



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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January 2020

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## January Minister's Column



Dear Channing Members and Friends,

What a great month we have shared together! We joined together to celebrate the holidays, and all of the joy and sometimes hardship that this may bring.

We explored the theme of Awe, wondering what it means to live a life of awe and delving in the idea of being but a finite piece of the infinite. This month we explore the theme of integrity. I look forward to delving deep in our Small Groups.

We have recently begun some work with an Outreach Team and offered new and exciting Young Adult programming. I look forward to continuing this important work into the New Year.

January offers the first month of the New Year – a time many people save for setting intentions about ways to live their lives in the upcoming year. If you so choose, perhaps take a moment to pause and reflect on the opportunities of the New Year. What does this mean to you, and what can this mean for Channing Memorial Church?

No matter what is going on in our lives this busy time of year, may we take time to find the beauty in all that is surrounding us – the lengthening days, that cloud of mist escaping our mouths as we speak, the rustle of grass in the morning as our footsteps crunch on frozen dew. We just took time reflecting on the light of the season – the lengthening days celebrated in solstice, the candles lit on menorahs, the Christmas lights decorating houses and trees – let us take time to notice and be affected by this beauty all around us.

Robert Frost writes in his poem “Dust of Snow,”

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of the day I had rued

**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!**



## Wayside Pulpit

Church is a place where  
you get to practice what it  
means to be human.

*James Luther Adams*

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Minister**

Reverend Jane Smith

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**President:**

Julie Fitzer ('20)

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

**Treasurer:** Evelyn Grim ('21)

**Secretary:** Kathleen Razmus ('21)

**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](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org)*

Send submittals for the February issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 26, 2020.**

*(Minister's Column, continued)*

May a dusting of snow shaken upon us by a crow change the mood of our hearts. May we notice this beauty that may be perceived as a nuisance and allow it to liven our days. Winter, for many reasons, can be a difficult season, and yet winter is a beautiful season. As we think of our intentions as we enter the new year, let us take time to pause and notice that beauty that is all around us, and let this beauty enlighten our days.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

**January Worship Theme: Integrity**

**What does it mean to be a people of integrity?**



TBD (To Be Discovered!) on Sundays at 10 am at Linden Hall.

Also look for information about upcoming Soul Matters discussion groups.

**Scarf Sunday is January 5!**



1. Come to church
2. Wear a scarf
3. That's about it

Questions? See Cathy F.

**Stewardship Update**

**November Year to Date**



Total Operating Income	\$80,097
Total Operating Expenses	\$72,130
Difference	\$7,966

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## President's Column

It's that time of year when we come up with New Year's resolutions and declare how we will be new and better next year. I thought about writing an article about The Prez, version 3.0, much improved!



But then, I had a bit of humility and had to admit to myself: I probably won't actually change all that much. According to U.S. News & World Report, 80 percent of resolutions fail.

While it's good to strive to improve ourselves, perhaps it's also important to remember what we don't want to change.

*When it comes to serving these last few months as your prez, I hope that I won't change:*

- Working with a board that keeps me on my toes
- Constantly learning my faults and weaknesses
- Being welcomed into a community that allows me to grow
- Being awed every day by the dedication of volunteers who keep things going

*When it comes to Channing Memorial Church, these are the things that I hope won't change:*

- Our resilience
- Amazing people
- Lots of laughter and fun
- Dedicated volunteers
- Being like a warm campfire for the soul

Happy New Year!

*Julie*

### **Young Adult Potluck and Game Night January 25, 4:30 - 7:30 pm at Park Avenue**

Are you looking to connect with other young adults 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 interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part.

On January 25th, from 4:30-7:30 pm at our Park Avenue location, join Channing members and friends for a time of connection, conversation and fun. Adults are invited to participate in a potluck dinner and a time for board games.

**Childcare will be available from 4:30 -6:00 pm.** We will have kid-friendly food available, and a community-oriented project for the young ones to work on together.

We hope this will be a night of connection for all. The event is open to the public -- folks are encouraged to share this event with anyone who may be interested in attending.

## Board Bits

The December 17 Board meeting was tame as Board meetings go. It ended early so we could color pictures of elves and drink mulled cider and eat cookies. Of everyone, Maureen wore the most interesting holiday season sweater—classy, while at the same time, quite unique. Dasha is the proud owner of this eye-catching winter wear.



Maureen steals the show with her Christmas fashion

The Minister's Report covered topics such as Soul Matters groups and meeting with the Social Justice Committee. Rev. Jane is working with the Outreach Team and making contacts with the Ellicott City Partnership (non-profit in historic E.C.) We are posting events on meetup.com and adding more things to our Facebook page.

Our Treasurer is recommending a budget review in January, since many new minister expenses were not known at the time the 2019-20 budget was drafted. For example, we don't have money budgeted yet for Rev. Jane's installation.

Channing's Disruptive Behavior Policy was approved. Everyone should feel free to read this important policy, which marks a milestone in the maturity of our church.

