



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 33, Issue 5

May 2026

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We are a Welcoming
Congregation

Wayside Pulpit

We all have experiences we can call of a higher kind — the question is how do I act towards such experiences? What is the meaning of such experience in my life. Most of us don't face the question. We collect experiences like butterflies and pin them in a book and at the end we have only a book of dead insects.

- John Pentland

Minister's Musings

Dear Channing Members and Friends,



Spring is such a blessed time of year. Green sprouts begin to push through the hard, crusty earth. The first yellow daffodils bloom; cherry blossoms shift from green buds into a veil of soft pink. It is a tangible reminder of life after death—of joy and wonder returning after a time of dormancy. As we reflected during Easter, it is a season of profound hope.

With emerging beauty and abundant hope—as the earth begins to bloom again—I am drawn to our value of interdependence. Earth Day arrives as we are invited to celebrate our sacred interconnection to the natural world. We plant trees and tend gardens as acts of care, cultivating beauty and awe. We pause to take in the delicate scent of honeysuckle as a gesture of gratitude for the wonder that surrounds us. We recycle and give back to the earth as a practice of reciprocity for all she offers us. Our lives are interwoven with all that is—each bird, each bush, each human—interacting in ways both visible and unseen, life-giving and life-taking.

Our web is not only our engagement with the natural world, but our engagement with one another. Can we practice cultivating beauty, offering gratitude and reciprocity and life-giving interconnection with all of those who dwell in this blessed realm? Within ourselves, we foster loving kindness that will emanate well beyond us. In our faith community, we offer spiritual support and tangible acts of care. In radiating out to those in our state or our country, we care for the least of these and foster great change by engaging politically. Each act radiates and radiates as we tend to those within our proximity and those we will never meet. So too do acts of violence, greed, anger, or vengeance ripple outward. Each day, we are in relationship with all that is.

What surrounds us shapes us in return. The beauty of the natural world, faith that flows from myriad religious communities, nations

Continued on page 2

Minister

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President:

Angela Lesperance ('26)

Vice President: Open ('26)

Treasurer:

Maureen Hayes ('27)

Secretary:

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Andrea Holt ('27)
Chris Lynch ('27)
Kathleen Razmus ('26)

Newsletter Editors:

Chris Lynch
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

Please send submittals for the June 2026 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 24, 2025.**

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whose people are tended to, communities of reciprocity and care, trickle down to bring each one of us gratitude, wonder, and joy. Likewise, harm caused by oppression moves from the societal level into personal experience. So too do violence, greed, and a misuse of power. When one community is harmed, we are all harmed. When one sibling suffers, we all suffer.

So let us take ownership of our own actions as we intentionally engage with the world around us. Let us move together through this world with compassion, love, and justice that radiates outward. May we act upon abundant hope - active hope - to help heal the hardship in our midst. May we tend to those who are forgotten, so that all may know abundance. May we spend our time giving back to all that so freely gives to us. May we be guided by justice as we take action in this world. May we plant native plants and protect wildlife as we care for this great and beautiful blue boat home. May we laugh and dance and sing so that joy may also emanate from us. May we live, love, hope, and celebrate—this day, and every day.

*With love,
Rev. Jane*

President's Column

I am feeling a lot of joy and a sense of community these days when I attend church services and events. I see more new faces along with regular ones, which is great. I am truly uplifted after being with Channing people, which is needed to help me handle whatever happens in the day and week to come.

I hope you are also experiencing something similar at Channing events.

Something exciting and important that is coming up is our Annual Congregational Meeting. This is a time when we review our finances and tend to the business of our church leadership. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, whether you are a member or not. Members will vote on new and existing leaders. We will also read from our covenant to remind ourselves of our commitment to each other. Finally, we will be inspired to continue the work of building our beloved community.

*With Love,
Angela*

Lectio Divina Returns!

After a break, our Lectio Divina sessions have returned! Our conversations are always fulfilling and deeply meaningful. I truly hope you can join us.

This ancient practice allows us the opportunity to delve into a selected poem. We slowly and intentionally read through the text, changing our focus with each read-through. What memories does the text elicit? What wisdom is the author trying to impart? After a time of personal contemplation and meditation, we share our reflections with the group. It is a deeply spiritual way to engage with the art of poetry.

I will hold these sessions on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 5-6pm. I have posted our Zoom link below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93324550758?pwd=VFVLZkdES21odTNHK1pWZ1pZb114UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

Email Rev. Jane at minister@channingmc.org if you plan to attend.

