



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 30, Issue 5

May 2023

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation**

Wayside Pulpit

There is nothing more tragic in all this world than to know right and not do it.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Minister's Column

Dear Channing members and friends,



Nearly every Sunday afternoon, my husband Eric and I pack up a bag of snacks, lace up our hiking boots, and begin a journey in our car from cul-de-sac filled suburbs to tamed farmlands to largely untouched, remote parks, filled with trees and underbrush. Spring is my favorite time to hike, because I get to watch in real-time the earth and vegetation shift from a cold, dry, brown to lush, revitalized greens, purples, and blues. My favorite are the flowers - those first vibrant petals of the season, peppering the ground with color and fragrance. These past few Sundays, traversing the increasingly bright terrain, I've been thinking about the budding and blossoming of our church community - we have a worship home! And we have been attracted to this new church building as a bumblebee to a daffodil - joining together for worship and coffee hour that feeds our souls and brings us to life.

And yet for a flower to blossom and grow, it must be tended to. The flower needs water and nutrients soaked up from the earth below, wind or flying insects spreading the life-giving pollen, and sunlight turned to nutrients in the outstretched leaves. Along with this beautiful, new space, our community has its own needs, which are plentiful - Religious Education volunteers, Zoom tech help, after-worship cleanup, and Outreach Team members, to name a few. To flourish, we each need to contribute.

Volunteering is a spiritual practice, just like a pause in meditation, a walk in nature, or a whispered prayer to all that is holy. It connects us to something greater than ourselves - our church community, with its collective search for spiritual growth. Often, just like nutrients below the earth, the work is unseen, unheard, and uncelebrated - committee meetings, emails, coordination, or website updates. And yet even the

(continued on page 2)

(Minister's Column - continued from page 1)

Minister

Rev. Jane Bennett Smith
410-203-0474 (office)
minister@channingmc.org

President:

Kris Tyssowski ('24)

Vice President: Open ('24)

Treasurer:

Evelyn Grim ('23)

Secretary:

Angela Lesperance ('23)

Trustees:

Mel Currie ('23)
Sheri Thomas ('24)
Open ('24)

Newsletter Editors:

Ken Grim
Chris Lynch

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 2023 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, 2023.**

most mundane of tasks becomes meaningful if backed with intention; it is a way to give back to that which gives us so much.

I first entered a Unitarian Universalist church in my early twenties. I found a faith and a group of people that healed my aching heart and offered a life-giving community - two things my soul desperately needed. As I began practices of prayer and meditation, I also began practices of giving back. I became a Worship Associate, joined the Membership Committee, and started a Young Adult Group. I found that through these tasks I created even deeper bonds with other congregants and that my day-to-day life became more meaningful. Just as I walked in nature to watch the flowers bloom so, too, did I sit in committee meetings and clean up after potlucks. I did what I had to do for that which offered me life.

So may we each contribute to this blossoming church. May we offer our own time and talent, feeding that which gives us so much. Just as a tulip needs its leaves, as a pansy needs its roots, so, too, does Channing Memorial Church need each and every one of you.

I am grateful, and you are loved.

With love,
Rev. Jane

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 2023

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, 2023 - June 30, 2025) on the Board of Trustees.

Treasurer - Maureen Hayes

Secretary - Angela Lesperance

Trustee at Large - Christopher Lynch

The congregation will also vote to confirm the LDNC nomination of **Mel Currie** to a three-year term on the LDNC (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026).

Continuing on the Board will be Kris Tyssowski (President) and Sheri Thomas (Trustee at large).

We hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting.

Come take part in creating beloved community!

President's Column



Dear Volunteers,

This is a love letter to you.

I'm writing it during the week of April 17-23, National Volunteer Week. This week, part of Global Volunteer Month, is a time to recognize and thank "volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in their communities." (www.pointsoflight.com) While my writing style, more formal than flowery, isn't the type you'll find in a Hallmark card, I hope it conveys the admiration and affection I feel when I think about you, the volunteers who are the backbone of our congregation.

In case you need a reminder, you are immensely important. Immensely important to our church community and to me personally. When I am feeling overwhelmed with my own volunteer commitments, tired of both the tedium and challenges I am facing, forgetful of why I volunteered in the first place, and just plain old grumpy about missing out on whatever I am missing out on while I finish the task at hand, I look around, and I see you.

