



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 28, Issue 6

June 2021

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## June Minister's Column



As a child, I moved around quite a bit. My parents divorced, jobs changed, unexpected circumstances arose. We moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia and eventually settled in New Jersey, and yet even within that town we occupied five different apartments! I am used to getting settled and creating a home, only to learn that things have changed, and we have to pack up and start again somewhere new. This was hard at the time, but it also served to make me nimble, adaptable, and resilient. My own story reminds me in so many ways of the story of Channing Memorial Church. As a church, you have occupied several different buildings, moving from space to space as circumstances change, looking for that permanent space to call "home," and have grown in the process.

I am so impressed with the resilience these moves have given you! I am repeatedly delighted to see the strength and dedication of so many members and friends of this church. You are remarkable! You have also overcome a pandemic, stronger than ever before. You repeatedly show resilience and strength.

Space can be anxiety-provoking and change can be hard. That is ok. We each have within us our own history of space; I shared a piece of my own history with you. We each bring this history with us as our church searches for a home. This can make a space search a tender thing. This is a complex, important issue. And we are doing it with strength and grace!

Next year, we will continue with temporary space. Just as we have been doing, we will offer worship space on Sunday mornings and "everything else" space at another location. This other location may be Dickey Memorial Presbyterian Church. This provides us with exciting opportunities as we have more time to intentionally raise funds and engage as a church to find just the right space for us.

I hear your excitement and I hear your concerns. We heard from some of you at our congregational space meeting and we will receive more feedback after we send out a survey. In regard to Dickey Memorial, I know some folks are concerned  
*Continued on next page*

**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!**



## Wayside Pulpit

We have to stumble and fall if we are to walk.

*Samuel H. Miller*

**Minister**

Reverend Jane Smith

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**President:**

David Fu ('22)

**Vice President:** Vacant

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**Trustees:**

Patrick Beben('21)

Mel Currie ('22)

Colleen Rathbun ('21)

**Newsletter Editors:**

Cathy Fu

Ken Grim

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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, June 20, 2021.**

*Minister's Column, continued from page 1*

about the distance and the location. We still have work to do to make it fully accessible, which is in alignment with our mission and values. I likewise know some folks are excited about the opportunity to engage in community projects in the surrounding area. Each space we engage with will inevitably have pros and cons, and yet we will enter this search together and find the place that best fills our collective needs.

I have so much gratitude for our Space Team. They have dedicated time and energy into finding us our next temporary spaces and will eventually find us our next home. Thank you!

We have overcome so much. We weathered a pandemic together and remained resilient throughout so many transitions. I am eager to see what the future brings us. Throughout anything that comes our way, we are Channing Memorial Church – filled with love, dedication, caring souls, and joy.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

**Preparing for Flower Communion**



Each year in early June we gather one Sunday as a church to celebrate Flower Communion. **This year, just as we did last year, we ask that you send us a picture of your flower. When we gather, we will virtually share these special pictures. Also, send us a blessing.** As we enter this season of blossoming flowers and lush green, consider a hope, wish or blessing you would like to offer a fellow congregant. Each blessing should be no more than a couple of sentences. Each of us will send in a hope, wish, or blessing, and each of us will leave service with a new wish or blessing

**Please send your picture and blessing by June 2.** On June 6, as we gather for worship, we will share these pictures and share these wishes or blessings. Each person will leave with an anonymous special blessing.

I look forward to welcoming summer with all of you! Please let me know if you have any questions.

—*Rev. Jane*



## President's Column

As I write this on a hot pre-Memorial Day weekend, I can hear the cicadas making their distinctive buzzing noise, and I find myself reflecting back on memories of 2004, as well as pondering what might be in 2038. We just had our Annual Congregational Meeting, and I don't have much to add to my report/State of the Congregation message, so I'll just list some highlights:

- We have continued to Be Church and Do Church during the pandemic.
- We have had an extremely successful Canvass, and our budget looks very much balanced going forward.
- We will meet virtually at least until the end of summer.
- In July and August we will share/trade-off virtual services with UU Cedarhurst.
- We will provide hybrid (joint physical and virtual) worship moving forward.
- The space search will continue. In the short term we will rent separate Sunday morning worship and 24/7 "everything else" space. Part of our work next year will be to make a long term plan.

Serving as President of the Congregation has been a lot of work, but it has been meaningful work, and it has been an honor and a joy to serve you this year.

