2017 Annual Meeting Notice
Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 6:00pm,
In the Parish Hall
Dessert Potluck: 6:00-6:30pm,
Annual Meeting starts at 6:30pm

Notice is hereby given to the members of Channing Memorial Church that the Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 24, in the Parish Hall. The meeting will also be a Dessert Potluck, so bring something delicious to share!

AGENDA
1. Welcome & call to order, verify quorum
2. Reading and approval of minutes
3. Wheel of Life
4. Reports from Minister, Officers & Committee Chairs
5. Presentation & approval of the FY 2017-18 budget
6. Election of: Officers & Members of the Board of Trustees Committee Chairs & Committee Members as required in By-Laws
7. Recognitions & Appreciation
8. Presentation of the Unsung UU Award

Childcare will be provided.

Committee Chairs are reminded to submit (via email) their Annual Report to the church office (office@channingchurch.org) no later than Monday, May 15th!

Happiest People Give More, Not Get More
Christine Laudon
Rev. Bill Zelazny

Research has shown that service has physical, emotional, as well as spiritual benefits for people. Service changes people. It refines, purifies, gives a finer perspective, and brings out the best in each one of us. Service is the expression of true charity. Chris and Bill will discuss the practical and spiritual benefits of volunteering. We will also honor the members of our congregation who have volunteered in many ways this past year to help our church function and connect with the larger world.

Parenting is Applied Spirituality
Rev. Bill Zelazny

On this Mother’s Day Sunday Bill will look at parenting with a focus on the spiritual aspect of this great calling and how we, whether we have children of not, can be spiritual parents to others.

Worship Services continued on page 2
Sunday, May 21
Choir Sunday!
“My favorite service of the year!” “I always feel so uplifted”. “So much joy and so much beautiful music!” These are just a few of the comments the Choir hears after each year after the Choir Sunday service.
Be sure to attend Church on May 21 when the Channing Choir presents its annual service of beautiful music and inspirational thoughts and readings. You will hear music from the Classics, the Romantics, Gospel, Broadway, Disney and the Beatles.
You’ll be glad you came!

FROM THE MINISTER
“To the person who does not know where he wants to go there is no favorable wind.”
— Seneca, philosopher
“Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become. Your Vision is the promise of what you shall one day be.”
— James Allen, author
May is an important month in the life of our congregation. It is the month during which we hold our annual meeting to approve our operating budget for the next church year. For the most part, the budget we approve gives the general direction for where and how we spend our money. The program and operating details are filled in by the board and committees. Now is a good time, then, for us to think and talk about what is our mission and vision for Channing Memorial for the coming year.
What do we want Channing Church to be? What are our aspirations as a liberal religious faith community? What should be our mission, that is, our reason d’etre? Is there more than just spending our resources to keep our doors open and take care of ourselves, or should that be our primary purpose? How do we want to be known in the community? If we asked the average Newport resident about who and what our church is would be happy with the answer? What would we like that answer to be and how do we get there?
Over the summer we will take a break from “doing church”, at least as intently as we have done the past nine months. During the past several months we have stabilized ourselves and there is a sense of renewal among us. YEA! And now it is okay to lie fallow to recharge. Then come fall, we’ll get going again.
But what shall we be and what shall we do when we return – what we’ve always done or shall we push ourselves into new endeavors and initiatives? Over the next few months talk, share ideas, listen.

~ Rev. Bill Zelazny

Religious Education Classes are offered most Sundays, and children and youth are always welcome to attend our services! Childcare for children 4 and younger is offered in our Parish Hall. See the RE Page 4 for more info.

MAY GREETERS
May 7: Susan VanDerhoof
May 14: Calvin Pierce
May 21: Marion Royer
May 28: Mary Benson

MAY CHIMERS
May 7: Linda Beall
May 14: Janna Pederson
May 21: Christine Ariel
May 28: Jim Freess
The COM, along with the Board, are continuing to learn more about what it means for a congregation to be in right relationship. Two workshops on this topic have been completed so far, with more to come.

