



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 27, Issue 11

November 2020

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November Minister's Column



I look out my window and see the familiar green leaves fading away as summer transitions to fall, turning greenery into hues of red and brown. This shift of colors and drops in temperature are familiar, as each year inevitably transitions from summer to fall. And yet as we enter this familiar fall weather, the world around us is anything but familiar.

We have a very important election coming up. Folks may be feeling all sorts of emotions. Perhaps anger, fear, anxiety, uncertainty. I remind you that any emotion you may be feeling is appropriate and ok.

I know I feel overwhelmed at times, filled with uncertainty. This, to me, can lead to anxiety. I need to pause, step outside, and briskly walk around my apartment complex. I wonder, what are some self-care practices each one of us can draw upon during times of such anxiety? Perhaps reading a novel, watching a favorite movie, going on a run, or baking your favorite dessert. We are surrounded with uncertainty, both in the immediate and in the weeks ahead.

No matter what, we have our sacred community here at Channing Memorial Church. Just as it is certain that the fallen leaves will lead to frost covered grass with the changing of the seasons, so too can we rely upon our church community to always be there. I mentioned the wide array of emotions we may be feeling. We will hold space for those emotions as a church community.

What we need is for each and every one of our voices to be heard. If you have not already, I urge you to vote. I urge you to make sure your friends and family know how to safely vote. Our Social Justice Team has provided us with an
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We are a Welcoming Congregation!



Wayside Pulpit

Ability is useless unless it is used.

Robert Half

Minister

Reverend Jane Smith

410-203-0474 (office)
minister@channingmc.org

President:

David Fu ('22)

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer:

Evelyn Grim ('21)

Secretary:

Kathleen Razmus ('21)

Trustees:

Patrick Beben('21)

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, November 22, 2020.**

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abundance of materials to help us do just this.

In the days ahead, may you find peace in the simple things – in that which feeds your soul. Know that whatever you are feeling is just right. Know that we will always have the strength and love present in this community. Know that you are loved and held in prayer.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Bread Communion November 22

Each year, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we join together for our annual Bread Communion service. In this special tradition, you are all invited to bring a bread or grain-based dish that is meaningful to you. Perhaps your special bread or dish comes from a religious, ethnic, or cultural background! Perhaps it is a family favorite.



This year, we celebrate virtually! Everyone is invited to bring their special bread with them to service. After worship, we will all have an opportunity to share the unique stories that accompany our bread.

I look forward to celebrating Bread Communion together on Sunday, November 22!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

President's Column



As I write this, November looms nigh, the nights have become deliciously chilly, and I've somehow managed to break my heel. Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes. The road to recovery will be long, but I shall not be deterred. And appropriately, this month I share some thoughts about some longer term goals for our Church.

The first is our ongoing Eighth Principle work. I know that some of you consider the adoption of the Eighth Principle to be a "no-brainer", and I know that some of you consider it to be a "no-wayer." If you are in either of these camps, I would urge you to take a step back from your pre-formed notions. We have a problem with racism in our nation, and we have a problem with racism in our denomination. Both denying the problem and arguing about wording are ways of avoiding the real, difficult, and meaningful work of looking it in the face and making inroads towards real progress. I implore you attend the various discussions with both an open mind and an open heart.

The second is stewardship and our search for future worship space. Most of you should have a copy of the Stewardship for Us report by Liz Coit (contact any Board Member if you need a copy). I plan to write more specifically in future columns about it, but for now I'll say that the report provides an honest picture of where we are, and it lays the foundations for us to decide where we are going. How we do Stewardship will be the key. As for the space search, the Board and the Space Team are communicating well. Real estate is not cheap in this area, and we are working hard to find a range of options for the Congregation to consider.

Let us not be deterred.

—David

Loving Hearts Helping Hands (LH3) to Make Blessing Bags



LH3 is ready to begin our first project of the church year and we need your help! We will be assembling bags of supplies that can be given to folks in need. The bags will contain bottles of water, non-perishable snacks, hand warmers, socks, tissues and other basic necessities. Please consider donating the various items we need to assemble the bags. Our goal is to assemble 100 bags.

Sign up to donate [HERE](#). Select the item, hit the Select and Sign Up button and then choose how many of the item you wish to donate. **The deadline for donations is Wednesday, November 4th.**

There are two ways to get the donations to us.

