



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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October 2020

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**



Wayside Pulpit

Habits are at first cobwebs
then cables.

—Spanish Proverb

October Minister's Column



I start off each morning with a cup of coffee, slowly sipping the hot beverage as I sit on my front porch. In this routine I feel the air slowly cooling, each morning seemingly chillier than the one before. The leaves are close to browning as the seasons cycle into fall. And yet what seems like decay can also be full of renewal!

We have such an exciting year ahead of us! I have been meeting with committees and engaging with so many excited Channingites. What will this new church year look like? We continue to find ways to invite new folks to our virtual spaces and are working to increase our online presence. When visitors enter our virtual space, they receive a great Channing welcome email! Our website is continuously updated and the RE committee is putting together exciting online programming. Those who are struggling receive support. We continue to offer meaningful online worship, and Young Adult activities are adapting as well! Stewardship is gearing up and the Space Search Committee is on the lookout. Our Social Justice Team continues to do important work around UU the Vote, and the congregation is considering 8th Principle work.

And we have a unique opportunity to engage with the program Stewardship for Us. The congregation has been working closely with consultant Liz Coit, who is diligently working to offer us guidance on the finances of our congregation. We can use this information moving forward as we answer those big questions – do we rent or do we buy? What can we afford? What would a capital campaign look like? How much money do we need to raise? Ultimately, what can we do to fulfill the hopes and wishes of Channing Memorial Church? In considering our space search, we've got a big year ahead of us! And, we will do it. It may be hard at times, but it is achievable. So as the leaves begin to fall and that sun continues to set earlier and earlier, I invite you
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Minister

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Mel Currie ('22)

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 October issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 25, 2020.**

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to ask yourself, "What can I do to help fulfill these dreams? What can I offer in time, talent, and treasure?" Together, we will fulfill the hopes and dreams of our special church.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Board Bits

The board met over Zoom and had a productive meeting:

- Membership Committee charge was approved.
- Horizon technology grant budget was discussed.
- Rev. Jane shared her thoughts on her summer reading, self-care, and the upcoming year.
- Board will approach the congregation about forming a committee for 8th Principle work.
- Park Avenue will not be open for meetings at this time, issue to be revisited in December.
- Discussed stewardship and space search with Liz Coit.

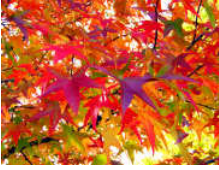
—Julie

Help Needed for Hurricane Victims

Dear Friends,
As you know, we are experiencing an extremely active Atlantic hurricane season that has devastated communities that dot the Gulf Coast. The UU Service Committee has established a fund to aid those who are most marginalized to ensure equitable relief for all families. Your generous contributions are gratefully accepted. Visit www.uusc.org.

For more information about the UU Service Committee, please contact Jim C.

Yours in faith and justice,
Jim C.



President's Column

Fall is here, my sweater has found its way into circulation, and it has been an eventful few weeks for the Church!

Last Sunday, September 13th, our special collection raised over \$500 for Bridges to Housing Stability, an organization whose mission is "To provide a path to self-sufficiency to prevent and end homelessness through affordable housing solutions and advocacy in Howard County". Such generosity lifts my spirits. It is a truly fine thing to see compassion turn into action.

The following Tuesday, our board meeting featured a lengthy and thoughtful discussion with Liz Coit from Stewardship for Us about her findings, the gist of which she shared with the Congregation this Sunday morning. Thank you for your attendance! There were upwards of 40 participants. The Board's next task is to give some reasonable search parameters to the Space Search Team, who will then be able to start working with our realtor to "stomp the bushes" and see what's out there.

The Social Justice Team is working hard on UU the Vote efforts, and there is also steady progress on our Black Lives Matter sign/banner project (Howard County and Ellicott City both have many rules about signage). On a personal note, I have finished reading the Church's physical copy of *Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change*. I found the "Avatars", conglomerations of several peoples' real experiences with racism in the UUA into a fictional single voice, to be particularly worthy of my time. Let me know if you would like me to pass it on to you. It is also available electronically at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>.

—David



Calling Young Adults!

The Young Adult Game Night and virtual potluck is back for the fall. Join us October 7 (and every first Wednesday) from 7 to 9 pm. We'll have games and conversation.

