



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Volume 32, Issue 3

March 2025

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**

Wayside Pulpit

All is but cinders and dust, all, except the Temple within ourselves. It belongs to us, and it is with us through the centuries.

-Vladimir Maximov

From the President

This month, we will metaphorically be “Spreading Our Wings” as we begin the annual Canvass. It’s the time of year when we consider what Channing means to us and how much of our treasure we want to commit to our beloved community.

I also encourage you to think about the roles you want to play in the coming year. Do you want to try videography? How about leading a spiritual practice? Is there something you need to stop doing? What speaks to your heart at this time? Our community is only as rich as each of us is willing to add our talents and treasures.

I also want to thank everyone who gives of themselves so generously every week and month. I see you and I am very grateful.

With love,

Angela



Minister

Rev. Jane Bennett Smith
410-203-0474 (office)
minister@channingmc.org

President:

Angela Lesperance ('26)

Vice President: Open
(‘26)

Treasurer:

Maureen Hayes ('25)

Secretary:

Ostara Hollyoak ('26)

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Chris Lynch ('25)
Kathleen Razmus ('26)

Newsletter Editors:

Chris Lynch
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

Please send submittals for the April 2025 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 23, 2025.**

Meet our Guests in the Pulpit for March

Rev. Kimberley Debus

March 9, 2025



Rev. Kimberley Debus is a minister based in Takoma Park, inspiring an artful and art-filled faith. She consults with congregations and religious professionals throughout the denomination. In addition to her consulting ministry, she also serves at Cedarhurst UUs in Finksburg. She has previously served at the Church of the Larger

Fellowship as well as congregations along the Eastern seaboard and Great Lakes region. Rev. Kimberley writes about congregational life, worship, and other shenanigans at HoldMyChalice.substack.com.

Mark Bernstein

March 23, 2025



Mark Bernstein is a former staff member with the Central East Region of the UUA and currently serves as Adjunct Staff. He offers consultative services and sermons to congregations throughout the region. Mark is a proud 30 year member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County in Media, PA.

Meet Pastor Lora Powell-Haney Channing's Anchor Minister

Dear Members and Friends,

The Board of Trustees is delighted to introduce Pastor Lora Powell-Haney who will serve as our Anchor Minister during Rev. Jane's sabbatical leave.

Pastor Lora graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School in May 2020 with a Master of Divinity; her study included a ministerial internship at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church in Lutherville, Maryland, and a chaplain residency in Hagerstown, Maryland. She currently serves as interim Director of Family Ministry at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, and as an itinerant preacher, officiant, and pastoral care provider. Pastor Lora also served nine years as Director of Religious Education (DRE) at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF). She and her husband, Charles, live in a small town in Maryland and try to keep in close touch with three young adult sons who astonish them with their awesomeness. Lora loves reading, drinking tea, building Beloved Community, and standing barefoot on the earth.



Pastor Lora's love for ministry and thoughtful perspective stood out during the hiring process. She brings enthusiasm and inspiration to worship services and a warm, caring approach to pastoral care. We believe her skills and compassionate nature will support us well as we continue to engage in meaningful worship, navigate life's challenges, and uphold our strong sense of community during Rev. Jane's sabbatical. Pastor Lora's heartfelt energy will help us care for one another with compassion and purpose as we continue to grow together in the months ahead.

As Anchor Minister, Pastor Lora will lead one worship service a month and provide pastoral care during her time with us. She will officially join us on Sunday, February 2nd. After the worship service, you'll have the opportunity to greet her in a small group setting, both online and in person.

You can explore Pastor Lora's "bare bones" blog at <https://perambulations.blog/>.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Pastor Lora to our spiritual community. We look forward to the many blessings she will bring during her time with us.

Yours in community,

Kris T., Sabbatical Coordinator

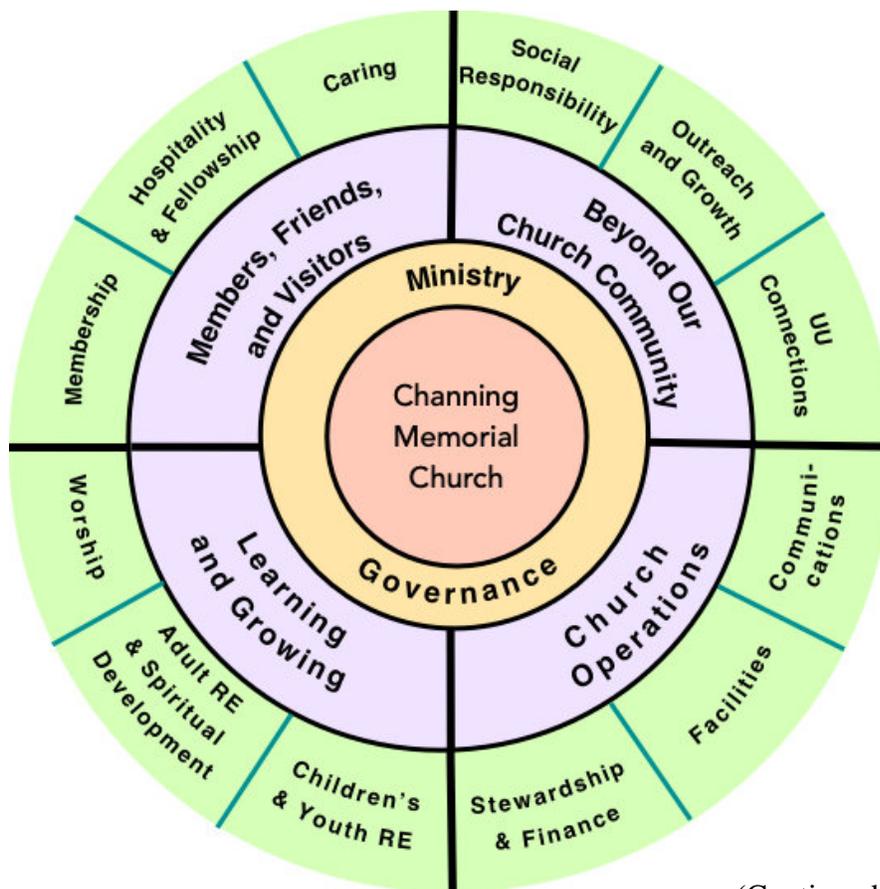
UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland

