



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!**

## Wayside Pulpit

Love-mad, I Lalla, started out  
Spent days and nights on the  
trail  
Circling back, I found the  
Teacher in my own house  
What good fortune, I said,  
and hugged him

- **The Poems of Lal Ded** (of  
Kashmir, 14th century)

## Dear Channing members and friends,



Many of us are still reeling after the results of the election. Throughout the past month, I've heard works of shock, anger, and sorrow expressed by many of you. In response, we've lit candles of concern, we've prayed words of hope, and we've lifted our voices in songs of lamentation. We are grieving for our nation, for our future, for our at-risk beloveds. This is an experience of grief that we may hold deep in our bones, coupled with despair and frustration. And now, just as what felt like a nightmare has become our reality, I call us to join together in action.

"What can we do?" I have heard. "What can we do now?" Amidst fear and exhaustion, I offer: action. This is a long-term struggle; we are preparing for the years, not months, ahead of us. This is not a time of despair, but of perseverance and a call towards allyship. And it is not just practical work, it is deep and intentional soul work. So may we be grounded in the energy of change that rejuvenates us over and over again. I am reminded of a well-known quote: "The arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice." So may we bend that arc, knowing that we have persevered through difficult political situations in the past, and that we can draw upon the wisdom of our ancestors to do it again.

Our values as Unitarian Universalists are at risk, and it is our responsibility to make sure that these values persevere, protecting and uplifting the generations to come. We can act through our pockets, donating to organizations such as Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, or PFLAG. Likewise, we can volunteer at these and other organizations. We can support our values through influencing legislation, supporting initiatives addressing climate change, immigration reform, reproductive rights, and gender affirming care. In doing so, we support this sacred planet we call home, care for those who came here seeking safety, protect those who need abortion access, and defend our LGBTQIA+ beloveds. Financial sup-

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**Newsletter Editors:**

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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)

Please send submittals for the January 2025 issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22, 2024.**

port, volunteer support, legislative support - these are needed now, and always.

There is a small group here at Channing beginning to delve into these crucial questions - Now what? How? What more? If you're interested in joining our discussions, please let me know. There is space in this work for all of us.

So may we join together in solidarity with our immigrant, trans, and Black siblings as we prepare for the months and years ahead. May we join together in solidarity, grounded in love, hope, and justice. Without love, hope, and justice we are left with hate and violence. Without love, hope, and justice we see no light at the end of the tunnel. So may we act together in righteous anger, and make a difference in this broken, blessed, and beloved world.

With love,  
*Rev. Jane*

**From the President**

**November, we hardly knew ye...**

November has gone by fast! For me, it began with great anticipation but ended with mixed feelings. One source of joy is that we have made an offer to a candidate for the Anchor Minister position! Contract negotiations are under way, and you will soon learn more information about her.

Another source of joy is that our church choir sang for the first time on November 24<sup>th</sup>! It was great to hear the sanctuary filled with their voices. I look forward to hearing many more of their songs.

I enjoy Thanksgiving with its time of reflection on things we can be grateful for. May we take this spirit of gratefulness with us into December and the new year. I'm sure we will need it to support us during trials for ourselves and the communities we care about.

I am grateful for our Channing community.



## Pulpit Swap – December 8th

Rev. Jane and Rev. Bill Neely will pulpit swap! Rev. Bill was the minister who inspired Rev. Jane to pursue ministry. On December 8th, he will lead worship at Channing Memorial Church while Rev. Jane will travel to preach at her home church in New Jersey. We are both excited for this opportunity, and I hope you are as well!

Dec. 8, 2024, *Improving the Silence*, Rev. Bill Neely

One of Gandhi's teachings was to "speak only if it improves the silence." This advice to economical and intentional with our words can foster a practice of deep listening that leads to greater connection, or, taken to an extreme, it may lead us to be silent when words are important. How can we balance voice and silence?

Rev. Bill Neely began serving the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton (NJ) in 2011, where Rev. Jane was once a member of the congregation. He previously served congregations in Detroit and near Memphis. Bill lives in Hamilton, NJ with his wife, three kids, and cat.

## December 24, 5-6pm: Christmas Eve service

**"The Divine Presence Among and Within Us" with Rev. Jane**

May we join together in a contemplative Christmas Eve service. Together, we will honor this special holiday with a homily, readings, hymns, scripture, and a much beloved Silent Night candle ritual. Join us in celebration and reverence as we spend a meaningful evening together.



Happy  
Holidays!

## Greetings Friend or Member of Channing Memorial Church,



We did it! Again! This year's CMC auction was a smashing success. We raised over \$6000 for the Church, with a lion's share coming from the live auction, which had over 50 people in attendance.

