



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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## Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

What a beautiful season as we begin to transition into fall. It is amazing to realize that we are entering our third year together! It is such an honor and delight to be your minister – in the good times, the difficult times, the times we work together, and the times we play together. You are all loved.

I am your minister and I am here for you – always at urgent times, but at so many other times.

When I was a lay person, I would often wonder when to call my minister. As a minister, I want to pass along some insight as to when I would love to hear from you. The list below is adapted from the website of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, Maine.

### When to call your minister:

- *When you just want to talk.*
- *When you are looking for a way to deepen your spiritual life.*
- *When you have questions of faith and you would like me to visit with you.*
- *When your children have questions of faith and you would like me to visit with them.*
- *When you have religious or spiritual questions.*
- *When you are celebrating one of life's joys and want to share the good news.*
- *When your family has joys and accomplishments to share with their minister.*
- *When you are feeling sad or lonely, or lost.*
- *When you have lost your job, found a new job, been promoted or demoted.*
- *When you or a family member is ill.*
- *When you are going to the hospital or know of someone else in the congregation who is.*
- *When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or*

## We are a Welcoming Congregation!



### Wayside Pulpit

We are bound to one another by the same love of the Light.

—Alfons Paquet

Continued on next page

**Minister**

Reverend Jane Smith

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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)*

Send submittals for the November issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 24 2021.**

*Minister's Column, continued from page 1*

*you're dealing with a significant loss of some kind.*

- *When you would like to make plans for a memorial service.*
- *When you would like to make plans for your memorial service.*
- *When you are planning to be married. When you are challenged by the demands of marriage. When you are separated or planning to get a divorce.*
- *When you are pregnant and glad you are or wish you weren't, also if you want to be pregnant but aren't.*
- *When you are challenged by life's daily happenings.*
- *When you don't know me, but would like to.*
- *When your family doesn't know me, but would like to.*
- *When you feel ready to join the congregation.*
- *When you want to share your experience of or appreciation for our beloved community. When you have concerns about the church or our faith community.*
- *When you have a good story to share.*
- *When you just want to talk.*

I am honored by each and every call I receive.

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*



**Soul Matters and Lectio Divina:  
Sessions Announced Soon**

The Soul Matters theme for October is **Cultivating Relationship**. Watch your email for information about this month's Soul Matters sessions.

Lectio Divina dates for October will be announced by email, as well.

—*Rev. Jane*

## President's Column



As I write this on a crisp and deliciously cool morning, the vernal equinox just passed, I find myself delighted to make reacquaintance with my sweater. This morning's worship service featured a sermon by Reverend David Carl Olson of the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, who spoke on Pope Francis's thoughts about the pandemic. To paraphrase, the pandemic has given us time to see, time to choose, and time to act. Coupled with the story "Super Tiny", artfully told by Worship Associate Pam E., the messages really hit home with me. This is why I come to church.

At the last Board Meeting we acknowledged that there is a real and growing hunger in our community to see and meet each other in person. While we hope for things to improve, the Delta variant of COVID 19 continues to run rampant among the unvaccinated, and the latest UUA guidelines, (<https://www.uua.org/leadership/library/delta-guidance>), are quite cautious. Masking and social distancing are strongly encouraged, even for outdoor gatherings, though for small outdoor gatherings among fully vaccinated people, covenantal consent to mask or not may be employed. I believe that the book discussion on Mel C.'s *Just Before Too Late* outside our Park Avenue space was a successful merging of socializing and safety, and these lovely Fall days should afford us more such opportunities.

Speaking of Park Avenue, we have negotiated a significantly reduced rent for the space (down to \$900/month from \$2000/month), but we must rent until at least the end of April, 2022. This gives the Space Team some breathing room as they continue to search for accessible office space and Sunday worship space. As always, fingers crossed.

Finally, from the "Where are we going?" department, the intrepid team of Pam E., Patrick B., and Angela L. have worked hard over the summer with consultant Liz Coit of Stewardship for Us to draft a strategic plan. Here's a key sentence from its introduction:

*The strategic plan--including this foundational document--aims to be an iterative, living, co-created document, destined not to gather dust on our shelves, but to hold a permanent place in our back pockets, on our tech devices, and in all our meetings and activities.*

The Board and the planning team are still ironing out details, but in the meantime, proposed actions for this year will be shared with the various teams and committees of the Church to prepare for the upcoming Council of Committees this month. Stay tuned.

