



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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We are a Welcoming Congregation!



Wayside Pulpit

If the only prayer you ever
say in your entire life is
thank you, it will be
enough.

—Meister Eckhart

Minister's Column



Dear Channing members and friends,

My husband Eric and I recently moved to a new neighborhood, and we have never been met with such an abundance of Halloween decorations before! As we take our daily walks in this increasingly chilly, fall weather we are met with skeletons and ghosts and pumpkins galore. These plastic bones and glittering orange lights call for me to settle in the spirit of this holiday and the spirit of fall like never before! And yet, in fashion true to myself, I'm already planning for the winter holidays - my favorite.

I find in many ways as seasons change and holidays come and go, we may experience this paradox between enjoying where we are and eagerly anticipating what is to come. Last Sunday afternoon, Eric and I spent time picking pumpkins and apples, and by that evening I was planning Christmas dinner with my mom. We were savoring the apple fritters and cider of the fall and planning for the cookies and hot cocoa that lie ahead.

I see this reflected in our own church life. We are called to settle into and enjoy the sacred ins and outs of daily life together as a church community, joining together for worship and book groups and social events. We cannot thrive as a sacred community if we do not! And yet, we can simultaneously appreciate our plans for the future. This past summer, Stewardship for Us Consultant Liz Coit worked closely with our new Strategic Plan Team to compile a one-year strategic plan for our church. Soon, our members and friends will receive this document and, together, as a church community, we can create ownership of the work we need to do and embrace this pathway towards a thriving future. We each get the chance as church and committee members to set collective goals to bring our hopes and dreams into fruition. As we sip apple cider surrounded by crunchy leaves, we can grapple with those hard questions about what to prioritize and where to focus our attention. By engaging and interacting with our mission and vision, we can find a way to live into a flourishing future. I eagerly anticipate doing this important and, sometimes, hard work with you.

Continued on next page

Minister

Reverend Jane Smith

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

President:

David Fu ('22)

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer:

Evelyn Grim ('23)

Secretary:

Kathleen Razmus ('23)

Trustees:

Patrick Beben('22)

Mel Currie ('23)

Kris Tyssowski ('23)

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 December issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 21, 2021.**

Minister's Column, continued from page 1

I hope we are all able to enjoy this beautiful fall weather and take time to notice those leaves slowly turning from green to shades of yellow and brown, just as we soak up all we gain from this sacred community. As we relish the crisp, early morning air, let us eagerly anticipate all that the future has to offer! As we plan for those snowy days inching nearer and nearer, so too may we plan for our future, always, as Channing Memorial Church.

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Lectio Divina



Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 7-8pm we will have the opportunity to join together for a practice of Lectio Divina. This ancient practice allows us the opportunity to delve deep into a chosen text. Each gathering we will focus on one poem. We will read through the selected text several times, with a different focus on every read-through. We will then pause for several minutes of silent meditation, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection. **I look forward to this sacred time of meditation and reflection!** There is no prep work for these gatherings.

Check the latest "Channing News" email for the Zoom link.

—*Rev. Jane*

Stewardship Update



October 2021 Year to Date

Total Operating Income	\$ 65,560
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 32,631
Difference	\$ 32,928

President's Column



As I write this on a chilly and cozy fall day, I find myself appreciating the stray and brilliantly colored leaves that have fallen in advance of the coming deluge, and I look forward to the smells of raking and bagging ahead.

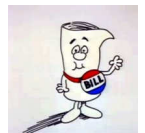
In worship service today, Reverend Jane spoke to loneliness, and after service there was a well-attended, spirited, and civilized discussion about the wording of the proposed 8th Principle. Our Covenant states that we are a like-hearted people, not a like-minded one, and I feel like the juxtaposition of the sermon and the discussion highlighted this part of our Covenant. May we continue to walk forward together.

A group of about 10 people met this Saturday to chat and eat cookies outside our Park Avenue spaces. There was no agenda, and no program. It was good to see people, and we even had a visitor join us for a few minutes. The Worship Team have informed the Board of their intention to experiment with the possibility of holding services outdoors at Park Avenue in the coming weeks. The non-trivial logistics and numerous “what-ifs, including the possibility of the pandemic once again rearing its ugly head, seem daunting, to say the least, but we won’t know whether we can pull this kind of thing off if we don’t try. Regardless of how this turns out, advance kudos to the Worship Team for all their efforts, both present and future!

Indeed, the hunger of us all to meet in person is strong. Many other area UU churches are meeting in some way, shape, or form, and so the Board have decided that the first priority task of the Space Team will be to find Sunday morning worship space ASAP. We have saved a lot of money in the past year, and the Park Avenue rental cost has been cut to close to half of previous, so it seems worthwhile to “eat” a few months rent to secure a good worship space even if we can’t use it immediately.

Care,
David

Channing Justice News



We've been reliably informed that the Maryland General Assembly will convene a special session on December 6 to consider overrides of Gov. Hogan's vetoes. Of particular note are vetoes of HB16 and HB23. HB16 -- Dignity Not Detention -- prohibits state and local jurisdictions from participating in the detention of non-criminal immigrants and limits participation of state and local jurisdictions in federal immigration enforcement. HB23 -- MD Driver Privacy -- prohibits federal agents from accessing state databases for immigration purposes without a judicial warrant. Both bills passed the General Assembly with veto-override margins. If the special session is convened you may be asked, if you are so inclined, to contact your Senator and Delegate to support the overrides.