Anyone in their 20's, 30's and 40's welcome. This event is open to the public and folks are encouraged to share this event with anyone who may be interested.

Contact *Patrick B.*

Giant Scrip

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



—Maureen H.



Soul Matters for October: Deep Listening

Dear Channing members and friends,

Author David Augsburger writes, “Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person they are almost indistinguishable.” During these anxious and unsettling times, this desire and need for a sacred community and the love this entails is strong. One way we can offer this life-altering gift of love is to listen, and to listen deeply. This month, we focus on the restorative power of deep listening, contemplating the ways listening shapes our lives and offers us each a chance to obtain wisdom from another. At times, what can be most restorative is to put one’s own thoughts and worries aside to truly appreciate, understand, and, in doing so, love another.

Deep Listening is our worship theme for October, and the theme for our small groups. 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. I will also provide all attendees a Zoom link the day of the Small Group. 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 Deep Listening with you!

To sign-up for the young adult group:

Wednesday, October 21 7-9pm

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

To sign-up for groups of all ages:

Friday, October 16 1-3pm

Saturday, October 17, 2-4pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul2>

I hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Vote By Mail Update

Please be aware that the US Postal Service has sent everyone a postcard with what was probably meant to be a reassuring notice about voting by mail. Note that the suggested deadlines to request a mail-in ballot are NOT the deadlines suggested in the state of Maryland.



The deadlines for Maryland are October 13, 2020 to register to vote and October 20, 2020 to request a mail-in ballot. (But do it early!)

The postcard did say to contact your local election board to confirm. Here is a link.

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

Jim C. has created a website to answer all voting-related questions. Check it out.

<https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingvotes>

—Angela L., Social Justice Committee



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>

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

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

— Patrick B.



Need to Schedule a Meeting or Event?

If you need church space— virtual (Zoom) or physical (church office)— it needs to be reserved via newsshare. (Even if you don't need to reserve space, if you plan to meet with a good number of folks from church, please let newsshare know so that we can make notes on the church calendar.)

Send an email to newsshare@channingmc.org and let us know the date and time of your meeting or event, how long you expect it to last, and if you need to reserve space on the Channing Zoom account (you may have your own Zoom account, which is fine). If you want your meeting/event advertised, please give a short description of the event and a contact name and email. (We won't post last names or emails on the website.) You should receive a confirmation email back within 24 hours. Thank you!

—Julie F., head calendar guru

Channing Tea Time Fundraiser



We had such a good time a few months ago at the Virtual Tea and Crumpets Tea Party, that we have decided to do it as a fund raiser. Nancy H. and Marian V. will be your hosts for this virtual tea to launch the holiday season.

Join us on **Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 2 pm** for tea, cookies, goodies and great conversation. A package containing what you will need for the tea will be hand delivered within a few days of the tea. There is a suggested donation of \$15.00 for this pre-auction item. Donations can be made online or sent to the Park Ave office. Hats optional, but encouraged!! Put out your favorite tea cup, put on the tea kettle and plan on joining us!

Please email *Nancy H.* to confirm your attendance.
Contact *Nancy* or *Marian* with questions.

Join the Stewardship Team!



Enjoy numbers? Love to throw parties? Good with brochures? Stewardship and Finance team members dig deep into the church budget, keep an eye on the numbers throughout the church year, encourage ongoing generosity towards our mission and vision, and plan annual canvass campaigns.

Contact *Evelyn G.* at
treasurer@channingmc.org

Stewardship Update

August 2020 Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$32,093
Total Operating Expenses	\$22,135
Difference	\$ 9,958

Statewide Initiatives on November 3 Ballot



Friends, you may be interested in the two constitutional amendments that are on this year's ballot. The Nov. 3 ballot will contain two statewide measures:

Question 1. Authorizes the Maryland General Assembly to increase, decrease, or add items to the state budget as long as such measures do not exceed the total proposed budget submitted by the governor.

