



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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December 2019

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December Minister's Column



The seasons are passing by and I invite us all to pay attention to those tangible changes going on around us. Leaves turn brown and descend to the ground below. Days and nights begin to get chilly as we wrap ourselves in blankets or put on extra layers as we venture into the world. Even the smells change as nature prepares for those cold months ahead.

As I walk around my neighborhood, I can smell that welcoming scent of logs burning in the hearths of my neighbors. Each time I come across this smell, I am reminded of the holiday season, and all that this entails. The holidays lift up and amplify so many emotions. At best, we are reminded of love and family and the joy of being together. We prepare food and sit around the table in beloved company. We offer each other well wishes. At worst, these holiday seasons can bring with them sadness and loneliness. Perhaps this is the first holiday season without a loved one. I invite you each to take time to honor what may hurt, and to fully appreciate that which brings warmth to the soul.

As we enter this holiday season, we do so with a sense of Awe – this month's worship and small group theme. I look forward to exploring with you what it means that we are but a tiny piece of this expansive universe, the power of living a life of wonder and awe, and the significance of finding the divine in sacred mystery. I look forward to celebrating winter holidays with you as well. Through worship at Linden Hall and ritual at Park Avenue, we have a joyful and meaningful holiday season planned.

At Channing Memorial Church, we come together to be something bigger than ourselves. We did this at Bread Communion, celebrating the many becoming one over shared grains. We are a beloved community. Last month, I asked you to share the sanctuary you have found at Channing with the world. I ask you again, whatever about Channing Memorial Church feeds your soul, share it with others in your lives! Let us each take time to invite others into our beloved community. Let these sacred invitations serve as a tangible way to share our gifts with the world and bring other beloved souls into our midst.

Warmly, *Rev. Jane*

**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**



Wayside Pulpit

We do not have to wait until we are excellent before we can do excellent things.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Minister

Reverend Jane Smith

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President:

Julie Fitzer ('20)

Vice President: Maureen
Hayes ('20)

Treasurer: Evelyn Grim
(‘21)

Secretary: Kathleen
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Trustees:

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

Newsletter Editors:

Cathy Fu
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

Send submittals for the January issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22, 2019.**

Stewardship Update

October Year to Date



Total Operating Income	\$61,176
Total Operating Expenses	\$57,062
Difference	\$4,113

Note: We made almost \$6,000 from our November auction. Thanks to all!

Rev. Jane's Drop-In Office Hours

Rev. Jane will not be holding drop-in office hours on December 24. As always, please contact Rev. Jane if you would like to schedule a time to meet.



Board Bits

At the November board meeting, the board discussed several matters. Highlights:

- Exciting new outreach work being done by the outreach team and Rev. Jane, including young adult programming in partnership with Patrick.
- Inclement weather procedures were put in place and will be sent to the congregation.
- The disruptive behavior policy that was started last year as part of a safe congregations initiative is nearing completion.
- There will be a series of small group conversations in January and February for congregation input; details to come later.

—Julie

President's Column

In the movie "Minions", the history is told of how the yellow creatures started looking for a Boss to serve in pre-historic times. They start out with T-Rex and last give things a shot with Napoleon. However, their antics always get them into trouble, and after losing their alliance with Napoleon, they wind up taking refuge in a cave and get very depressed. One of the minions finally leads an expedition to find a new Boss, which leads them to their master Gru that they serve in the other Despicable Me movies.



Had the minions kept looking instead of retreating into a cave, they would have found the best Bosses in the 1920's in Channing-Land. Congratulations to Steve and Joe for winning the auction chili battle and the title of Chili Bosses. They will represent Channing in the March chili cook-off for Bridges to Housing Stability at Dar Al-Taqwa Islamic Center.

Like a true gangster, the Prez did not give up easily, and there was a bit of a shoot-out (of emails, not bullets) after the auction. While she's not the Chili Boss, the Prez did manage to secure the winning chili recipe to share with all of you. (See page 6.)

The Prez also wants to recognize the Auction Boss, also worthy of minion loyalty: Colleen!

Sadly, the Prez had to clean up her own kitchen the morning after the auction, unassisted by minions.

In faith, *Julie*

Young Adult Potluck Coming in December!