**Goal 3: Identify our ministries and concentrate on how we can help them during the year. Help them define their job descriptions, encourage ministries to make their identities better known to the congregation.**

Committee members interviewed several committees so far: worship, religious education, music, social action, membership. Concerns and needs of these committees have merged with several of Rev. Bill's proposals for improvements. The COM is currently working on how to actualize some of these ideas. Examples are: along with TLC (The Learning Center), BYOT (Build Your Own Theology) and COA (Coming of Age) classes, offer spiritual development classes; hold online meetups; have different stations/activities at services; offer pre-service sessions to meet needs of those who want alternate services (like buddhists), offer pet blessings and loss support.

If you would like to contact the COM you can talk to any member of the committee, Barbara Coppola, Judie Porter, Sam Jernigan, Susan VanDerhoof, Sondra Gold or David Pedrick. You can also reach the committee by emailing us at committeeonministry@channinchurch.org.

~Barbara Coppola, Chair, COM
The students are learning about our 7 UU Principles through a story collection entitled “What If Nobody Forgave?”

Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. It is open to students grades 6 and up and provides socialization and friendship for Channing Youths, as well service projects chosen by the Youth.

Please consider attending our next RE Committee Meeting, typically the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at Channing House. All are welcome. Please see any member of the RE Committee for details (Susan Whitney, Barbara Russell-Willett, Sally Hanchett, and Kathy Takata).

- Susan Whitney
Religious Education Committee

**RE CALENDAR**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 7</td>
<td>RE Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 14</td>
<td>No RE Classes, Mother's Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, May 21</td>
<td>NO RE Classes, Choir Sunday</td>
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<td>Sunday, May 28</td>
<td>NO RE Classes, Memorial Day</td>
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CAREGIVING UPDATE

Thank you so much to Sally Hanchett and Barbara Nowicki, who took time from their already busy Channing schedules to serve as Caregiving coordinators in April!

To start with some cheerful news, we wish a joyful 90th birthday to Fred Caswell this month! May you look forward to many more years of making people smile, Fred (not to mention hugs!).

Congratulations to Aquinnah Thayer, who was part of the winning Portsmouth Middle School team at the recent Portsmouth Trivia Night sponsored by the town’s historical society. The event included four high school and two middle school teams. Aquinnah and the other winning team members received a framed copy of the 1638 Portsmouth Compact as well as gift certificates to local businesses.

Beth and Russ Milham will once again attend the UUA General Assembly in June, this year in New Orleans. Please let them know of any concerns or issues you would like them to address.

We send our condolences to Mike and Joanne Armenia and their family upon the death of George Kates’ home, 52 Catherine Street, on Saturday, June 10. Stop by anytime between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to enjoy pancakes, fruit, and fellowship!

Calling all volunteers! We are in dire need of coordinators for all of June and July. Please contact Nickie Kates or Barbara Russell-Willett if you can volunteer any time at all – even a week or two will help greatly!

Our Caregiving coordinators for May are Betsy Leerssen and Jamie Carlson from May 1-15, and Cynthia Skelton from May 16-31. Please call any of these individuals with any caregiving needs within our congregation.

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving
GREEN CORNER

Much to be grateful for around Earth Day

At this writing, we're two-thirds of the way through Channing Earth Month. It's been a gratifying journey. The first two events of our three-part environmental film series were well received, and we're grateful to TLC for its skillful, gracious organizing support for our program. And we're grateful to our new friend, Jon Dember, a musician with Farm Dog, who performed his powerful original song about fracking that perfectly complemented our movie, Groundswell Rising. And a big thank you to Sherrill Warch for contributing her special dessert, always a hit at Interweave, to that evening's offerings.

Again, at this writing, we were still anticipating our Earth Day service, with guest speaker Christine Muller, on the topic of Baha’i perspectives on the environment and Earth care, followed by brief Fellowship-hour presentations about The Teen Center, Greenlove Foundation and RI Interfaith Power & Light--all recent beneficiaries of Share the Plate. I'm sure we'll have many thanks to the participants in that program next month.