Care,

*David Fu*

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## Coming Soon: Adventures in Summer Services -- Shared Worship with Cedarhurst UUs



This summer (as Rev. Jane takes her well-earned leave!), beginning June 27th and continuing through August, our Sunday services will look a little different... and much the same. Channing's worship associates are working collaboratively with lay worship personnel from Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists to produce shared online summer services for our two congregations.

Channing and Cedarhurst lay volunteers will conduct the service on alternating weeks. One of our worship associates will act as a liaison for each service that is "Cedarhurst-produced," to keep things smooth for Channing's congregation, and access via Zoom link will remain easy. You'll notice some variation in the order of service and the production on those weeks, but essential elements will be included, and we'll continue to have music with Stephen each Sunday.

We're looking forward to hearing other voices, and meeting new people at after-church coffee hour. We hope you'll find this summer service experience enriching!

--Worship Associates (*Ostara H., Pam E. and Virginia V.*)

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## Soul Matters for June: Play



Dear Channing members and friends,

Play is an important part of each of our lives! This means taking time to step aside from the serious and the mundane to truly engage with the world around us and capture all it has to offer. Let's engage with our daily surroundings and find joy, peace, laughter, and enlightenment. Our activities this month are about doing and engaging. Together we will set aside time to simply enjoy life. Composer Roger Bourland wrote, "Let us arrive as children to this huge playground – the universe." Let's be intentional about finding excitement and joy all around us.

"Play" is our worship theme for June, 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 Play with you!

Young Adults (20s, 30s, 40s):  
Wednesday, June 16 7:30-9pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young15>

All ages:

Saturday, June 19 1:30-3pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul10>

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*



## Soulful Homes: Play

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 Matters 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. June’s theme is Play.

**This month we will hold our gathering on the second Friday of the month. We will join together Friday, June 11, 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.

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



### Board Bits

There will be a Council of Committees meeting in July; Patrick Beben will preside. Attendees are encouraged to consider the following question: “What can/what do my committee/team do to further the mission of the Church?”

The Board discussed guidelines for small group meetings.

Channing will be sharing some worship services with Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists over the summer.

Rev. Jane will be on summer break between June 20 and August 10.

—Colleen Rathbun

### Stewardship Update



#### April 2021 Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$ 132,298
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 117,084
Difference	\$ 15,213

## Help Wanted with Church Calendar



Do you have an hour or so each week?

Yes, this is one of those "Your community needs you" entreaties. There's regular "stuff" that needs to be done to communicate the church schedule, and one of the tasks is to maintain the events on the calendar each week or whenever things change. Typically this should take not more than an hour a week— even less, from time to time. It's not difficult to learn how to do it, and no technical skill is required. *An additional bonus is you can do it at home with a cup of coffee at your side!*

If you can be this Very Important Person for Channing (VIPIC), please contact Ken H. and write "Here I am!" in the subject line. You'll be glad you did.

## Good Church at Channing



Near the end (we hope) of a very challenging time, some church members and friends reflected on what they've loved about Channing, even with most activities going virtual:

I've enjoyed the small-group Zoom sessions in the break-out rooms after the Sunday service -- we get to know a few people better and exchange news.

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I enjoyed being involved with the Channing auction.

\*\*\*\*

SoulCollage® is a wonderful new addition to my repertoire of spiritual practices. I am deeply grateful to Kris T. for offering this practice to Channing.

\*\*\*\*

Ostara H.'s book club was great -- she put a lot of effort into it (especially for me when I didn't have the book yet) and I really appreciated that.

\*\*\*\*

The Friday morning Covenant Circle has been meeting faithfully twice a month via Zoom. Being with the group leaves me feeling uplifted, challenged, supported and heard.

\*\*\*\*

I really enjoyed Ashruf E.'s teaching us about Ramadan and sharing some of his journey.

\*\*\*\*

Rev. Jane's installation was a wonderful event, with beautiful music and so many family members, colleagues and friends there on her special day.

\*\*\*\*

I have enjoyed the fellowship of ladies teas, murder mystery dinners, book club discussions and other discussions. Thank goodness for Zoom!!

Thanks to all who contributed to this happy article.

