



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 26, Issue 10

October 2019

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## September Minister's Column

Dear Channing Memorial Church,



The days are cooling, the leaves are changing, pumpkin pies are in the making. It is a time of change and transition. Beautiful, and sacred. It's a good time of year to sit outside and simply be, to enjoy the changing weather. We are in the midst of a transition, as well. We just wrapped up our first full month in our new buildings. I want to send a sincere and gracious thank you to all of the Channing members who helped make this transition possible. We have had cleaners, movers, organizers – a multitude of important roles! Thank you. This transition shows the true strength and resiliency of Channing Memorial Church.

This month we will explore the theme of “Belonging.” We will grapple with dangerous binaries that lead to exclusion, reflect on the intense power of acceptance of the whole person, and ask ourselves, how can I belong to myself? We will wrestle with these concepts in worship and begin our first month of small group Soul Matters discussions.

I also hope that this month you will come to our Start-Up retreat. Paula Cole Jones of the UUA will lead us through small group exercises, discussion, and reflection. We will talk about the history of our congregation and how this affects us today. We will also discuss our shared goals and expectations.

I leave you with a poem by Wendell Berry, entitled “A Dance”

The stepping stones, once  
 In a row along the slope,  
 Have drifted out of line,  
 Pushed by frosts and rains.  
 Walking is no longer thoughtless  
 Over them, but alert as dancing,  
 As tense and poised, to step  
 Short, and long, and then  
 Longer, right, and then left.  
 At the winter's end, I dance  
 The history of its weather.

*Continued on next page*

## We are a Welcoming Congregation!



## Wayside Pulpit

When things are breaking  
up, something great is  
breaking through.

*Vivian T. Pomeroy*

**Minister**

Reverend Jane Smith

410-203-0474 (office)  
[minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org)

**President:**

Julie Fitzer ('20)

**Vice President:** Maureen  
Hayes ('20)

**Treasurer:** Evelyn Grim  
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**Secretary:** Kathleen  
Razmus ('21)

**Trustees:**

Ken Hart ('20)  
Colleen Rathbun ('21)

**Newsletter Editors:**

Cathy Fu  
Ken Grim

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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)*

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Send submittals for the November issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 20, 2019.**

*Minister's Column, cont'd*

It is not winter's end but summer's, and yet I hope you enjoy those little pieces of nature. Perhaps stepping stones, pushed by scampering animals and pummeling rainstorms. Let us all live mindfully day by day, taking time to notice our steps and turn our steps into dances! I hope we all find time to dance, to enjoy the season, to celebrate each other's presence. I look forward to a month of deep discussion and reflection. May we all find our own sense of belonging of companionship and of deep caring, here, every day, as Channing Memorial Church.

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**Channing Congregational Retreat  
Saturday, October 12 10 am—4 pm**

Our next step in growing together with our new settled minister, the Rev. Jane Smith, is to participate in a start-up retreat. On October 12, Paula Cole Jones from the Unitarian Universalist Association will facilitate this retreat.



**All are invited and encouraged to attend**

We will have the opportunity to engage in discussion, reflection, and small group exercises together. During this meaningful retreat, we will reflect on the history of our congregation and how this affects us moving forward, as well as coming to an understanding of shared expectations. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia has graciously offered us use of their space for this retreat. Please join us there, 7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia 21045, of October 12 from 10 am—4 pm.

## President's Column



We're settling into our spaces at Park Avenue and Linden Hall. Things no longer feel quite so new. Now we can focus on the work of church each week, connecting souls in mystery and wonder. Below I'm answering five questions that people have asked - or that I wish people would ask.

### **Why aren't we lighting candles for our meditation time at Linden Hall?**

Linden Hall does not allow open flames. This is based on Howard County fire codes. The schools rental that we also explored would not allow candles at all. We are using a glass cover on the chalice flame.

### **How is the board working on a longer-term space solution?**

We are consulting with the UUA regional staff to gather resources. We will need to have conversations as a congregation about our needs and future plans in order to develop requirements and focus our search. In addition, we need to understand what our financial resources will allow us to pursue in the real estate market (rental and purchase) in Howard County.