Are you looking to connect with other young adults (20s and 30s) and young families with similar interests and values? As Unitarian Universalists, we come together to share common values, not common beliefs. We live by our Seven Principles, including respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

On Dec 4 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm, at our **Park Avenue** location, join members and friends of Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist for a time of connection, conversation, and fun. We are excited to welcome both young adults and children! Adults are invited to participate in a potluck dinner and a time for board games. We will have kid friendly food available as well, and a community-oriented project for the young ones to work on together. Childcare is free and provided on-site.

We hope this will be a night of connection for all. This event is open to the public – folks are encouraged to share this event with anyone in their 20s or 30s who may be interested in attending. Help spread the word!

December Sermons

10 am at Linden Hall, unless otherwise noted



“To Live in Wonder” 12/1

That in which we can find awe is all around us if we approach life with an air of wonder and surprise. Then, even such a little detail as bugs on the ground or as deep a mystery as the finite nature of our lives evokes a sense of wonder. What happens when we let this sense of wonder connect us to the holy?

“But a Piece of the Expanse” 12/8

Surrounding each one of us is a vast expanse of the universe, of which we are but a tiny piece. Let us join together to be reminded that we are never alone, and that we are but a piece of something much bigger than our individual selves. In this expanse we become small just as we become infinite.

“The Divine Mystery” 12/15

Divinity can be found in the most beautiful of all things, mystery. Awe as divine permeates religions and theologies as people seek to understand that awe which cannot be understood. The holy, whatever that word means to you, permeates and saturates the unknown.

“A Celebration of the Holidays” 12/22

Today we join together to celebrate the story of Christmas. We lift up the sacred story of an impoverished family and a baby born in a manger, an ordinary baby, holy as each baby is holy. Let us join together to honor this sacred narrative through song, story, and scripture. We also take time to celebrate the first day of Hanukah, the Festival of Lights.

Christmas Eve service 12/24 at Park Avenue, TBA

“Awe in Between” with Ostara H. 12/29

Purchase Gift Cards, Support the Church



Are you stopping by Giant after service to pick up a few things? Remember that Channing Memorial Church still sells GIANT gift cards. In case you haven't participated before, here is how it works. You purchase gift cards at face value, usually \$100, and use them as cash when you shop at GIANT. Channing receives \$5 for each \$100 gift card sold. Talk with Evelyn or Maureen and look for GIANT SCRIP signs on Sunday morning. Cash or checks accepted.

Snack Squad Fever

Catch it!



<https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.SignupLogin&urlid=20F084FA4AD2BA46-sunday>
Access code: FeedUs



Inclement Weather Procedures at Channing

Channing's Leadership will monitor the Columbia Association website about Sunday morning inclement weather closings for the community centers. We will also be in touch with the Linden Hall staff.

I. Once a **decision has been made to cancel Sunday services- or if Linden Hall is closed-** the following will happen:

- the president of the congregation will send an All Channing email by 8 am on Sunday morning and will also post it on the church website.
- The closing notice may also be available on the phone system as well, depending on the availability of volunteers with those technical skills.

2. For **all other church activities**, the responsibility for making decisions about events and meetings falls on the leader(s) of the activity.

- Those leaders need to alert their attendees, if needed, about cancellations.
- For an all-congregation activity, leaders should send an email to newsshare to be sent as an All Channing notice. Contact Julie by email or text and she will get it out quickly, or Ken Hart may be contacted by phone.

3. Rogers Avenue/Court House Drive is expected to be plowed and cleared quickly during weather events. The courthouse public lot should be cleared quickly since the Sheriff's office is nearby. However, please note that the church parking lot itself may or may not be treated, depending on the response time of church volunteers.

4. At the Park Avenue office, please use appropriate caution at all times; please assume that any wet pavement in freezing weather could be ice and test it out before walking on it. If you are at the office and notice a patch of ice, please help keep everyone safe and put out some salt.

5. As a general principle, we recommend using Rogers Avenue/Court House Drive to reach the Church office during winter weather. Don't come up the steep hill from Main Street.

LH3 Raking Madness!

In what has become a fall tradition, the LH3 (Loving Hearts, Helping Hands) children and youth raked leaves at the Baltimore Humane Society on November 10. Thanks to LH3 leaders, youth and children for making the grounds of the animal shelter a little tidier again this year.



