



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 27, Issue 9

September 2020

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September Minister's Column



My husband, Eric, and I hike often. Over the years, we have taken multiple paths that, while difficult, had a treasure trove of sites awaiting us. We began the path, shoes sinking into mud, breath heavy at the steep inclines, sweating in the summer heat. We found the start of the path hidden amongst the bushes and trees, a steep and rocky terrain ahead of us. Entering the woods, we knew the path would be hard. And yet we also knew there would be beauty.

Often, an expanse of hills and trees below us or a still pond reflecting clouds and trees alike awaited us. We paused, settled in, noticed the beauty, and felt rejuvenated. It was hard getting there, and we had a difficult journey home, but, in that moment, we were at peace. We were at rest.

We are a Welcoming Congregation!



Wayside Pulpit

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

— African Proverb

As a community we find ourselves on these difficult paths, whether doing that intentional work of justice or that difficult work of surviving a pandemic. Sometimes seemingly trudging along through those long, difficult days, weeks, months. And yet, along the way, there will be peace and beauty. As Eric and I took pause in the rocky, overgrown woods to enjoy a waterfall, so do these daunting days lead to our own periods of rest and rejuvenation. Perhaps in a joke, novel, friendship, movie, or smile. Sometimes, it may seem hard to find; the path may seem too difficult or the anticipatory anxiety of the future too overwhelming. And yet that is why we need to be so aware of these ponds or waterfalls or overlooks in our daily lives – to notice and be rejuvenated for those days or weeks or months ahead.

We, as a community, as a nation, have been traversing a difficult path and the future right now may seem daunting or overwhelming. That is why I encourage each one of you to find your own time and place for

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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 October issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 20, 2020.**

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rejuvenation. We need this peace and time to center now more than ever. So I invite you to reflect – what is your waterfall, your overlook, your pond? And how can each one of us grow to embrace this?

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

President's Column



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As I write this, Summer is still kicking, but as this is the September newsletter, I can't help but be surprised at how quickly Fall is coming. Reverend Jane will be back in about a week.

Welcome back! As has become the norm, the Worship Team has done an excellent job with the services this summer, and attendance, while a little lighter than when a settled minister is in the pulpit, has been steady, in spite of the ongoing pandemic. I remember the days when the Church all but shut down in the summer, holding tiny services in the Bethany Lane office space with roughly a dozen attendees.

By now, many of you will have met Liz Coit, of Stewardship for Us. At the August board meeting she engaged the board in the same kind of discussion that she's been having with the rest of the Congregation. She also gave us a first look at her analysis of our giving numbers. The good news is that we do quite well for our size relative to many of the other congregations she has worked with. The realistic news is that there are challenges that come along with our size. She will share her findings and recommendations with the board on September 12, and then with the congregation on September 20. Please mark your calendars. I want to give special mention and thanks to Julie Fitzer for being the main point of contact for Ms. Coit and arranging all the meetings.

The year ahead looks to be eventful. Stewardship and our search for space, learning about the 8th principle, possibly an online auction, and that's just within the Church. In any case, I hope you are able to greet each day with gratitude and enjoy what this life has to offer.

—David

Channing Book Club



New—upcoming in September, we have a short read: John Lewis' last words that were released on his death, see link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html> We'll meet on Sept. 10 at 10 am to talk about it.

We intend to feature a short read in the alternating months between our normal book read, and this will be an essay, a letter, or perhaps a short story.

For our regular discussion every other month, we'll continue with books. On the second Thursday, October 8 at 10 a.m., we will discuss ***Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist***, by Judith Heumann. Since we haven't had advance signups, please let Ken H. know if you will be participating and have not previously done so to receive the Zoom information or to be added to the mailing list, even if you aren't participating in the next month or two. For extra insurance, send him a note in any event.

Praise for Heumann's book:

Fighting to belong in a world that wasn't built for all of us and of one woman's activism—from the streets of Brooklyn and San Francisco to inside the halls of Washington—Being Heumann recounts Judy Heumann's lifelong battle to achieve respect, acceptance, and inclusion in society.

Thoughtful and illuminating, this inspiring story is a must-read for activists and civil rights supporters.

—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

— Ken H.

Giant Scrip



Giant Scrip (\$100 gift card) is available and can be delivered to you with all appropriate social distancing. Contact Maureen H.

—Maureen H.

Board Bits



On August 18th, instead of a regular board meeting, the Channing Board met with Liz Coit of Stewardship for Us as part of CMC's "Virtual Next Steps Weekend". Ms. Coit shared some of the information that she had gathered from meeting with other individuals and groups within the Church, and she also engaged the Board in a discussion based on the same questions.

—David



Soul Matters for September— Renewal

Dear Channing Members and Friends,

Our Small Group and Worship theme for September is Renewal. As we join together to celebrate fall and the beginning of the church year, our focus can be on the renewal of our bodies and souls. This is a commitment that may feel foreign at times, and yet renewal is a daily act of self-love and self-care. Civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman writes of renewal and the world around us, stating, “Don’t ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” What makes you come alive? In this moment, right now, when the world “needs” so desperately, we need people who are alive. And we need the grace to help restore ourselves before we can join in the campaign to help others. Let us focus on personal renewal, feeding our souls and replenishing our spirits.

These small groups are special because they allow each member to deeply engage with the topic in multiple ways. In preparation for each month’s Small Group, I will send each group member a packet. You are invited to select from this packet one spiritual exercise and one question to reflect on before our meeting together. **While reviewing the packet ahead of time is a great way to prepare for group, please do not let a busy schedule deter you from participating.** Whatever amount of time you are able to dedicate to preparation is just the right amount of time!

