



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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June 2022

Minister's Column

Inside:

Flower Communion.....	2
Lectio Divina.....	2
Summer Services	3
President's Column....	4
8th Principle Update...4	
Message Fron Sheri	5
Soul Matters.....	5
Soul Collage.....	6
Bridges for Housing Stability	6
Afghan Refugee Collection.....	6
Stewardship Update ...	7
Canvass Update	7
Crisis in Ukraine.....	7
Channing Book Club ..	8
Men's Group.....	8
Young Adults Game Night.....	8
June Calendar.....	9

**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**



Wayside Pulpit

What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?

—Henry David Thoreau



Dear Channing members and friends,

The start of spring creeps up on me as slowly brown fades to green, bare branches fill with foliage, and small bursts of color emerge amid the grass. When I truly pause and notice this transition, it takes my breath away. I am reminded of that beauty that surrounds me and celebrate the simple blessings that emerge with the rising temperatures.

Our theme for June is Celebrating Blessings. Amidst all that is going on in our world and our country, I invite us each to truly pause and notice the simple joys of spring we are immersed in. I share with you an excerpt of Mary Oliver's poem "Invitation"

Oh do you have time
to linger
for just a little while
out of your busy
and very important day
for the goldfinches
that have gathered
in a field of thistles
for a musical battle,
to see who can sing
the highest note,
or the lowest

Sometimes I forget to linger as I get caught up in work or to-do lists and the wonders of goldfinches simply pass me by. How often do we each miss a musical battle in our own backyard? As we enter the summer, I invite us each into a practice of mindfulness; of noticing the simple blessings all around us. Pause in this moment and look around. In the window right in front of me I see a row of lush, green trees and on my desk my beautiful carved, wooden chalice. When we take time to notice, there are pleasures all around us. Mary Oliver offers that no day is too important not to pause and notice. So let's pause, and notice.

(continued on p. 2)

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Rev. Jane Bennett Smith

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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

Send submittals for the July issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 26.**

(Minister's Column - continued from p. 1)

Our path away from sorrow is lined with simple beauty. If we are struggling, see which goldfinch can sing the highest note. If you see pain in a beloved, invite them into the field of thistles where birds pause to gather. Life is inherently hard, and we will each face times of joy and sorrow. I invite us, with whatever each day offers, to pause and celebrate those simple yet astounding blessings. If we are immersed in joy, let's tuck some beauty away so we can remember it when times get rough. Whatever awaits you this summer, that which is known and what which is unknown, remember this invitation to mindfulness. Pause, breathe, and experience the simple beauties and blessings of life.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Flower Communion

June 12



On Sunday, June 12 we will join together for our annual Flower Communion service. Whether joining us virtually or in person, I invite you to bring with you a flower. We will join together for reflection, celebration, and a blessing.

Rev. Jane

Lectio Divina

June 14

During the summer months of June through August, we join together for a practice of Lectio Divina each second Tuesday of the month from 7-8pm.

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, we will pause for several minutes of silent reflection, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection. **I look forward to this sacred time of meditation and reflection!**

Rev. Jane

Summer Worship Services



We have a wonderful variety of summer worship services planned for Summer 2022. We are again partnering with Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists to offer some virtual services, some outdoor activities, and a field trip!

Rev. Jane's last day in the pulpit will be on June 19. Ingathering/Water Communion will be held on September 11. Here is the list of planned services and events for all the Sundays in-between. All services and activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. More details will be provided for each service or event the week prior.

June 26 - Virtual Earth Day service via Zoom - Cedarhurst will lead
<http://cedarhurstuumd.org/>

July 3 - Travel the Trolley Trail #9 starting in Ellicott City; trail is fully accessible from Westchester entrance - <https://visitoldellicottcity.com/places/experience-the-trolley-trail/>

July 10 - Virtual Worship Service via Zoom - Channing will lead

July 17 - Music Service at Cedarhurst UU in Finksburg, MD - will be in-person and also transmitted by Zoom - <http://cedarhurstuumd.org/>

July 24 - Virtual Worship Service via Zoom - Channing will lead

July 31 - Labyrinth Walk at Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD; Center is accessible - <https://rccbonsecours.com/services-amenities/our-grounds/>

August 7 - Virtual Worship Service via Zoom - Cedarhurst will lead

August 14 - Visit Benjamin Banneker museum in Oella/Catonsville - museum is fully accessible; some outdoor paths are accessible <https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/recreation/countyparks/mostpopular/banneker/>

August 21 - Virtual Worship Service via Zoom - Cedarhurst will lead

August 28 - Virtual Worship Service via Zoom - Channing will lead

September 4 - In-person Worship Service and Picnic at Piney Run Park in Sykesville, MD - we have rented a pavilion; pavilion, parking, and restrooms are fully accessible <https://www.carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/recreation-parks/places-to-go/piney-run-park/>

President's Column

As I write this, my final President's Column, on a hot May afternoon, I reflect upon a year filled with struggles and challenges for our Church: the protracted and mostly unsuccessful efforts to secure worship space; a pandemic that refuses to quit; trouble filling key leadership positions. It could certainly be cause for frustration, and it is certainly enough to get someone down.