### **What's the best thing about being the prez?**

Working with so many dedicated members and friends. Thank you!!

### **How can we get off to a great start in partnering with Rev. Jane?**

There is so much great energy now in the congregation. Many people have stepped forward to propose new programs. I encourage everyone to attend the Ministerial Start-Up retreat, to be held at the UU Congregation of Columbia, on October 12.

### **What other big things should we look out for this year?**

Our beloved annual auction, which serves as a great social time as well as a fundraiser, will be held at Christian Temple on November 16. Also, look for information elsewhere in this newsletter about the Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities webinar series (starting in October) and the Pi Day gathering in March 2020 at UU Gettysburg.

In faith, *Julie*

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## Porch Chat with the Prez!



**Sunday, September 29 at 1:30 pm at the Channing office:  
3677 Park Avenue, 21043**

Join Julie on the porch at 1:30 pm for an informal fun time. Then, around 2:00, interested folks can follow Julie downhill for a 0.1 mile trek to the Museum of Howard County History, where Julie's dad will be on duty. If the trek is too strenuous, there is very limited street parking at the museum, or we can arrange an impromptu shuttle service downhill. Wear sensible shoes— it's a very steep trek back uphill.

**October Sermons**  
**Sunday services at 10 am at Linden Hall**



**Anatomy of Belonging with Virginia V. 10/6**

Subtitled “A Journey from Isolation and Darkness to Connection, Belonging and Joy,” Virginia examines how a person develops a sense of belonging. She’ll use an example of a psychotherapy client’s treatment to illustrate one person’s journey.

**When the World is Broken 10/13**

In many ways we live in a broken world, a world of binaries that create “inside” and “outside” groups, groups that are weighted with destructive power. What does it mean when who you are, at your core, is rejected? What does it mean not to belong? And what can we do to initiate change?

**When We Say, “Welcome” 10/20**

There is tangible power in feeling valued, heard, accepted. There is a power in having a space where you and your gifts are valued and treasured, where you are accepted for all the pieces of you. While much is broken, much can be healed through the power of acceptance, and a true understanding of belonging. What happens when we say, “welcome”?

**I Belong to Me 10/27**

Sometimes we may compromise who we are so that we feel we fit in, so that we are accepted. In reality, the only true belonging is to belong to oneself, to be fully accepting of oneself. Brené Brown writes that self-acceptance can be four things: dangerous, breathtaking, sought after and feared. Can we navigate the danger and fear in order to truly be us?

**Help Wanted at Church**



**Clean up gurus** needed to return order to Linden Hall each Sunday after the service. Clean-up head gurus are encouraged to recruit friends for assistance. See the Sign Up Genius for more information and instructions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ABAE22A7F94-linden>

**Greeters!** Greeters! Who wants to be a greeter?

How many times have you gotten home after services and thought, “Gee, I didn’t get a chance to say hello to \_\_\_\_\_”? Well, if you greet people when they enter for services, you are guaranteed of seeing everyone at Channing that day! We could use help with a volunteer for the 4th and 5th Sundays of the month. This is a very easy, rewarding and important opportunity that takes less than an hour of your time once a month! Please contact Steve, Joe, or Marian at [membership@channingmc.org](mailto:membership@channingmc.org). Thank you!

## Year of Learning and Connection for Smaller Congregations



Channing has registered to participate in the Unitarian Universalist Association’s “Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities” series of webinars. There are four webinars, dates below— offered live twice on each date, 7 pm Eastern and 7 pm Pacific. They will be recorded and available at other times as well, so don’t worry if you can’t tune in on the exact time. The series culminates with a live, in-person event in Gettysburg on March 14th. We will send the link for the webinars once it is available. If you wish to receive the link, but are not already receiving church emails, send a request to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) to be added to the list. Stay tuned as well for notices about small group viewings of the webinars.

