



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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July 2020

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## We are a Welcoming Congregation!



## Wayside Pulpit

If there is no struggle,  
there is no progress.

*Frederick Douglass*

## July Minister's Column



We are wrapping up our first year together! And what a first year it has been. We moved buildings, switched to online church in the midst of a pandemic, and are now grappling with systemic racism and are part of a revolution. We also got to know each other and grow together. I had the honor of hearing many of your stories and look forward to learning many more. We laughed together, faced anxiety together, and managed grief and anger together. What an honor it has been to serve you; I look forward to many more years together.

Amidst this revolution, in the aftermath of murder, many folks are asking, "What can I do?" The church is responding. We are considering a couple of concrete things we can work on together in the fall. One is to engage with the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle of Unitarian Universalism: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Together, we can explore this Principle and in doing so, deeply engage with racial justice. If we do this work, we have the opportunity to adopt this Principle as a congregation, and bring this decision to the Unitarian Universalist Association so they can do the same.

To do effective external work, we also need to engage with deep internal work. We have the opportunity to do this. In the fall, we are considering partnering with Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalist to work on the program Beloved Conversations. This is series of workshops that enables participants to deeply engage with race and ethnicity, grounded in Unitarian Universalist faith. This is exciting for both congregations. We, as a church community, may also work together engaging with these issues in book groups. There is important work to do, and I know that we, grounded in our faith and our Seven Principles, will make a difference.

I leave, now, for the duration of the summer. During this  
(Continued on page 2)

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

*(Minister's column, continued from page 1)*

time, you all remain in my thoughts and prayers. I look forward to hiking, visiting family in New Jersey, and reading a pile of books! I hope you find some time to relax and replenish as well. You are a kind, compassionate, dedicated community, and I know you will continue to form and strengthen those bonds this summer. We are physically apart, and spiritually together.

As I leave, I offer you these words to keep with you always: you are good, you are whole, and you are loved. Again, what a remarkable first year we have had together. I look forward to what's ahead of us next!

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

### Board Bits



At the June 16 Board meeting, we discussed the minister's report, the Bridges to Housing Stability chili cook-off, the 2020-21 draft budget, and the space search project plan.

Board decisions:

- We are dropping out of the chili cook-off for COVID safety reasons.
- Normally the music director's summer pay is reduced because the choir doesn't meet in the summer. This year with all the extra work Steven has been doing to support music for the Zoom services, it was decided to continue his regular monthly pay during the summer months.
- We will engage Stewardship for Us for a virtual Next Steps process to help with our space search.
- The draft budget passed as proposed by Evelyn, our treasurer.
- Julie, our president, will sign a real estate contract with Linda Odom of RE/MAX Realty to help with our space search.

*Dan V., Board Scribe*



## President's Column

Roughly twenty springs ago I stood before this Congregation and delivered a so-called "View from the pew", a brief answer to the question "Why do you attend Channing Memorial Church?". Here's what I remember. I said that while I believed in science, I did not worship it. I said that while it wasn't always easy to attend Church (citing the trials and tribulations of getting a family with small children out of the house), it was always worth my while. And I finished with something like "I come to Church to be reminded of what is most important. I come to be reminded of what is good, and what is true, even if it makes me feel uncomfortable. I come to be reminded of what it means to be a human being. I come to be reminded, because far too often, it is too easy to forget."

Now I stand before you to serve as the President of this Congregation. Highlights for the coming year include working toward adopting the UUA's 8th Principle, (Reverend Jane has experience with and a recommendation for a program called "Beloved Conversations" as part of this important work), working with a stewardship consultant to help us understand our space needs, (see Julie Fitzer's article), and searching for our next worship space.

We may be living in, as the saying goes, "interesting times," but the reasons I gave for coming to Church twenty years ago still speak to me today, and since then, I've learned a lot about Life at Channing Memorial Church. As President, it is my sincere wish that you, too, will keep coming to Channing, so that together, we can all continue to be reminded of what is most important.

Why do you come to Church?

— David



### Stewardship Update

#### May Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$140,806
Total Operating Expenses	\$140,144
Difference	\$661

### Summer Is Here!



Remember to save water from travels this summer, or just from your own faucet during your "staycation." We'll bring our water to church in September as we start a new church year with Rev. Jane. Of course, our worship associates are planning wonderful services over the summer, too.

See you at church!

