



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 29, Issue 9

September 2022

## Inside:

Lectio Divina.....	2
Young Adult Game Night.....	2
Last Summer Worship Service .....	3
Water Communion Service .....	3
Board Bits .....	3
August Dessert.....	3
President's Column....	4
Stewardship Update...	5
Afghan Refugee Resettlement.....	5
SoulCollage®.....	5
Auction is Coming.....	6
Men's Group .....	7
September Calendar ...	8

**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!**



## Wayside Pulpit

*It is not the length of life,  
but the depth.*

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

This summer, my husband Eric and I are taking full advantage of the warm air and the beautiful array of colors, hiking together along sections of the East Coast. Soon, however, the air will start to cool as the days continue to shorten and the greenery Eric and I find ourselves immersed in begins to fade to brown. This transition - each transition between the four seasons - is a sacred time for me. It is a time to remember that inevitable cycle of life, joy and sorrow, life and death, each beginning, ending, and beginning again. This acknowledgement led me to reflect on the cycles we are entering into as a church community.

We are at the beginning of the new church year. Together, we will celebrate, we will mourn, we will be filled with joy, and our hearts will break. As flowers retreat into the earth, we will worship, be a source of justice, strengthen our souls and feed our minds. As we enter the active church year and leave the pause of summer behind, let us cycle together as a sacred community with love and compassion as our guiding sources, leaving judgment and animosity behind. If you notice a beloved experiencing pain, offer a safe space to listen. If you yourself are filled with joy, invite others into your midst! Let us be cognizant of how our actions ripple throughout the interdependent web of life.

This church experiences a unique cycle - sometimes settled in a building, sometimes searching. This year, we will continue to look for space, and with this note, I offer a reminder. We are not a building; we are a community - a tightly knit community held together by bonds of love and faith. No matter what lies ahead, we will get there together.

We are in this together. What else can we bring to our community as the cycle of the new year begins? Our world is in disarray. Illness, war, and climate crisis are all too familiar. At this time, I feel our hearts are yearning for beloved

*(continued on page 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](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org)

Send submittals for the October issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 25.**

*(Minister’s Column - continued from page 1)*

community. Let this church be that community.

Let us practice radical acceptance with minds open and welcoming to the beautiful diversity that is humankind - we can create, nurture, and sustain that flower garden of humanity. Together, we can bring love to an aching world, and solace to those in our midst.

So let us embrace all of life’s cycles! Bask when joyful and reach out when in pain. Be present to new life and know that others are leaving this realm. We cannot have one without the other. Let us embrace these inevitabilities, celebrating and honoring all that life offers. I am excited to enter this new church year with all of you!

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

**Lectio Divina**



We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7-8 pm, of each month. Our next **meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday September 13. Join Channing members and meet others from the Charlestown retirement community.**

**We join together for a practice of Lectio Divina.**

This ancient practice allows us the opportunity to delve deep into a chosen 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.

**Young Adults Game Night and Virtual Potluck**

The **Young Adults Game Night and virtual potluck** 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.

## Last Summer Worship Service

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



## Water Communion Service

**September 11**

As we make our way through 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 each of you to collect water from one of these places.** When we join together on **Sunday, September 11 for our annual Water Communion service**, we have a special opportunity to celebrate this water and the story it holds. We will bless the water and join in a ritual to share this water with that from years past, combining this year's joys with the joys of dedicated members and friends that came before us. I look forward to celebrating this beloved tradition!

*Rev. Jane*

## Board Bits

**Aug. 16, 2022**



The Board reviewed an updated draft of Channing's Covid policy on gatherings.

Based on a lack of parking and uncertainty regarding Howard County's intentions for the sale of the courthouse and surrounding area, the Board decided not to pursue the purchase of the Park Avenue facility.

Channing's space team joined the meeting and provided the board with information on what their current challenges are. The space team will look for a commercial realtor to assist them in the search for long-term space. The immediate priority is to find rental space for Sunday mornings as soon as possible. Until then, we will continue to hold Sunday morning services on Zoom.



## August Dessert Gathering

Thanks to all who came to the D Musketeers' summer gathering on August 15! It was a lovely time with food and friends. Thanks to my compatriots Marian V. and Nancy H. and our stealth baker Lisa G.!

## President's Column



When our children were growing up, I learned something about crepe myrtle trees that turned out to be pretty important. It's not that they are covered in large, showy blossoms in summer or that their leaves turn from dark green to shades of red and orange and yellow-gold in fall. Nor is it that they are easy to care for, drought resistant, cold resistant, and deer resistant. What turned out to be important is that they are not teenage-driver resistant.

To say I didn't realize that a car, being driven in reverse, accidentally heading toward the edge of the driveway, wasn't going to cause damage to the tree standing in its way is pretty silly. I expected that. What I didn't expect was my reaction. I didn't think of it as a mistake or a problem. Instead, I saw it for what it was—an experience that offered lessons to be learned.

I have, figuratively, backed over many crepe myrtles in my time and had always been quick to brand the experiences solely as mistakes. Usually with a capital "M." This meant I'd spend more energy on regret and recrimination than on discerning the lessons to be learned. I had no grace or understanding for myself. But I did have it for that rookie driver. The crepe myrtle's most important lesson was for me.

One of the blessings of a faith community is its offer of a place of grace where one can sort through one's experiences, where questions can be asked, assumptions can be challenged, and feelings can be felt, all in an atmosphere of support and non-judgment. The striving for personal and spiritual development is understood as both uplifting and messy, and it has a lot to do with what lessons we bring into our future.

