Welcome Rev. Bill Zelazny!
The Worship Committee welcomed Channing’s new minister Rev Bill Zelazny at our first meeting together in early August. In addition to the 2 services per month that Rev Bill will be presenting, he brings enthusiasm and fresh ideas to our overall worship planning.

We are grateful to the guest ministers and Channing members who have given us 10 weeks of enriching summer services. A recommendation from our congregational soul-searching earlier this year was to maintain the continuity of inspiring worship practices throughout the summer. Attendance has been generally good, with regular congregation members, new members and visitors expressing their pleasure about these services.

As Channing begins a new Church Year, the Committee would welcome the ideas and participation of a few more people on our team. If you’re curious, please speak to any of us at any time, but especially at Ingathering Sunday, 11 September. In addition to collaborating with Rev Bill in his worship planning, the Committee enjoys working with congregation members and guest ministers for the balance of our worship services throughout the year.

We are also seeking more people who would like to serve occasionally as Worship Assistants, especially with Rev Bill. It doesn’t require Committee membership, and people who are new to it will be given training about how the assisting process is done. It’s a valuable and satisfying way to help in delivering our worship services.

Please give the Worship Committee your comments, questions and — if so inclined — your assistance toward improving Channing’s Worship program. We are: David Cooper, Joan Dermody, Eleanor Doumato, Sue VanDerhoof, Janet Grant, Rev Bill Zelazny and the undersigned,

~David Pedrick,
Worship Committee Chair

September Services
September 4
Easing Into the Boundless
Rev. Ed Hardy
Have you ever had the mystical moment when quite suddenly and without effort you feel totally at one with everything? Maybe you were kneading bread, taking a long walk in the woods, lying on the beach at night wrapped in the sound of the waves and lost in the endless starry sky, or just sitting in your car at the stop light and in that moment everything seems right in the earth or the universe will not let you down. Let’s compare notes.

September 11
The Joy, Challenge and Hopes of Returning
Rev. Bill Zelazny
This summer Bill returned to his hometown to visit sister and friends. The trip got him thinking about how returning to a special place bring memories, but also often brings challenges as well as possibility a sense of hope. For his inaugural service Bill will look at what returning to a home, or a church for a new year, can mean. We will acknowledge during the service the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. And, as has been the tradition at Channing, we will conduct a Water Ceremony. Everyone is invited to bring a small vile or container of water from someplace significant — home, hometown, vacation — to blend with the water of other congregation members.
After the September 11 service, congregation members and friends are invited to join together for the annual Channing potluck picnic. This year we'll gather in front of the Parish Hall about 11:15 to walk over to Touro Park, as a recreation of the type of group walk to a summer picnic shelter our U and U forbearers use to do. Christopher Carbone will provide music. And, rumor has it that Rev Bill will show up with kazoo-bubbles to pass out to enliven the walk.

September 18
To Be Announced
September 25
Is This the Right Thing to Do: Making Decisions in a Complex World
Rev. Bill Zelazny
We study a situation, look at all the options, reflect on their consequences then make the decision. All nice and logical. But then a niggling little voice inside our head asks, “Is this right?”

Our world is complex and decisions are sometimes hard. This Sunday Bill will look at decision-making in our complex times.

FROM THE MINISTER
Hello Channing Memorial Church congregation. I am thrilled to be joining you as the contract minister for this year. As I mentioned in our conversations in July, I have worked with many of your congregation leaders and members since 1999 when I moved to Rhode Island to become the District Executive of the Ballou Channing District. I know this congregation to be energetic, very concerned about social justice issues, and willing to take a thoughtful leap of faith when needed.

Starting a new ministry with a congregation is always complicated. There are traditions and ways things are done, but also expectations that the new minister will bring new ideas. So, over the next several months I hope to set up times through the Committee on Ministry to meet in small discussion groups to talk about what you want your minister to know about Channing, what is important to you to keep, and what you might want to do differently in the future.

In the next few weeks the Board and Committee on Ministry and I will be laying out goals and establishing plans for this year to address some of the matters this congregation has said are priorities. As for my specific activities, I will be leading two Sunday services a month, working with the Pastoral Care Committee as needed, providing support to the other committees and doing the usual sort of minister tasks. I plan to be in the office a couple of days a week, most likely Tuesday and Wednesday late morning through early afternoon, and late Thursday afternoon when there is a board meeting. I am also available to meet by appointment at other times. I’ll refine the schedule as we move into the year depending on activities, meetings and projects.

