



# The Channing Connection

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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## Inside:

President's Column.....	1
Rev. Jane's Sabbatical....	3
Rev. Jane's Summer Schedule.....	4
Aug. Worship Schedule ..	4
Special Collection.....	4
UUtheVote.....	5
Church Roles Signup.....	5
Board Bits.....	6
Stewardship Update.....	6
Channing Book Club....	5
Wisdom Tales.....	5
Introducing Ourselves ...	7
Men's Group .....	8
Young Adult Game Night .....	8
Young Adult Small Group.....	8
August Calendar .....	9



**We are a Welcoming  
Congregation!**

## Wayside Pulpit

Two men looked out  
from prison bars.  
One saw mud;  
the other stars.

- Dale Carnegie

## President's Column

Greetings Fellow Channing Friends,

It is with great honor that I am writing this first article as your new president. I like to think of myself as a facilitator rather than president. President seems too lofty a title for me. Regardless, I plan to give you all as much as I am able, given my commitments to work and my family. I enjoy spending time at church services and events and hope we can grow and become even more bonded as a community.

Rev. Jane and I attended this year's UUA General Assembly in June, which was entirely virtual. I am happy that the majority of attendees (80% of 1,955 delegates) passed the proposed amendments to Article II. It turns out – bylaws are important! Many people had much to say about the changes; in fact, the entire process took four years. Only one of four proposed amendments to the proposed changes was approved. It was the Wheeler Amendment, also known as the Equity Amendment. Our congregation was one of those that agreed to support this change:

41 Equity. We declare that every person is inherently  
worthy and has the right to flourish with  
42 dignity, love, and compassion.

To read the entire Article II changes, go to this UUWorld article:  
<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/read-new-uaa-article-ii-a2-final-text-version-ga-general-assembly-2024-unitarian-universalist>

To read about the process, go to:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii>

*(Continued on page 2)*

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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 September 2024 issue of *The Channing Connection* to [newsshare@channingmc.org](mailto:newsshare@channingmc.org) by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 25, 2024.**

*(Continued from page 1)*

So, what does this mean for Unitarian Universalism and for Channing in particular? For UU, I think it means we commit to promoting our values in a more active way. For Channing, I think it means whatever we want it to mean. By this, I mean we can engage with these values as deeply as we have the energy and resources to do so. Each UU church still has autonomy to operate independently, within the agreed upon guidelines. I see the UUA bylaws as guidelines for how we should be in our community.

Thanks for reading my thoughts. I hope we can engage further in what these values mean to us.

Yours in love,

Angela



## Rev. Jane's Upcoming Planned Sabbatical

When I served on the board, my perspective on church life significantly broadened. Instead of solely focusing on strengthening the impacts of projects I was involved with, my attention shifted to finances, by-laws, legalities, strategic planning, and other governance-related matters. Increasingly, I found myself guided by a critical question: What is best for the long-term health of our congregation?

What is best for the long-term health of our congregation? Among the many vital aspects required for this, few match the importance more than the care and support of our minister. In recognition of this, the board recently approved a sabbatical leave for Rev. Jane. This decision highlights our commitment to her well-being and spiritual nourishment and reflects our dedication to sustaining a vibrant and healthy spiritual community.

Ministers, like Rev. Jane, often take sabbaticals to refill their spiritual wells, a crucial element of effective spiritual leadership. Typically, sabbaticals may be used for all forms of professional, religious, spiritual, and personal growth. The daily demands of church ministry can diminish a pastor's spiritual reserves, potentially impacting their ability to lead effectively. Sabbaticals offer a vital respite, enabling ministers to rejuvenate their spiritual connection and return to their duties refreshed and revitalized.

Ministerial sabbaticals are a well-established tradition within Unitarian Universalism. Typically, these sabbaticals are built into the calling process and included as a contractual benefit, as is the case with Rev. Jane. The Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association guidelines call for ministers to accrue one month of sabbatical leave for each year of service, with sabbaticals taken every five to seven years. Rev. Jane will be taking her sabbatical in her fifth year of service to our church, aligning with these practices. While exact dates have yet to be determined, the sabbatical will begin sometime in February 2025.

Rev. Jane and the board are currently developing a plan to ensure continuity in ministerial responsibilities during her leave. This includes identifying inspirational ministers who can continue our tradition of transformational worship services and deeply compassionate pastoral care. At the center of this work is a commitment to align with our church's mission: to invite seekers into a spiritual community, connect souls in mystery and wonder, and ignite compassion into action.

