



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 27, Issue 2

February 2020

February Minister's Column



Dear Channing Members and Friends,

It's been a chilly winter, and it's been a meaningful winter. And while we breathe in this frosty air and the bare trees reach toward the sky, we continue to learn and grow together as a congregation. I have been here with all of you for six months now! It has been such an honor to learn your stories and travel this unforeseeable journey with each of you.

I look forward to the month ahead, where together we will explore the theme of resilience. Together, we will take some time to lift up the resiliency of folks who struggle with mental health and addiction, populations so often overlooked or hidden. We will draw on this message from Rev. Scott Taylor: "Ultimately, resilience is learning from your past rather than resenting it." How can we learn, and move from resentful to resilient?

And while we grapple with resilience and we join together in worship and small groups, Channing will continue to buzz and will continue to thrive! And this is because of each and every one of you: greeters, coffee makers, ushers, cleanup gurus, KidZoners, Worship Associates, Board members, committee members, committee chairs, the list goes on! This work you are doing is deeper than volunteering. This work is service, and this work is ministry. This is work that each and every one of you do because Channing is a family and because Channing is a home. I want to pause and lift up these moments of ministry. This ministry found in sweeping floors and lugging coffee supplies and taking meeting minutes and baking cookies and hosting book clubs. These are holy opportunities to serve as a crucial part of this community and this home. I thank each and every one of you for your acts of ministry.

As we enter February let us be grateful for the acts of ministry happening all around us. I look forward to seeing what this month has in store for us!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Inside:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| February Sermons..... | 2 |
| Stewardship Update..... | 2 |
| President's Column | 3 |
| Installation Save the Date.... | 3 |
| Cleanup Gurus Needed..... | 3 |
| Outreach Team..... | 4 |
| Courageous Conversations.... | 4 |
| Board Bits..... | 5 |
| Cottage Meetings..... | 5 |
| Worship Spotlight..... | 5 |
| Webinar Viewing..... | 6 |
| Channing Book Club..... | 6 |
| LGBTQ+ Writing Workshop.... | 7 |
| Final Fridays Potluck..... | 7 |
| Summer Possibilities..... | 7 |
| February Calendar..... | 8 |

**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**



Wayside Pulpit

Be not afraid of growing slowly. Be afraid only of standing still.

—Chinese Proverb

Minister

Reverend Jane Smith

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Colleen Rathbun ('21)

Newsletter Editors:

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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

Send submittals for the March issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 23, 2020.**

**February Sermons
10 am at Linden Hall**



“When Life Calls Us Back” 2/2

Life is a series of new realities, a series of before and after. Grief and what follows. Trauma and what follows. And with each of these new realities, life continues to call us back.

“How You Carry the Weight” 2/9

Sometimes the only way to move forward is to find some way to find good in the bad, ??? if only the knowledge that we can help someone else going through a similar situation. Today we lift up the resiliency of some groups that are so often overlooked: folks struggling with mental illness and addiction. Let these stories of overcoming inspire us to move from resentment to resiliency.

“And Still I Rise: An Ode to Black History Month”

2/16

Today we lift up voices of people of color to honor the resilience of a race that has faced discrimination, marginalization, and segregation since the beginning of this nation.

“Resilience in the Life Stages of Parenting and Caring for Older Adults” 2/23

with Virginia V., Worship Associate

Stewardship Update

December Year to Date



| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Total Operating Income | \$105,433 |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$84,995 |
| Difference | \$20,437 |

President's Column

This has been a busy month for the board. We have formulated a plan for space searching. We will do some initial market research and consult with the UUA in the upcoming months. With this information, we will set parameters and form a committee in June. If you would like to serve on this committee, let a member of the board know.



In the meantime, we plan to remain at Linden Hall and Park Avenue through the end of June 2021.

We are organizing a series of Cottage Meetings in February to gather perspectives on several questions. We hope that you will attend one of these and share your thoughts.


The board has also accomplished much of reviewing the bylaws, as required every two years. There are a few outstanding questions for upcoming board meetings. Pam E and Anne H will take the board decisions and clean up the wording to produce the version that the board will review, approve, and send to the Annual Meeting in May.

In late February, you should start to hear about the Annual Stewardship Campaign that takes place in March.

We'll also be finishing up the Webinars on Small Congregations and looking forward to the small congregations gathering in March in Gettysburg. Remember to register if you want to go to Gettysburg.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone who is a part of the big Channing family!

Julie




Save the Date!

Rev. Jane's installation is
scheduled for
Saturday, March 28

Mark your calendar and stay tuned!

**Cleanup Gurus Needed:
Can You Take a Sunday?**

We need volunteers to make sure Linden Hall is cleaned up after every Sunday Service. *Can you take just one Sunday?*



Linden Hall Clean Up Heads
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10c0d49abae22a7f94-linden>

Outreach Team



Did you know that Channing has an Outreach Team? The team has been meeting since September to explore and plan ways for Channing to become more involved in the surrounding community, and to explore more effective ways to publicize Channing and its activities and programs.