I am look forward to this year and our work together to ensure that Channing Memorial Church will be a spiritually fulfilling, socially aware, and fun place to be.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

Purpose of the Time of Sharing
A reminder from the Worship Committee
Congregation members:
Please find comfort in the Time of Sharing through heartfelt expressions of your joys, concerns and sorrows. This time is reserved for the purpose of expressing significantly personal feelings as a part of our overall religious service, with focused comments. It helps if you compose your thoughts before speaking from the lectern, and (re-)introduce yourself. Bear in mind that you are sharing intervals of time with others who are waiting for their turns to speak, and be appropriately brief, not exceeding one minute per person. Please, it is not a time for announcements or advocacy. It is meant as a moment for sharing joys and concerns with the congregation for us to listen, to care and be touched.
FROM THE
CO-PRESIDENTS

Welcome to a New Church Year!

As our September Ingathering approaches I’m very excited to begin a new church year. As I write, we welcome a new minister, the Reverend William (Bill) Zelazny who arrives with ideas and energy, eager to get to know us. Despite the slow hot summer weather (will it ever end?), our various committees have been hard at work preparing for the fall. Plans are afoot for a wide variety of worship services, new music, an energetic RE program, and a stimulating menu of choices through the Channing Learning Center. A new communications team stands ready to usher us into the ever changing internet age of social media.

As I begin the new church year, I’m also taking time to reflect on the covenant I make with each of you as a member of Channing. If you were present at our July 17th service then you heard Rev. Zelazny explain that the great strength of our covenant-based UU faith is that it allows us to create an accepting and welcoming community of individuals of widely differing beliefs. We may not all agree (and at Channing we rarely do!) but we will all have a voice. A covenant invites relationship and a shared intention. I’ve been thinking about my priorities for the year, and about how I will “be” in covenant with others. It’s fairly straightforward, but not necessarily easy. Some of the hurt and frustration expressed at Channing in the past year has been due in part to missed communications and poorly chosen words. In this year of healing, I will need to really listen to others and to attend to their needs as well as my own. I will need to accept that, in service to the larger community, I may not always get what I want. I need to pay attention to how I speak to others (also yell, whine, criticize, gossip?) and attend to how they receive my message. In particular, I hope to stop using email for anything but convenient, non-substantive messages. I love email because it’s so fast and efficient, but it’s a terrible way to communicate anything of importance since you can’t gauge your correspondent’s reaction. It can sometimes come across more as an attack than a conversation. I’ll try to think carefully before I press “send”!

And, finally, I plan to revel in and enjoy all the positive energy that is Channing, remembering to appreciate all of our differing beliefs and opinions. In our diversity lies great strength if we can covenant to push forward together. I look forward to worshiping, sharing, celebrating and working with all of you. Welcome again to our new church year!

In peace and friendship,
Barbara Nowicki,
Co-president, Board of Trustees

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Committee on Ministry met recently to discuss new ideas and tasks as we reach out to our new minister, the ongoing church committees, and the overall congregation. We want to establish partnerships with everyone to help the church achieve a successful new church year and identify potential road blocks to that success.

This year’s committee consists of Barbara Coppola, David Pedrick, Judith Porter, Susan VanDerhoof, and Sondra Gold. We hope to have the sixth member of the committee announced soon.

We meet on a monthly basis and welcome an open communication to discuss your needs, concerns and joys.

Our first order of business will be to help our minister Rev. Zelazny establish listening circles for group participation. We will also be offering small social groups to meet the minister.

Keeping the lines of communication open, we want to help members and friends get to know who their church leaders are how we can work together with ideas and positive solutions to any issues.

We welcome your feedback.

~Judie Porter,
Committee on Ministry
Welcome back to our returning families and a warm welcome to Reverend Bill Zelazny and new families. We are excited to see everyone at Ingathering on September 11th - Scoop up some water from a favorite place to bring that day to the water communion. It will be blended with water that others bring (then sterilized and stored) for use during special ceremonies, like child blessings, during the church year.

Our first RE (Religious Education) class will be held the following Sunday, September 18th. We will again offer separate Sunday morning programs for children (preschool- 6th grade) and Youth (6th grade through High School). Both groups will come together periodically to bake desserts for the community meal and participate in special events.