Good work is serious business
for Acadia and Olivia

Steve and Joe's Chili Boss Recipe Vegan Chili



Ingredients

4 oz. pitted dates (Medjool are best)
4-5 cloves garlic
4 cups vegetable broth
1 cup dried red lentils
2 14.5 oz cans petite diced tomatoes (fire roasted)
7 oz. tomato paste
1 large onion, chopped
1 red pepper, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
2 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
2 tsp. oregano
1 Tbsp. chili powder
1 tsp. smoked paprika
1/2 tsp. (or more!) chipotle powder
2 tsp. ground cumin
2 tsp. garam masala
1 tsp cocoa
1 tsp very finely ground coffee
1 cup TVP (Textured Vegetable Protein)
salt to taste

Directions:

Blend the dates, garlic and broth until smooth.

Place all ingredients in the Instant Pot and cook on high for 10 minutes, or cook stove-top until lentils are done.

Add:

1 15 oz. can corn kernels, drained
1/2 bunch cilantro, minced (if desired)
1 15 oz. can white beans, drained
1 15 oz. can pinto beans, drained
1 15 oz. can red kidney beans, drained
1 15 oz. can black beans, drained

Enjoy!

Recipe adapted from Chef A.J.'s Red Lentil Chili

Job Searching?



Julie has been receiving many announcements for job opportunities at area UU organizations and churches. She doesn't always know who may be on a job hunt, though. If you're interested in getting these job announcements, let Julie know. The jobs are usually in administration, program management or communications, with a few related to children or youth programs.

Can You Keep It** Clean?!



Our new church home at 3677 Park Avenue in Ellicott City is very charming and welcoming. Could you volunteer some time to help keep it clean and neat as we use it for church offices, choir practice and social activities? The rooms are much smaller than those at Corporate Court and see much lighter use, especially true for the kitchen. You can clean any day & time that is most convenient for you. More information and cleaning slots can be found at the link : <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4FA8A92CA75-cleaning>

** Park Avenue, of course

Channing Auction— Thanks to All

In my mind, the auction represents a communion of sorts. It certainly is a time when we share our donations, time, and hard work. But I believe it represents sharing on a deeper level as well. The auction represents the coming together of so many of our individual and personal gifts:



Special thanks to Colleen,
Boss Flapper!

- lovingly preparing dishes to share,
- carefully attending to important details such as sound systems, registration and computer programs,
- joyfully hauling furniture, boxes, and baskets, and deftly setting up tables and chairs,
- warmly greeting and welcoming attendees,
- auctioneering with a light-hearted and entertaining touch,
- contributing countless hours practicing and performing music and dance,
- good-naturedly competing and laughing with each other,
- generously donating treasures,
- creating exciting opportunities for gatherings of members and friends over the next year,
- and purchasing items all in support of our church.

I hope that everyone felt a sense of energy and joy in our gathering. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way!

Colleen Rathbun

Open Auction Items

It's not too late to take part in auction events! Here are some items that were open when the newsletter went to press. To learn more about the event, see the person listed. To purchase, talk to Dan Vallone to ensure the slot is still open and to arrange for payment to the church. Woo hoo!



Felting Workshop on May 20, 2020 for \$30, see Baz Vallone

Picnic in Patapsco on June 13, 2020 for \$10, see Kathleen Razmus or the Harts

Acting Workshop on June 20, 2020 for \$30, see Baz Vallone

German Dinner on October 10, 2020 for \$95, see Lynne Schaefer

UU Yoga, times TBD for \$50, see Ashruf El-Dinary

Diana's Cat Boarding for \$10/night, see Diana Mosley



Social Justice at Channing Memorial Church

Social activism can take many forms. It might be Unitarian Universalist blasphemy to embrace the trinity. Not that one, but a trinity of Awareness, Advocacy and Action. These are the elements of a successful social justice program. Each element offers opportunities to become involved in social justice with activities that range from a more intensive commitment of perhaps 10 hours a month to less intensive supporting roles of a couple hours a month or year.

A recent survey indicated that members and friends of Channing are most concerned with Climate Change and Immigration. We can apply the elements of awareness, advocacy and action to these issues and the way to start is to establish core groups that can organize activities and then roll out these activities for larger congregational participation.

Here is a sampling of activities that core groups can organize and the whole congregation may want to participate in:

Awareness:

Participate in or organize a clergy-led or lay-led worship service, presentation, film or film series, get an expert speaker, teach a RE class (Adult, Child, Young Adult); for example, we may want to explore *Project Drawdown* to help save the planet and we're planning an immigration film series beginning in January with *Harvest of Empire*, a documentary about U.S. involvement in Latin America.