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.



For June 11: *Somebody's Fool* by Richard Russo

New to UU – May 24



New to Unitarian Universalism? New to Channing Memorial Church? Been around for a while, but want a refresher? **Join Rev. Jane after our worship service on May 24 from 12:15-1:45.** We'll explore our history, our values, and what this means today. We'll also get a glimpse into the history and happenings of this special congregation. This is also an opportunity to get to know a bit more about one another! I invite anyone who may be interested to join in on the conversation.

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

1st Sunday Luncheon

May 3, 2026

1:15 p.m.

at

Bushel and a Peck

12250 Clarksville Pike

Suite H

Clarksville, MD 21029

Location map: <https://www.bushelandapeck.com/contact>

Website: <https://www.bushelandapeck.com/>

Thank You,

Andrea

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...



The Treasurer's report to the Board in April indicated that operating expenses for the 2025-26 fiscal year will exceed income by \$6,000-\$10,000. This is a considerably smaller deficit than originally projected.

The Board discussed the congregation's level of interest in PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) and whether and when it might be time to consider formally joining the organization. Considerations include how it might align and mesh with our other social responsibility efforts, whether we have sustainable enthusiasm, and the impact of the financial contribution. Discussion is on-going.

The Board is preparing for the upcoming annual meeting. Accomplishments from the past year, hopes and goals for the coming year, and budget requests are being solicited from all committees, teams, and other groups within the church. Expect a formal announcement of nominees for the Board and LDNC soon (if you haven't seen it already as of reading this). And we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Book Discussion: *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pema Chödrön.

Due to interest but conflicting schedules, this offering is back for a second month! 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 May 23rd from 10-11:30 am at the church office. Please RSVP by Friday, May 15.

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

**Stewardship update
Year-to-date as of March 31, 2026**

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 164,195
Total Operating Expense	<u>-141,005</u>
Difference	\$ 23,190



Men's Group

Friday, May 15 (10 - 11:30 am)



The **May 15** 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 Xernnials, 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!



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 31, 2026

Immediately After the Worship Service

In accordance with Article V, Section 1 of the church bylaws, the purpose of the meeting shall be

- to receive a report from the Board on the state of the church;
- to consider the Church Plan and the Church's financial needs and resources related to the plan;
- to fill vacant positions on the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee;
- to conduct other business of the Congregation

The following slate of Officers and Trustees was nominated by the Leadership Development and Nominating Committee (LDNC) and will be voted on by the congregation.

These Officers and Trustees will each serve a two-year term (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028), except for Secretary, who will serve a one-year term (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027).

Board:

President—Kathleen Razmus

Trustee at Large—Charles Hurley

Secretary—Ostara Holyoak

Leadership Development and Nominating Committee:

Kenneth K. - July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028 (2-year term)

Angela L. - July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029 (3-year term)

Continuing on the Board will be Maureen Hayes, Treasurer; Chris Lynch, At Large; and Andrea Holt, At Large;

and continuing on the LDNC for the remainder of her term will be Evelyn G.

**We hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting.
Come take part in creating beloved community!**

Save the Date: Game Night!

Enjoy games, food and friends on **Friday, June 5, 6-9 PM** at the fellowship hall at Epiphany Lutheran Church. Bring your favorite games and your friends regardless of whether they have ever been to Channing before. All are welcome. No RSVP required, just drop in and stay for as long or little as you want. Pizza, salad and beverages will be provided.

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.*



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Membership Team 2:00 pm	2
3 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:15-1:15 pm	4	5 Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Meditation w/ Rev. Jane 7:00- 7:30 pm	6 Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	7	8 Covenant Cir- cle 9:30 am Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm Outreach Team 6:00 pm	9
10 Worship Ser- vice 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Mother's Day	11	12 Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	13	14	15 Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Bagel Bin	16
17 Worship Ser- vice 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Choir Practice 12:15-1:15 pm	18	19 Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Board Meeting	20 Stewardship- Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00-9:00 pm	21	22	23 Pema Chödrön Book discus- sion 10:00-11:30 am
24 Worship Ser- vice 11:00 am - 12:00 pm New to UU 12:15 - 1:45 pm	25 Memorial Day	26 Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Lectio Divina 5:00-6:00 pm	27	28	29	30
31 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Con- gregational Meeting						

**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.