- Smalls Making a Big Difference *October 16*
- Right Sizing Your Congregation’s Operations *November 13*
- Stewardship and Sustainability for the Long-Haul *January 15*
- Being Beloved Community *February 12*
- In-Person Event *March 14*

### Board Bits



The September 17 Board meeting revolved a lot around church space items. With Linden Hall and the Park Ave. house, we have two places to organize and situations to tweak as we try to find our new groove. We decided to try to rent Linden Hall for our Christmas Eve service.

We also started looking at our approach for finding our next long term space. We will seek the guidance of Paula Cole Jones, our Central East Region contact person, for help with this.

In other news, we have decided to purchase the Soul Matters curriculum and use it for both adult and youth religious education.

*Dan Vallone, Board Scribe*

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### Are you on Channing’s Social Justice/Outreach Sharing List?

Sign up to be included on the email list [ignite@channingmc.org](mailto:ignite@channingmc.org) by sending an email to [webmaster@channingmc.org](mailto:webmaster@channingmc.org). Notices sent to [ignite@channingmc.org](mailto:ignite@channingmc.org) will go to everyone who has signed up. Members and friends of Channing are involved in a variety of advocacy organizations and activities. Get on the list and get involved!

## Usher Spotlight— Interview with Ken H., head usher



**Channing Connection:** What brought you to Channing? Why are you still here?

**Ken Hart:** My wife, Anne, started going to church over six years ago. She would bring home copies of the sermons for me to read. I took philosophy in college and saw parallels in Rev. Susan's sermons. I got involved early with the website, and stayed for the rest. Good food and good sermons— what could be a better combo?

**CC:** Why do you like ushering?

**KH:** It gives you a feeling of playing a part in the church. It's simple, it's real. It's one of those basic things that lets Channing do the things it needs to do.

**CC:** Why is ushering important?

**KH:** The ritual of meeting someone at the door and showing the way into the sanctuary is very important. People look for it. It gives a little formality to the situation. It's an opportunity to greet and welcome new people. And I like it!

## Office Hours for Rev. Jane

I'll be at Park Avenue on Tuesdays from 1 - 4 pm for drop-in appointments. I am also happy to meet throughout the week for scheduled appointments. Please email me at [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org) or call (410) 203-0474. Monday is my day off.



*Rev. Jane*

## Stewardship Update



### August Year to Date

Total Operating Income      \$44,846

Total Operating Expenses      \$32,278

Difference      \$12,568

Our special offering on September 22 added \$565 to our Westside Shelter Fund. Thank you, Channing members and friends, for your generosity!

*Evelyn Grim*

## THE CHANNING AUCTION RETURNS!!

### The Basics:

Channing Memorial Church will hold its Auction on Saturday, November 16, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall at the Christian Temple at 5820 Edmondson Ave. in Catonsville. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to start bidding on silent auction items and signing up for single-price items. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.



Following on our Stewardship Drive this year, our theme will be "Roaring into the 20's and All That Jazz!" 1920's costumes are welcome and encouraged!

The cost will be \$10 per person; children 5 and under are no charge. The charge will cover paper goods, drinks, dessert, and the cost to rent the space. Please sign up to attend by **November 10, 2019** using this Sign Up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45ABAB23AB9-channing1>

If you will need child care, please let Colleen R. know as soon as possible.

### The Food:

***This year's dinner will be in the form of a Chili Cookoff!*** If you want to compete, bring a slow cooker full of your best award-winning chili. Spicy, mild, vegan, vegetarian - it's up to you. If you would rather bring a side salad or cornbread to share, that's fine too! We will provide an online sign up for all food items.

You will have the chance to taste each chili and give tips (cold hard cash) to your favorite. All the tips go toward the auction proceeds. The chili that earns the most tips wins! In addition to bragging rights, the winner will be entered in the Hotter Than Thou Chili Cookoff in support of Bridges to Housing Stability on March 29, 2020.

### The Entertainment:

We will welcome back our Auction Entertainment Director, Baz V., who is crafting a special selection of 1920's music, including selections from the hit musical Chicago! If you would like to perform in this year's entertainment, please contact Baz directly by **October 13, 2019**.

### Help Needed:

We need lots of help with this big event! Some tasks are needed as early as the beginning of October, such as helping to advertise the event and assisting with collecting donation information. Contact Colleen R. if you would like to assist.