Care,  
David Fu

## From the 8th Principle Committee



After being postponed a few times, we are finally ready to discuss some of the key words and phrases contained in the 8th Principle. We sent out a list of these on September 20th and will send them again prior to the discussion. We value your thoughts and opinions as we consider this important proposed principle. Here is the principle:

*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 will host a Sundays After Discussion on **Sunday, October 24th**, after the service. We look forward to a fruitful, engaging discussion!

—Angela L., Kathleen R., Toni R., and Rev. Jane

### Board Bits



From the September 21, 2021, Board of Trustees Meeting:

The Board discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Council of Committees Meeting. This meeting is a way for all the various teams and groups in the church to communicate their plans with one another. Each quarter, a different Board member facilitates the meeting. The October meeting will be facilitated by Kathleen Razmus.

The Board discussed and scheduled a Board retreat for Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. An outside facilitator will be brought in for this one-day event.

The Board decided unanimously to continue with the current in-person meeting guidelines which include size limited outdoor meetings with social distancing. Small group indoor meetings are permitted with masking and social distancing in place. Park Ave. is not large enough to hold a small group indoor meeting with the required distancing. As always, care should be taken by group leaders to ensure that everyone in the group is comfortable with the meeting plans for the group.

The Board decided no changes are needed to our current voting procedures for the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Principle vote.

The Board received and discussed a draft report from the Channing Strategic Planning Team. The team worked hard and are producing a comprehensive report covering the challenges and opportunities for the church. The Strategic Plan committee members are Pam E., Patrick B., and Angela L.

—Kathleen Razmus, Board Secretary

## Goodbye Summer



Proud homeowner Eric S. mows his lawn (for the last time this year?).



Julie F. chases parents around Ocean City. (They have the advantage.)



The Child and Governor Ritchie the gorilla bond at the Fus' "empty nest".

## Hello Fall



The Ms. and friend hike at Woodlawn Manor Park in Montgomery Co.



Maureen H. sees her first scarecrow of the season!



Pumpkins by artist-in-residence Dasha K.

## Channing Book Club-Upcoming Discussions



**Saturday, October 9 at 10 am, location TBA**

***How to Balance Hard Work and Pleasure for Happiness*** (article by Arthur Brooks for *The Atlantic*) contact me for a copy.

**Saturday, November 13 at 10 am, location TBA**

***One Long River of Song*** by Brian Doyle

David James Duncan sums up Doyle's sensibilities best in his introduction to the collection: "Brian Doyle lived the pleasure of bearing daily witness to quiet glories hidden in people, places and creatures of little or no size, renown, or commercial value, and he brought inimitably playful or soaring or aching or heartfelt language to his tellings. A life's work, *One Long River of Song* invites readers to experience joy and wonder in ordinary moments that become, under Doyle's rapturous and exuberant gaze," Two copies available at Howard County Library and four at Baltimore County.

What's on your book list? Would you like to make it a selection for the book club so you can have good conversation about it? Contact me with any suggestions.

—Ken H.



## (The\*All New\*) Clearing as a Spiritual Practice

An adult RE/spiritual practice offering

Participants from the recently completed "Clearing as a Spiritual Practice," group have decided to continue, and renew, this work. Having worked through one of Stephanie Bennett Vogt's books, we'll be journeying, together, through a second, beginning in late October. Anyone interested is welcome to join us! (No prior experience with this author's work is required.)

On this journey, we'll explore space clearing from the inside out with the help of Vogt's book, *A Year for You: Release the Clutter, Reduce the Stress, Reclaim Your Life*, which is divided into 52 weeks of reading and practice. Participants will work through one (short) chapter per week on our own, and we'll meet together via Zoom once every two weeks. Course work and play (in and outside of Zoom sessions) will include reading, reflection, journaling, gentle practical work, and verbal sharing. Stephanie Bennet Vogt's approach strongly emphasizes the inner dimension of clearing.

Participants will need access to a copy of *A Year for You*. The book is available on [Amazon](#), in paperback and on Kindle. (If you'd like to participate but are short on funds at this time, please contact Rev. Jane.)


Our first Zoom session will be **Thursday, October 28th** from 1—2:15 pm. Please read the introduction and the chapters for weeks 1 & 2 before the first session. I will facilitate the first Zoom session. Feel free to contact me (Ostara) with any questions.

