



The Channing Connection

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CHANNING MEMORIAL
CHURCH

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**We are a Welcoming
Congregation!**

Wayside Pulpit

“Oh God, show us things
as they really are.”

- saying of the
Prophet Muhammad

Minister's Musings



Dear Beloveds,

It was great to have time for study and rejuvenation, and it is great to be back!

What have I been up to? During my time away I had the delight to read an array of books with the intention of deepening my ministry. I read what has become my favorite book about Buddhism, I read a book on Judaism and the sacredness of the Sabbath, and I read theology books from renowned Christian monk Thomas Merton. I streamed worship services from Unitarian Universalist colleagues daily in order to strengthen my worship skills. My spiritual practices of meditation and prayer remained a crucial piece of each of my days. I look forward to bringing the new insights I acquired to all of you!

Likewise, it has been an honor and a delight to return and to re-engage with all of you again. Since my return, I have heard what many of you hold tenderly in your hearts and in your souls. If we have not had a chance to meet yet, please reach out and we will schedule a coffee date. You are each a blessing, and I love every one of you!

Now, it is hard to believe we are entering our sixth year together. What a blessing these past years have been. During my time at Channing, my commitment has always been to care for you, to tend to your hearts and expand your minds, to make sure you are spiritually fulfilled and intellectually stimulated, to guide you through life's joys and heart-breaking sorrows. And, it is time for a Sabbath.

Unitarian Universalist ministers are encouraged to take a sabbatical every four to seven years. Therefore, I am scheduled to

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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 October 2024 issue of *The Channing Connection* to newsshare@channingmc.org by **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 22, 2024.**

take a Sabbatical and will be away from February through early June. This Sabbath time will be followed by my regularly scheduled two months of summer leave. I will return briefly between the two to check in on the wellbeing of all of you! What will I do during this time away? Colleagues have encouraged me to focus on three fundamental aspects of spiritual renewal and intellectual stimulation: family/general rejuvenation, spiritual deepening, and continued study. I have a wide array of activities planned for each of these categories. I am ready to be rejuvenated and fulfilled!

And yet this is not only for me, but a growth opportunity for you as well. During my time away, you will hear an array of sermons from different UU ministers, each with their own experiences, theologies, and stories. Imagine the wealth of insights you can incorporate into your spiritual and intellectual growth! Each and every voice comes with its own, unique wisdom and strengths. Also, there is an opportunity for the bonds between all of you to strengthen as you navigate more lay-led activities and leadership. Furthermore, I will return rested and wiser and will have a wealth of newly acquired gifts to share with all of you.

So, what happens when I am gone? I am working closely with Kris T. to make sure all of the church's needs will be met. Together, we are working with the Board and the Liturgy Team to coordinate worship leaders and secure a minister to offer pastoral care and support. Furthermore, we are working to make sure there are ample opportunities to share regular updates with you and provide spaces for questions and comments to be addressed.

So, beloveds, let us enter this church year with enthusiasm! We have so many opportunities ahead of us. I look forward to our sacred time together in worship and small groups. I hold you each in love.

With love,
Rev. Jane



President's Column

Greetings Channing Friends,

It's difficult for me to wrap my head around the fact that August is over! I do look forward to the cooler air and the changing season. Change is hard for humans, but for those of us who want to leave this world better than we found it, it is necessary.

This month, there will be a few opportunities to get involved with meaningful activities. On September 3rd, we will address postcards to new, young Maryland voters encouraging them to fulfill their civic duty. On September 15th, there will be a Social Justice Fair after Sunday service where you can learn about some causes we can be involved with. Finally, on September 28th and 29th, you will be able to get involved with some UU Climate Justice Revival events. I encourage you to join in with one or more of these so we can make a difference together. This coming together reminds me of a John Lewis quote:

“What I try to tell young people is that if you come together with a mission, and it is grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible.”

Join us!

Yours in love,
Angela

September Worship at Channing Memorial Church

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

Administering Estates in Maryland – Save the Date



The Honorable Byron Macfarlane, Howard County Register of Wills, will join us on **Wednesday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m.**, re-scheduled from last spring. Learn about the probate process in Maryland, types of estates, the role of a personal representative, the importance of having a will and how to register a will.

Mr. MacFarlane grew up in Howard County, attended Howard County schools and earned his Juris Doctor from University of Baltimore School of Law. He has extensive experience in public service and is an extremely engaging speaker. Bring your questions.

2nd Sunday Collection

Sept 8th, 2024

Channing's Participation in Howard County Pride

September's 2nd Sunday Collection on Sunday, September 8th, will be designated to help defray the costs for Channing's participation in the Howard County Pride event on Sunday, October 13th. The Outreach Team is working to have a tent and display at the event, similar to what we did last year. Participating in events such as this helps us fulfill the **Invite** part of our mission.