I ask that you sign up ahead of time. Please use the link below. Please provide me your email address so that I can send you the packet for you to review. If the slot that you can attend is full, just let me know. We have opened our small groups to the public to share our gifts with the community. Feel free to invite friends. I am excited to explore the topic of Renewal with you!

To sign-up for the young adult group (20s, 30s, 40s):

TBD – tentatively Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7-9pm

Look for an email with the signup link soon.

To sign-up for groups of all ages:

Friday, Sept. 18, 1-3pm

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2-4pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul1>

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane



Voting in the General Election

If you're confused about voting in this fall's presidential election, you're not alone. Here's some relevant information.

If you are concerned about visiting a polling place or one of the centralized early-voting locations, you can vote by mail. **If you decide to vote by mail, you must request an application for a ballot.** Ballot applications **must be received by the Board of Elections no later than October 20, 2020.** So do it now to avoid strain on the Board of Elections later in the fall. [Request your ballot application here.](#)

If you complete your application online, you will immediately receive a confirmation. But check the Board of Elections website for your application status. (My application disappeared.) Later, you will receive an email confirming that your ballot application was processed.

If you vote by mail, please make sure that you follow all the directions on the ballot. And remember to sign the ballot envelope just as your name appears on the ballot envelope address.

If you decide to take advantage of early voting, you can vote any time from Monday, October 26 through Monday, November 2 (including Saturday and Sunday) from 7 am to 8 pm. The early voting locations in Howard County are:

- Ridgely's Run Community Center in Jessup
- Miller Branch Library in Ellicott City
- Bain 50+ Center in Columbia
- Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship

In Baltimore County, the Arbutus Recreation Center and Woodlawn Community Center are among 11 centers that will be open for early voting. For more options, [here's a list of statewide early voting places.](#) Remember that you must vote within your own jurisdiction.

You can find some useful [videos about voting on the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland's website.](#)

Please stay safe, stay healthy. And VOTE.

—Jim C.

Job Opening at Towson UU Church



Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in Lutherville, MD is seeking to hire a part time Communications and Outreach Coordinator. For more information, see their webpage <https://www.towsonuuc.org/>

An adult RE/spiritual practice offering:

(The All-New-Slower-Paced) Clearing as a Spiritual Practice



Participants from the recently completed class, "Clearing as a Spiritual Practice," have decided to continue, and renew, this work at a slower pace. We'll be working through the 52 chapters of the book at a more leisurely rate of (usually) one chapter (occasionally two chapters) per week on our own, and *meeting via Zoom once every two weeks. Anyone interested is welcome to join us! (No prior experience with this book/work is required.)*

On this journey, we'll explore space clearing from the inside out with the help of **Stephanie Bennett Vogt's book, *Your Spacious Self***. Our work and play will include one Zoom gathering every other week, plus (manageable) reading and practice outside of class. The work (in and outside of Zoom sessions) will include reading, reflection, journaling, gentle practical work, meditation, and verbal sharing. *Stephanie Bennet Vogt's approach strongly emphasizes the inner dimension of clearing.*

Participants will need access to a copy of *Your Spacious Self*. The book is available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Your-Spacious-Self-Stephanie-Bennett-Vogt/dp/1608831110) in paperback and on Kindle. (The Kindle version is currently available for \$0.99.) Please note that we'll be using the 2012 edition of the book. (The previously published edition is substantially different.)

Our first Zoom session will be **1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 3rd**. Please read chapters 1 & 2 before the first session. Ostara H. will facilitate the first Zoom session. Feel free to contact me (Ostara) with any questions.

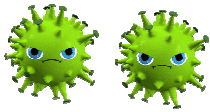
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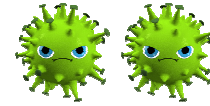
With the pandemic limiting so many of our usual social interactions, this may be a particularly good time to reach out to friends and acquaintances and invite them to what we have at Channing--our connections via Zoom to services, other meetings, and personal ties. We welcome newcomers.

For security reasons we advise: Please don't freely give out our Zoom url. Rather, anyone expressing an interest should email membership@channingmc.org with their wishes. That way, monitors will know to let them into the Zoom gathering and the Membership committee will have a handle on providing information and pursuing further contacts as they may desire.

— Membership Committee: *Bernie N., Marian V., Nancy H.*



Your COVID-19 Links Here



HoCo COVID Cases

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Countywide-Updates>

Baltimore County COVID Updates and Guidance

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/News/COVID19/>

MD State COVID Cases

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>

MD Testing Site Search Engine

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>

CDC COVID Page

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Special thanks to *Patrick B.* for gathering this information.

If you or a family member needs help, fill out the Connections survey

<https://forms.gle/XxDBeKD5NiWBXWEb6> or email connections@channingmc.org

Stewardship Update



End of 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

Total Operating Income	\$153,279
Total Operating Expenses	\$153,279
Difference	\$0

Stewardship Update



July 2020 Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$10,645
Total Operating Expenses	\$12,464
Difference	(\$1,819)

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All events *online* unless otherwise noted		<i>1</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours Online	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> Men's Group 10 am—12 n	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10 am Sunday Service	<i>7</i> 	<i>8</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours Online	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Channing Book Club 10 am	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 10 am Sunday Service Ingathering! 	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours Online 7 pm Board of Trustees	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	 Rosh Hasha- nah begins at sundown	<i>19</i> Men's Group 10 am—12 n
<i>20</i> 10 am Sunday Service	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours Online	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> No groceries to Westside— we are donat- ing \$ instead! 	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10 am Sunday Service 	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Drop in Office Hours Online	<i>30</i>			

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



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.