



The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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June 2024

Inside:

President's Column	4
Flower Communion	6
Breaking News	6
Potluck on June 1	6
Summer Worship	7
Sharing Our Theologies .	7
June Worship Schedule	8
Welcoming our new Music Director.....	8
Lectio Divina	9
Wisdom Tales.....	9
Church Roles Signup.....	9
Board Bits.....	10
Stewardship Update.....	10
Note From Treasurer ...	10
Channing Book Club...	11
Introducing Ourselves .	11
Men's Group	12
Young Adult Game Night	12
Young Adult Small Group.....	12
Pride Festival	13
Restroom Renovation ...	13
Beans & Bags for Bridges Photos	14
Farewell to Stephen Photos	15
June Calendar	16

Minister's Musings



Dear Channing members and friends,

Beloveds, I cannot believe our church year is coming to a close! As the temperatures rise, humidity sets in, and the days become longer, I invite us into a reflection of all that we have done and accomplished these past twelve months. Let us pause

at this moment to celebrate!

Just as our Stewardship theme reflected, we are “weaving our nest.” This past year brought us stability. We signed a lease with Epiphany Lutheran Church, and we signed a lease for office space. We have a more permanent church home. The trials of COVID have eased and we journey together in settled ministry. In this settled time and space, we have brought so much to our beloved community. In reflecting on this past year, I also invite you to dream for all we can accomplish in the years ahead.

In considering this past year, I would be remiss not to mention our change in Music Directors. We say goodbye to our beloved Stephen, who has served us with grace and passion for eight years. While saying goodbye is difficult, may we celebrate all that lies ahead for this talented musician. We likewise celebrate and welcome Gabbi, who brings with her new talent, passions, and innovative ideas. We look forward to a revitalized choir!

As we settle into our new worship space, we are being intentional in living our values and prioritizing accessibility, even if the work is progressing slower than we may have hoped. Do know that we have a dedicated group of people working to ensure these changes



Wayside Pulpit

None but ourselves can free
our minds.

--Bob Marley

(Continued on page 2)

Minister

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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

Please send submittals for the July 2024 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 23, 2024.**

(Minister's Column - continued from page 1)

happen. We plan to install an ADA accessible bathroom so everyone can access a restroom. We can also make this single-stall bathroom gender neutral, so folks of any gender can use the facilities. Likewise, we are working to make the space and our small groups more accessible to those with hearing impairments. Our goal is to be as open, welcoming, and inclusive as we can.

This past year has touched my soul as well! We invited new members and friends into our community - look around during coffee hour and see all those new folks who were not present a year ago! We engaged with the broader community, bringing our name and our values to the world. We had a presence at Pride and at Beans for Bridges. In small group discussions around theology, spirituality, repentance, and fascism, we shared from our hearts, souls, and intellect, engaging with one another in deep and powerful ways. We worshiped together, transformed together, healed together. We invited the sacred into our hearts, souls, minds. We tended to one another's struggles and needs, holding one another in love and light. We journeyed together through sorrow, grief, and mourning. Likewise, we celebrated! Sharing joy is just as important as sharing pain.

Let us not forget that work that keeps our church thriving. There are so many dedicated volunteers engaged in committees, teams, and work groups. I want to lift up my appreciation for all of you! This past year, we did the "behind the scenes" work on a new governance structure we will implement in the upcoming year. Furthermore, the Worship Team streamed our services on Zoom and YouTube. Membership graciously welcomed visitors into the fold with heartfelt emails. Our Social Justice Team sent out a survey to the church. Our Care Committee sent our cards to aching souls. And this is only the tip of the iceberg! I encourage you to read the Annual Report to see how much time, talent, and energy has been graciously poured into keeping our beloved, sacred community thriving this past year.

(continued on page 3)

(Minister's Column - continued from page 2)

We are a small and mighty church. Each of you brings so much to our beloved community. You are beautiful souls with a thirst for spiritual growth. Your dedication is evident both in the committee work you do and in the ways you care for one another. I am truly blessed to serve as your minister. I am grateful for each and every one of you and all you offer to our community and our world. After reflecting on this past year, I invite you to dream up what comes next! We continue to “weave our nest” as we settle into stability. What lies ahead for this blessed group of spiritual seekers?

As I prepare for summer leave, I encourage each of you to also take some time for rest and renewal. Each of us needs this. Sit with a book, walk in nature, eat some cake! You deserve it. I look forward to reengaging when I return in August. I'll send out a note to anyone who would like to meet for tea and cookies. Until then, I hold you in my heart. Blessings on your journey.