Advocacy:

When the Maryland General Assembly convenes in January for its 2020 session, write, call or email your legislator, respond to action alerts; for example, to override Gov. Hogan's veto of the Dream Act Extension; attend local rallies, vigils and public hearings and lobby nights in Annapolis

Action:

Participate in or organize social service activities such as volunteering with the Westside Shelter, making kits for the homeless and planting native species around our office on Park Avenue.

Some Activities We Want to Start Now with Your Help

Climate Change: Plant native species around our Park Avenue office

Immigration: Attend our immigration film series

Continued on next page

Social Justice, from previous page

If you are interested in joining a core group on Climate Change or Immigration and want to help with our upcoming activities or if you want to suggest another issue to pursue, please let the Social Justice Core Group know.

Yours in Faith and Justice,

Angela, Ron and Jim



P.S. Are you on Channing's Social Justice Sharing List? Sign up to be included on the email list ignite@channingmc.org by sending an email to webmaster@channingmc.org. Notices sent to ignite@channingmc.org will go to everyone who has signed up.

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 to be added to the list. Stay tuned as well for notices about small group viewings of the webinars.

- Smalls Making a Big Difference *held in Oct.— watch here!*
<https://vimeo.com/367099254/44345ebda8>
- Right Sizing Your Congregation's Operations *held in Nov.— watch here!*
<https://vimeo.com/373172656/66408a4f89>
- Stewardship and Sustainability for the Long-Haul *January 15*
- Being Beloved Community *February 12*
- In-Person Event *March 14*



Advent Prayer Service

SPONSORED BY LGBTQ MINISTRIES FROM SEVERAL PARISHES
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

HOPEFUL IN THE LIGHT OF TOMORROW

JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE THAT
WILL PREPARE US FOR THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.
ALL ARE WELCOME, WITH A SPECIAL INVITATION TO
LGBTQ+ FOLKS, THEIR FAMILIES AND ALLIES.

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7 PM
St. Ignatius Catholic Community (Chapel of Grace)
740 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD
* reception to follow in Ignatian Hall

In keeping with the generosity of the Advent season, we will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable items for the Pride Center of Maryland. Please bring them with you when you attend.

For more information please contact Gordon at
themissionbridge@yahoo.com



All Channing Book Club!

The Men's Group is launching an All Channing Book Club! We'll have a different book discussion every *other* month starting in January, meeting on the second Thursday from 10 am to noon at the Park Ave. office. (A Saturday session is in the works, too.) Everyone from the Channing community is welcome.

For the January 9th meeting, we'll discuss *Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion* by Sam Harris, New York Times bestselling author, neuroscientist, and "new atheist". Amazon says,

Waking Up is for the 30 percent of Americans who follow no religion, but who suspect that Jesus, Buddha, Lao Tzu, Rumi, and the other saints and sages of history could not have all been epileptics, schizophrenics, or frauds. *Waking Up* is part seeker's memoir and part exploration of the scientific underpinnings of spirituality. No other book marries contemplative wisdom and modern science in this way, and no author other than Sam Harris—a scientist, philosopher, and famous skeptic—could write it.

Copies of the book, both new and used, are available online and at the library. Any questions, contact Ken H. We hope to see you there!

December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Spirit Play	<i>2</i> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>3</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>4</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons 5-6:30 pm Young Adult Potluck	<i>5</i> 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons
<i>8</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall KidZone	<i>9</i> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>10</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>11</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons	<i>12</i> 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons
<i>15</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall LH3 and KidZone	<i>16</i> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>17</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 7 pm Board of Trustees meeting	<i>18</i> 4—9 pm Private music lessons	<i>19</i> 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin
<i>22</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Hanukkah begins	<i>23</i> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>24</i> <i>Christmas Eve Service at Park Avenue</i>	<i>25</i> Christmas Day	<i>26</i> 3:30—8 pm Private music lessons Groceries to Westside	<i>27</i> Final Friday Potluck 6-9 pm	<i>28</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons
<i>29</i> 10 am Service at Linden Hall	<i>30</i> Hanukkah ends 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>31</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours New Year's Eve				

Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
3677 Park Avenue
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.

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.