To spread the joy, the entire Channing community is invited to participate in these wonderful events:

- Game Night in September
- Youth Group Sponsored Movie Night at the Jane Pickens Theatre
- Fall Frolic and Haunted Happening
- Giving Tree, Holiday Movie Night, Cookie Contest, and Holiday Caroling
- Cosmos Potluck Event
- Mystery Friends
- Spaghetti Dinner
- Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast

Event dates will be posted on Facebook, the church website, and future issues of the Catalyst. We need your presence!

Our year-round Youth Group will continue to meet two Sunday evenings per month. Check out the fun they had at this summer’s car wash.

The Coming of Age (COA) program, a rite of passage program for Youth in grades 8-12 will be held this year. In order for this to happen, we need adult volunteers to say YES to Youth who ask them to be mentors. We are also looking for 1-2 adults to help facilitate this very meaningful program. Please contact Jessica Thomas, DRE, at dre@channingchurch.org or any member of the RE committee to volunteer or sign up your Youth as soon as possible.

Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive sexual education program for 4th -6th graders will be held this year. It will be offered in January 2017. Please see or contact Jessica Thomas to sign up your 4th -6th grader for this highly regarded program as soon as possible.

To offer your support and/or participation in RE programs for children and youth, please contact Jessica Thomas at dre@channingchurch.org. We always need volunteers and we make it easy and fun.

-Kathy Takata
Religious Education Committee
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Welcome back!
Usually summers are a bit slower for Caregiving, but this year our volunteers were busier than usual meeting the needs of the congregation. Thank you so much to Mary Benson, Susan Booth, Milly Jessen, and Marian Royer for their much-appreciated assistance as summer caregiving coordinators. Caregiving co-chairs Barbara Russell-Willett and Nickie Kates also filled in at times to make sure all went well.

Long-time Channing member Loie Kessler was diagnosed with cancer and is currently on hospice services at home. Her daughter Jackie has told us that Loie loves to receive cards, and would enjoy hearing from old friends at church. Loie, please know that you are in our thoughts at this time, and we wish you peace.

Our condolences go out to Renee Soto and Tom Howard upon the death of Renee’s mother at the end of July. We also are sorry to hear of the passing of Nancy Peresta’s beloved aunt, Bettie Cavanaugh. We extend sympathy to Abby Adams, who lost her mother, Gail Patricia Bonoff, in July. Abby was able to be present with her mother and family at the time of her mother’s death.

We send our best wishes to Neil Leerssen for healing and recovery. At the time of this writing, he is having his back evaluated for treatment options to restore his mobility, which has been limited this summer.

Lila Neidich, another long-time Channing member, is now residing at the Grand Islander. She loves visits from old friends at church, as does Alicia Spinner, who now lives at Blenheim.

The prominent photo of Nancy Caswell in a recent Newport Daily News was a delight to see. Though the Forest Farm care facilities have been purchased by a new company, Nancy will still continue working as the Administrator of Assisted Living, work that she still loves after 33 years!

Thank you to the many volunteers who have provided cat care and rides to Ginny Spaulding while she underwent cancer treatments over the summer!

Our church community has been profoundly saddened by the death of Lucas Bandoni, who took his life on Aug. 9. Many honored him at an outdoor memorial service on Aug. 18 at the Portsmouth Abbey School. Our deepest heartfelt sympathies go out to Tom and Christine and the entire Bandoni family.

SEPTEMBER SHARE THE PLATE

September Share the Plate is the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention-Rhode Island Chapter (AFSP-RI) in memory of Luc Bandoni. The mission of AFSP is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. AFSP engages in Five Core Strategies:

1. Fund scientific research
2. Offer educational programs for professionals
3. Educate the public about mood disorders and suicide prevention
4. Promote policies and legislation that impact suicide and prevention

And finally...we are seeking compassionate people to serve as Caregiving monthly coordinators after September! You may sign up to help for a whole month or just a part, whatever your schedule allows. Also, if you’d like to be on the list for occasional tasks such as providing a meal or a ride, please let Nickie or Barbara know that, too – many hands are needed to make Caregiving run!

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

Marion Royer is the Caregiving coordinator for the period of Sept. 1-15, and Barbara Russell-Willett and Nickie Kates are sharing coordinator duties from Sept. 16-30. If you or another Channing member or friend you know needs some Caregiving support during the month, please contact one of these individuals.
**GREEN CORNER**

*To clam or not to clam?*

Russ and I have attended Sen. Whitehouse’s Annual Family Clambake each summer since it started, sponsoring a table, and inviting friends to join us. Fred and Nancy Caswell have been frequent guests at the table. But this year, because the Senator has not shown leadership against expansion of gas infrastructure projects in RI, I declined to support this event, and when Fred inquired, I told him why. I continue to support the senator as our nation’s leading spokesperson on climate issues, and as a strong proponent of carbon fee and dividend legislation, and of calling for oil company accountability for underwriting denialism about the role of fossil fuels in climate change, but on gas infrastructure, he needs to “wake up” RI, along with the rest of the country.