For those of you who are of a statistical bent, here are some statistics:

- Attendance: 51 people.
- Total amount raised in auctions: \$5870, with \$270 from the silent auction on Auctria, \$695 from the fixed price items on SignUp Genius, and a whopping \$4905 from the live auction.
- The dinner cost about \$750, including a \$50 gift card for our lovely music director, Gabbi B., and ticket sales were just about \$800, for a net of about \$50, taking us over the \$6000 mark.
- Number of left-over deviled eggs: 0.
- Number of jokes perceived to have been told by Sheri T.: 1 million.
- Actual number of jokes told: 37 (actually, I'm making this number up, too 😊 )

It was a lovely and wonderful time. Thank you for making it so.

The current auction planning committee of Cathy F., David F., and Eric S. are hanging up their jerseys, so if you are interested in running one of our main events for the year, contact any one of us. We have scads of practical wisdom to impart to our successors which will make the job both easy and not *too* time consuming.

## Auction Team Search



The Stewardship Committee is on the lookout for a new team to help run next year's Channing auction. Remember how much fun this year's auction was? Well, the only thing more fun than attending the auction is taking part in planning the auction!

***Dear Channing Members and Friends,***

Many of us desire lives of calm, peace, spirituality, and resilience. This year, we will look at crafting such a life together.

Once a month, we will delve into a different aspect of spiritual practices. At times, we will focus on our mind, body, or soul. You are welcome to attend any session that speaks to your heart.

This December, we will focus on Worship as a Spiritual Practice. A worshipful experience can happen at any time, not simply during a church service. It occurs when something beautiful is perceived. This sacred experience can happen in the natural world, during an experience with the transcendent, or through a deep sense of connection with another person. It occurs when one gains new insight or a sense of wholeness. How can we make this form of worship into a spiritual practice?

Our class will be held:

**Saturday, December 14 from 1pm – 2:30pm at the church office.**  
Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 10 to [minister@channingmc.org](mailto:minister@channingmc.org).

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,  
*Rev. Jane*

**Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through February!**

Please [use this link](#) to give us a hand with everything that makes the weekly worship service run.

If you have any questions or need help signing up, please email me. Thank you!

-- Cathy F.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Channing Cookie Swap!

The elves are back in town! It's almost time for our 5th Annual Cookie Swap. This fun activity allows you to sample cookies from some of the best bakers in the UUniverse. Ready to bake and swap? Here's what to do:

1. Sign up and let us know what you'll be baking. The deadline to sign up is **Monday, December 2**.
2. Bake 3 dozen of your holiday cookies (homemade only, please) and put them in small bags (details to follow).
3. Come to the swap on **Thursday, December 5 at 6 pm** to swap your cookies for other cookies! We'll have good company and cider if you want to hang out for awhile. Or just swap and run.

Interested? Here's the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084FA4AD2BA46-53391804-5thannual#/>

(Fine print: If you can't come to the swap or have any other concerns, please contact Cathy for assistance. Thank you.)

The Cookie Elves: *Cathy F. and Nancy H.*

## Board Bits

The Board received an exciting update from the Sabbatical Coordinator (Kris): An offer has been made to a candidate for the Anchor Minister position. Contract negotiations are underway and further details will be shared with the congregation soon.



The restroom renovation project is also making forward progress: A contract has been signed with ColCon, Inc., to execute the design proposal that will be sent to the county. Once the permit is received from the county, the Board plans to authorize commencement of the work. We also received assurance that the rough-in for the sewer pipe and water line to the main level will be entirely under the floor— i.e., there will be no visible evidence of the rough-in in the narthex.

In church leadership news, the Board was happy to learn that Ken K. is stepping into the role of Usher Coordinator. (Thank you to Ken!)

## Channing on Social Media

Hey folks! My name is Ari and you may have seen me around taking pics at various services and other functions. I've been trying to boost our social media engagement and hopefully get some community members interested in seeing what Channing is all about. After a few months of tracking our posts, what I'm learning is that the things that get the most engagement and community interest are posts with pictures of real church members doing things with the church and out in the community. For example our post from the October Pride event is the most popular post made across any social media.

With that in mind, I'd love to encourage everyone to take pictures at your events and pass them along to me along with a brief synopsis of what the meeting or event was about.

Here's the link to our Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/channingmemorial/profilecard/?igsh=MTBuNWZidWEzNDFiaA==>

our username is @channingmemorial

Facebook: Facebook

Youtube Channel For those viewing on YouTube: Click Channing Channel to see videos of our services.