— Ostara H.



**Council of Committees meeting excitement!**

Wednesday, October 13 7—8pm on Zoom.


**Stewardship Update** 

**August 2021 Year to Date**

Total Operating Income	\$ 43,257
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 21,897
 Difference	 \$ 21,359

**UU Vision Fasts**

**October 8—10, October 29—31, April 22—24**

In the woods along the Potomac River, south of the Great Falls, MD 

Dave MacMillan is a retired UU minister, now a member of All Souls Unitarian in D.C. His first vision fast was in 1989. He is now a trained leader. Contact him at [dmacmillan@uuma.org](mailto:dmacmillan@uuma.org) for more information.





## The Channing Auction Will Return!

New email address for auction communications: [channingauction@yahoo.com](mailto:channingauction@yahoo.com)



Save the date! **Saturday, January 29, 2022.** Exact time TBD - late afternoon, early evening. We have not decided whether the auction will be in-person, virtual, or a combination. It will depend on how COVID-19 is doing, and what kind of availability we have for an in-person event.

We will definitely include:

- A live auction, facilitated by returning Auctioneers Extraordinaire Patrick B. and Ken K.
- A silent auction
- Fixed price sign-ups
- An opportunity for some kind of shared meal - take out, curbside pick-up, or delivery.

We are looking for ideas for a theme and volunteers for entertainment, so if you have any theme thoughts or are willing to dare to be a dork, please e-mail [channingauction@yahoo.com](mailto:channingauction@yahoo.com).

You can also begin making donations. We will all need to continue to think through new creative ways to generate fun auction items. In light of the potential for COVID-19 to continue, 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. You can also team up with someone who can help you out with delivery. The church and several members have Zoom accounts, which, subject to their availability, 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 ([channingauction@yahoo.com](mailto:channingauction@yahoo.com)):

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 again for this year's donations - photographs! Please include one or more photographs of your auction donation with your information.

—Colleen R.



## ***On The Basis Of Sex* Focuses On Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

With the fate of 1973's *Roe v. Wade* hanging in the balance, watching *On the Basis of Sex* may be something of a bittersweet experience. This 2018 biopic of the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg will remind many of how much the absence of the staunchly liberal Supreme Court justice will be felt in the coming years.

The film centers on Justice Ginsburg's early career fighting for gender equality. The film particularly focuses on her role in *Moritz v. Commissioner*, ironically enough a case in which an obscure tax provision discriminated against men. Her success in arguing the case was a significant step forward in moving the courts to question the constitutionality of gender discrimination embedded in law, and helped to establish her reputation.

As someone who did not know much about Ginsburg's life and career, I found the film illuminating, and its storyline engaging. It's a good movie, though I admit to trying without success to identify what, exactly, keeps it from being a *great* one. The supporting cast is excellent. Felicity Jones's performance as the lead seems ... fine ... though maybe a little shy of what might be expected in portraying such a powerful figure. Perhaps it just isn't realistic to expect intense movie-level drama to come out of the nuance of courtroom rhetoric, even in cases of great importance.

At any rate, I recommend *On the Basis of Sex* as a solid and worthwhile drama. One of its more poignant moments comes in its coda, which notes that Ginsburg was ultimately approved to serve as justice on the Supreme Court by a vote of 96-3. The notion that such a liberal bastion received near-unanimous Senate endorsement seems unimaginable given today's polarized political climate.

—Bert M.

## **Young Adults Potluck and Game Night**



The Young Adult Game Night and virtual potluck meets every first Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9. 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 me for information.


— Patrick B.





# October 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i></p>					1 Outreach Mtg	2
3 10 am Sunday Service	4	5 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours LDNC, Com.	6 Space Search Meeting  Young Adult Game Night	7 Men's Group 10 am	8 Covenant Circle  Worship Team	9 Channing Book Club 10 am
10 10 am Sunday Service	11 	12 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours	13	14	15	16 Men's Group 10 am
17 10 am Sunday Service	18	19 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours  7 pm Board of Trustees	20	21  No groceries to Westside— we are donating	22 Covenant Circle	23
24 10 am Sunday Service	25	26 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours	27	28	29	30 Board Retreat
31 						

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Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
3677 Park Avenue  
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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.