Unlike other spaces where we can explore what it means to be human, a faith community undergirds our efforts with a net of support woven from strands of shared values, spiritual enrichment, and compassion. It is a place where, by just showing up, we are reminded of our core beliefs. Here, we can be reassured that we are inherently worthy whether we struggle and fail or struggle and prevail. It is a rich loamy soil where we can bring who we are, and where we have been, and tend to the work of growth.

Yes, I've backed over crepe myrtles but didn't that open spaces of full sun for something else to grow? The refrain to Leonard Cohen's song *Anthem* goes,

*Ring the bells that still can ring.  
Forget your perfect offering.  
There is a crack in everything.  
That's how the light gets in.*

So, what happened to the knocked-over crepe myrtle? Joe tried to dig it up and replace it with bright red Knock Out® roses. But the crepe myrtle wasn't having any of

*(continued on page 5)*

*(President's Column - continued from page 4)*

that. The following spring, there it was, sending slender, woody stems with showy pink blooms through the growing canes of the rose bushes. Now, next to our driveway grows a genuinely unique and beautiful shrub with pink and red blossoms flowering on intertwined branches with dark green leaves, some of which will drop when autumn arrives, and others will remain, changing to shades of red and orange and yellow-gold.

Kris

**Stewardship Update  
As of July 31, 2022**

**General Operating Fund**

Total Operating Income	\$ 11,783
Total Operating Expense	<u>-13,207</u>
Difference	<u>\$ - 1,426</u>

**Afghan Refugee Resettlement**

Thank you to all who generously donated toiletry items for refugees. We plan to conduct these collections quarterly. Watch this space for an announcement about the next collection. Please direct questions about the project to Angela L., Toni R. or Jim C. For more information visit <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice/afghan-refugees>.

Thank you.

**SoulCollage®**

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!

The dates, online, of our next two SoulCollage® workshops are **September 3 and October 22, 1:30 to 4:30 for both days. On Zoom.**



## Auction is coming November 12!

September is here! And that means it is time to ramp up for the twenty-somethingth mostly annual Channing Memorial Church AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA. Here's the facts:

### The Facts:

What: Channing Memorial Church  
AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA

When: Saturday, November 12, 2022

Where: VIRTUAL

Why: To have a good time and raise money  
for the Church

How: However we can

Who: Members and Friends



**The Auction Team** extraordinaire are Cathy F. (the hostess with the mostest), Eric S. (the master of details), and yours truly, David F., (the spewer of verbiage). You can communicate with us about all-things auction via the SPECIAL EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPECIALNESS: [channingauction@yahoo.com](mailto:channingauction@yahoo.com)

**The Entertainment Team**, headed up by the dynamic duo of Stephanie B. (the director of the puppets) and Pam E. (the voice of the spheres) have already hit the ground running, and they will be putting out a call for ~~clerks~~ *talent* real soon now. In order not to steal their thunder, I will not divulge any more at this time. Sorry, but it's just going to have to be a HARD KNOCK LIFE for you on this account.

**What to do now:** November 12th will be here before you know it, so let's get crack-ing! Plan those lovely social events, make that special food, rummage around for stuff to sell, and dust off those acting shoes. Yes, your Auction Team Extraordinaire is extraordinary, but we **all** need to do our parts to pull off **yet another** stupendous auction event!

**Email your donations** to [channingauction@yahoo.com](mailto:channingauction@yahoo.com)! Put on your thinking cap and have fun! To donate, send the following information:

1. Title of Item
2. Description of Item, Event, Lesson, Service: Please include enough information to show people why they might want to bid on your donation.
3. Price Per Participant (if fixed price) OR Minimum Bid (if auction item)

*(continued on page 7)*

*(Auction - continued from page 6)*

4. Maximum number of participants (if applicable)
5. Event date/s & time (if applicable. Please include day of the week and calendar date.)
6. Location (if applicable) or delivery/pick-up logistics
7. Name/s, e-mail address, and phone number of donor/s
8. Other information (lead time needed, etc.)
9. Important again for this year's donations - photographs! Please include one or more photographs of your auction donation with your information.

NOTE - E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR AUCTION COMMUNICATIONS:

**channingauction@yahoo.com**

That is all.

*The Channing Auction Team Extraordinaire (Cathy F., David F., and Eric S.)*

**Men's Group**

**Thursday, September 1  
and  
Saturday, September 17  
10 am - 12:00 pm**


Everyone is welcome. We look forward to meeting 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. Email *Ken H.* for more information.

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Men's Group 10 :00 am - 12:00 pm	2 Membership Tm 2:00 pm  Outreach Team. 6-7 pm	3 SoulCollage 1:30-4:30 pm
4 Worship Ser- vice 10:30 - 11:30am	5 	6 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm	7 Space Search Meeting 5:00-6:00 pm Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	8	9 Worship Team Mtg. 1:30 - 3:00 pm	10
11 Worship Ser- vice 10:30 am <u>Water Com- munion</u>	12	13 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm LDNC Mtg 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00 - 8:00 pm	14 Stewardship Meeting 7:00 -8:00 pm	15	16	17 Men's Group 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
18 Worship Ser- vice 10:30 - 11:30 am	19	20 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm  Board Meet- ing 7:00 - 9:00 pm	21	22 First day of Autumn	23	24
25 Worship Ser- vice 10:30 - 11:30 am  Rosh Hashanah begins at sun- down	27 Lectio Divina 7:00 - 8:00 pm	28 Minister's Office Hours 1:00-4:00pm	29	30		



Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
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On the web:  
[www.ChanningMC.org](http://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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