



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 30, Issue 8

August 2023

Inside:

Rev. Jane's Summer Schedule	2
President's Column	3
Board Bits	4
Mission/Vision of Music Program	4
Stewardship Update ...	6
Volunteers Needed	7
Channing Book Club..	7
Young Adult's Game Night	8
Young Adult Small Group	8
Lectio Divina	8
Men's Group	8
August Calendar	9

August Worship News

Multi-Platform Worship Most Sundays throughout the Summer ...

Our rental agreement with Epiphany Lutheran Church includes the summer months, so on most Sundays we will offer multi-platform worship in person and online via Zoom. Recordings of the Zoom sessions will be uploaded to YouTube for later viewing (typically available by the end of the day on the following Tuesday).

... Plus a Few Other Special Treats!

Multi-platform worship is volunteer-intensive. Plus, it's fun to do something a little bit different occasionally in the summer. By popular demand, the worship associates will be including a few non-worship activities for selected Sundays.

Here's the (Tentative) Lineup for August

All services start at 11:00 AM at Epiphany Lutheran Church (and live on Zoom), unless otherwise specified. (Events at other venues will not be live-streamed on Zoom.)



**We are a Welcoming
Congregation**

August 6 - Jim Caldiero - "Joseph Priestley, Unitarian and Radical Immigrant."

August 13 - TBD

August 20 - Pam E. - [reflections inspired by *Where the Wild Things Are*]

August 27 - Sheri T. - "Little Bits of Good"

Sept. 3 - Ostara H.- Picnic (location TBD)

Wayside Pulpit

Goodness is not a quality of life, it is life itself.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Summer plans and topics are subject to change, so stay tuned to emails, the weekly news, and the website for updates. We look forward to seeing you this summer!



Continued on page 2

Minister

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

President:

Kris Tyssowski ('24)

Vice President: Open ('24)

Treasurer:

Maureen Hayes ('25)

Secretary:

Angela Lesperance ('25)

Trustees:

Sheri Thomas ('24)
Chris Lynch ('25)
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 September 2023 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 20, 2023.**

August Worship Services - continued from page 1

For those gathering in-person:

The COVID risk level in our area is "low" at this time. **Masks are required while singing;** otherwise, masks and distancing are optional.

For those gathering online:

*****We are providing a live-stream of the in-person worship service, starting at 11:00 a.m.*****

If you're unable to make it to the service at Epiphany Lutheran Church, please join us on Zoom. We have a team dedicated to providing multi-platform worship, and you're invited to contact the team at: Zoom@channingmc.org with your feedback. Thank you!

We have a recurring link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97483533297?pwd=U21xeGZtOFpZaXNvd3ZmeElNRncyUT09>
Meeting ID: 974 8353 3297

Passcode: 169586

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/u/aeynWLqsk7>

Rev. Jane's Summer Schedule

Rev. Jane is now on summer vacation and study leave. She will return on August 15.

If any pastoral care concerns arrive during this time, please reach out to a member of the Board and they will connect you to either a local on-call minister or to Rev. Jane. The Board can be reached at channingecboard@channingmc.org.

President's Column



I love to sing. I'm not very good at it, though. While I am familiar with some of the mnemonic devices to help remember the notes on a scale (*Every Good Boy Does Fine*), I can't read music, am lost when it comes to music theory (*pitch, tone, timbre, huh??*), and my lack of rhythm is downright embarrassing at times. No matter. I love to lift my voice in song.

I have a playlist called "Sing Out Loud." I put it together at a difficult time when my father was dying. It's a collection of old and new favorites, some of which have memories and meaning attached to them, while others appeal to me for some combination of lyrics and music theory that call to my heart and soul for reasons I don't understand. I find comfort and inspiration in singing these songs.

Recently I added my first hymn to this playlist. *Wake Now, My Senses*. This song is a perfect fit for "Sing Out Loud" because I find it both comforting and inspiring, especially when singing it in church.

We need both comfort and inspiration in a faith community. Feeling physically and emotionally safe grounds us and gives us a solid base from which to do our work. We're less likely to feel overwhelmed by everything that's going on around us if we have a space where we feel accepted and cared for. We feel renewed and energized when we've had a chance to rest in comfort.