Thank you, Fred, for sending the following email to Sen. Whitehouse on August 10:

“Senator Whitehouse, I have been a very strong supporter of you and your work, especially relative to our climate situation. Therefore, in the absence of any known-to-me stands by you against the proposed new power station in RI that will use gas from fracking, [and] with the need of expanding the Prov. port, involving eventual costs to consumers, my wife and I chose not to come to your clambake this year (along with others from our church). Please do everything you can to stop this project that our governor backs. You have been our climate champion; don’t stop now. Fred Caswell”

~Beth Milham and Fred Caswell, Green Cong. Committee

**SOCIAL ACTION**

**ECO-BITS & TIPS**

**COASTAL FILM TOUR MAKES NEWPORT STOP SEPTEMBER 20**

With the release of its pilot documentary short, *Facing the Surge*, the team behind *ADAPTATION NOW* is launching an east coast screening tour in collaboration with Citizens’ Climate Lobby. The 2016 Coastal Film Tour will traverse the eastern seaboard, beginning in Maine and ending in Florida. RI will host two screenings, in Providence on September 19 and in Newport on September 20.

*Facing the Surge* documents the tangible costs of sea level rise for the people of Norfolk, VA. Norfolk is a working-class American community on the front lines of climate change, struggling to adapt to the rising tides and an uncertain future. But *Facing the Surge* is not a film about loss and inaction. It also tells the stories of citizens as they step forward to become part of a growing climate action movement.

The Coastal Film Tour hopes to empower residents of coastal towns to pursue climate solutions. The screenings in RI will be followed by interactive sessions with the filmmaker, a scientist and a policymaker. Audiences will be able to ask questions and engage in dialogue about climate change and its impacts, coastal adaptation practices, and about policies to reduce global-warming pollution. The RI Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, the EnergizeRI Coalition, Channing Green Congregation, Emmanuel Church and the Newport Energy and Environment Commission are co-hosting this event.

**Tuesday, September 20 at 7:00 pm**

Emmanuel Church
40 Dearborn St, Newport

25-minute film followed by panel

Panelists:
Amanda Babson, Ph.D.
Coastal Oceanographer and Coastal Climate Adaptation Scientist
Rep. Lauren Carson State Representative for Newport, RI
House District 75
Diogo Castro Freire, Film Maker, Founder, *Adaptation Now*
LISTENING TO YOUR INNER VOICE
With Ken Gaus
Tuesdays, Sept. 13, 20, & 27
7 – 8:30 PM, Parish Hall
Registration $5 per session, or $10 for all three.

In Ken’s latest seminar, he’ll explore the idea of connecting to your Inner Voice (IV).
What is your Inner Voice? Do you want to pay attention to it? How may this impact your life?
Each session will include some thoughts on these questions, based on Ken’s spiritual experience.

This seminar is meant to be an extension of the recent “Why Meditate” course, and there will be a quick review of meditation practices and how they may help you connect to your IV.
Ken will also talk about intuition/gut feel, “coincidences”, and dreams. While no one will be called upon to participate, class members will be encouraged to share and comment on related life experiences.

Thoreau said, “Most people lead lives of quiet desperation”…Ken believes connecting to your IV may help you avoid that fate!

THEY KNEW THEY WERE PILGRIMS
A Glimpse of Living History for the Whole Family
With Hilary Goodnow: Public Historian, Plimoth Plantation
Wed., Sept. 28, 7 – 8:30 PM
Newport Public Library
Free and open to the public
Meet Mary Warren, daughter of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren, and hear exciting tales about the family’s new life in 17th-century New England. “Mary” will share her reflections on her childhood in England and her dreams for the future of Plymouth Colony. Hilary will also answer modern questions about the 17th century, Plymouth Colony & Wampanoag Patuxet, and will speak about why living history still matters today.