I see you showing up. Showing up to do what needs to be done even when you feel overwhelmed or tired or just plain grumpy. I see you active and engaged in our community, in all kinds of ways, despite the tedium and challenges in your path. I see you giving your time freely, trusting that even the smallest acts can ripple into significant results, a leap of faith that is sometimes difficult for me to make. And I want to be like you.

You know that volunteering can be enriching and satisfying and fun. You've been there. But you've also experienced the frustration and exhaustion that can come at the end of good intentions. You're energetic, but I know you get tired. Your spirits seem unflagging, but at times, you're discouraged. I suspect you sometimes ask: Why am I doing this? Am I making a difference? Does anyone even care anyway? And, while you understand that doing committee work can often resemble herding cats, you sign up to do it anyway.

Your work is a ministry in the purest sense. Giving of yourself to help others is the essence of both volunteering and ministry. For some of you, volunteering may be a spiritual practice and, for others, an ethical calling. But, at its core, volunteer ministry, like all ministry, is about bringing love, however you define it, into the world. When you, who are uniquely gifted, offer your time and talents wherever and whenever you can, you help create the kind of world you want to live in. And I want to live there with you.

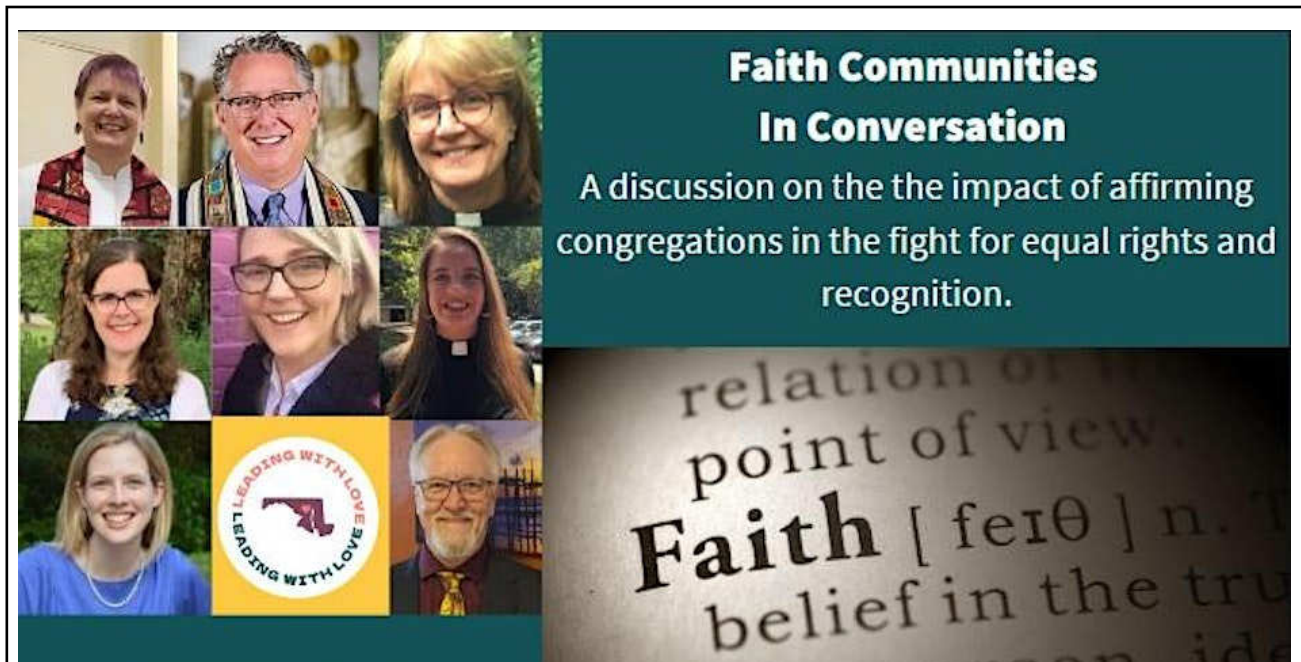
(Continued on page 5)

(President's Column - continued from page 4)

Here at Channing, yours is a ministry that helps nurture the welcoming, supporting, and caring community we hope to sustain. Your work helps build the vessel that holds our church's spirit. It helps create space for connection, compassion, wonder, and love to grow. And it is your work that carries this spirit beyond our walls.

Dear Volunteers, it is with deep gratitude that I recognize and honor your contributions to my life and the life of our congregation. You are a blessing. My life is richer living in your embrace.