There are many details still to come regarding Rev. Jane's sabbatical. The board plans to use various communication channels to answer questions, address concerns, and keep the congregation updated on the progress. Please stay tuned for opportunities to gather both in person and via Zoom, and keep an eye on our newsletter, weekly emails, and direct email communications for the latest information.

The upcoming sabbatical for Rev. Jane will not only provide her with an opportunity for personal renewal but will also offer opportunities for growth to the congregation as a whole. During this time, we will have the chance to welcome visiting ministers who will bring new perspectives and ideas, enriching our worship services and spiritual explorations. This period will also enable us to strengthen connections within our congregation as we support each other and the Liturgy Team during Rev. Jane's absence. Ultimately, this sabbatical will help us build resilience and improve our spiritual well-being as a community, preparing us to welcome Rev. Jane back with renewed energy and fresh insights to further our mission and vision well into the future.

*~Submitted by Kris Tyssowski*

### **Rev. Jane's Summer Schedule**

Rev. Jane will be gone for much of the summer for study leave and vacation. She will be out of the office from June 30 to August 7.

If any pastoral care needs arise during this time, please reach out to the Board and they will connect you to either an on-call minister or to Rev. Jane. The Board can be reached at [channingecboard@channingmc.org](mailto:channingecboard@channingmc.org).

### **August Worship at Channing Memorial Church**

There will be no worship service September 1st which is the weekend for Labor Day;

### **2nd Sunday Collection**

Our 2nd Sunday collection will be for Neighbor Network on August 11th, We will be collecting financial donations and school supplies.

Neighbor Network is a very small grassroots non-profit based in western Howard County. The founder, Karen Mobley, for many years has organized a school supply collection, food for Thanksgiving, and food and gifts for Christmas. For July and August, we will be supporting the school supply collections which she does in connection with the Howard County school system.

## UUtheVote 2024 Campaign

Join other UUs in the DC, MD and VA region as we seek to increase voter participation during this coming national election cycle. We will have the opportunity to write postcards, send text messages and make phone calls via text and phone banking. Watch this space and look out for email messages and maybe an occasional pulpit announcement. Also, visit our Channing justice website at <https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice/general-4>



For more information, contact Jim Caldiero at [jimcal87@gmail.com](mailto:jimcal87@gmail.com)

### **Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through September!**

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 Fu*

### **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>

## July Board Bits



The Board approved Rev. Jane’s four months’ ministerial sabbatical to be scheduled from mid-February through mid-June of 2025. Kris Tyssowski is the Liaison for planning and organization of the sabbatical. Thank you, Kris! The Board would also like to acknowledge the time and effort the Liturgy Team is volunteering for this sabbatical.

Pursuant to conversations with two contractors about the ELC bathroom renovation project, two plans will be presented to Howard County Planning and Zoning for a decision about whether a plan with two accessible stalls, or one with four accessible stalls, meets requirements. Regardless, plans are for at least one accessible bathroom on each of the two floors. Thank you to Kathleen and Maureen for their work on this project!

## No Stewardship update for August

### Stewardship update Year-to-date as of May, 2024

#### General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 163,341
Total Operating Expense	-166,290
Difference	<u>-2,949</u>



## 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.

**There will be no meeting for August.**

**For September – Shipping News by Annie Proulx** (Pulitzer prize winner)

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 Hart 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 Nebel* 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, or call him at 410-314-9024. 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

**Wednesday, August 7 (10 am - 12 pm) on Zoom  
and In-person August 15 (10 - 11:30 am)**



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **August 7**, 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 **August 15** gathering will be at **Roggenart** on Rt. 40 east of Bethany Lane, at 10:00 am. **Please email Ken Hart 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!





# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30-7:30 pm	3
4 Worship service 11:00 am-12:00 pm	5	6 Wisdom Tales 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	7 Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm	8	9 Covenant Circle 9:30 am Worship Team 1:30-3:00 pm	10
11 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm 2nd Sunday Collection	12	13 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm LDNC Meeting 5:30-7:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	14 Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm on Zoom	15 Men's Group 10:00 - 11:30 am at Roggenart	16 Covenant Circle 9:30 am	17
18 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm	19	20 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm	21 Young Adult Group 7:00-9:00 pm	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm	26	25 Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Lectio Divina 7:00-8:00 pm	28 Committee on Ministry 6:30-8:30 pm	29	30 Covenant Circle 9:30 am	31

**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.