Invite seekers into spiritual community
Connect souls in mystery and wonder
Ignite compassion into action

Getting out in the community to meet people gives us the opportunity to make the invitation. Every one of us who is a member or friend of Channing was invited at some point – whether through an advertisement, a google search, a friend or an event. This is how outreach activities tie directly to the mission of our church. There are so many people out there who are looking for what we offer. What do we offer? One visitor recently described it as “a spiritual refueling station.” Others may find community and connection or a way to make a difference in the world. Others may be looking to be challenged to expand their understanding of religion. Or maybe some may want a place to have a great cup of coffee and conversation on Sunday mornings. There are as many needs as there are people, and for some of them, our church community will be the right fit. Outreach activities such as this help people find what they are looking for. Thank you for your support financially and for volunteering your time to represent Channing in the community.

Sunday Church Roles Signup Open through November!

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*

Save the Date: Channing at Howard County Pride 2024



Date: Sunday, October 13

Hours: Gates open at 11:00 am. Festival begins at 12:00 pm (noon) and ends at 4:00 pm.

Location: Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods

Theme: Finding Vibrance Everywhere

Last year, Channing Memorial Church participated in the Howard County Pride celebration in Columbia. It was an exciting way to show our support for the LGBTQ+ community and for Channing to gain more visibility in the community at large. We spoke to dozens of people who visited our table and provided them with information about Channing and Channing tote bags. It was a gratifying experience for those who staffed our table.

Channing has again been accepted as an exhibitor for Pride 2024, so mark **October 13** on your calendar. We are asking for volunteers to help staff our table during the day, so if you wish to volunteer for a shift, please contact Ken Grim (kengrim@verizon.net) or any member of the Outreach Team.

-- *Outreach Team:*

Kathleen Razmus, Chair

Evelyn Grim

Ken Grim

Ken Kalumuck

Marian Vessels



Spiritual Practices

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.

A key facet of a purposeful life is an engagement with a spiritual practice. Together this year, through monthly classes, I offer us the chance to explore such practices. **I encourage folks to attend these classes because I find spiritual practices of utmost importance and hope to give you tools to enrich your life.** No matter what your spiritual identity - humanist, theist, earth centered, etc. - these classes are for you. We will share a time for learning, sharing, and growth, allowing each of us to enrich our faith journeys and life experiences. I invite you to see this as a practice of self-care and spiritual wholeness, and I stress the importance of regular spiritual practices on your overall health and well-being.

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. I do ask for an RSVP.

In September, as an introduction, we will explore what it means to have a rich and meaningful Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Our first class will be held:

Saturday, September 21 from 10am - 11:30am at the church office.
Please RSVP by Friday, September 13 to minister@channingmc.org.

I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

Membership Retreat

Dear Channing members and friends,

We have so many blessings to offer the world, so let's share them! Nearly every week, visitors come through our doors eager to know what we can offer them. We hope these beloveds stay with us as we worship, learn, and grow together. So, we ask, how can we welcome new visitors, and how can we encourage folks to return? This October, join Rev. Jane, the Outreach Committee, and the Membership Committee for a two-day retreat created for Unitarian Universalist congregations like us. The program states:

“Instead of focusing on growth for its own sake, we focus on the transformative power that Unitarian Universalism has in people's lives and how our congregations can provide a welcoming and inclusive experience for everyone who comes through our doors.

This training is designed for application across your ministry teams. Learn to work together to reinforce life-affirming and creative frameworks and use practical tools for welcoming and inclusion, connection and belonging, all as foundational to a membership journey in your congregation grounded in mutuality and consent.”

We hope you can join us as we all do the important work of welcoming more “spiritual seekers” into our beloved community! It takes a village.

The retreat will be broken up into two sessions. I strongly encourage attending both sessions.

Saturday, October 12 from 12:30pm - 4:30pm

Saturday, October 19 from 1pm - 4:30pm

We will meet at the church office. Snacks and beverages will be provided!

If you are interested in attending, please send an email to minister@channingmc.org by October 1.



Social Justice Fair

Dear Channing Members and Friends,

In a sacred community, justice work is best done with collective energy and dedication. This year, we have the opportunity to do just that - and rally around a common cause. We have had a dedicated group of folks who have been meeting regularly to lead us through this process. To initiate this work, we asked you to respond to a justice survey we sent out last spring, and many of our Channing beloveds replied (thank you!). Our Team has been working to analyze the results we received. Respondents chose gun control as the most important justice issue, followed by the climate crisis. So, what now?

Join Jim, Angela, Ari, and me as we host a Social Justice Fair after church on September 15 from 12-1! The Fair will give you the chance to explore these justice issues of interest and offer you ways to get directly involved and engaged. There will likewise be an opportunity for you to share your own ideas with us. The Fair will serve as a fact-finding opportunity for the Team to enable us to distill responses into an action plan for the church. Let's learn more about engaging in our community and in our world. There is so much important work to be done for this aching world - let's get our hands dirty and join in the work!

I hope you will join us!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane, Ari, Jim, and Angela



Social Justice - Channing in Action

Dear Channing Members and Friends,

Rev. Jane recently announced our social justice fair to be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, 12-1 pm after the service. This is an opportunity to help our congregation take the next steps in developing and implementing a congregation-wide effort to advance social justice and human rights.

