



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 31, Issue 11

November 2024

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Dear Beloveds,



Many of us are familiar with the idea of sacred space. As a people of faith, we gather together in a house of worship every Sunday, a holy and sanctified space in which we pray, sing, and restore our spirits. Christians find their God in a church bearing the symbolism of the cross, Muslims find

meaning in a mosque as they prostrate in prayer, Jews find purpose in a synagogue reciting the Torah, and others find the divine in the light of the sun spilling through the trees of a dense forest. Sacred space, yes. But what about sacred time?

Sacred time is sabbath. It is a time to pull away from the busyness and demands of daily life. It is time to be with whatever it is we hold sacred, whether that be the essence of love, a great mystery, or that still, small voice within. It is a time to commune with love and awe and hope. It is not a passive pause of idleness and boredom, but an active pause of introspection and prayer and contemplation.

To me, this is connecting to God, to all that is sacred and holy. I find this in the depths of nature, I find this while paused in loving kindness meditation, I even find this while reading a favorite novel. The caress of the wind, the awe of a sunset, or a moment of prayer, communing with my God.

Life is one rushed moment to the next, crossing off items on an endless, mental to-do list. In order to remain peaceful, calm, and centered, we need to pause with that sacred time; moments of spiritual renewal and health. We need to step away from work and laundry and family demands, if only for a moment.

(Continued on page 2)



**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**

Wayside Pulpit

Jesus said, "If you can see what is in front of your face, what is hidden will be revealed to you."

(Continued from page 1)

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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

—————
Please send submittals for the December 2024 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 24, 2024.**

How can we incorporate sabbath into our lives? Can we do this daily? Weekly? I try to do so, however imperfectly. This may be an afternoon prayer or an evening break with a favorite novel. This may be a Sunday afternoon immersed in the intricate wonders of nature with my dear husband as we hike through rural Pennsylvania. So, I invite you to pause. What kind of sacred rest can you intentionally incorporate? What calms your mind and feeds your spirit? Often, at least in the beginning, it is a deliberate practice that we do imperfectly. But we can grow.

A wise colleague once told me, reflecting on the life of a parish minister, “If you give them all of you, you can’t give them the best of you.” It is my intention to give you the best of me. And so, I’ll take some time for sabbath this spring by leaving for a sabbatical. I will graciously use this time to attend a month-long retreat, to partake in Buddhist meditations and teachings, to spend time with family, to cultivate hobbies, and learn about world religions, theology and faith. It is a sacred time that I will not take for granted. I hope this can invite a time for sabbath into your own lives.

So may we each make time for sabbath. May we intentionally step away from the busyness and urgency of life and instead pause in sacred stillness, even if just for a moment. And may that moment become an hour, become an afternoon, become a day, become a week. We each need a time of healing and restoration so that we can bring our best selves to the world with refreshed spirits and deepened minds. May we remember, as we tend to family or friends or patients or clients, “If you give them all of you, you can’t give them the best of you.”

With love,
Rev. Jane

Welcome to Yet Another Electronic Channing Memorial Church Auction Weekend Extravaganza Announcement!



In addition to repeating the basic auction information at the end of this note, this message will focus on two topics: donations and RSVPing.

Donations: No donations = no auction!

The deadline for donations is Real Soon Now – heck, it might even be past, so waste no time and get your donation submitted so we can create a most excellent catalog.

“I get that, but how do I submit an item for donation?” I’m so glad you asked, because there are not one, but **two** ways to submit a tantalizing description of your eye-catching item, your fabulous foodstuffs, your soul-feeding service, or your excellent event:

1. Fill out this handy dandy Google form, one for each item you donate.
2. Email your donation description to channingauction@yahoo.com.

RSVP: No attendees = no auction!