Maureen and the Facilities Team are working to get a ramp solution installed at the Park Ave office to finally make the house truly wheelchair accessible.

*Dan V., Board Scribe*



### Gift Card Scam Alert!, or “Counterfeit Clergy Cash Cow”

Beth Casebolt of the UUA’s Central East Region cautions that scammers are posing as ministers and sending emails asking for gift cards. They may use an email address that is similar to the minister’s and take advantage of folks’ trust and goodwill. Victims became suspicious when the “minister” asked the congregant to send him the numbers to access the gift card instead of bringing the gift cards to church.

The UUA stresses that ministers will **not** reach out and ask that gift cards be sent anywhere. If an email looks suspicious, congregants should reach out to the sender through a different channel (the established email address, a phone call, etc.) to verify. Remember, if an email looks fishy, check it out before you proceed.

## 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!

## Channing Choir Escapes to Spread Holiday Cheer



On December 18, the Channing Choir escaped rehearsal space and serenaded three lucky parties with Christmas carols as part of the "Here We Come A' Wassailing" auction item. One stop was at the Alta Regency Crest community, home of our dear prez's parents. Thank you, Stephen and choir, for bringing music to a happy audience.

## 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.



## UU Legislative Ministry Annual Kickoff is January 11

Join UU's from around the state at the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland's annual legislative kickoff, Saturday, January 11, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401. Hear keynote speaker, Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk discuss this year's upcoming legislative agenda including issues of climate crisis, gun violence, health care, immigrants' rights, economic justice, education. To register, visit <https://uulmmd.salsalabs.org/legislativekickoff1-11-2020/index.html>

For more information, contact Jim C. or visit <http://www.uulmmd.org>

## 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 H. 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; 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 Discovers “Hotdish”, Feeds Folks at Paul’s Place



LH3 really cooks!

On December 15, members of the LH3 (Loving Hearts, Helping Hands) group met at Park Avenue to assemble and bake five large pans of “hotdish” casserole to donate to Paul’s Place in Baltimore. Thanks to leaders Anne K. and Kathleen R. and to all the youth who took part!



Mr. Raheem from Paul’s Place receives the bounty

## What in the World is Hotdish (and How Do I Make It?)

Good question. Hotdish is a casserole loved in Minnesota and other Mid-western places. The dish usually includes a can of condensed soup and is often topped with tater tots, which turn gloriously golden when baked. The casserole includes vegetables, and is a satisfying dinner for those cold nights on the plains.



Our very own Baz V. found a vegetarian version of hotdish online. The youth, who may have said something like, “You had me at tater tot.” were excited to try the recipe.

Here are links from the blog Fork in the Kitchen:

Recipe: <https://www.forkinthekitchen.com/vegetarian-tater-tot-hot-dish/>  
Cream of mushroom soup used in recipe: <https://www.forkinthekitchen.com/homemade-condensed-cream-of-mushroom-soup/>

### Linden Hall Clean Up Gurus Needed!



We need a volunteer each and every Sunday to make sure Linden Hall is cleaned up after the service. This is often an easy task - many hands jump in and help clean up. You just need to keep an eye on the clock and make sure the process is completed by noon.

Julie had signed up for 1st and 5th Sundays and the Hs. are taking 3rd Sundays for the rest of the year. (Bravo!) That leaves the 2nd and 4th Sunday open for others to volunteer. If you can take a Sunday each month, that would be fabulous— please let Julie know.

Alternatively, if you'd rather just take one Sunday, the link is below. Don't worry— Julie will show you the ropes before you're officially the head guru for a week.

Linden Hall Clean Up Heads

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10c0d49abae22a7f94-linden>



## 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 *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 **Coming soon!** *January 15*
- Being Beloved Community *February 12*
- In-Person Event *March 14*

### 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 Val-lone 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 V.

**Picnic in Patapsco** on June 13, 2020 for \$10, see Kathleen R. or the Hs.

**Acting Workshop** on June 20, 2020 for \$30, see Baz V.

**German Dinner** on October 10, 2020 for \$95, see Lynne S.

**UU Yoga**, times TBD for \$50, see Ashruf E.

**Diana's Cat Boarding** for \$10/night, see Diana M.



# January 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> Happy New Year!	<i>2</i> 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons
<i>5</i> Scarf Sunday  10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Spirit Play	<i>6</i> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>7</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> All Channing Book Group 10 am	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons All Channing Book Group 10 am
<i>12</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall LH3 and KidZone	<i>13</i> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>14</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9 am—1pm Private music lessons 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin
<i>19</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall	<i>20</i>  MLK's Birthday 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>21</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 7 pm Board of Trustees meet- ing	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>  Channing's Anniversary!	<i>24</i> Chinese New Year starts tomorrow 	<i>25</i> 9 am—1pm Music lessons Board Event 10 am Young Adult Potluck and Game Night 4:30 pm
<i>26</i> 10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall KidZone	<i>27</i> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<i>28</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> Groceries to Westside Shelter	<i>31</i> Final Friday Potluck 6-9	.

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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.