a peaceful nation, a peaceful world. ♥♥ Hope for many beautiful walks in nature.

—Cathy F., with tech support from Rev. Jane



## Channing Book Club— New Adventures in May and June



### On May 8, a discussion on an essay by Thomas Berry:

Evoking the Great Work | Center for Humans & Nature <<https://www.humansandnature.org/evoking-the-great-work>>. This website has excellent writings in nature, philosophy of nature, and related things. There are numerous references in this reading that can lead you to such explorations as: The Spirituality of the Earth, by Thomas Berry ([ratical.org](https://ratical.org)) <[https://ratical.org/many\\_worlds/SpiritOfEarth.html](https://ratical.org/many_worlds/SpiritOfEarth.html)> These thoughts can lead us into contemplation of the interdependent web and what it means to us as a people and as a church.

From the essay:

The subject with which we are concerned is the spirituality of the earth. By this I do not mean a spirituality that is directed toward an appreciation of the earth. I speak of the earth as subject, not as object. I am concerned with the maternal principle out of which we were born and whence we derive all that we are and all that we have. In our totality we are born of the earth. We are earthlings. The earth is our origin, our nourishment, our support, our guide. Our spirituality itself is earth-derived. If there is no spirituality in the earth, then there is no spirituality in ourselves. The human and the earth are totally implicated each in the other.

### On June 12, we will read *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

From top critic Hilton Als (click on link for the entire review):

Spectacular even alongside other early novels bathed in the blood of gothic dread—William Faulkner’s “As I Lay Dying” (1930), say, or Flannery O’Connor’s “Wise Blood” or Ralph Ellison’s “Invisible Man” (both published in 1952)—Morrison’s book cut a new path through the American literary landscape by placing young black girls at the center of the story.”



<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/02/03/toni-morrisons-profound-and-unrelenting-vision>

All are welcome to take part. There’s a special value in sharing thoughts and reactions to material you’ve read.

—Ken H.

### Stewardship Update

#### March 2021 Year to Date



Total Operating Income	\$ 128,948
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 105,632
Difference	\$ 23,315

## Interested in General Assembly This Year?



General Assembly (<https://www.uua.org/ga>) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the UUA through democratic process. Anyone can attend General Assembly; registration is \$200 per participant.

Certified congregations (including Channing Memorial Church) can send delegates who can vote on behalf of their church. Based on our size, we can send two voting delegates. Registration, including the \$200 fee, is also required for Channing voting delegates.

This year's General Assembly will be held virtually June 23-27, 2021. The theme this year is Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, and Courage.

If you are a member of the congregation and are interested in serving as a Channing delegate, please let someone on the Channing Board know. Channing will pay the registration fee for the two voting delegates. The expectation would be that the delegates would attend as much of the virtual program as possible, and then report back to the Board and/or Congregation regarding lessons learned and the overall experience. (Note that three of the assembly days are weekdays, which, depending on your schedule, might require using vacation time in order to participate.) The virtual nature of this year's assembly provides a relatively low-cost way to learn more about General Assembly, and help inform whether the congregation would want to send delegates to in-person assembly when it occurs.

—Colleen R.



**Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month we will have the opportunity to join together for a practice of Lectio Divina.** This ancient practice allows us the opportunity to delve deep into a chosen text. This text may be a poem or a sacred religious text. Each gathering we will focus on one text. We will read through the selected text several times, with a different focus on every read-through. We will then pause for several minutes of silent meditation, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection. **I look forward to this sacred time of meditation and reflection!** I will host these sessions the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 7-8pm. There is no prep work for these gatherings.

**The following Zoom link works for either session:**

<https://zoom.us/j/93324550758?pwd=VFVLZkdES2lodTNHK1pWZ1pZb1l4UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Warmly,  
Rev. Jane





## Soulful Homes: Story

Looking for ways to weave spiritual exploration into your routines with little ones and youth? In partnership with First Church in Salem, UU, we are offering the Soul Malters program "Soulful Home." **This is a small group ministry that welcomes families with children.** We will gather each month for a check-in, an interactive story, an intergenerational activity, and special time for guided discussion among caregivers. Each month, we join to reflect on a theme. May's theme is Story.