Much love,
Kris



Faith Communities in Conversation

Tuesday, May 2, 6:30-8:30 PM

Owen Brown Interfaith Center

7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045

Get ready to explore the real life impact of affirming congregations on the LGBTQIA+ community! We welcome eight faith leaders that, along with their congregations, have stood with open arms even in the face of internal and external pressures. Join us and the leaders of Beth Shalom Congregation, **Channing Memorial Church Unitarian Universalist**, Christ United Methodist Church, Columbia Center for Spiritual Living, the Community of St. Dysmas, Kittamaquindi Community, Temple Isaiah, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia as we take a dive into what it means to be a LGBTQIA+ person of faith. Register at Eventbrite. Here is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/621318328847>

Board Bits



At the end of March, Channing and Epiphany Lutheran signed a one-year lease for Channing to use the church for Sunday services and other occasional events. This is a great accomplishment! We look forward to continuing work with Epiphany in the coming months.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 21st to elect the open positions on the Board of Trustees and a new member of the Leadership Development/Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held immediately following the worship service and will be in a hybrid format so members can participate both on Zoom and in person.

Multi-platform worship has been steadily improving. We hope to add some interactive parts, such as chalice lighting, to the online experience.

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of March 31, 2023

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 158,845
Total Operating Expense	<u>-120,662</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 38,183</u>



Canvass Update

Channing Memorial Church UU has received 31 Operating Fund pledges for the 2023-24 church year totaling \$147,770. Officially, our pledge campaign ended March 31, but we still have some outstanding pledges and we are a little over \$17,000 short of our goal of \$165,000. Please send any outstanding pledges to the church office, submit it online, or email it to treasurer@channingmc.org. If you have lost your pledge form or aren't sure if you sent it in, contact Evelyn Grim, treasurer, at the same email address.

The Language We Use

Language Series Part Two: Ableism May 20, 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.*

This past month, I hosted a small group discussion on language. Our conversation could have extended far beyond the hour I had scheduled. Following that fruitful discussion, I decided to offer a series of classes on language.

Whether or not you attended the first session, I invite you to join us as we delve deeper into language around ableism. Beginning with a brief review of microaggressions, we will explore slights against those folks who face physical disabilities and/or struggle with mental illness. I look forward to creating a safe space for questions, comments, and discussion. I invite you to bring your own questions with you, as well!

I look forward to Part Three of this series to be held in June. We will discuss language around gender and sexuality.

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Wisdom Tales

**First Tuesday of the month, 11am-12pm, held on Zoom
(This is a trial run! I 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94007522019?pwd=MEhIT11KbDRIUWViTm9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Passcode: 665527

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Channing Book Club

We usually meet on the second Saturday of the month.

Reading for May 13 at 10 a.m.:

We will be talking about the essay from the Atlantic, ("**Why the Past Ten Years of American Life have been Uniquely Stupid**", by Jonathan Haidt).

A link to the Atlantic website is shown below, but you'll need to either be a subscriber or be willing to do a trial offer. For those who are subscribers, I'd recommend using the link rather than the pdf. If you would like the pdf, email Ken Hart and he'll send it to you individually (to try to bypass file size limits).



<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/05/social-media-democracy-trust-babel/629369/>

The group will meet outside at Park Avenue at 10 a.m. weather permitting. We'll fall back to zoom **if** the weather is not friendly. Notice will be sent out if we make this change.

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 Hart know what you are thinking about, and contact Ken with any questions.

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.

Men's Group

Thursday May 4 at 10 am on Zoom and the Bagel Bin too!

Everyone is welcome to join the men on the first Thursday of the month. We're on Zoom at this time.



New: We will meet at the Bagel Bin on the **third Thursday, May 18, at 10 a.m.**

All are welcome to these events. Email Ken H. if any questions.

Thank You from UU Legislative Ministry of MD for a Successful Session

The MD General Assembly introduced and considered more than 2,200 bills during the 2023 legislative session that adjourned April 10. When the General Assembly adjourned "sine die," 30 of the UU Legislative Ministry of MD's 67 priority bills had passed (45%). In terms of issues (rather than individual bills), the record is even better: 20 of 36 issues (56%).

Climate Change - of 12 issues supported, six passed.

Criminal Justice - of the 5 measures supported, none passed. However, HB 201 – Capital Budget – includes \$3 million to build the first Pre-Release Unit for Women required by [HB 801/SB 684](#) passed in 2020 with UULM-MD support (with the prior Governor's veto overridden in 2021).