And yet, as important as feelings of comfort are, feeling uncomfortable is also necessary to live a meaningful life. Too much comfort can make us stay where we are rather than find the courage to do hard things. Discomfort can be the nudge or push that moves us toward growth and accomplishment.

One important aspect of a faith community is its role in helping people intentionally walk into discomfort. Making a difference in the world requires change. Creating change in the world requires change in ourselves and change in the way things have always been done. Discomfort asks us to do things we are not familiar with, that we are uncomfortable with, and often things we'd rather leave to someone else to do. It requires us to consider unfamiliar, sometimes challenging perspectives. It requires us to take risks, as individuals and as faith communities. Discomfort pushes us toward spiritual growth.

Inspiration pushes us toward spiritual growth, as well.

When we pause and consider the meaning and purpose of what we do and why we do it, it creates a doorway for inspiration to enter. We need this inspiration because it awakens our creativity and imagination. It allows us to see possibilities and find the motivation to do the work that needs to be done. Inspiration connects us to the beliefs and hopes that resonate deep within us. Inspiration calls us to follow the spiritual impulse to transcend our limitations and believe we can breathe life into our vision of a world transformed.

I find comfort in singing *Wake Now My Senses* because the words send me to a place of reflection, and the music, with its encouraging, compassionate quality, allows me to stay

(continued on page 4)

(President's Column - continued from page 3)

there. The song inspires me because it touches my heart, my mind, and my spirit for reasons I don't understand. And because it captures the essence of what I believe and value.

Our work together this year will require us to walk from safety into discomfort. It will also require us to sustain a community of safe harbor for ourselves and each other because this is where we can find renewal. In this mix of comfort, discomfort, and renewal, we can find inspiration. If we open our hearts, and minds, and spirits to it, this inspiration will certainly move us toward a shared vision of a planet transformed by our care.

All my best,
Kris

Below is a link to a YouTube video of *Wake Now My Senses*. I am grateful to Mike Meneff and the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bremerton, Washington, for their permission to share it.

I invite you to follow the link, crank up the volume, and sing out...loud!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJGXPGloivQ>

Board Bits



The Board began its first meeting of the new fiscal year by welcoming new members Maureen Hayes as Treasurer and Chris Lynch as member at large. The Board again discussed future plans for renting space at Epiphany and at Park Avenue. Input from the congregation will be solicited in September.

Angela shared her experience at General Assembly. Highlights included preliminary approval of the amended Article II and election of Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt as president of the UUA.

The Board discussed the need for reviewing Channing's governance structure. Angela agreed to attend the Helpful Board Habits Retreat on August 5th. The Music Director Search Team is actively working to advertise and recruit a new music director. The RE Search Committee is looking to recruit a couple more people to help. We plan to start some RE classes in the fall.

Angela Lesperance, Secretary

Mission and Vision of the Channing Memorial Church Music Program

As part of the process of searching for our next music director, the Music Director Search Team has been working to define the mission and vision of Channing's music program, seeking to align it with the overall mission and vision of Channing Memorial Church itself. Below is our draft in process of the mission and the vision of the music program. We invite and value your comments on this draft statement. Please send any comments to the team at musicsearch2023@channingmc.org

Mission of the Music Program

Channing Memorial Church -- DRAFT IN PROGRESS (7/17/2023)

The mission of the music program is an extension of the Channing Memorial Church mission to invite seekers into spiritual community, connect souls in mystery and wonder, and ignite compassion into action.

Our particular mission is to:

- Invite a diverse, multi-generational audience into spiritual community through inspiring music from a wide variety of musical genres.
 - Strengthen and expand choir repertoire and music library.
 - Incorporate instrumentalists (drummers, cellists, etc.).
- Work with the worship team, providing engaging music that works synergistically with the rest of the liturgy to inspire, inform, and spiritually nurture the congregation.
 - Deepen the choir's understanding of the flow of worship and the choir's role in it.
 - Integrate music and liturgy into smoothly flowing worship services.
- Engage the congregation with the power and variety of music and movement to enrich the spiritual, communal, and individual experience of all who attend our services.
 - Lead congregational singing in creative ways, building musical awareness.
 - Incorporate simple rhythm instruments for the congregation, as appropriate.
- Create opportunities for deep connection and discovery through the choir as a small-group ministry.
 - Invite members into the choir.
 - Engage in community-building.
 - Work with singers with a broad range of musical experience and skill levels.
 - Acknowledge and support individual member's gifts and needs.