### Donations:

We also need donations of items and events for the auction in order to make this event a huge success!

Would you like to donate? Feel free to use the form below. Completed copies may be given to Colleen R. You can also send Colleen an e-mail. Please provide all donation information to Colleen by **October 27, 2019**.

*Continued on next page*

*Channing Auction, cont'd*

If you are donating an item, please drop it off at the Park Avenue church office or give to Colleen R. at a service at Linden Hall. Please do NOT leave any donations at Linden Hall, as we do not have access to that space outside of Sunday services.

There are several categories for donations:

1. **Events with a fixed price per person** - you determine how many people can attend. These will be set up as "sign-ups" at the auction. Example: Soup for You at Whose House. Fixed price, maximum number of participants.
2. **Events with a "top bidder"** - you determine the date, time, number of people who can attend, and the minimum bid. The "top bidder" gets to attend, buy as many slots to your event as they want (up to the maximum number), and they receive something special for being the top bidder. Everyone else who wants to attend pays \$10 less than the top bid. Example: Beverage Tasting in the Outdoors. Top bidder is the first to taste each beverage; all other attendees pay \$10 less than top bidder.
3. **Physical item donation - for either live or silent auction.** The item may be auctioned on its own, or the Auction Team may combine your donation with other items to create a basket or collection to entice bidders. Example: Complete Guitar Package (6-string acoustic guitar with strap, case, guitar stand, and music stand).
4. **Service or lesson for one bidder - for live auction.** Your service will be available for only one person, the top bidder! Example: Calligraphy - the donor personalizes envelopes in a beautiful serif style calligraphy for your special event. Note - include special requirements, such as lead time, on donation form.
5. **Group donations.** This was a huge success last year! Different groups in the church (Board of Trustees, Choir, Youth Group, etc.) are encouraged to think of a fun theme and create a basket of items based on the theme. Chocolate, books, tea, movie night, gardening, crafting - the possible themes are endless!
6. **Gift cards or cash - don't know what to donate?** Feel free to donate a gift card to a restaurant or other venue - we can combine it with other items to create an enticing package for live or silent bidding. Generic store gift cards (Target, Walmart, etc.) and cash would be gratefully accepted for use in filling in gift baskets for live or silent auction.

We will not be calling you to ask for donations. But Colleen will be available after church services every Sunday in October to assist you in filling out your form.

If you don't feel you have anything to donate this year, that's quite all right. Not everyone needs to donate. We would be happy to have your support in any form, including helping to set up or clean up, attending, bidding, or just warm thoughts. Thank you!

*Colleen R.*





## Official Channing Move Page

(aka *Where in the World is Channing Memorial Church?!*)



### Linden Hall on Sunday mornings

**We meet there at 10 am Sundays** beginning September 1. Linden Hall is in Dorsey Search, at 4765 Dorsey Hall Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042. Directions <https://www.channingmc.org/wp/directions-to-linden-hall/> We have Linden Hall from 9 am—12 noon on Sundays

**Our main contact with Linden Hall is Rev. Jane.** Please contact her if you have questions or concerns with that space. If she is on summer leave, has a week away from the pulpit, or is otherwise absent, you can route time-sensitive requests to Julie Fitzer. Email [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org) or call (410) 203-0474.

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### Park Avenue house for meetings and office space

**For choir, meetings and all church business,** we're renting a house at 3677 Park Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043. The house is a few doors down from the Howard County courthouse. The area can be accessed from Ellicott City Main Street or Route 40. Same church phone number: (410) 203-0474.

**Our main contact with the Park Avenue house is the Facilities Team.** Email [facilities@channingmc.org](mailto:facilities@channingmc.org) or call Diana M. or Dan V.

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### (L)(Br)unch after Church



When we meet at Linden Hall for worship, we must clean up and depart by 12. Deep in a philosophical conversation about the meaning of life? Solving a major world problem? Enjoy these nearby spots for more coffee or lunch after the service...