We have contacted local news media about a possible interview with Rev. Jane, and there appears to be some interest. Members of the team recently met with the executive director of the Ellicott City Partnership to discuss ways that Channing could become more involved with Old Ellicott City and ways the Partnership could assist Channing in advertising.

A few of the other ideas that have been explored include renewing our Welcoming Congregation status, probably during the 2020-2021 church year; the possibility of a booth at Howard County Fair; a “Bring-a-Friend-to Church” Sunday; and inviting the community to Soul Matters discussion through Meetup notices.

Outreach Team

Kathleen R., Marian V., Evelyn G. and Ken G.

Courageous Conversations in February!

Howard County’s Courageous Conversations series is about to begin! Courageous Conversations is a series of four consecutive conversation circles where participants engage in conversations about race and religious bias. Rev. Jane will be attending Courageous Conversations and hopes you can join her. Groups will be assigned the week of January 28, so please sign up as soon as you are able.

As described on the Courageous Conversations website, “As we engage in Courageous Conversations, we learn from one another through listening to each other’s perspectives about how we are living together through our experiences of race and religious bias...Through these conversation circles, we explore how each of us can contribute towards creating a connected community of different people rather than a community that lets different people in. Courageous Conversations are intended to lead to courageous connections and courageous actions.”

To learn more, please visit <https://www.hococourageousconversations.com/>

Four Nights of Diverse Conversation Circles

February 4, 11, 18, and 25 2020 7—9 pm (Snow Date: March 3, 2020 7-9 pm)

Wrap-up Event on March 16, at 6:30pm

Four Locations

*Beth Shalom *8070 Harriet Tubman Ln, Columbia

*Dar Al-Taqwa *10740 MD Rt 108, Ellicott City

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 6020 Ten Oaks Rd, Clarksville

St John Baptist Church 9055 Tamar Dr, Columbia





Board Bits

The January 21 Board meeting had a lot of discussion centered around how things are going at Channing right now. The small group ministries, including the young adults group, are doing well. Worship at Linden Hall is running smoothly. We are getting new visitors each week and many are returning. Rev. Jane and others are working on getting us more visibility at Ellicott City events by meeting with the Ellicott City Partnership.

In Treasurer news, Evelyn compiled a list of budget changes that she recommended. Many of our expenses were not firmly known when the budget was originally approved. We didn't have all of the rent and utility expenses defined or all of the expenses related to calling Rev. Jane. Evelyn's recommended changes were approved.

Dan V., Board Scribe



Coming Soon! Channing Cottage Meetings!

During the month of February, you will be able to participate in a small group meeting to provide your feedback on several questions and issues of importance to the congregation. A pair of Channing members will host meetings either in their homes or at the church office location on Park Avenue. Be on the lookout for a signup genius with times, dates, and locations.



Worship Spotlight— Interview with Ostara H., WA**

Ostara was raised as a Lutheran in Minnesota. She grew away from the faith and, as a young adult, became interested in women's spirituality, Paganism, and Unitarian Universalism.

After Ostara and husband Dan moved to Howard County, they started looking for churches. Ostara says that she felt ill-equipped to pass on her spirituality to young children and decided that "now is the time." They found Channing in 2004 and liked the "quiet spirituality," the emphasis on ritual and liturgy, and the people.

Ostara has been a "WA" since 2010. She loves the many aspects of the work: public speaking, poetry and story telling, setting the energy of the service. She says, "It calls on the whole of me— intellectual, creative, intuitive— to know what the congregation needs this week."

Ostara says that being a worship associate is a great way to support the minister, and she also likes working with lay people and guest ministers. She is proud of helping with Rev. Susan's farewell service, and also with leading meaningful summer worship services.

****Worship Associate!**

Small Numbers, Infinite Possibilities Webinar Viewing at Channing



Julie will host viewings of each of the four webinars on small congregations at the church office. This will give folks a structured way to catch up on viewing and enjoy some discussion ahead of the March gathering of small congregations in Gettysburg. The webinars are 60 to 90 minutes long, depending on the date.

February 8, 1:30-3:30 pm (original air date 10/16/19): "Smalls Make a Big Difference"
February 15, 1:30-3:30 pm (original air date 11/13/19): "Right Sizing Your Congregation"
February 22, 1:30-3:30 pm (original air date 1/15/20): "Stewardship and Sustainability"
February 29, 1:30-3:30 pm (original air date 2/12/20): "Being the Beloved Community"

Julie has been sending out the webinar links as the recordings become available. If you are missing one, let her know.