- (1) Drop the items off at the Park Ave. office. There is a waterproof tote box by the back door. Place your items in there. We will go by the office every few days to move them indoors.
- (2) Or have the items shipped to Kathleen R.

Once we have all the items, we will organize a drive by pickup for the LH3 team. We will assemble the bags and then return them to the same waterproof tote at Park Ave. where they will be available for folks to pick up.

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Soul Matters for November: Healing



Each and every one of us suffers – that is a part of the human condition. We are all wounded. What varies, however, is how we react to this wounding. Theologian Henri J. M. Nouwen writes, “Nobody escapes being wounded. We all are wounded people, whether physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. The main question is not ‘How can we hide our wounds?’ so we don’t have to be embarrassed, but ‘How can we put our woundedness in the service of others?’” Let us not be ashamed but – if it feels healthy – use our experiences to aid another. Sometimes, the best thing we can do is to offer a familiar ear. This is a powerful act of healing! Author Bell Hooks writes, “rarely, if ever, are any of us healed in isolation. Healing is an act of communion.” This month we embrace that act of communion, joining together as a sacred community to heal. Together as a church, we will work to heal both our own personal wounds and the wounds emerging from society at large.

Healing is our worship theme for November, 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 Healing with you!

Young Adults (20s, 30s, 40s):

Wednesday, Nov. 18 7-8:30pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young7>

All ages:

Friday, Nov 20 2:30-4pm

Tuesday, Nov 24 7:30-9pm

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul3>

—Rev. Jane

Loving Hearts Helping Hands - Continued from page 3

We really appreciate your support! Together we can reach our goal of 100 bags!

Loving Hearts Helping Hands is a youth ministry of Channing Memorial Church. Children and youth of all ages work together to develop, plan, and carry out service projects throughout the church year. Be on the lookout for our project announcement each month!

For questions or more information, contact Kathleen R.



8th Principle Work at Channing Memorial Church

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to live together by our 7 Principles. Our faith is calling out for an 8th. The 8th Principle reads,

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.

We decided as a congregation to begin exploring the 8th Principle. We have a committee to help guide us through the process.

First, we will do the anti-racist, anti-oppression work outlined in this Principle. There will be multiple opportunities for this offered throughout the church year. We are already scheduling Adult Religious Education opportunities. This allows us to live the values outlined in the Principle. Keep an eye out in church announcements!

The second part of this work is adopting the 8th Principle into our bylaws. This will occur after congregation-wide discussions. At the end of the church year, we will have a congregational vote on whether we would like to adopt this Principle as a church.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. I am excited to join together to do this important work!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Editor's note: "Read ahead" by visiting <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org>.

Channing Care Team

The Care Team is a group of Channing volunteers who respond when a member of the Channing community is in need. They visit, send flowers, cards, meals and provide other caring gestures when needed. If you know of a need in the congregation, contact the Care Team at careteam@channingmc.org.

Stewardship Corner



Channing Memorial Church will be sending **Bridges to Housing Stability** a check this week for **\$850**. As you may know, we were unable to participate in Bridges' chili cook off fundraiser this summer due to the pandemic, but this special offering from members and friends more than makes up for it. Thank you all for your generosity.

More and more of you are sending pledge payments and other donations using PayPal. This has been a great convenience and goes a long way to support our virtual Sunday offering. What you may not know is that PayPal charges a fee of roughly 3% to process your donation. If you are feeling in a particularly generous mood, please consider adding a little extra to your donation to help cover the processing fee. You may also send checks to our Park Ave. address. Asst. Treasurer Cathy F., and I each go into the office to check the mail about once a week.

As of this writing, you will soon receive, if you haven't already done so, a copy of the Virtual Next Steps report prepared by Liz Coit of Stewardship for Us. As she pointed out, we are all stewards of the church's mission, goals and finances. Nonetheless, we do have a Stewardship/Finance Committee, which carries out the tasks related to finances and fund raising. Our next meeting is November 7, at 10:00 a.m. Meetings are open, but we tend to get used to talking to the same people and would welcome some fresh faces. If you would like to attend, please send an email to treasurer@channingmc.org. and I will send you the Zoom sign in information

As always, thank you for your continuing support of the mission and ministries of Channing Memorial Church.