*Located in Dorsey's Search Village Center* next to Linden Hall: Hunan Legend Chinese food, Casey's Coffee, Yama Sushi, The HoneyBaked Ham Company

*Less than a mile away:* Leelynn's Dining Room at 9495 Old Annapolis Road 21042 for Sunday brunch

**But please move your car** to the front of the shopping center if you plan to eat lunch nearby. This way rentals that start after us have access to Linden Hall parking.



## Channingites Escape from Church *Again*, Last Seen at Climate Strike in Columbia

Inspired by the youngsters leading the Global Climate Strike, Channingites joined others in Columbia last Friday. The enthusiastic crowd grew throughout the afternoon, and passing motorists were very supportive with waves, honks and thumbs-up (although the one passing driver who gave two thumbs-up gave us some cause for concern). Channing was well-represented with Rev. Jane, Pam E., Evelyn and Ken G., Steve P. and Joe C., Kris T., Ron and RoseMarie M., and Dan V.

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## UUSC Collection for Hurricane Relief

Hurricane Dorian's powerful winds and storm surges have devastated the Abaco Islands of the Bahamas. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has established a disaster relief fund to respond to this crisis. Click here to donate <https://donate.uusc.org/give/248548/#!/donation/checkout>

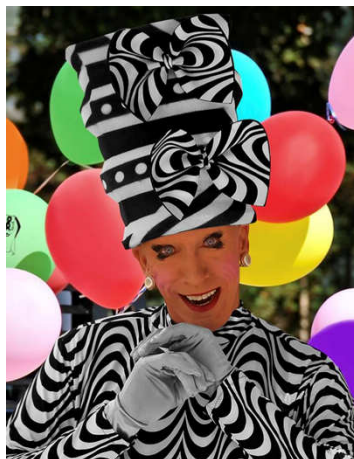
For more information about the Service Committee and its mission to advance human rights worldwide, please contact Channing friend Jim C.

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## First Unitarian Church of Baltimore presents

Lip-Schtick is a one-man musical comedy, in which David Scarbie Mitchell evolves through seven characters and eleven costume changes without EVER leaving the stage. Get your tickets here:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4300905>



### LipSchtick

*One Boy's Journey  
to Fabulous and Back*

*direct from Provincetown*  
ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

**Saturday, October 19**  
**8:00 p.m.**  
in our historic Sanctuary

# October 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>2</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons	<i>3</i> 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin  3:30—8 pm Private music lessons	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons
<i>6</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Spirit Play	<i>7</i>  7:30 pm Choir Practice	<i>8</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>9</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons	<i>10</i> 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons Church Re- treat at UCC 10 am—4 pm
<i>13</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Nursery open	<i>14</i>  7:30 pm Choir Practice	<i>15</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 7 pm Board of Trustees meet- ing	<i>16</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons	<i>17</i> 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons  10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin
<i>20</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall	<i>21</i>  7:30 pm Choir Practice	<i>22</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>23</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons	<i>24</i> 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons  Groceries to Westside	<i>25</i> 6 - 9 pm Final Friday Potluck and Game Night	<i>26</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons  Porch Chat with the Prez 10—11 am
<i>27</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Nursery open	<i>28</i>  7:30 pm Choir Practice	<i>29</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>30</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons	<i>31</i>  Groceries to Westside Shelter		

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Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
3677 Park Avenue  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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.

#### **Directions to Linden Hall: From the South:**

Drive north on Rt. 29 from south of Columbia.  
Take Rt. 108 West.  
Turn right onto Columbia Road.  
Turn right at the first light on Old Annapolis Road.  
You will be behind the Dorsey Search Village Center. Take the third entry road on the left (Old Route 108).  
The parking lot is immediately on your right. Overflow spaces available at other locations in the Village Center.

#### **From Baltimore:**

Take 70W to Rt. 29 south.  
Take Rt. 108 West.  
Turn right onto Columbia Road.  
Turn right at the first light on Old Annapolis Road.  
You will be behind the Dorsey Search Village Center. Take the third entry road on the left (Old Route 108).  
The parking lot is immediately on your right. Overflow spaces available at other locations in the Village Center.