Continued on page 6)

Music Program Mission and Vision - continued from page 5

- Instruct vocal training and theory to grow musically.
 - Emphasize the meaning of music and lyrics.
 - Encourage spiritual growth and exploration through music.
 - Create a welcoming, embracing environment in the choir for people of all races, ethnicities, gender identities, and abilities.
 - Include ways to participate for those not available to commit to the ongoing choir.
 - Leverage resources of the AUUMM, UUA, and other support organizations to amplify the power and reach of our programs, our mission, our 8 principles, and our values.
-

Long-Term Vision of the Music Program

Channing Memorial Church -- DRAFT IN PROGRESS (7/17/2023)

Our long-term vision includes the following possibilities, as we develop our music ministry:

- Engage with organizations and faith institutions from the larger community (including UU and inter faith communities) through shared programs, theirs and ours.
- Bring the transformative power of music to those in need in our surrounding community.
- Use music to promote justice, equity and compassion for all races, ethnicities, gender identities, and abilities.
- Create a voice in the community by showing up and representing Channing Memorial Church at area events and by bringing programs out into the community.

Stewardship update Preliminary Year-to-date as of June 30, 2023

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 186,488
Total Operating Expense	<u>-167,634</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 18,854</u>



Special Collection

Thanks to all for your generosity. During the month of July, we collected \$502 in contributions to the Luminus Network of Howard County.

Volunteers Needed for Channing Services



Channing needs volunteers for a number of jobs at church! To sign up, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084fa4ad2ba46-sunday1#/> with access code: cmc.

We are working to fill these roles but more help is needed. Please volunteer to make the in-person and online services work each week.

Any questions, contact *Cathy F.*

Thank you!

Channing Book Club

The Channing Book Club usually meets on the second Saturday of the month. The next reading will be **Improvement** (225 pages) by Joan Silber on **August 12**. Here's are links to reviews:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/01/books/review/improvement-joan-silber.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/feb/21/improvement-joan-silber-review>

Used editions available – www.thriftbooks.com, www.alibris.com , etc.

Multiple formats: Amazon (variety including Kindle), Howard County Library

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

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

The book club focuses on fiction and non-fiction and attempts to offer a variety of interesting, thoughtful reads nominated by members of the club itself. We meet for up to two hours.



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 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.

Young Adult Small Group

Each month, our Channing Young Adult group meets to share insights, stories, reflections, and questions. 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 7:00-9:00 p.m.** 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!

Lectio Divina

**Tuesday August 8
7-8 pm, on Zoom**



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.

Men's Group

**Thursday August 3 at 10 a.m. on Zoom
and at the Bagel Bin in person on August 17**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting, a link will be sent out via the distribution list for the group. If you are not on that list and are interested, check with Ken H. via email.

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

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> Young Adults Game Night 7:00 - 9:00 pm	<i>3</i> Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>4</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team Meet- ing 6:00 - 7:00 pm	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> Worship Ser- vice 11:00 am	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> LDNC Meet- ing 5:30 - 7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00 -8:00 pm on Zoom	<i>9</i> Stewardship Meeting 7:00 - 8:00 pm	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Worship Team Meet- ing 1:30 - 3:00 pm	<i>12</i> Channing Book Club 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
<i>13</i> Worship Ser- vice 11:00 am	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm Board Meet- ing 7:00 - 9:00 pm	<i>16</i> Young Adult Small Group 7:00 - 9:00 pm	<i>17</i> Men's Group at Bagel Bin 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Worship Ser- vice 11:00 am	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> Worship Ser- vice 11:00 am	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00 pm	<i>30</i>	<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.

We meet at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 9122 Sybert Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Our Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am.

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.