Several months ago you participated in a survey in which you determined that gun violence and climate justice were the two issues you wanted Channing to pursue. Now, in addition to advocacy, what other actions shall we take? Visit the fair and help us decide.

Join us September 3, 6:30 PM at the church office to address postcards to new, young Maryland voters. We'll also have postcards available in the church lobby after services. Take them home with a list, address them, and return them the following Sunday. We'll stamp and mail them.

And don't forget the national UU Climate Justice Revival on Sept. 28-29

Join us September 28, 1:00 PM at the church office to begin our work as part of the nationwide UU Climate Justice Revival and worship on Sunday to continue the Revival.

Visit our Channing Justice website:

[Action & Opportunities | ChanningJustice \(jimcal87.wixsite.com\)](https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice)

<https://jimcal87.wixsite.com/channingjustice/actionopportunities>

For more information, please contact Jim Caldiero, jimcal87@gmail.com

Annual Water Communion Sept. 8

As we make our way through summer, I invite us to be intentional about noticing those places that feed our spirits. Perhaps this is a special destination we travel to, a gathering with those we love, or a walk to center in nature. **I invite each of you to collect water from one of these places.** When we join together on **Sunday, September 8th for our annual Water Communion service**, we have a special opportunity to celebrate this water and the story it holds. We will bless the water and join in a ritual to share this water with that from years past, combining this year's joys with the joys of dedicated members and friends that came before us. I look forward to celebrating this beloved tradition!

Warmly,
Rev. Jane

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=MEhIT1KbDRIUWVtM9WeTFDTERrdz09>

Meeting ID: 940 0752 2019

Lectio Divina

Our normal schedule is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. **Next Meeting: September 24.** We have changed the schedule due to the first Presidential campaign debate, which is on September 10.

Standard Link to join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 933 2455 0758

Board Bits



The Board approved expenditure of \$1500 from the Vision and Growth fund for three iPad Minis and accessories for multi-platform worship, which will improve on equipment currently used, without incurring the greater expense involved in permanent camera solutions.

The Board discussed Rev. Jane’s upcoming sabbatical leave and approved the dates in her plan– February 3rd through June 2, 2025. Rev. Jane will return for a short interim period in June, prior to attending General Assembly in mid-June, followed by her regular summer leave.

The Board discussed several scenarios for ministerial coverage during the sabbatical, including Sunday service leadership involving different combinations of a consistent Anchor Minister, other guest ministers, and Worship Associate-led services each month; as well as pastoral care conducted by the Anchor Minister. In addition to planning and leading services, the Anchor Minister will engage more deeply with the congregation than is expected of other guest ministers, including attendance at coffee hour and conducting some “Sundays After” sessions.

The Board approved spending up to \$8400 for Sunday ministerial coverage plus pastoral care for the four month sabbatical. The Liturgy Team will decide what coverage scenario is best for them and the congregation, within this budget.

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

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$ 39,203
Total Operating Expense	<u>-15,687</u>
Difference	23,516



**Stewardship update
As of June 30, 2024 End of Fiscal Year**

General Operating Fund

Total Operating Income	\$171,289
Total Operating Expense	-181,781
Transfer from Reserves	<u>10,492</u>
Ending balance, 6/30/24	\$ 0

Vision and Growth Fund

Beginning Balance, 7/1/23	\$ 78,481
Total V&G Income	550
Total V&G Expense	<u>- 6,919</u>
Ending Balance, 6/30/24	\$ 72,112

Reserve Fund

Beginning Balance, 7/1/23	\$ 164,436
Change in Market Value	+15,419
Transfer to Gen'l. Operating Fund	<u>-10,492</u>
Ending Balance, 6/30/24	\$ 169,363

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.

September 14 – Shipping News by Annie Prouix (Pulitzer prize winner)

“A vigorous, darkly comic, and at times magical portrait of the contemporary American family. The Shipping News shows why E. Annie Prouix is recognized as one of the most gifted and original writers in America today.”

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.

Men's Group

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



Everyone is welcome to join the men at either or both of these events. For the zoom meeting on **September 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 **September 19** 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!



September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1</i> No Worship Service</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>	<p><i>3</i> Minister's Office Hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm Wisdom Tales 11:00am-12:00 Social Justice - address post-cards to young voters 6:30 pm at church office</p>	<p><i>4</i> Men's Group on Zoom 10:00 am - 12:00 pm on Zoom Young Adult Game Night 7:00-9:00 pm</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i> Membership Team 2:00 pm Outreach Team 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p><i>7</i></p>
<p><i>8</i> Water Communion Worship service 11:00 am-12:00 pm 2nd Sunday Collection</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</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 am—12:00 pm</p>
<p><i>15</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Social Justice Fair 12:00-1:00</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> Young Adult 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> Spiritual Practices 10:00am-12:00</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</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p>	<p><i>28</i> UU Climate Justice Revival 1:00 pm Church Structure Meeting 10:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>
<p><i>29</i> Worship Service 11:00 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>					

**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.