And yet all I feel is gratitude. Gratitude for our Church. Gratitude for Reverend Jane Bennett Smith's spiritual leadership. Gratitude for our community. I look at [our annual report](#), and I find myself grateful for all the good work we have done. I remember a bit from Reverend Jane's sermon this morning, and I find myself grateful for the call to shift my viewpoint of and towards the holy among us. I recall this morning's Annual Congregational meeting, and I find myself grateful for the love, for the conviviality, and for the hopeful feelings that flowed there.

In my first President's column, I shared with you some of the reasons I gave for attending Church twenty-some years ago. I'll shamelessly and joyfully trot them out again as I leave: I come to Church to be reminded of what is most important. I come to Church to be reminded of what is good, and what is true, even if it makes me feel uncomfortable. I come to Church to be reminded of what it means to be a human being. I come to Church to be reminded, because far too often, it is far too easy to forget.

Why do you come to Church?

I can't and won't say that it has always been easy, but I can and will say that it has always been good, and that it has been both my honor and my pleasure to serve as your President.

Care,
David

8th Principle Committee Update

We have passed Channing's version of the 8th Principle. Now what? Our next step is to work our way through the Widening the Circle of Concern 2020 report and apply action items that we agree as a congregation are important. Here is a link if you would like to view it: https://www.uua.org/files/pdf/w/widening_the_circle-text_with_covers.pdf

A small group will be planning how we will present and discuss during the summer months. *If anyone would like to join us, they are most welcome.* Thank you for your continued support as we work on this together.

With gratitude, *Angela L., Kathleen R., and Rev. Jane*

Message From Sheri

Readers of my new disability memoir, *IMBALANCED*, can't believe how many physical and mental health challenges I've faced. They've prepared me to tackle my latest health issue: breast cancer. I, like millions of other women, put off getting a mammogram during the pandemic. During a self examination, I discovered a lump in my right breast. Although my cancer was caught at an early stage, it could have been caught sooner if I hadn't put off getting a mammogram during the pandemic. My doctors expect me to make a full recovery. I, like you, am a survivor!

My message: **SCHEDULE YOUR MAMMOGRAM TODAY!** Make sure you and your loved ones don't ignore your health. Regular physicals, health screenings, colonoscopies, and mammograms save lives. Early detection makes a huge difference.

PLEASE SHARE THIS POST. You'll help save others, and maybe even yourself.

Soul Matters June 2022 *New Format*

Our theme for this month is "Celebrating Blessings." Each life has blessings that we need to note and celebrate. All around us are simple beauties, whether found in nature or the eyes of a beloved. Within us, we each hold unique and special attributes that we sometimes forget to celebrate – an inner light. This is a blessing too! This month we cultivate the blessings and beauty in and around us, spreading joy and love to the world.

I invite you to come to this group with nothing but curiosity and an open mind! There will be no prep work and no need to reflect on a packet. Together, we will reflect on wise words of others and grapple with some self-reflective questions. Please sign up using the link below.

All Ages:

Friday, June 10 10:30am-12pm *outdoors at Park Ave*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul20>

**Our Young Adult Group will continue to follow our traditional format. If you are joining our Young Adult Group (20s, 30s, 40s), I will send you a packet to review before the Small Group. I am available or for any questions **

Young Adults (20s, 30s, 40s) *location TBD - email Rev. Jane minister@channingmc.org*

Wednesday, June 15 7:30-9pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young25>

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Soul Collage

Each month the SoulCollage® group spends an afternoon letting our intuition and imagination guide us to select images from magazines, creating collage cards with those images, and then reflecting on what spiritual and life lessons our created cards have to give us. SoulCollage® is a creative but not artistic activity that is accessible to everyone! If you're curious to try out SoulCollage®, contact Kris T. We would love to have you join us!

