



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 31, Issue 10

October 2024

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**

Wayside Pulpit

For love at first seemed easy
But many difficulties have
befallen me

- Hafez Shirazi, Divan

Dear Channing Members and Friends,



September and October are beautiful months to hike in the wilderness. Eric and I look forward to this time of year. Trees transition from the abundant green of life to the array of browns and greens and oranges that accompany the transition to death. Their air cools as we wrap ourselves in sweatshirts, and even the

air has a different scent to it. Critters begin to slow down and hide for the winter. Fall is beginning!

These changing colors and textures and scents mark another beginning as well - the beginning of our church year. Recently we heard words of welcome echoing through our worship space as we sang together, Enter, Rejoice, and Come In! Our worship space is filling with anticipation and joy, folks are trickling into my office for small groups, coffee hour is buzzing with friendship and faith. We start up again in earnest - it's a new beginning! What do I think of when I muse upon new beginnings? Hope, joy, excitement, wonderment, and, perhaps most predominantly, curiosity. Can we enter this new church year with curiosity and joy?

Here is my curiosity question: What are you looking forward to this upcoming church year? Perhaps spiritual or intellectual nourishment from worship. Maybe deep, personal sharing and growth in small groups, or special, unique bonds of friendship with one another. Perhaps a space to wholeheartedly bring your joys and concerns, always met with love. Church is a refuge for the spirit, a feeding ground for the soul, an invitation to help change the world. So, let me know, as your minister: how can I help guide you? As beloved congregants, may you ask one an-

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Minister

Rev. Jane Bennett Smith
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minister@channingmc.org

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Angela Lesperance ('26)

Vice President: Open
(‘26)

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Kathleen Razmus ('26)

Newsletter Editors:

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Ken Grim

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

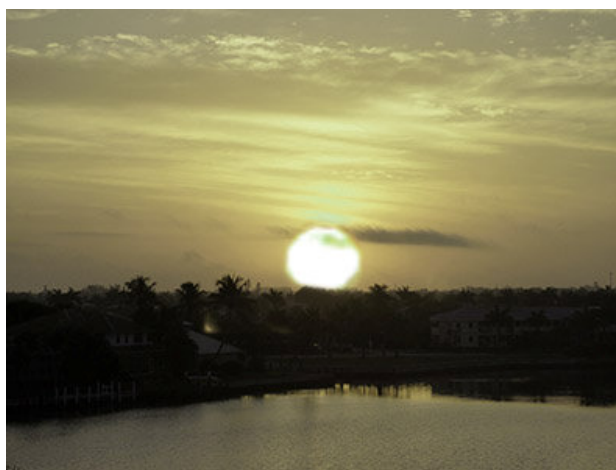
Please send submittals for the November 2024 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, 2024.**

other: What does your body, heart, mind, and soul need? Responding to these needs - this is why we're a church! To tend to every unique and blessed individual.

In church, we receive because we give and give because we receive. So far, we have focused on that sacred and holy act of receiving. Let us pause for a moment and reflect upon this: What can I give this church year? For this is sacred too! How can I tend to my own spirit by supporting and caring for another? This looks unique in myriad ways. Perhaps it's to join the Outreach Team to share our message with the world and invite new beloveds into our midst. Perhaps it's to guide our church through justice initiatives. Whatever it is - do it with your full heart and soul! It is a blessing to the world. Church is for you, and church is from you.

So let us enter this new year reinvigorated, ready for those sacred acts of giving and receiving. May we carry with us hope, excitement, and wonderment - here we are, a community of love, compassion, faith, and warmth. May each day be a blessed day because we have each other. May each day be a sacred day because we have a community of faith. May each day be a holy day because we love each other deeply.

With love,
Rev. Jane



President's Column

Greetings Channing Friends,

Homily on Invitation

In September, our theme for the month was invitation. I love receiving invitations, either in my mailbox or by email. It's exciting to anticipate the fun and fellowship that will happen at the event. I also like the idea of every day being an invitation. As the Soul Matters packet for this month says, it's an invitation to let the "world" love us.