We are about three-quarters through the Maryland General Assembly's 2025 legislative session. Many bills that the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland are still under consideration and need your support. Please visit <https://www.uulmmd.org/take-action> and to learn more about the bills and issues visit <https://www.uulmmd.org/our-issues>

Thank you for your continued support as we influence public policy in Maryland with our UU values.

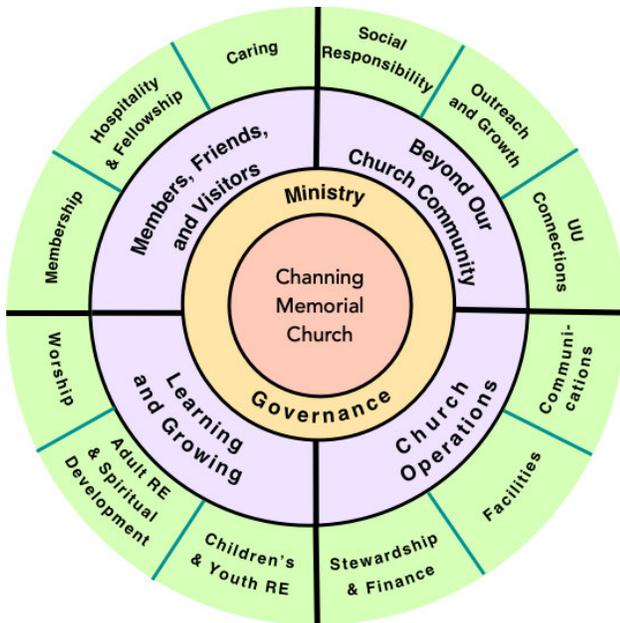
For more information, please contact Jim C.

Our UU Church Structure



(Continued on page 5)

Four Quadrants (with Quadrant Coordinators)
and **twelve major Areas of Church Life**
(with Point Persons)



Church Operations (QC: Dan)

- **Stewardship and Finance** (PP: Dan)
- **Facilities** (PP: Maureen)
- **Communications** (PP: Ken G.)

Learning and Growing (QC: Ostara)

- **Worship** (PP: Rev. Jane)
- **Adult RE & Spiritual Devel.** (PP: Ostara)
- **Children's and Youth RE** (PP: Lynne)

Members, Friends, and Visitors (QC: Cathy)

- **Membership** (PP: Nancy)
- **Hospitality & Fellowship** (PP: Cathy)
- **Caring** (PP: Gail)

Beyond Our Church Community (QC: Kathleen)

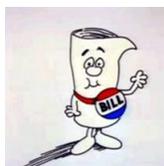
- **Social Responsibility** (PP: Jim C.)
- **Outreach & Growth** (PP: Kathleen)
- **UU Connections** (PP: Vacant)

Videographers Wanted

Are you looking for an easy and meaningful way to contribute to Channing? Being a videographer only requires about 15 minutes one Sunday a month. Set up and taking down are easy to do and easy to learn. It takes just a few minutes before and after the Sunday service.

If interested, email the videography team at zoom-videographers@channingmc.org or speak to Dan Vallone, Angela Lesperance, or Chris Lynch after services.

Translate Your Values into Action



February 8, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, UU Church of Annapolis. Join with other UUs around the state at the annual legislative kickoff meeting of the UU Legislative Ministry of MD. Learn about issues UUs will be advocating for in the MD General Assembly – gun violence, climate crisis, immigration, reproductive rights and health care. To register visit <https://www.uulmmd.org/>

For more information, contact Jim C.

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. While Rev. Jane is away on Sabbatical, we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday only. On zoom; a link will be sent out and the poem (the link is also immediately below). The sessions will be led by a rotating member of the group who will send out a notice. Write Ken H. if you would like to be added to the direct mailing list.

Next Meeting: March 11.