ON NOAM CHOMSKY
With Prof. Henry Rosemont, Visiting Scholar of Religious Studies, Brown University.
Henry has also had the opportunity to study with Prof. Chomsky at MIT.
Tuesdays, October 4, 11, 18 and 25, 7 – 9 PM in the Parish Hall
Wine and cheese will be served. $5 for each lecture, or $15 for the series
Noam Chomsky is the 8th most cited scholar in history over a recent 30-year history, ranking immediately after Freud and ahead of Hegel. He has revolutionized the study of linguistics and cognitive science, made signal contributions to the philosophy of mind, science and language, been a critic of much work in the mass media and social sciences, and for more than a half century has been far and away the most well-known dissenter to the foreign and domestic policies of the US government. At age 86 he is still lecturing and giving interviews several times a week, plus maintaining a monumental e-mail correspondence with people interested in his work.

In this seminar course we will devote one session each to linguistics and then philosophy, and the final two sessions on the several dimensions of Chomsky’s views on differing aspects of domestic and foreign policy, concentrating on contemporary issues. Each session will begin with a brief introductory lecture, followed by video clips of his lectures/interviews on these themes. We’ll then take brief break, after which I’ll make a few additional comments before we open up for questions and discussion.

HEDGING OBAMA’S IRAN NUCLEAR GAMBLE: CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT:
A lecture by David Cooper, Ph.D., Wed. Oct. 26, 7 – 9 PM. Location to be confirmed. Look for more info in the Oct. Catalyst!
ANNOUNCEMENTS

“COUNT ME IN” FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

Many of you have been generous with your time and skills, and many more of you have donated to Channing by buying tickets and services. The total raised is now $5688.00. A success.

Thanks to our many hosts, including Eleanor and Gabe Doumato, Jessica and Todd Thomas, Barbara Baum, Betsy and Neil Leerssen, Chris and Laura Yalanis, Ginny Spaulding, Betsy Dees, Barbara Russell-Willet and Tom Willett, John Burnham and Rachel Balaban, Judie Porter, Sondra Gold and Jim Freess, Ruth and Sam Jernigan, Marsha and Coles Mallory, Susan and Bob Kieronski, Julie Herrick, Renee Soto, Calvin Pierce, and Sally Hanchett. Skills and items were volunteered by Barbara Russell-Willet, Bill Hawkins, Abby Adams, Jim Freess, Barbara Richter, Sally Hanchett, Nancy Peresta, Susan Booth, Joan Dermody, Betsy Leerssen, Kay Kreiger, and John Burnham, and Christine Ariel. All the musicians at the celebration, dinner, and the recent picnic were wonderful additions to the evenings.

As we have gathered in fellowship for these dinners and picnics we have shared good food and good company. Channing has benefited in so many ways from your support and commitment.

~Chris Laudon

WATER FOR OUR INGATHERING SERVICE

All ages are invited to collect a small sample of water for our Ingathering Service on Sunday, September 11th. Please bring water to church from a place that is special to you to share with your religious community! The water which comes from around the world and as close as the tap is blended together and (after being boiled) is used in Child Blessing Ceremonies throughout the church year.

WELCOME BACK PICNIC Sunday, September 11th

After the Ingathering Service on September 11th all are invited to the Welcome Back Potluck Picnic in Touro Park. Please bring an item of food to share with serving utensils. Also, bring a chair or blanket so you can relax in comfort. In case of inclement weather the picnic will be held in the Parish Hall. See you there.

CHILDCARE PROVIDER POSITION AVAILABLE

We are looking for an adult to care for and play with our little kids and babies on Sunday mornings during services. The position pays $15/hour for a usual 1.5 hours each Sunday. CPR training will be required and a background check will be preformed. Please contact Barbara Russell-Willet at or Marilyn Murphy

SEPTEMBER CHIMERS

Sept. 4: Jim Freess
Sept. 11: Linda Beall
Sept. 18: Cynthia Skelton
Sept. 25: Chris Ariel

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY BEGINS SOON!

Just a reminder: small group meetings will be starting the week of Sept. 19 and will run for 7 sessions through the week of December 12. Specific days and locations will be determined after sign-up is complete. Sign-up forms will be included in the order of service at the beginning of September.

INTERWEAVE PIZZA PARTY

Sunday, September 18, 5:30pm, Parish Hall

Interweave will have a pizza party in the Parish Hall on Sunday, Sept. 18th. We will discuss our upcoming year plans and watch a fun movie (tbd). For more info contact Rex at interweave@channingchurch.org

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday, September 19, 3:30-6:15pm, in the Parish Hall

The Channing Memorial Church Commu­nity Meal is the third Monday of every month in the Parish Hall. To see when volunteers are needed contact meal manager, Sally Hanchett at community­meal@channingchurch.org