With love,
Rev. Jane



President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

I'd like to share an exciting opportunity with you that could help us in our goal of adding an accessible family restroom to the building at Epiphany Lutheran Church. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has a Chalice Lighters Grant Program that offers financial support to Unitarian Universalist congregations. These grants, usually around \$20,000, are intended to fund specific projects promoting church growth and development. Evelyn, one of our members, suggested that we apply for a grant to support our Restroom Renovation Project. This idea was well-received during a recent conversation I had with a Congregational Life staff member from the Central East Region (CER).

Some of you may already be familiar with the Chalice Lighter's Grant Program, and some may already be Chalice Lighters. For those unfamiliar with this program, it is a donor-driven initiative where individuals commit to becoming 'Chalice Lighters' and making small donations three times a year. These small, individual donations are then pooled together, forming a powerful collective effort to fund grants for congregations needing financial support for specific projects. Projects can include expanding outreach and social justice initiatives, making physical improvements to buildings, launching new programs to increase membership, hiring staff, or enhancing worship experiences, among others.

Once an application is submitted, it is reviewed by a committee. Each project is evaluated based on specific criteria, such as its potential impact on the congregation's growth and vitality, its alignment with UU values, and the congregation's demonstrated need and readiness to implement the project. More information about the Chalice Lighter Grant Program can be found in the Central East Region's section on the UUA website (<https://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/chalichelighter>). I found reading editions of "The Spark," the CER Chalice Lighter's Newsletter, particularly interesting and seeing what projects have been funded.

In the fall of 2014, our Channing community was fortunate to receive a Chalice Lighters grant. This grant enabled us to relocate from our Bethany Lane location to a larger space at Corporate Court. The new space provided us with more room

(continued on page 5)

(President's Column - continued from page 4)

to grow and learn together and allowed us to explore new ways to support our mission and vision. Similarly, using a Chalice Lighters Grant for our Restroom Renovation Project will enable us to continue to support our mission and vision, as it will enhance our building's accessibility, underscore our commitment to inclusivity and hospitality, and significantly impact the lives of those who depend on our church for support and fellowship.

The Board is currently exploring the formation of a team to write a grant application to fund our Restroom Renovation Project. We want to assure you that all levels of experience are welcome—no prior grant writing experience is necessary. If you want to participate in this fantastic opportunity, please get in touch with me or any Board member. Your involvement could have a significant impact as we work together to ensure our church remains a welcoming, inclusive space for everyone!

All my best,

Kris

P. S. If you are not already a 'Chalice Lighter' please consider becoming one. Information on how to do this can be found by following this link: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/programs/chalicelighter/cerclsigup>.



Flower Communion

What a blessed time of year!

My spirit is awakened every spring as green buds emerge and flowers share their enchanting scents and vibrant colors. Together, we transition from the reflective months of winter to the rejuvenating months of spring. It's time for us to celebrate! **On Sunday, June 9** we will join together for our annual Flower Communion service. Whether joining us virtually or in person, **I invite you to bring with you a flower.** Perhaps tulips remind you of childhood or the scent of lavender brings new energy to your heart. We will join together for reflection, celebration, and a blessing.



With love,
Rev. Jane

Breaking News From the President!!!

Reports are coming in of a Miracle taking place at Channing Memorial Church!

Careful investigation of Channing's 2023-2024 Annual Report has confirmed that it is, in fact, a BONA FIDE MIRACLE! (*And not just because it was finished in time for the Annual Meeting.*)

The Annual Report is a Miracle because it makes the Invisible VISIBLE!

That's right! Within its pages are details of the unseen work of a myriad of individuals coming together in various groups to keep the Channing community connected and humming along!

Read these pages! Visualize the work happening! Savor the details!

And You will be a Witness to a Beautiful, Unfolding, Miracle of Love!

Channing Get Together Potluck

Saturday, June 1 AT 6:00 PM



Looking for something fun to do on a Saturday night?

Bring a dish to share and join us at Epiphany on **Saturday, June 1 at 6 p.m.** for an evening of food and fun.

We're hoping to schedule additional potlucks on a regular basis, including another one in the Fall. Come and get to know Channing's new members and catch up with old friends.

Summer Worship at Channing Memorial Church

This summer, the Channing Worship Team will continue to provide thoughtful and inspiring worship services on almost every Sunday. Highlights will include voices from both within and outside of our Congregation, including Pam E.'s auction sermon, David F.'s delicious "leftovers" sermons, and Ostara H.'s final sermon as a Worship Associate (kudos to Ostara, who has served on the team for 15 years!).