## Summer Pastoral Care



Dear Channing Members and Friends,

I will be out of the office this summer for vacation and study leave from *June 22 – August 25*. For emergency pastoral care needs during this time, please reach out to a member of the Board or to the Community Connections Committee. The Board or Community Connections Committee member will get in touch with either me or another local on-call minister.

I continue to hold you all in my thoughts and prayers these upcoming months.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

## Au Revoir, Sweet Linden Hall



The board has withdrawn from the lease that we had with Linden Hall from July 2020 to June 2021. We were not able to modify the dates of the lease, but we were able to withdraw from the entire lease so that we would not be liable for the rent. We felt that this was the most fiscally responsible step to take given the likelihood that we will not be able to have worship in person for most of the year. Religious services and group singing are two of the most high-risk events for COVID-19 transmission.

In the event that we are able to meet again next spring, we will find a suitable space at that time. We anticipate that we can meet in small groups at Park Avenue before large-group worship is advisable. Now that we are familiar with Zoom, we have the flexibility to offer a hybrid of online and in-person worship for a period of time if needed.

The board continues to work on the longer-term space search project. We have appointed a committee, and have consulted with some UU-affiliated resources. More details will be forthcoming over the summer.

As said in a song I used to sing a lot as a child in church Sunday School: The church is not a place - it is a people. Our community continues to thrive during these difficult times.

—*Julie*, on behalf of the board



## Channing Meets Stewardship 4 Us



Stewardship 4 Us is an organization that helps UU congregations assess their resources and plan for sustainable stewardship of those resources. Several members of the Channing board and a member of the space search committee met with Liz Coit from Stewardship 4 Us for an initial consultation. The board is looking to this organization for direction as we plan our space search.

After meeting with us, Liz proposed that we hold a "Virtual Next Steps Weekend". She says that this weekend

1. Provides a diagnostic overview and insights about the overall health and capacities of the church and congregation.
2. Takes a deeper dive into the perspectives and challenges as articulated by the board and minister, church committees and other groups through group and individual interviews.
3. Takes the pulse on church stewardship and other fundraising activities through confidential interviews, review of pledge and gift data, and other information.
4. Provides practical and actionable recommendations to the board and the congregation as a whole on next steps.

As described in the proposal, the process begins with extensive document gathering and review. Liz will conduct several individual and group interviews over a period of approximately two weeks. Then Liz will discuss her findings with several large groups. A final discussion will be held as a Sunday service or as a separate whole-congregation meeting. Liz will also provide us with a final written report.

The results of this weekend will be used by the board to set guidelines for the space committee's search. While the goal is to help direct our upcoming space search, expect the discussion to cover a range of topics. The search guidelines need to be grounded in our collective vision and in an honest assessment of our resources.

Julie will serve as the congregation contact for Liz to manage the communication back and forth and set up meetings so that David isn't overwhelmed in his first month as President.

This process, lasting five to nine weeks, is expected to unfold later this summer. Exact details and timelines will be shared as they become available. The Board appreciates everyone's participation in this effort. For more information about Stewardship 4 Us, visit their website at <https://stewardshipforus.com>.

—Julie



## Upcoming Fun Zoom Events for this Summer

### July Fun Zoom - HGTV Comes To Channing Homes

So far, we've all seen bits and pieces of each other's homes via Zoom. What would you show off if you had a dinner party in your home? Your prize tomatoes in your garden? Your kids, who are budding Rembrandts, and their artwork? Your cake decorating skills? Perhaps you'd like to provide some dinner music from your cello?

For the July fun Zoom event, you're invited to sign up on [signupgenius](#) for a virtual meal (lunch or dinner) and fun with five of your fellow Channing friends.

These gatherings are "unscripted", casual events, and you're encouraged to (safely - keep the drinks away from your laptop, of course) eat as you chat. No agendas, no plan to follow - except plan to bring your laptop or iPad or other device to whatever you'd like to show off to your friends. Or bring the item(s) to your computer camera.

Julie will start by putting up two dates in July. If we need more, let Julie know of your interest and she will add more. In addition, if you're part of a couple and you find that there's just one slot left, go ahead and sign up and then let Julie know and she'll add the additional slot. She just wants to keep the groups small enough for easy conversations. We can use someone willing to act as the Zoom host for each date to get the party started. Please sign up in the host slot if you're willing to be the host.