March 14, 2020: Pi Day Gathering for Small Congregations in Gettysburg. Each person attending MUST register. Link for registration information:

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/pi-day-small-congregation-gatherings>

If you register for Pi Day in Gettysburg, please let Julie know by February 29 at 7 pm. She will send out a list so that people can coordinate carpools with each other.

If you can't make the meeting in Gettysburg, there's also a virtual gathering- see above link for information.

CER offers this Resource Website for small congregations:

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/resources/topics/smallercongregations>



Channing Book Club Meetings for March

Saturday, March 7 10-11:30 am
Thursday, March 12 10-11:30 am

The January book club meetings were a great success! We had fifteen attendees between the two sessions. The book club will meet every other month.

Our book choice for March is **The Art of Living: Peace and Freedom in the Here and Now** by Thich Nhat Hanh.

Discussions will be at Park Avenue. Come at 10 am on either March 7 or March 12. No need to sign up in advance; we ask only that you read the book if you can, and come with a comment or question to help stimulate the discussion.

The book is available on Amazon, at local libraries and on websites selling used books. Hope to see you there!

embracinggod'sgifts
The LGBTQ Ministry of St. Ignatius Church
PRESENTS

LGBTQ+
Writing Workshop



Take some time to connect with your story as an
LGBTQ+ Individual or Ally...

Workshop Includes:
*Opportunity to Prayerfully Reflect *Free Admission & Snacks
*Writing Prompts & Optional Group Sharing
*LGBTQ author, Jared Dixon will be joining us for this program!

Saturday, February 15, 2020 (9:30 AM - 12:30 PM)
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
740 N. Calvert Street
(in Ignatian Hall)

NO FEE FOR THIS EVENT

** Please RSVP to Embracing God's Gifts at
themissionbridge@yahoo.com**

Final Friday Potluck and Games at Park Avenue

Join us on the last Friday of the month for food, friends and games. Bring a dish to share or just bring yourself. And bring a friend! All are welcome.



Next dates for Final Fridays

Friday, February 28 from 6-9 pm
Friday, March 27 from 6-9 pm

Questions? Contact Ostara H.



What are You Doing This Summer? Some UU-centered activities

General Assembly, aka GA, on June 24-28 in Providence, RI. See www.uua.org/ga for more information. Or ask Rev. Jane!

Central East Region Summer Institute (CERSI) on July 12-18 in California, PA. See www.cersiuu.org for more details

Unirondack— a UU Camp and Conference Center in the Adirondacks has many programs and camps. See www.unirondack.org for more details.

Read a book on UU history or by a UU writer. If you like it, perhaps our book club can read it, too!

Save some water from a place meaningful to you. It doesn't have to be Paris, just a place that meant something to you this summer. We'll bring our water to church at Ingathering in September.

February 2020



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | <p><i>1</i></p> <p>9 am—1pm Private music lessons</p> |
| <p><i>2</i></p> <p>10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall Spirit Play Cottage Meetings Facilitator Training 12:15 pm</p> | <p><i>3</i></p> | <p><i>4</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours</p> | <p><i>5</i></p> <p>4—9 pm Private music lessons 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><i>6</i></p> <p>10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin 2:30—8 pm Private music lessons</p> | <p><i>7</i></p> | <p><i>8</i></p> <p>9 am—1pm Private music lessons All Channing Book Group 10 am Webinar 1:30</p> |
| <p><i>9</i></p> <p>10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall LH3 and KidZone</p> | <p><i>10</i></p> | <p><i>11</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours</p> | <p><i>12</i></p> <p>4—9 pm Private music lessons 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><i>13</i></p> <p>2:30—8 pm Private music lessons</p> | <p><i>14</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Valentine's Day</i></p> | <p><i>15</i></p> <p>9 am—1pm Private music lessons 10 am Men's Group at Bagel Bin Webinar 1:30 pm</p> |
| <p><i>16</i></p> <p>10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall KidZone</p> | <p><i>17</i></p> | <p><i>18</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours 7 pm Board of Trustees meeting</p> | <p><i>19</i></p> <p>4—9 pm Private music lessons 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><i>20</i></p> <p>2:30—8 pm Private music lessons</p> | <p><i>21</i></p> | <p><i>22</i></p> <p>9 am—1pm Music lessons Webinar 1:30 pm</p> |
| <p><i>23</i></p> <p>10 am Sunday Service at Linden Hall</p> | <p><i>24</i></p> | <p><i>25</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours</p> | <p><i>26</i></p> <p>4—9 pm Private music lessons 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><i>27</i></p> <p>2:30—8 pm Private music lessons Groceries to Westside Shelter</p> | <p><i>28</i></p> <p>Final Friday Potluck 6-9</p> | <p><i>29</i></p> <p>9 am—1pm Music lessons Webinar 1:30 pm</p> |

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.