—*Evelyn Grim*, Treasurer

Stewardship Update



September 2020 Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$37,850
Total Operating Expenses	\$32,187
Difference	\$ 5,662

Soulful Home Programming



We have some exciting new programming coming up for parents and caregivers who are raising the next generation of Unitarian Universalists! In partnership with First Church in Salem, UU, **we are introducing the new Soul Matters program “Soulful Home”** in a five-month pilot program beginning in November. This is a small group ministry that welcomes meaning-seekers of all ages to explore questions such as “What does it mean to be a family of Deep Listening?” in a warm, interactive setting. **We will gather each month for a check-in, an interactive story, an intergenerational activity, and special time for guided discussion among caregivers.** We will also offer a [monthly discovery packet](#) for those who wish to explore our themes and practices as a family. Connect with other parents and caregivers as we discover the sacred in our everyday lives. **There is no preparation, but please do RSVP to Rev. Jane at minister@channingmc.org.** That will help us to prepare and send you the packet if you wish to utilize it.

We will hold our gatherings the third Friday of the month in a Zoom room. Our first session will be held Friday, Nov. 20 from 6—7:30 pm. We will send you the link closer to the event. We hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Ledo Pizza Fundraising Night— Wednesday, November 18



Enjoy a break from cooking at home and support Channing at the same time! Ledo Pizza in Ellicott City (Normandy Shopping Center) will **donate 20% of the receipts** to Channing from 4—8 pm on Wednesday, November 18. This is for the Ellicott City location ONLY. You MUST tell the staff member, when you order, that you are from Channing for your ticket to count.

Menu includes more than pizza - pasta, salad, soup, subs. Some vegetarian and gluten free options, although not a gluten free kitchen so cross-contamination is possible. Online ordering available.

Strongly recommend carry out orders for everyone's safety - they have extensive protocols in place for carry out orders which include only allowing 3 people inside at one time.

BONUS: A drop-in Zoom room will be available for socializing from 6 to 8 pm. Open to all, Ledo food not necessary. Link will be sent in November weekly emails.

— *Julie*

Channing Book Club— Triple Threat!



November 12 Meeting: For book club regular discussion that is upcoming on the second Thursday, November 12 at 10 a.m., we'll read *Racism as Zoological Witchcraft: A Guide to Getting Out* by Ko

Amazon writes: *In this scintillating combination of critical race theory, social commentary, veganism, and gender analysis, media studies scholar Aph Ko offers a compelling vision of a reimagined social justice movement marked by a deconstruction of the conceptual framework that keeps activists silo-ed fighting their various oppressions—and one another. Through a subtle and extended examination of Jordan Peele's hit 2017 movie Get Out, Ko shows the many ways that white supremacist notions of animality and race exist through the consumption and exploitation of flesh. She demonstrates how a critical historical and social understanding of anti-Blackness can provide the pathway to genuine liberation.*

Different Book Club Time? Are you interested in joining the book discussion but Thursdays don't work or you? Let us know: Would Saturday mornings be better, or another time? The book club would like to make the discussions as available as possible.

December 10 Short Read: We'll read this essay: *Joining the dots: Animal exploitation, human oppression and environmental destruction* by Laila Kassam
<https://medium.com/@laila.kassam/joining-the-dots-animal-exploitation-human-oppression-and-environmental-destruction-d74447d4b953>

Kassam writes: *When viewed in this context, the idea that the mentality required and promoted by animal exploitation is the root cause of many other injustices is compelling.*

All Channing Book Discussion Coming Soon! Channing will be offering a congregation-wide book read in the area of anti-racism in December. To let you know the kind of books we are considering: *White Fragility* by Robin DeAngelo, and Kendi's *How to Be an Anti-Racist*. Kendi's book seemed too long but it is an example of the area we'd like to work in. Your input on this idea is very much encouraged. Please send ideas to Ken H. Stay tuned for more information.

— Ken H.

Support Surrounding the Election



Dear Channing members and friends,

A very important election is quickly approaching. Folks may have so many different emotions. Perhaps we are experiencing fear, anxiety, uncertainty, or anger. Church is a safe space to feel whatever you may need to feel. On November 3rd and November 4th, I have created space just for that. We will have opportunities for deep check-ins, as well as time for prayer, candles, silence, and music. Please take a look at the various offerings, and, if anything calls to you, I welcome you to join me in a Zoom room.