But what does that mean? To me, I think it means to observe the world around you and appreciate its beauty: the natural world, the animal world, and the human world that we have designed. There is much to say about improvements to the designs we have made. If we put that aside for the moment, we can appreciate what we do have and have access to bring meaning to our lives. Then, after grounding ourselves in thankfulness, love, and appreciation, we can set to work about fixing things that are broken or in great need of improvement.

Speaking of work, I want to personally thank all the people who volunteer to work on church tasks. Thank you to people who volunteer every month and thank you to those who recently volunteered to try a new task. It takes all of us to have a well-functioning church.

I invite all of us to keep up the good work!

Love,
Angela



Administering Estates in Maryland

The Honorable Byron E. Macfarlane, Howard County Register of Wills

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

sponsored by

Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist at

Epiphany Lutheran Church

9122 Sybert Drive, Ellicott City, MD.

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(Administering Estates - Continued from page 3)

Sooner or later, you or a family member may need to administer an estate in Maryland. Join Byron E. Macfarlane, Register of Wills, to learn about the probate process in Maryland, types of estates, the role of a personal representative, the importance of having a will, how to register a will and required documents for opening and closing an estate. Mr. Macfarlane grew up in Howard County, attended Howard County schools and earned his Juris Doctor from University of Baltimore School of Law. He has extensive experience in public service and is an extremely engaging speaker. This presentation is re-scheduled from last spring. Bring your questions.

Voting In Maryland – A Guide

Register to Vote

You may register to vote in person during Early Voting or on Election Day at your polling place

See https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/index.html

Vote in Person During Early Voting, Oct. 24-31, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Info: https://elections.maryland.gov/voting/early_voting.html

List of Early Voting Sites

<https://www.elections.maryland.gov/elections/2024/2024%20Early%20Voting%20Centers%20v1.pdf>

Vote in Person on Election Day, November 5, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Find Your Polling Place at: voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch

Vote By Mail

Request a ballot by October 29

Visit: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineMailinRequest/InstructionsStep1>

Save the Date: Channing at Howard County Pride 2024



Date: Sunday, October 13

Hours: Gates open at 11:00 am. Festival begins at 12:00 pm (noon) and ends at 4:00 pm.

Location: Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods

Theme: Finding Vibrance Everywhere

Last year, Channing Memorial Church participated in the Howard County Pride celebration in Columbia. It was an exciting way to show our support for the LGBTQ+ community and for Channing to gain more visibility in the community at large. We spoke to dozens of people who visited our table and provided them with information about Channing and Channing tote bags. It was a gratifying experience for those who staffed our table.

Channing has again been accepted as an exhibitor for Pride 2024, so mark **October 13** on your calendar. We are asking for volunteers to help staff our table during the day, so if you wish to volunteer for a shift, please sign up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4AACAC2FAB9-51758656-volunteers>

-- *Outreach Team:*

Kathleen R., Chair

Evelyn G.

Ken G.

Ken K.

Marian V.



Dear Channing Members and Friends,

Many of us desire lives of calm, peace, spirituality, and resilience. This year, we will look at crafting such a life together.

A key facet of a purposeful life is an engagement with a spiritual practice. Together this year, through monthly classes, I offer us the chance to explore such practices. **I encourage folks to attend these classes because I find spiritual practices of utmost importance and hope to give you tools to enrich your life.** No matter what your spiritual identity - humanist, theist, earth centered, etc. - these classes are for you. We will share a time for learning, sharing, and growth, allowing each of us to enrich our faith journeys and life experiences. I invite you to see this as a practice of self-care and spiritual wholeness, and I stress the importance of regular spiritual practices on your overall health and well-being.

Once a month, we will delve into a different aspect of spiritual practices. At times we will focus on our mind, body, or soul. **You are welcome to attend any of the sessions that speak to your heart.** I do ask for an RSVP.

In October, we will explore spiritual practices of the mind.