**We will hold our gatherings the third Friday of the month in a Zoom room. Our next session will be held Friday, May 21 from 6-7:30pm.**

**If you are interested, please register using the link below:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0nAi2xuiQKzYO\\_VSqKXedSpjOn5KwAXWgzpHBID4kwljh3g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe0nAi2xuiQKzYO_VSqKXedSpjOn5KwAXWgzpHBID4kwljh3g/viewform)

We will also offer a monthly [discovery packet](#) for those who wish to explore our themes and practices as a family.

In order to make certain programming sustainable for small churches, it's helpful to partner with another small church. Working together with the First Church in Salem allows us to do just that! We are blessed to have another small congregation with an active RE program to work with. We are creating some exciting programming together!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! Send me a note at [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)

Warmly,  
Rev. Jane

## Using the Amazon Shopping app?



Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Channing Memorial Church" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Channing Memorial Church" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

—Evelyn G.



## Here Come The Cicadas!

Has it been 17 years already? It's almost time for the Brood X periodical cicadas to emerge from the ground and raise a ruckus for a few weeks. Hooray!

Although we hear cicadas every summer, those are dog-day or annual cicadas. Periodical cicadas emerge every 17 years, with different broods emerging in different years. In Maryland, this year's Brood X is the largest group, last seen in 2004.

We'll see the adults emerge around mid-May. These cicadas will be smaller than the green dog-day cicadas, and they have more red-orange coloring. A week after emergence, the adult cicadas will mate and the females will deposit eggs at the ends of tree branches. The eggs hatch in six weeks and the young will drop to the ground where they burrow into the soil and feed on tree roots.

Cicadas and you:

- Cicadas don't bite or sting, and are harmless to people. They pose no health threat, but consumption in large numbers by pets should be discouraged.
- You may notice exit holes or "mud chimneys" in your lawn from the emerging nymphs. This will not permanently harm your lawn.
- Young cicadas feed on parts of trees, but there will be no lasting damage to established ones. If you have a new tree or a smaller ornamental or fruit tree, consider covering it with insect netting. If you're considering planting a new tree or shrub, you might want to wait until the fall.
- Cicadas will molt and leave the old shell behind. If you have a pond, consider covering it with screening during this time.
- Male cicadas have a droning mating song that you'll hear from trees. This can be a bit loud! Enjoy it while it lasts.

Thanks to the University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center for this info.

<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/cicadas>

### Want to Get Even More Excited about Cicadas?



Check out an interview with University of Maryland entomologist (and Columbia, MD resident) Mike Raupp as he barely contains his excitement for "Cicada-Palooza" this May. Click on the link and listen to the interview/celebration which occurs in the first 10 minutes.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/04/07/985051126/oh-baby-the-bugs-and-the-birds>

**One last thing:** Take a photo of your cicadas (and you?) and send it to [news-share@channingmc.org](mailto:news-share@channingmc.org) for publication in next month's newsletter!



# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i>				1
2 10 am Sunday Service	3	4 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours  Committee on Ministry	5 Space Search Mtg  7 pm Young Adult Game Night	6 Men's Group 10 am	7 Covenant Circle, Membership, and Outreach Mtgs	8
9 Mother's Day 9 am LH3 Meeting 10 am Sunday Service	10	11 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours LDNC 7 pm Lectio Divina	12 	13 Channing Book Club 10 am Clearing as Spiritual Practice 1pm	14 Connections Mtg Worship Team	15 Men's Group 10 am
16 10 am Sunday Service	17	18 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours  7 pm Board of Trustees	19	20	21 Covenant Circle	22
23 10 am Sunday Service Annual Meeting 11 am	24	25 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours 7 pm Lectio Divina	26	27 Clearing as Spiritual Practice 1pm	28 Connections Mtg	29
30 10 am Sunday Service	31 					

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Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
3677 Park Avenue  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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**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.