“I get that, but how do I sign up to attend this most auspicious event?” I’m so glad you asked, because there are not one, but **two** ways to reserve a spot at the welcome table:

1. [Go to this link](#). You will be able to indicate any dietary restrictions.
2. During coffee hour after a Sunday service, find the Auction Planning Committee representative wearing the **Ask Me About the Auction Sign** and wielding the **RSVP clipboard of supreme reservation**. They will be able to get you all squared away.

Basic Auction Information (now with TIMES!)

The 2024 Channing Memorial Church Auction Weekend Extravaganza will take place on November 8-10, 2024. Here are our well laid plans:

- **Friday, November 8th:** Online via Auctria: Silent auction and fixed price event signup open at 6:00p.m.
- **Saturday, November 9th: 5:30p.m.-- 8:30p.m.** At Epiphany Lutheran Church: Live auction will be an **in person dinner** with light entertainment.
- **Sunday, November 10th:** Silent auction ends at 6:00p.m.

With love,

The Auction Planning Committee channingauction@yahoo.com

Cathy F., David F., Eric S.

“Experiences of Grace” with Rev. Jane

Christian theologian Denis Edwards offers a Christian reflection on grace that I feel is applicable to our own faith tradition. Grace, as Edwards describes, is something that transcends us. It enters upon our day-to-day existence through the guise of mystery, experienced by us as a great gift. These experiences are those of grace because we know ourselves to be blessed. There are experiences of grace found in the richness of life, such as childbirth, love, beauty, and forgiveness. But grace can emerge from those instances which at first seem negative: vulnerability, death, failure, loneliness, and alienation. In these times we feel pushed against our limits and yet through this confrontation we are taken beyond ourselves and enter into the great mystery.

Join me as we reflect upon these beautiful and novel ideas. How do you interpret these moments of grace? When have you felt grace in your own life? How can these moments of hardship in turn lead to a beautiful, transcendent mystery?

This class will be held **Saturday, November 16 from 1-2pm at the church office.** Please RSVP to minister@channingmc.org by Saturday, November 9.

I hope you will join me!

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.

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 session that speaks to your heart.

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This November, we will focus on “Life” Practices. Together, we explore what it means to find the sacred in seemingly mundane experiences. Where in your everyday life do you find the presence of spirit? How does engaging with the sacred ordinary become a spiritual practice?

Our class will be held:

Saturday, November 23 from 10am – 11:30am at the church office.

Please RSVP by Saturday, November 16 to minister@channingmc.org.

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

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

Board Bits

NEW from the Board: If you have a request that the Board add an agenda item to its upcoming meeting, please submit that request by 6:00 p.m. the prior Friday (the Friday preceding the 3rd Tuesday of the month). Agenda requests may be sent to the Board at channingecboard@channingmc.org, or to the President (Angela).



The Board approved a resolution to adopt the 2025 Restatement of the Unitarian Universalist Organizations Retirement Plan, to be implemented January 1, 2025. The plan applies to the retirement benefits of staff members working more than 1,000 hours/year.

The Board received a report from the Sabbatical Coordinator (Kris). Three ministers have applied for the position of Anchor Minister for Rev. Jane's upcoming sabbatical.

The Board voted to accept a proposal to renovate the current men's room downstairs to make it ADA compliant and provide a rough-in sewer pipe and water line to the main level for future use. The total cost, including associated design work, is estimated at \$32,880.00. The next step is to run this plan by Epiphany Lutheran Church's point of contact for the project. Once the work commences, it's expected to take six weeks to complete.

The Board discussed the need to fill the Usher Coordinator position that is vacant since Virginia stepped into a Worship Associate role. Recruitment for this position is underway.

Epiphany Lutheran will host viewings of their Nativity Village open to the public on Sunday afternoons during the holiday season beginning November 24th.

Epiphany Lutheran contracted with a cleaning company, Victoria's Finest, to do an initial thorough cleaning of the church, which has been done. Channing is paying for half of this cleaning. Negotiations are in process for regular cleaning.

The Board of Trustees, together with Rev. Jane,

cordially invite you to a

Congregational Listening Session

on October 29th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

This session will provide important information about Rev. Jane's upcoming sabbatical leave and offer an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have. Please join us by Zoom.