Our class will be held:

Saturday, October 26 from 10am - 11:30am at the church office.

Please RSVP by Friday, October 11 to minister@channingmc.org.

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Membership Retreat

Dear Channing members and friends,

We have so many blessings to offer the world, so let's share them! Nearly every week, visitors come through our doors eager to know what we can offer them. We hope these beloveds stay with us as we worship, learn, and grow together. So, we ask, how can we welcome new visitors, and how can we encourage folks to return? This October, join Rev. Jane, the Outreach Committee, and the Membership Committee for a two-day retreat created for Unitarian Universalist congregations like us. The program states:

“Instead of focusing on growth for its own sake, we focus on the transformative power that Unitarian Universalism has in people's lives and how our congregations can provide a welcoming and inclusive experience for everyone who comes through our doors.

This training is designed for application across your ministry teams. Learn to work together to reinforce life-affirming and creative frameworks and use practical tools for welcoming and inclusion, connection and belonging, all as foundational to a membership journey in your congregation grounded in mutuality and consent.”

We hope you can join us as we all do the important work of welcoming more “spiritual seekers” into our beloved community! It takes a village.

The retreat will be broken up into two sessions. I strongly encourage attending both sessions.

Saturday, October 12 from 12:30pm - 4:30pm

Saturday, October 19 from 1pm - 4:30pm

We will meet at the church office. Snacks and beverages will be provided!

If you are interested in attending, please send an email to minister@channingmc.org by October 1.



Board Bits

The Treasurer's report this month included these noteworthy items:

- A team consisting of CMC's liaisons to our Merrill Lynch financial advisor (Dan and Lynne), The Treasurer (Maureen), and Bookkeeper (Evelyn) will be developing an investment policy within the next 6 months.
- A retirement plan restatement for employees working more than 1,000 hrs./yr. is also in process. This restatement will incorporate rules and regulations that have changed, and possibly additional tweaks. (The last restatement was done in 2014.)



The Sabbatical Coordinator (Kris) reported that the Liturgy Team has decided on a plan for Sunday coverage during Rev. Jane's sabbatical (Feb. 3-June 2) as follows:

- The Anchor minister leads one service/month
- A different guest minister leads one service/month
- Worship Associates lead two services/month
- An additional guest minister leads the service on March 30 (fifth Sunday in March)

The Anchor Minister will also provide up to 5 hours of pastoral care/month. The period of Rev. Jane's summer vacation and study leave (June 15-Sept. 8) will be managed as it usually is— i.e., the Liturgy Team will make arrangements for Sunday services and Rev. Jane will organize pastoral care coverage.

Epiphany Lutheran's Council is considering hiring a cleaning service to do regular cleaning. If the expenditure is approved by ELC, CMC will pay half the fee for the cleaning, in accordance with our contract. ELC has also given us a "heads up" of a small rent increase, consistent with our contract, in the coming year. Other things "in the works" at ELC include:

- New carpeting for the nursery room
- On-going conversations around sound concerns in the downstairs hall

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Kathleen reported that the Restroom Renovation Task Force has learned from the county that we can make one restroom ADA compliant without a requirement for further renovations. The contractor who supplied us with an estimate for ADA compliant restrooms both upstairs and downstairs will be asked for an estimate on this more minimal option, and options will be discussed with the congregation, before a decision is made.

The Outreach Team presented new logo designs (created by Angela) that can be used on shirts. The logos might also be put to other uses.



**Stewardship update
Year-to-date as of August 31, 2024**

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 60,459
Total Operating Expense	<u>-31,243</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 29,216</u>



Save the date!



The 2024 Channing Memorial Church Auction Weekend Extravaganza will take place on November 8-10, 2024. This year's auction theme is...wait for it...
AUCTION!

Here are our well laid plans:

- **Friday, November 8th:** Online via Auctria: Silent auction and fixed price event signup open.
- **Saturday, November 9th:** At Epiphany Lutheran Church: Live auction will be an **in person dinner** with some kind of entertainment.
- **Sunday, November 10th:** Silent auction ends.