Standard Link to join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93324550758?pwd=VFVLZkdES21odTnhK1pWZ1pZb114UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

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==>

or 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.

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of January 31, 2025

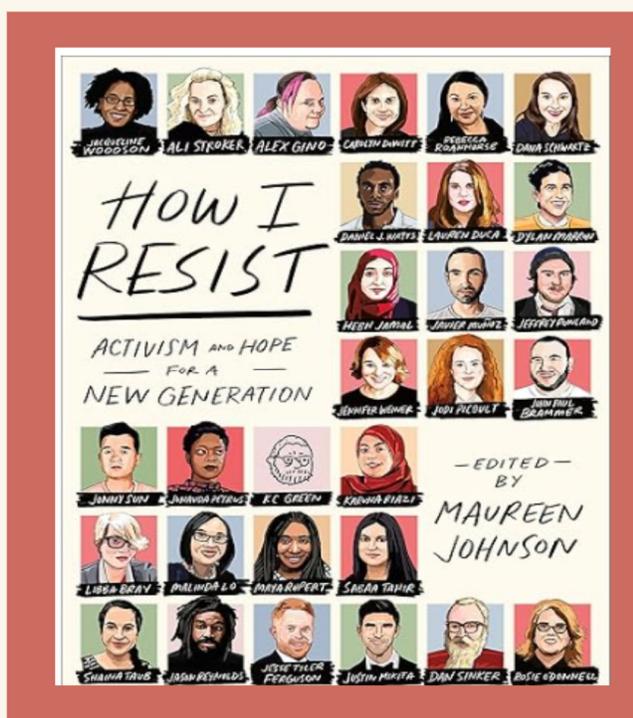
General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$135,818
Total Operating Expense	<u>-109,166</u>
Difference	\$ <u>26,652</u>



JUSTICE IN ACTION CIRCLE

Please join our upcoming discussion of *How I Resist: Activism and Hope for a New Generation*. This collection of essays by young activists inspires hope and action in the fight for social justice.



- Where: Patapsco Room at the Miller Branch Library
- When: March 22 @ 10:00

NOT AN OFFICIAL HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM EVENT

Men's Group

**Wednesday, March 5 (10 am - 12 pm) on Zoom
and In-person Friday, March 21 (10 - 11:30 am)**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **March 5**, 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 H. via email.

March 21 at 10 a.m. at Bagel Bin in Enchanted Forest shopping center on Rt. 40 east of Bethany Lane. **Please email Ken H. in advance if you intend to attend.** We need enough responses to make this happen.

Channing Book Club

We meet on the second Saturday of the month, normally. See below. **We are going to try using casual restaurants (such as LeeLynn) or coffee shops as meeting locations at the time announced for each session.**

Please let Ken H. know if you plan to attend at least three days in advance so he has time to firm up dates/times with those who intend to attend.

Next meeting, on **Friday March 14, at 2 pm**, at Lee Lynn's, we will discuss a popular book club selection: **The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride**



In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new housing development, the last thing they expected to uncover was a human skeleton. Who the skeleton was and how it got buried there were just two of the long-held secrets that had been kept for decades by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows". from Goodreads)

Let's plan to meet at Lee Lynn's. Let Ken know if the time or date doesn't work and we'll adjust if possible. HCPLS has lots of copies, but only a few on the shelves.

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 B.* 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!

Board Bits

The planning phase of the restroom renovation project is continuing apace. Expect concrete details soon!

In sabbatical news:

- Arrangements have been made for Sunday services during the remainder of Rev. Jane's sabbatical (through the first Sunday in June). Pastor Lora will return to our pulpit monthly on the first Sunday of the months of March through June. We'll have two guest speakers in March: Rev. Kimberley Debus (March 9th) and Mark Bernstein (March 23rd). In April we'll hear from our own Cathy F. (April 13th) and Gabbi Boguslaw will lead a music-centered service on the 27th. The Worship Associates (David, Pam, and Virginia) will grace our pulpit the other Sundays in March-May.
- Kris T. is arranging monthly "Sundays After" sessions on a variety of spiritual practices during the sabbatical period, and is seeking volunteer hosts for these.



Our beloved Sheri and Doug – who have been so integral to our congregation these past years – are moving to Pennsylvania! Sheri plans to continue in her Trustee-at-Large position on the Board through the end of the fiscal year. (Many thanks to Sheri!)

Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through May!

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 Cathy F. Thank you!

-- Cathy F.

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship Service 11:00 am-12:00 pm	3	4 Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	5 Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom Xennials, 20/40s Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	6	7 Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30 pm	8 Spring forward! - turn clock ahead one hour tonight - daylight saving time begins tomorrow!
9 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Rev. Debus Second Sunday Collection Choir Practice 12:15-1:15 pm	10	11 Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	12 Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom	13	14 Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm Book Club 2:00 pm	15
16 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	19 Xennials, 20/40s Group 7:00-9:00 pm	20 First Day of Spring 	21 Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Bagel Bun	22
23 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Mark Berstein Choir Practice 12:15-1:15 pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm	24	25 Choir Practice 3:00-4:00 pm	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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

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.