**Stewardship update
Year-to-date as of September 30, 2024**

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 85,300
Total Operating Expense	<u>-45,329</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 39,971</u>



Lectio Divina

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, we will pause for several minutes of silent reflection, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection.

Our normal schedule is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. **Next Meeting: November 12.**

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=MEhIT11KbDRIUWViTm9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Passcode: 665527

Men's Group

**Wednesday, November 6 (10 am - 12 pm) on Zoom
and In-person November 21 (10 - 11:30 am)**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **November 6**, 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 **November 21** 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.

Channing Book Club

Saturday, November 9 at 10 a.m. on Zoom --- future meetings tentatively scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Stay tuned.

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



November 9 – **American Ramble** by Neil King: A Story of Memory and Renewal
<https://www.neilkingjr.com/>

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.

Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through January!

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 Fu

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 B.* 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!

Channing at Howard County Pride

Thanks to all the volunteers who made our day on Sunday, October 13th, at Howard County Pride a huge success. We connected with festival goers and with folks from other churches and community organizations. We gave away tote bags, bubble wands and Channing brochures and had many opportunities to talk about Channing with folks who stopped by our table. Already looking forward to doing it again next year!



This page can be printed separately, filled out and turned in.

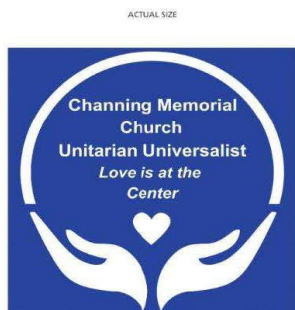
NEW Channing T-Shirts and Hoodies For Sale

Order Deadline : Sunday, November 17th

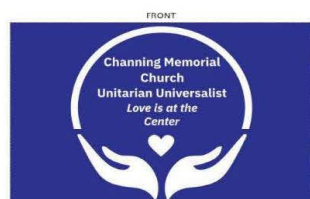
The Outreach Team is pleased to be offering t-shirts and hoodies for sale. This new version contains an updated design created by our own Angela Lesperance.

The t-shirts are \$20.00 each and the hoodies are \$30.00.

Wearing Channing swag when you are out and about is a great way to represent for the church and plant little seeds of awareness in the community. They also look great!



Royal Blue T Shirt - 100% cotton						
Adult Sizes - \$20.00						
Size	Small	Medium	Large	XL	XXL	XXXL
Quantity						



Royal Blue Hoodie - 100% poly/cotton blend						
Adult Sizes - \$30.00						
Size	Small	Medium	Large	XL	XXL	XXXL
Quantity						

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Make check out to Channing Memorial Church

Channing needs an Usher Coordinator!

Have you been looking for an important yet easy way to get involved with church? Look no further! Channing needs someone to help coordinate ushers so that we have someone to usher every Sunday.

What is involved?

- Signing people up in Sign Up Genius
- Being an occasional backup usher
- Learning the duties of an usher

That's it!

Please contact Angela L. to volunteer.

Thank you for helping us do the work of the church!



November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30 pm American Indian Heritage Month	2
3 Daylight Savings time ENDS Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm	4	5 Wisdom Tales 11:00am-12:00 Choir Practice 3:00 pm Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Election Day	6 Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	7	8 Choir Practice 10:00 am Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm	9 Channing Book Club 10:00-11:30 Live auction and dinner 5:30-8:30 pm RSVP for Experience of Grace
10 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Silent auction ends as 6:00 pm	11 Veterans Day	12 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00 pm LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	13 Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom	14	15	16 Experience of Grace 1:00-2:00 pm RSVP for Life Practices
17 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	18	19 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	20 Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00-9:00 pm	21 Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Roggenart	22 Choir Practice 10:00 am	23 Life Practices 10-11:30 am
24 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm	25	26 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Choir Practice 3:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

**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.