What do we need from you?

Donations: We need donations for the silent and fixed price events and for the live auction. It's not a hard and fast rule, but silent auction items tend to be household goods, artwork, or food, while fixed price events and live auction items tend to be dinners, classes, etc.

Entertainers: We're planning on doing entertainment like we did last year, canvassing the congregation for various short performances (songs, stories, jokes, etc., etc., etc.). If you would like to do something more extensive and/or elaborate, and you are willing to take on the leadership role, please let the Auction Planning Committee know ASAP.

Your Participation: Experts agree, your participation is **the key** to a successful auction, so mark your calendars, plan your donations, dust off your theatrical shoes, and save your pennies for November 8-10!

With love,

The Auction Planning Committee channingauction@yahoo.com

Lectio Divina

Our normal schedule is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. **Next Meeting: October 8.**

Standard Link to join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93324550758?pwd=VFVLZkdES21odTNHK1pWZ1pZb1l4UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

Wisdom Tales

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 Rev. Jane to engage with these ancient tales.

Our standing meeting is the first Tuesday of the month, 11am-12pm, held on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94007522019?pwd=MEhIT1lKbDRIUWViTm9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Passcode: 665527

Channing Book Club

Wednesday, October 2 at 10 a.m. on Zoom --- future meetings tentatively scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Stay tuned.

October 17 – since Ken H. will be out of town that week, tentative reschedule to Oct. 22 at Roggenart on Rt. 40 east of Bethany Lane. **Please email Ken H. in advance if you intend to attend.** (90 minutes.)



Please let Ken H. know at least three days in advance, or more, if you would like to participate by Zoom session.

October 22 – Shipping News by Annie Prouix (Pulitzer prize winner)

“A vigorous, darkly comic, and at times magical portrait of the contemporary American family. The Shipping News shows why E. Annie Prouix is recognized as one of the most gifted and original writers in America today.”

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.

Men's Group

**Wednesday, October 2 (10 am - 12 pm) on Zoom
and In-person October 17 (10 - 11:30 am)**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **October 2**, 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.

The **October 17** gathering will be at **Roggenart** on Rt. 40 east of Bethany Lane, at 10:00 am. **Please email Ken H. if you intend to attend.** We need enough responses to make this happen.

Xennials, 20/40s 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 Beben* for information.

Xennials, 20/40s Small Group

Each month, 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 7-9pm** 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!



Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through December!

Please [use this link](#) to give us a hand with everything that makes the weekly worship service run.

If you have any questions or need help signing up, please email me. Thank you!

-- *Cathy F.*



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p><i>1</i> Wisdom Tales 11:00am-12:00 Choir Practice 3:00 pm Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm</p>	<p><i>2</i> Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm Rosh Hashana begins</p>	<p><i>3</i></p>	<p><i>4</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>
<p><i>6</i> Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>	<p><i>8</i> Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p><i>9</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom</p>	<p><i>10</i></p>	<p><i>11</i> Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm Yom Kippur begins</p>	<p><i>12</i> Welcoming Visitors Work- shop I 12:30 - 4:30 pm</p>
<p><i>13</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Howard County Pride Festival in Columbia 11:00 am</p>	<p><i>14</i></p>	<p><i>15</i> Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>16</i> Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00- 9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>17</i> Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Roggenart</p>	<p><i>18</i></p>	<p><i>19</i> Welcoming Visitors Work- shop II 1:00 - 4:30 pm</p>
<p><i>20</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>21</i></p>	<p><i>22</i> Channing Book Club 10:00- 11:30 Minister's Of- fice Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p><i>23</i> Administering Estates in MD 6:30 PM at Epiphany</p>	<p><i>24</i></p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>
<p><i>27</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>28</i></p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i> Halloween </p>		

**Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
3525 Ellicott Mills Dr.
Suite A
Ellicott City, MD 21043**

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.

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

Directions 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. The church will be on your right.

Directions 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. The church will be on your right.