Currently, the state legislature receives a budget proposal from the governor and is not allowed to add expenditures to it or reapportion expenditures. The assembly can only reduce the state's operating budget. Also, currently, the governor may not veto an entire budget bill but may veto line items in the budget. Vetoed line items must be re-passed by the assembly. Under the proposed amendment, the governor could only veto items related to the executive department that were increased or added by the assembly. The governor's veto could be considered for a veto override in an extraordinary session of the assembly within 30 days of the veto. To override the veto, a three-fifths vote in each house is required. *The UU Legislative Ministry of MD recommends a YES vote on Question 1.*

Question 2. Authorizes sports and events wagering at certain licensed facilities. The state revenue generated by such activities would be primarily dedicated to funding public education. The measure would also authorize the Maryland Department of Transportation, the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission, and the Maryland Attorney General to contract with a panel of experts to review the "Business Disparities in the Maryland Market Area" study completed in 2017 and determine whether remedial measures need to be taken for minorities and women in the commercial gaming industry. Currently, the Maryland Constitution requires the legislature to submit a referendum to voters in order to expand sports betting. Maryland is the single state that explicitly allows fantasy sports betting.

Visit <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingvotes/voter-education>

—Jim C.

Care Team: Ready for Action



The Care Team is still here to support Channing members and friends. Maggie N., Sheri T. and Marian V. are here to help coordinate cards, notes, phone calls, meals, etc. Please let us know if you or someone that you know would like the support that the Care Team can provide. We are a caring community and we look forward to helping each of you when you may need a little more. Please let one of us know, or email careteam@channingmc.org. Thanks!

—Marian V. and the Care Team



Religious Education Update

Religious Education for our youth is just getting started!

Spirit Play (multi-age elementary school friends) will be sending a link for a pre-recorded story on Sept 27th and, on October 25, Mr. Mike will have a virtual meeting for Spirit Play at 9 am before the service. This will continue: another story will be sent in November, and the class will meet in December, etc. Led by Mike L., assisted by Deanna G.

Spirit Play dates are as follows for the next few months:

September 27- pre-recorded story link will be sent

October 25- 9am virtual meeting with Mr. Mike

November 22- pre-recorded story link will be sent

December 27- 9am virtual meeting with Mr. Mike.

January 24- pre-recorded story link will be sent.

LH3 will hold their planning meeting on October 11 at 9am (see the LH3 info from Kathleen R. for more info).

Youth Group (high school/college students) regularly meet on Zoom to discuss Soul Matters themes. The group is lead by Lynne S.

If you are interested in any of these programs and would like more information, contact *Deanna G.*

LH3 Returns! Sunday, October 11th at 9am.



Loving Hearts Helping Hands (LH3) child and youth ministry returns for another year of monthly service and social justice projects planned and executed by the youth of Channing Memorial Church. We will meet mostly on the second Sunday of each month, but this is subject to change as the church calendar warrants. We have scheduled the first meeting for 9 am, before church, to allow parents of the younger children to attend with their kids. In addition to planning our projects for the year, we'll also be discussing logistics and the best way to manage LH3 for everyone in the virtual world.

All Channing children and youth with their parents (if needed to help navigate the technology) are invited to attend this virtual planning meeting on **Sunday, October 11th at 9 am.**

Please come prepared with ideas for our projects for the year. Past projects have included making Valentines for residents of a retirement community, preparing Blessing Bags for unhoused folks and creating birthday gift boxes for foster children. We will be meeting virtually on Zoom at least through January 2021.

Please email Kathleen R. to confirm your attendance and receive the Zoom link for the meeting.

ADORE: A DIALOGUE ON RACE AND
ETHNICITY

ALTERNATIVES TO POLICING

Feat. India Harris and Rev. Jason Lydon



October 6, 2020

4 - 6 pm PT / 7 - 9 pm ET

➔ **RSVP NOW**

Registration for this gathering is set at \$10 to pay for the labor and expertise of the speakers. However, **NO ONE** will be turned away for lack of funds — please click on the link for more info.

*The 8th
Principle*



To register <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/>



October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i> </div>			<i>1</i> Men's Group 10 am—12 n	<i>2</i> Outreach Meeting 6-7 pm	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 10 am Sunday Service	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online	<i>7</i> Young Adult Potluck and Game Night 7 pm	<i>8</i> Channing Book Club 10 am	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 9 am LH3 10 am Sunday Service	<i>12</i> 	<i>13</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Men's Group 10 am—12 n
<i>18</i> 10 am Sunday Service	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online 7 pm Board of Trustees	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> !	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 9 am Spirit Play 10 am Sunday Service	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> No groceries to Westside— we are donat- ing \$ instead 	<i>30</i>	<i>31</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.