There will be three (3) Sundays on which regular worship service will not be held:

- **July 7th**, which is the weekend of the 4th of July Holiday
- **July 28th**, which will be a Summer Social event held at the Church
- **September 1st**, which is the weekend of the Labor Day Holiday

On the Sundays of July 7th and September 1st, there will be no worship service, and there are currently no plans for any kind of gathering. If you would like to organize a gathering, (examples from the past include hikes, labyrinth walks, social gatherings, etc., etc., etc.), please let the liturgy team (worship@channingmc.org) know soon so we can help publicize these gatherings. If there are no takers, we can all just enjoy a Sunday off.

In any case, we look forward to seeing you this summer at Church!

Love,

The Worship Team

Sharing Our Theologies

Saturday, June 8 on Zoom, 1pm-2pm
Please RSVP by June 4

Unitarian Universalism is a blessing in that we are a religious community intentionally traveling together on our own, unique, faith journeys. We each come with our own theologies and our own worldviews. And yet this is not fostered on an island, but in tandem with others. What can we learn and how can we grow by sharing with one another all that we hold sacred and holy? Perhaps we encounter a challenge to our own theology, or inspiration for how to live a more meaningful life. I invite us to join together for this inspiring, challenging, and in-depth conversation about life, purpose, and faith. I invite you to reflect upon your own faith journeys, theologies, and meaning making in preparation for our discussion.

June 2024 Worship Services

June 2: Pride service, with Rev. Jane Bennett Smith

June 9: Flower Communion, with Rev. Jane Bennett Smith

June 16: "Rest is Resistance, Can I Get an Amen?" — a sermon written by Rev. Emilie Boggis, with worship associate Pam E.

June 23: Guest preacher Rev. James Jufer (worship associate: David Fu)

June 30: "Our Unitarian Presidents," with Jim C. (worship associate: Pam E.)

An Invitation from the Music Director Search Team

June 2, 2024 will be the inaugural service of our new music director, Gabrielle Boguslaw. Following the service will be a special coffee hour to welcome Gabbi to her new role.

Hope to see you there!

The Music Director Search Team
(musicsearch@channingmc.org)

Pam E.

Ken G.

Anne H.

Jim V.

In collaboration with Rev. Jane Bennett Smith



Lectio Divina

Our normal schedule is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. The next Meeting is on **June 11**. 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Passcode: 250704

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.

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=MEhIT1IKbDRIUWViTm9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Passcode: 665527

Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through June!

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.

Board Bits...



The Board reflected on the May 19th Congregational Meeting which 29 members attended. Thank you to Kris Tyssowski for a lovely speech and to all who came to this important meeting.

Rev. Jane and Angela will be attending this year's UUA General Assembly, which will be June 20-23. This year it will be completely virtual. Anyone can register and attend. Note that this year, voting delegates will approve or reject the revisions to Article II. Check out this link for more information: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

Stewardship update Year-to-date as of April, 2024

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 157,527
Total Operating Expense	<u>- 146,038</u>
Difference	\$ 11,489



Note From the Treasurer

Our Church's fiscal year ends June 30. If you have incurred expenses or made purchases on behalf of Channing and wish to be reimbursed, fill out a reimbursement request form and attach receipts. You can email the form and receipts to Treasurer@channingmc.org (mailto:Treasurer@channing) or give the form and receipts to Maureen or Evelyn by June 28. The reimbursement request form is on the google drive and available Sundays after church.

Channing Book Club

We meet on the second Saturday of the month, normally. See below. **We meet at the new office in the “Square” at 10 a.m. weather permitting.** We’ll fall back to zoom **if** the weather is not friendly. Notice will be sent out if we make this change.



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

For June 8 – Here are the (short) reads for June. By Anne Lamott in the Washington Post.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/04/10/70th-birthday-check-in-aging/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/03/14/anne-lamott-aging-life-friends-vision/>

Very personal, no current events or politics. .If you don’t have subscriber access to the Washington Post, where these are located, let Ken H. know and he’ll forward you a free link.

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.

Introducing Ourselves to Our Neighbors



We wish to make ourselves known to residents of the neighborhood around our church meeting place. *Bernie N.* has prepared flyers with essential information. Now is the time for volunteers, preferably male-female pairs, to visit homes (only 6-7 homes after church), and deliver a personal invitation, (with or without an “elevator talk”).