(Online on **Saturday June 4 and then on Saturday July 2, both at 1:30-4:30pm**)

A Message From Bridges to Housing Stability

Bridges is requesting the following: If you and your congregation would like to engage with the immediate needs of individuals and families connected to Bridges, here is a list of urgently needed items:

1. Dish and laundry detergent
2. Household cleaning products
3. Personal bath soap

All items can be delivered to our office at 9520 Berger Road, Suite 311, Columbia,

Afghan Refugee Resettlement Special Collection

A couple months ago, our Afghan Refugee Resettlement team explored with the congregation Channing's plans to support Afghan refugee families as they settle in our area. Many of you enthusiastically completed the survey the team distributed, indicating your willingness to help in this project.

We have rented a storage unit to hold furniture and household items temporarily as we prepare to move them to families via the local, Howard County-based organization we are partnering with -- Luminus Network of New Americans. Your generous financial contributions during this special collection will help to defray the cost of the rental unit (\$76 monthly). Please make checks payable to Channing Memorial Church, memo "Afghan Refugees" or visit the Channing website to make an online donation, again indicating "Afghan Refugees." Thank you for your generous support and commitment.

If you have any questions, please contact the Afghan refugee team -- *Angela L., Kris T., Toni R. or Jim C.*

Stewardship update As of April 30, 2022

Total Operating Income	\$149,619
Total Operating Expense	<u>115,954</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 33,665</u>

Canvass update

We received 35 pledges totaling \$153,556--99% of our goal! Thank you for your support of Channing's mission and ministries. Great work!



Crisis in Ukraine

Eighty years ago when Europe experienced horrendous refugee and humanitarian crises, the Unitarians, through their Service Committee, responded with aid and assistance. Now, Europe and the people of Ukraine face a devastating, aggressive invasion, violence and death. Again, Unitarian Universalists can respond. The UU Service Committee recommends donations to the following organizations that will be responding directly:

- [UUSC's Emergency Response Fund](#)
- [HIAS](#)
- [Hungarian Helsinki Committee](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Ukrainian-American Crisis Response Committee of Michigan](#)

For more information about the UU Service Committee and its role in advancing human rights worldwide and responding to humanitarian crises, contact Jim C. Visit www.uusc.org.

Channing Book Club

The next Meeting of the Book Club will be in July. There will be no June meeting. Participants in July will discuss ***The Weight of Ink***, by Rachel Kadish.

Do you have a poem or an essay you'd like to talk about in the future? Let us know.

What's on your book list? 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 H. with any questions.



Men's Group



Everyone is welcome to join the men on June 2 and 18 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. We look forward to meeting in person back at the Bagel Bin when feasible in the coming months. Comments welcome.

The men's group meets on the first Thursday and the third Saturday of the month on Zoom. All are welcome. Email *Ken H.*

Afternoon Strawberry Social

Park Avenue

Saturday, June 18, 2:00-4:00 PM

Come and join the fun outdoors at Park Avenue from 2-4 pm on Saturday, June 18. Let's celebrate Channing's Summer '22 with ice tea, lemonade, cookies and lots of berries to put on top of lots of shortcake and ice cream. And yes, there'll be whipped cream, too!

Watch for a Signup Genius to let us know you're coming.

Ostara and Nancy

Young Adults Game Night and Virtual Potluck

June 1

The **Young Adults Game Night and virtual potluck** meets every first Wednesday of the month **from 7:30 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.

June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p><i>1</i> Space Search Team 5:30 pm</p> <p>Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>2</i> Men's Group 10 am-12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>3</i> Covenant Circle 9:30am-12:00pm</p> <p>Membership Team 2:00pm</p> <p>Outreach Team 6:00-7:00pm</p>	<p><i>4</i> SoulCollage Group 1:30 - 4:30 pm</p>
<p><i>5</i> Worship Service 10:30-11:30 am</p>	<i>6</i>	<p><i>7</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm</p>	<p><i>8</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00 -8:00pm</p>	<i>9</i>	<p><i>10</i> Worship Team 1:30 - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Soul Matters 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<i>11</i>
<p><i>12</i> Worship Service and Flower Communion 10:30-11:30 am</p> 	<i>13</i>	<p><i>14</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm</p> <p>Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00pm</p>	<p><i>15</i> Soul Matters - Young Adults 7:30 - 9:00 pm</p>	<i>16</i>	<p><i>17</i> Covenant Circle 9:30am-12:00pm</p>	<p><i>18</i> Men's Group 10 am-12:00 pm</p> <p>Strawberry Social at Park Avenue 2:00-4:00 pm</p>
<p><i>19</i> Worship Service 10:30-11:30 am</p>	<i>20</i>	<p><i>21</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p> <p>Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<p><i>26</i> Worship Service 10:30-11:30 am</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm</p>	<i>27</i>	<p><i>28</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm</p>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>		

Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
3677 Park Avenue
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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.

NURTURE Your Spirit.
Help HEAL The World.



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