—Cathy Fu



## Water Communion

As we enter summer, I invite us to be intentional about noticing those places that feed our souls. Perhaps this is a special destination we travel to, a gathering with those we love, or a walk to center in nature. I invite you each to collect water from one of these places. When we join again in the fall, we will have a special opportunity to celebrate this water and the story it holds during our annual Water Communion ceremony. We will bless the water and join in ritual to share this water with that from years past, combining this year's joy with the joy of dedicated members and friends who came before us. I look forward to celebrating this beloved tradition

—Rev. Jane

## Lectio Divina



**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 last gathering I will host this church year is June 8. If you are interested in facilitating this group throughout the summer, please let me know!**

Warmly,  
Rev. Jane



## What is the Committee on Ministry?



The Committee on Ministry is a small group of church leaders invited by the minister to support the professional ministry of Channing Memorial Church. We meet with Rev. Jane monthly to advise, serve as a sounding board and generally provide and discuss congregational feedback. We strive to guide the minister on balancing her many activities and responsibilities, assessing new undertakings, and addressing conflict or challenges.

This year, the committee joyfully assisted with Rev. Jane's installation, which was held via Zoom in February. The committee is currently performing the second-year ministerial evaluation, to be submitted to the UUA at the end of the church year. Next year, we look forward to hosting a "post-installation" reception when it is possible to gather and celebrate in person.

If you have feedback for the minister, you are encouraged to reach out to Rev. Jane directly. The Committee on Ministry is also here for your input.

Sincerely,

The Committee on Ministry -- *Rebecca B., Pam E., Ostara H., Ken K. and Kris T.*

### First Friday is happening in Old Ellicott City on June 4!



Weather permitting, Julie plans to walk from the church office parking lot to Main Street at 10:30 am and perhaps try to get some Orioles swag and then walk a bit among the shops and grab lunch somewhere. If you'd like to informally hang out with some church friends, just meet Julie at the church office at 10:30. If you arrive later or need a weather cancellation update, text Julie at (901) 216-5995 and she'll let you know where to find folks.

Please follow the most recently issued board guidance on masks/distancing indoors. Masks not required outdoors. Don't forget water, hats, sunscreen. First Friday info: <https://visitoldellicottcity.com/event-pro/first-friday/>

Julie will try to offer a couple more informal outdoor opportunities this summer - in particular, a walk in a local park in July and a day at the HoCo Fair in August. Stay tuned.

—Julie F.

### Connections Team Stands Down



In the uncertain early days of the pandemic, our intrepid minister, Rev. Jane, quickly assembled a ragtag bunch of Channingites to respond to any COVID-related needs that the congregation might have. She tapped the team on each shoulder and called us "Connections".

We had a great time meeting weekly, getting Patrick to write surveys, and generally being available should any need arise. You, the Channing congregation, also stood ready to deliver groceries, prepare meals for the sick, and help folks use Zoom. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Remember that support is still here if you need it. Reach out to Rev. Jane by emailing [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org) or the Care Team at [careteam@channingmc.org](mailto:careteam@channingmc.org).

—Cathy F. for Patrick B., Mel C., Anne H. and Diana M.



## Cicadas Cicadas Cicadas!

The tree trunk series...



The trees are alive...



...in Randallstown



...and Clarksville

Lovely nature shots...



...in Woodstock

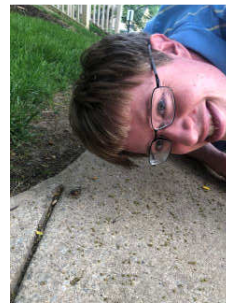


...tulip poplar in Western HoCo

Cicada selfies by supportive spouses...



...Prez's better half




...minister's #1 fan

And from a "punny" church founder...






"Are you *tired* of cicadas yet?"

Keep enjoying your cicadas!  
And keep sending in your photos and cicada haiku.



# June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b><i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i></b></p> </div>		<p><b>1</b> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>Committee on Ministry</p>	<p><b>2</b> Space Search Mtg</p> <p>7 pm Young Adult Game Night</p>	<p><b>3</b> Men's Group 10 am</p>	<p><b>4</b> Covenant Circle, Membership, and Outreach Mtgs</p>	<p><b>5</b> Stewardship Committee 10:00 am</p>
<p><b>6</b> 10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>LDNC 7 pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> Clearing as Spiritual Prac- tice 1pm</p>	<p><b>11</b> Worship Team</p>	<p><b>12</b> Channing Book Club 10 am</p>
<p><b>13</b> 9 am LH3 Meeting 10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> 	<p><b>15</b> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> Covenant Circle</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>  <p><b>JUNETEENTH</b></p> <p>Men's Group 10 am</p>
<p><b>20</b></p>  <p>10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7 pm Lectio Divina</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> Clearing as Spiritual Prac- tice 1pm</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> 10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>			

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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.