Virtual Dinner and HGTV: **Friday July 17 at 7 pm**

Virtual Lunch and HGTV: **Sunday July 19 at 1 pm**

And save the dates! Guy's Grocery ABC Game Comes to Channing on August 21 and 23.

— Julie



### Hamilton Alert



You might remember that \*Hamilton\* was our auction theme a few years back. **Hamilton is coming to Disney Plus on July 3.** It's possible to sign up for a free one-week trial of Disney Plus and then cancel your subscription.

Enjoy!

— Julie



## Community Connections Committee: Here for You



During this stressful time, remember that there is a team at Channing ready to help members and friends who are affected by COVID-19. The Community Connections Committee consists of Patrick B., Mel C., Cathy F., David F., Anne H., and Diana M. We are dedicated to matching folks needing help—groceries, meals, or just a conversation—with folks in our congregation who are wanting to help.

There are two ways to get help, or to offer help:

- Fill out the Connections survey. The survey takes an assessment of your situation, resources you may have to offer, and needs you may have. This form can be filled out multiple times, so if your situation changes at any point during this virus, you can update the form to help us know about your changing situation. This survey allows the committee to coordinate care needs and responses.
- Reach the committee directly if you have any further needs or resources you would like to share.

Our goal is to offer as much support as we can throughout this difficult time. If you need us, reach out.



### Food and Love Available in OEC

The Ellicott City Partnership has a list where you can find local businesses offering delivery, pick-up, or online shopping options during the pandemic:

<https://visitoldellicottcity.com/support-oec/>

Support local businesses and get some good stuff!

### Help for Channingites

Channing recognizes that members and friends may be going through challenging times financially. If finances are getting in the way of participation in any activity - such as a need for a book for a discussion group - please reach out to Rev. Jane (or to the board during Rev. Jane's vacation) so that we can find a way to help.



## Pictionary Genius



Evelyn G. drew this picture to illustrate a book title. The book's name was guessed before she could finish (the two circles are meant to be heads). What is that title? The answer appears below...

„Little Women“

## UUtheVote



Perhaps at no other time in our history has the threat to democracy been greater than now. Sure, there were Jim Crow laws in southern states that suppressed the votes of African-Americans, but the federal government stood as the protector of the right to vote. Now, however, that government seeks to prevent many of our citizens from participating in our democracy, supporting onerous state actions that make it difficult, if not impossible, for certain people, particularly people of color, to exercise their right to vote.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has established UUtheVote, a movement of progressive people of faith to ensure that our Fifth Principle—the use of the democratic process in our society at large – will continue unabated and protected.

There are many opportunities to participate in voter outreach and voter mobilization. Although it might look like Unitarian blasphemy, our opportunities focus on a “trinity” of awareness, advocacy and action. All the sites listed offer you the opportunity to volunteer, to become involved or to make a donation that allows them to continue their work.

The UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland site <<https://www.uulmmd.org/democracy>> offers resources to help congregations organize voter outreach and mobilization activities including:

- When We All Vote <<https://www.whenweallvote.org/>> – A voter registration site; helps you to organize a voter registration drive, including schools
- State Voices <<https://statevoices.org/>> – data-driven tools for grassroots organizing
- Voter Participation Center <<https://www.voterparticipation.org/home-page/>> - a voter registration page; you can check your registration; will remind you to vote
- Election Protection <<https://866ourvote.org/>> – Voter registration, polling place locations, absentee ballots, voting rules by state
- League of Conservation Voters <<https://www.marylandconservation.org/>> – Advocacy for climate issues nationally and in Maryland
- Casa de Maryland <<https://wearecasa.org/>> – Immigration advocacy and assistance; voter registration
- Reclaim Our Vote <<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup>> – portal for volunteering, such as phone banking, post carding; UU Congregation of Columbia is organizing a postcarding event.
- League of Women Voters Maryland <<https://www.lwvmd.org/>> – non-partisan issue-based advocacy, voter services.





## The Outreach Team and Channing's Facebook Page Need You!

Channing's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChanningMemorialChurch/> is an important tool in our Outreach toolbox.

There are two ways you can help.