If you are willing to or interested in participating in this service please see Bernie after our service. He will provide further information, fliers, and assignments to particular homes. This is an effort that will be ongoing for the spring months.



Men's Group

**Thursday, June 6 (10 am - 12 pm) on Zoom
and In-person June 20 (10 - 11:30 am)**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **June 6**, 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.

The **June 20** 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.

Young Adults 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.

Young Adult 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!



From the Outreach Team:

**Old Ellicott City Pride Festival
Saturday, June 1 at 1pm
Parking Lot F**



The Ellicott City Partnership is sponsoring the Old Ellicott City Pride Festival on Saturday, June 1st with activities scheduled from 1pm -6pm in Parking Lot F off Main Street in Old Ellicott City. While Channing is not an official sponsor of this event, this can still be a great opportunity to wear you Channing gear and participate in an event celebrating the diversity of the community in Howard County.

Click here for more information and the full schedule of events: <https://visitoldellicottcity.com/events/oec-pride/>

Restroom Renovation Planning Work is Underway

The Restroom Renovation Task Force (RRTF) had a kickoff call on Thursday 5/23. We reviewed the charge from the board and decided on next steps.

Here is an excerpt from the Charge from the Board to the Task Force:

As we strive to ensure that our church remains a welcoming and inclusive place for all members of our community, it has become apparent that we need to address the issue of accessibility within our facilities. Specifically, we recognize the importance of having an accessible bathroom to accommodate individuals with disabilities or mobility challenges.

Therefore, the Board of Directors is tasking the Restroom Renovation Task Force with the important responsibility of

- 1. investigating the feasibility and costs associated with adding an accessible bathroom to the Epiphany Lutheran Church building.*
- 2. managing the various aspects of planning and executing this project to completion.*

Our next steps include:

- Scheduling site visits with at least two architects
- Identifying and meeting with the Epiphany Lutheran Point of Contact for this project

Once we have met with the architects, we will have a much better idea of what the possibilities are within the constraints of the church budget. We will continue to share information with the congregation as we receive it.

Stay Tuned!

Kathleen R.

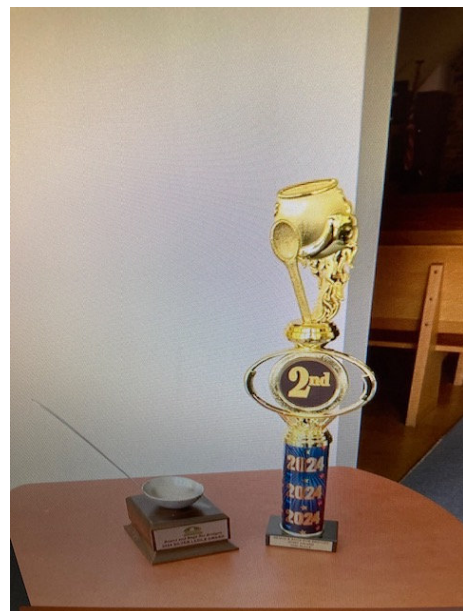
Maureen H.

Channing wins Silver Ladle Award and Spirit Award on May 5th at Beans and Bags Event Sponsored by Bridges to Housing Stability

Congratulations to everyone at Channing for supporting Bridges to Housing Stability at Centennial Park despite a little rain on May 5th.

Channing won the Silver Ladle Award (held by Kathleen in the group photo) for raising the second most money at the event, and the Spirit Award for having the second largest number of people present representing a congregation.

Kathleen R. and Ken K. valiantly represented Channing in the Cornhole Tournament. Great fun and delicious chili was enjoyed by all.



Channing bids a fond
farewell to our
esteemed music
director of so many
years,
Stephen Deininger



June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> Get Together Potluck 6:00 pm
<i>2</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Special coffee hour welcoming new Music Director immediately following service)	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> Wisdom Tales 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm	<i>5</i> Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>6</i> Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom	<i>7</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30-7:30 pm	<i>8</i> Channing Book Club 10:00 am-12:00 pm Sharing Our Theologies on Zoom 1:00-2:00 pm
<i>9</i> Worship Service with Flower Communion 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	<i>12</i> Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Covenant Circle 9:30 am Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Father's Day	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	<i>19</i> Young Adult Group 7:00-9:00 pm Juneteenth	<i>20</i> Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Roggenart	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Rev. James Jufer, guest minister) Newsletter Deadline 7:00	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Buddhism Discussion on Zoom 5:00-6:00 pm	<i>26</i> Committee on Ministry 6:30-8:30 pm	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Covenant Circle 9:30 am	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i>						

**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.