My office hours are on Tuesday, November 3 from 1-4pm. That week I'll leave the Zoom room open from 1-4pm and *welcome any drop-ins* for a deeper check-in.

On the evening of November 3rd from 5:30-6:15pm I will hold a space just to feel. We will center to pray, light candles, pause for a few moments of silence, and share music together.

On the morning of November 4th I will hold a space from **11am-12:30pm**. This will be a time for deeper check-ins, as well as another opportunity for prayer, silence, candles, and music.

I will also host a **Friday Check-In on November 6 from 1-2pm**. This is a safe space for deeper check-ins

Any emotions you are feeling are just right. You are all held in love.

Warmly,

Rev. Jane

The Channing Auction Will Not Be Thwarted by Coronavirus!!



So, save the date! **Saturday, January 23, 2021**. Exact time TBD - late afternoon, early evening. It will be virtual, it will be fun, and it will be Scoobytastic!

We are working on the details for a brand new experience for our beloved annual auction. Our theme this year is Scooby Doo (hmmm? ruh roh!), and the auction will include:

- A live auction, facilitated by returning Auctioneers Extraordinaire Patrick B. and Ken K
- A silent auction
- Fixed price sign-ups
- Entertainment - brought to you once again by the talented Baz V. and Company
- An opportunity for some kind of shared meal - take out, curbside pick-up, or delivery.
- Possibly Scooby Snacks (mmmmm)

We are exploring various platforms for all the fun, including Zoom (which we use for worship services), Sign-Up Genius (which we are all familiar with), and a possible new platform called Auctria. More details to come on the mechanics.

For now, you can begin making donations. We will all need to think through new creative ways to generate fun auction items. Consider including delivery of your item as part of your donation. Or you can specify that the item can be picked up at a mutually agreeable time. Or team up with someone who can help you out with delivery. The church and several members have Zoom accounts, which can be reserved for church functions, like virtual auction get-togethers. Consider some outdoor, socially distanced events, depending on the season, or sharing a skill via Zoom. And of course, tangible items such as artwork, handicrafts, themed baskets, and other items are always welcome. Services are still a great idea (sewing, yard cleanup, etc.). Group baskets are always popular and a nice way for groups to work together to make a plan. Put on your thinking cap and have fun!

To donate, send the following information to Colleen via e-mail:

1. Title of Item
2. Description of Item, Event, Lesson, Service: Please include enough information to show people why they might want to bid on your donation.
3. Price Per Participant (if fixed price) OR Minimum bid (if auction item)
4. Maximum number of participants (if applicable)
5. Event date/s & time (if applicable. Please include day of the week and calendar date.)
6. Location (if applicable) or delivery/pick-up logistics
7. Name/s, e-mail address, and phone number of donor/s
8. Other information (lead time needed, etc.)
9. Important for this year's donations—photographs! Please include one or more photographs of your auction donation with your information.

Can't wait!

— Colleen R.



November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p><i>1</i></p> <p>10 am Sunday Service Youth RE</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online 5:30 Check in with Rev. Jane</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>11 am Check in with Rev. Jane 7 pm Young Adult Game Night</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>Men's Group 10 am—12 n</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>1 pm Check in with Rev. Jane Outreach Meeting 6-7 pm</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>Stewardship/ Finance Committee Meeting 10 am</p>	
<p><i>8</i></p> <p>9 am LH3 Meeting 10 am Sunday Service</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>Young Adult Potluck and Game Night 7 pm</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>Channing Book Club 10 am Cleaning as Spiritual Practice 12 N</p>	<p><i>13</i></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>Tea Time Fundraiser 2—4 pm</p>	
<p><i>15</i></p> <p>10 am Sunday Service Youth RE</p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online 7 pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>4—8 pm Ledo Fundraiser and Zoom party 7 pm Soul Matters Young Adult</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>Soulful Home 6 - 7:30 pm</p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>Men's Group 10 am—12 n</p>	
<p><i>22</i></p> <p>10 am Sunday Service Youth RE</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i></p> <p>1—4 pm Minister's Office Hours Online 7 pm Soul Matters All Ages</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p> 	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>No groceries to Westside—we are donating \$ instead</p> 	<p><i>28</i></p>	
<p><i>29</i></p> <p>9 am Spirit Play 10 am Sunday Service Youth RE</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i></p> </div>					

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.