- **Share content from Channing's public Facebook page with your Facebook friends.** It's a great way to start a conversation about who we are and what we do.
- **Provide content for our Facebook page.**

Have you done, read, seen or taken a picture of something lately that speaks to the mission or vision of Channing Memorial Church? Is there something your church team or committee is doing that would be great to share with others? We're looking for a few (actually many) good posts! There are folks in our community right now who are looking for a place to find some peace, some hope, some community. At Channing, we have all of that and more. Let's reach out and share it with them.

Send your ideas to Brian G., our Outreach Team social media guru.

### Columbia Community Cares: Opportunities to Help

If you're interested in helping with area food distribution efforts at area schools, join Columbia Community Cares on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/807588256400584/>



If they do not get enough volunteers, they may have to close down sites. Opportunities exist to shop and donate food (including Amazon and Walmart registries), donate financially, help at distribution sites, and deliver food directly to families' homes. While they do have a sign-up link for volunteers, you'll need access to the Facebook group to be able to get more detailed directions from the "Files" section and to see updates made in the posts.

— Julie



## Podcasts Focus On History Of Racism In North America

The excellent podcast *Ideas* on the CBC has recently produced two timely episodes dealing with racism's appalling legacy on this continent.

### America's Other Civil War

In "America's Other Civil War" ([https://cbc.mc.tritondigital.com/CBC\\_IDEAS\\_P/media/ideas-F8e17Ff9-20200608.mp3](https://cbc.mc.tritondigital.com/CBC_IDEAS_P/media/ideas-F8e17Ff9-20200608.mp3)), Dr. Melissa Gismondi explores four particularly brutal episodes of anti-black violence in the post-Civil War era: the massacre in Colfax, Louisiana in 1873; the white coup against elected black officials in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1898; the race riots in East St. Louis, Illinois in 1917; and the destruction of 'Black Wall Street' in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1921.

The episode explores each incident in detail. For the Colfax confrontation, the episode explains how tensions began after the disputed 1872 election, as blacks holed up in the parish courthouse. A weeks-long siege ensued, until the black contingent — outnumbered and outgunned — surrendered, only to be slaughtered after being taken prisoner. More than 80 died.

Though three white perpetrators were eventually convicted under federal law; these convictions were overturned by the Supreme Court in *U.S. v. Cruikshank*. This decision would hamstring later efforts by federal authorities to use federal law to overcome the resistance of white juries at the state level to hold whites accountable for their anti-black crimes.

The episode is a worthwhile (albeit grim) listen as it focuses on an important but still-neglected aspect of American history. One weakness is its lack of context for the incidents: specifically the lack of a labor context. The era's frequent boom/bust cycles and complete absence of counter-cyclical government responses — or, indeed, any labor protections at all — meant destitution remained an ever-present threat to white workers. The *Ideas* episode leaves us to imagine white racism as some kind of free-floating evil, instead of it being a horrific (but more explainable) attempt by white workers to 'outsource' their vulnerability onto an even more marginalized group of competing black workers.

### Slavery In Canada

In "Canada's Slavery Secret: The Whitewashing of 200 years of Enslavement" ([https://cbc.mc.tritondigital.com/CBC\\_IDEAS\\_P/media/ideas-8W1BLyUY-20200609.mp3](https://cbc.mc.tritondigital.com/CBC_IDEAS_P/media/ideas-8W1BLyUY-20200609.mp3)), we learn that our northern neighbor has its own neglected history of racism. Contributor Kyle G. Brown explores how, contrary to what many believe, there were thousands of African American slaves in Canada prior to Great Britain's Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. In fact, as a number of northern states had abolished slavery prior to the 1830s, the Underground Railroad actually ran *south* for a few decades in the early 19th century. It's a fascinating chronicle.

—Bert M.

# July 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</b>			1	2 Men's Group 10 am—12 n  Clearing as a Spiritual Prac- tice 1 pm	3	4 
5 10 am Sunday Service	6	7	8	9  Clearing as a Spiritual Prac- tice 1 pm	10	11
12 10 am Sunday Service	13	14	15 	16  Clearing as a Spiritual Prac- tice 1 pm	17 Board Zoom Event 9:30 am—12 n  Pictionary Game Night 7—9 pm	18 Men's Group 10 am—12 n
19 10 am Sunday Service	20	21 7 pm Board of Trustees	22	23  Clearing as a Spiritual Prac- tice 1 pm	24	25
26 10 am Sunday Service	27	28	29	30  No groceries to Westside— we are donat- ing \$ instead!	31	

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

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**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.