And if you are on any of these services, stop by and see what we have. More visits from more people are very helpful.

Thanks,

*Ari M.*

## Stewardship update Year-to-date as of September 30, 2024

### General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 85,300
Total Operating Expense	<u>-45,329</u>
Difference	<u>\$ 39,971</u>



### 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. After each, we will pause for several minutes of silent reflection, which will be followed by each person sharing their unique reflection.

Our normal schedule is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. On zoom; Rev. Jane will send out the link and the poem (the link is also immediately below). Please let her know if you would like to be added to the list.

**Next Meeting: December 10.**

Standard Link to join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93324550758?pwd=VFVLZkdES21odTNHK1pWZ1pZb114UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

### Wisdom Tales

Many faith traditions and cultures throughout millennia have shared wisdom, knowledge, and insights through fictional tales and parables. Each month, we'll explore a different story, allowing these ancient narratives to spark conversation and reflection. Join Rev. Jane to engage with these ancient tales.

Our standing meeting is the first Tuesday of the month, 11am-12pm, held on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94007522019?pwd=MEhIT11KbDRIUWViTm9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Passcode: 665527



## Men's Group

**Wednesday, December 4 (10 am - 12 pm) on Zoom  
and In-person December 19 (10 - 11:30 am)**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **December 4**, a link will be sent out via the distribution list for the group. If you are not on that list and are interested, check with Ken Hart via email.

The **December 19** gathering will be at **Roggenart** on Rt. 40 east of Bethany Lane, at 10:00 am. **Please email Ken H. if you intend to attend.** We need enough responses to make this happen.

## Channing Book Club

**Saturday, December 14 at 10 a.m. on Zoom --- future meetings tentatively scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month. Stay tuned.**

Please let Ken H. know at least three days in advance, or more, if you would like to participate by Zoom session.

**December 14– American Ramble by Neil King: A Story of Memory and Renewal**

<https://www.neilkingjr.com/>



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? Let Ken H. know what you are thinking about, and contact Ken with any questions.

## Xennials, 20/40s Game Night

The Young Adults Game Night meets every **first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm**. We'll have games and conversation. Anyone in their 20's, 30's and 40's is welcome.

This event is open to the public and folks are encouraged to share this event with anyone who may be interested.

Contact *Patrick Beben* for information.



## Xennials, 20/40s Small Group

Each month, our conversations range from imagination to courage to vulnerability. Before each gathering, we engage in individual reflection guided by a monthly Soul Matters packet. Delving deep into our reflections each month leads to meaningful conversation, and the prep work offers thoughts to reflect on between our gatherings.

We gather the **third Wednesday of every month from 7-9pm** for dinner and conversation. Young Adults include anyone in their 20s, 30s or 40s. It is always a good time, and we would love for you to join us!

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i> Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>2</i> Deadline to sign up for Cookie Swap</p>	<p><i>3</i> Wisdom Tales 11:00am-12:00 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm</p>	<p><i>4</i> Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>5</i> Cookie Swap 6:00 pm</p>	<p><i>6</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30 pm</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><i>8</i> Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm  Pulpit Swap with Rev. Neely</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>	<p><i>10</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm</p>	<p><i>11</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom</p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i> Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm</p>	<p><i>14</i> Channing Book Club 10:00-11:30  Spiritual Practice 1pm – 2:30pm</p>
<p><i>15</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>16</i></p>	<p><i>17</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>18</i> Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>19</i> Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Roggenart</p>	<p><i>20</i></p>	<p><i>21</i>  First Day of Winter</p>
<p><i>22</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>	<p><i>24</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 5:00-6:00 pm</p>	<p><i>25</i> Christmas Day  Hanukkah Begins</p>	<p><i>26</i> Kwanzaa</p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i></p>
<p><i>29</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>	<p><i>31</i> New Year's Eve </p>				

**Channing Memorial Church  
Unitarian Universalist  
3525 Ellicott Mills Dr.  
Suite A  
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.

We meet at 9122 Sybert Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Our Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am.

**Directions from the North on Route 29:** Take Route 29 to Route 100 East, take first Exit Long Gate Parkway to stop sign (keep left at split). When traffic is clear, go straight across to Meadowbrook Lane, past the Park and Ride to the stop sign, turn right onto Sybert Drive. The church will be on your right.

**Directions from the South on Route 29:** Take Route 29 to Route 108, head East on Route 108 to first traffic light (Bendix Road), turn left onto Edgar Road; at stop sign turn right, then in two blocks turn left onto Parkvale Road. Continue to stop sign, then turn left onto Sybert Drive. The church will be on your right.