Gun Violence - of the 6 issues supported, 3 passed.

Healthcare – 8 of the 9 measures supported passed:

Immigration - of the 3 measures supported, two passed.

Medical Aid in Dying – did not pass.

For detailed information please visit: <https://www.uulmmd.org/post/final-list-of-priority-bills-that-passed>

On behalf of the UU Legislative Ministry of MD, thank you for your committed advocacy and support to advance justice, equity and compassion in Maryland.

For more information about the UU Legislative Ministry of MD, please contact Jim C.

All Soles for All Souls
Saturday, May 13 at 2:00 PM

Join us as all soles, for all souls, this summer as we walk around Lake Kittamaqundi, a flat 1.4 mile paved loop (weather permitting, no rain) at a comfortable easy pace. Nature will provide us with inspiration with a question or quote of the day. Discuss this, bring forth a question bubbling in your own soul, or simply enjoy the walk.



For now, we'll try for once a month this summer at various times to reach a variety of friends with different schedules. Check the newsletter for this month's date and alternate date, and contact Julie F. if you have same-day questions about cancellations. Don't forget your water, sunscreen, hat, etc.

Meet next to Whole Foods at the Bailey Park sign. If you're running late, just catch up to us. We'll do the loop clockwise.

Getting deep? Grab a drink or a bite at Whole Foods at the end of the loop and keep it going on the outdoor tables for as long as you like.

All Soles for All Souls: **Saturday, May 13, at 2 pm**
Alternate rain date for May: Saturday, May 20, at 2 pm

First Unitarian Church of Baltimore
Channing Memorial Weekend Gala Concert
Saturday, May 6 8 p.m.

An Evening of Variations in the Sanctuary

Featuring Mortimer Barron, pianist:
Selected Goldberg Variations J.S. Bach

James Houston On the Niemann Organ

In the Clear – Cindy & Jeff

Swiss Community Choir
Variations on "Go Lifted Up"
"Love is the Most Excellent Way"

\$20 (sliding scale) Firstunitarian.net
Select Giving and shopping/store

Snack Squadders Needed!

We're back in person and need to be fed and coffeed. 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, OR, sign up to make coffee, OR both! Here's the link:



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

Any questions, contact Cathy Fu at cadet5@comcast.net.

Thank you!

Cathy

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.)

**Channing Memorial Sermon
at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore
May 7, 10:30 am
In-person and Live streamed on ZOOM**

Sermon Title: *We Choose the Future: Beloved Community*

Speaker: Paula Cole Jones

**In The Beloved Community Everyone
Is Allowed To Speak**

**A Convocation of the UU Multiracial Unity Action Council
UUMUAC.org**

Saturday, May 13, 2023, 12:00pm-1:30pm

Session 1. *MLK'S Beloved Community*

Dr. Matthew Shear

Session 2. *My Aunt Emma's Vision of the Beloved Community*

Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell

Session 3. *The Meaning of 'Love' in the Judeo-Christian Tradition*

Rev. Richard Trudeau

Session 4. *The Importance of Open Discussion and Honest Sharing*

Rev. Richard Trudeau

Session 5. *Frederick Douglass' 'Plea for Freedom of Speech in Boston'*

Rev. Beverly Seese

To register send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com;

Zoom codes will be sent the day before

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Wisdom Tales 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Minister's Office Hours 1:00 -4:00 pm PFLAG Panel 6:30-8:30 pm at OBIC	<i>3</i> Space Search Meeting 5:30 pm Young Adults Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>4</i> Men's Group 10:00 am -12:00 pm on Zoom	<i>5</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Comm. Mtg. 6:30-7:00 pm CINCO DE MAYO	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 -4:00 pm LDNC Mtg. 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	<i>10</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Worship Team Mtg. 1:30-3:00 pm	<i>13</i> Book Club 10:00 am All Soles for All Souls at Lake Kittamaquundi 2:00 pm
<i>14</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm MOTHERS DAY	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00 pm	<i>17</i> Young Adult Small Group 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>18</i> Men's Group 10:00 am -12:00 pm at Bagel Bin	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> The Language We Use - Part 2 - "Ableism" 1:00 - 2:00 pm
<i>21</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm ANNUAL MEETING after the service	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 -4:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>29</i> MEMORIAL DAY	<i>30</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 -4:00 pm	<i>31</i>	.	.	.

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.