Watch for emails and visit our Channing Justice website <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice/immigration>. Thank you for your continued support.

—*Jim C.*



Social Responsibility Team Changes Focus

For many years, our congregation supported the Westside Emergency Men's Shelter in Catonsville as Channing's Social Responsibility commitment. We purchased and delivered groceries monthly to the shelter and, in years past, even served the meal occasionally. After the pandemic arrived and prohibited us from going to the shelter in person, the funds were sent monthly to the Community Assistance Network (CAN), which operates the shelter. Shortly before the pandemic began, our team became aware that our direct service to the shelter might not be needed so much: the shelter has a new, expanded building with a large walk-in refrigerator/freezer and adequate, reliable food resources. Once the pandemic is over, we hope the congregation can find another project: one where we can provide direct service, as we used to for the shelter, rather than just financial support. This, indeed, was the team's original goal.

But for the interim, the Social Responsibility Team suggests a commitment to a local organization that is addressing the urgent mental health challenges caused or exacerbated by the pandemic. We've chosen NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for that commitment. A local branch, NAMI Howard County, works with patients and families facing mental health issues, offering support and advocating for their needs. We hope to have someone from this fine organization speak to us at a Sunday service in the near future. The staff there is very excited to have our support of any kind—not just financial—as they reach into the community with information about NAMI's role.

The Board approved our suggestion and we hope the congregation shares our excitement for this new beginning. Please check out the websites of NAMI and NAMI-Howard County: nami.org and www.namihowardcounty.org.

Channing Book Club-Upcoming Discussions

Saturday, November 13 at 10 am, location TBA

One Long River of Song by Brian Doyle



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.

Soul Matters Small Groups: Holding History



This month, we have the opportunity to engage with the theme “Holding History.” This offers us a chance to engage with both the history of our nation and with our own, individual pasts. History shapes us, as individuals and as society, in a very powerful way: it inadvertently makes us who we are. Author Alice Walker writes, “To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves.” None of us became who we are by being isolated on an island. As individuals, we are molded by the nurturing we received or did not receive as children, by the family or friends who surrounded us in our youth, and by each meaningful interaction we have experienced in our adult lives. Who we are is tied to all who shaped us directly, and all of those who came before.

By participating in the Small Group, we explore the ways that we hold history. We reflect on our own memories of times past, engage with the effects of our history on our future, contemplate the places that have shaped us, and even explore how we have been shaped by food.

“Holding History” 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. For the virtual offering, I will 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. I am excited to explore the topic of Holding History with you!

Young Adult Soul Matters (20s, 30s, 40s):

Wednesday, Nov. 17 7:00-8:30pm *held outside of Park Avenue, please bring a mask*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-young18>

All Ages:

Friday, Nov. 19 6:30-8pm *held virtually via Zoom*

Saturday, Nov. 20 12:30-2pm *held outside of Park Avenue, please bring a mask*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4AACAF2AA1FC1-soul13>

I hope you’ll join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane



COVID— Why Can't We Just Let It Go?!?!

No, it won't be In Summer. It will be in January, when everything is Frozen! If there is snow, I'll ask Do You Want to Build a Snowman? That's right, we'll be enjoying our annual Auction on Saturday, January 29, 2022. Exact time TBD - late afternoon, early evening.

Since we cannot predict the trajectory of the virus, we have decided to keep the auction virtual this year. The format will be very similar to last year.

We will definitely include:

- A live Zoom auction, facilitated by returning Auctioneers Extraordinaire Patrick Beben and Ken Kalumuck
- A silent auction - using Auctria, the same platform we used last year
- Fixed price sign-ups using Sign-up Genius
- An opportunity for some kind of shared meal - take out, curbside pick-up, or delivery. More to come on that.

If you haven't figured it out yet, our theme this year is *Frozen*. We are still looking for volunteers for entertainment. We are looking at expanding the opportunities for entertainment participation, to include art forms other than acting. For example, if you wanted to draw or paint some artwork depicting part of the *Frozen* story, we can work that in. If you are interested in participating in the entertainment fun, please e-mail channingauction@yahoo.com.

Please continue making donations! I've already received a few great donations that will be very popular! Put on your thinking cap and have fun! I'll need all auction donations by December 19, 2021.

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

NOTE - NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR AUCTION COMMUNICATIONS:

channingauction@yahoo.com

—Colleen R.



November 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours Committee on Ministry	3 Space Search Meeting Young Adult Game Night 7-9 pm	4 Men's Group 10 am 	5 Covenant Circle Membership, Outreach Mtg	6
7 Daylight Savings Time Ends 10 am Sunday Service	8	9 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours LDNC 7 pm Lectio Divina	10 Stewardship Meeting	11 	12 Worship Team	13 Channing Book Club 10 am
14 10 am Sunday Service	15	16 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours 7 pm Board of Trustees	17	18	19 Covenant Circle	20 Men's Group 10 am
21 10 am Sunday Service	22	23 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours	24	25 	26	27
28 10 am Sunday Service 	29	30 1-4 pm Rev. Jane's Office Hours	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>All events *online* unless otherwise noted</i></p> </div>			

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



On the web:
www.ChanningMC.org

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.