And we were also still looking forward to the March for Science on April 22 and the People's Climate Mobilization on April 29. Some of us were planning to attend the D.C. marches, and we're also grateful that there were sister marches scheduled for Boston and Providence, which made it possible for more of us to take part. More about that next month, too.

~Beth Milham, Chair, Green Cong. Committee
greencongregation@channingchurch.org

ECO-BITS & TIPS

Sustainability In Our Time

The word sustainability has taken on added meaning in the last 20 years, as more citizens of the developed world realize that humans can negatively impact not just local and statewide water and air quality, but also regional and global resources.

In the late 1960s, direct pressure from citizens, and from writers like Rachel Carson (Silent Spring), pressured a Republican President (Nixon) to establish the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA.) Its charge was to write and enforce clean air, water and refuse laws, because pollution does not stop at state boundaries. We're all familiar with EPA's "Energy Star," vehicle "Fuel Economy Standards," and safe drinking water standards, and with "Toxic Release Standards" that govern limits on poisons like mercury into the environment.

Interest in Social Action?

All are invited to join our Social Action Committee. We meet at 11:30am in the Channing House Library the second Sunday of the month, join us!
MAY
COMMUNITY MEAL
Monday, May 15
3:30-6:15pm, Parish Hall
Thanks to all who participated in our April Community Meal. Joan Dermody prepared a delicious meatloaf dinner which was enjoyed by all. We served about 55 meals! If you are interested in helping at future community meals please call Joy Benson to see what we might need.

MAY SHARE THE PLATE
Have you been introduced to Turning Around Ministries (TAM)? TAM assists persons re-entering life in Newport County after incarceration in Rhode Island’s Adult Correctional Institution (ACI). TAM provides help and guidance to ex-offenders as they work to create a new lives for themselves and their families. Like most people, ex-offenders need employment, education, housing, food, clothing, and a chance for social and personal development. Some are also struggling with substance abuse. All of their searches are made much more difficult by their status as former prisoners. TAM helps.

TAM is a young, growing organization, established in 2005. Word is spreading in the ex-offender community that TAM provides safe and effective services, and more people are contacting it for help. TAM provides direct services to the individual ex-offenders and to their family members. It also offers referrals to social services, client and family support groups, training on topics such as financial management, parenting skills, personal development, completing job applications, resume preparation, and interview skills.

For these reasons and for more, TAM has been selected to Share the Channing Plate during the month of May, 2017. Learn more about TAM at http://www.tamri.org and better understand why this Newport organization was chosen to receive Channing’s support.

Please be generous, as you always are.

~Submitted by Sheila McEntee
For the Social Action Committee

CHANNING MEMBERS & FRIENDS MAKE 2017/2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN A BIG SUCCESS!!

Thanks to the many Members and Friends of Channing Memorial Church who pledged so generously, we have raised over $150,000 in pledges, surpassing the pledge totals of the past two years. Also noteworthy is that a dozen people pledged this year who did not do so last year, and over half of all pledges are higher than last year.

The message is that Channing is doing something right, that people are feeling good about being a part of this very special community. It shows that Channing is healthy and growing, that people are responding positively to Rev. Bill Zelazny’s energy, enthusiasm and leadership, and that Channing plays an important role in our individual lives and in the life of our community.

The Stewardship Team extends sincere thanks to all who helped make this a successful couple of months.....those who pledged, those who hosted our four wonderful house parties, those who helped us reach out to congregants about pledging, and those who shared their enthusiasm as we all watched the pledge total grow. A big Thank You to all!!

~ Your Stewardship Team (Julie Herrick, Barb Nowicki, Mary Alice Smith, Rev. Bill Zelazny)

P.S. It’s never too late to pledge!! Contact Julie Herrick

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARKING FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Summer is busy in Newport! To make Sunday parking easier there are yellow maps available on the Sanctuary back table (next to the exit) showing parking spaces within walking distance of church. These spaces are available during the Sunday worship services only. Don’t forget to put your map on your dashboard where it is clearly visible to identify you as a Channing Parishioner. Please note that parking is no longer available behind the Savings Institute on Bellevue.

WOMENS’ WIT AND WISDOM - 3RD GROUP NOW FORMING.

A lively discussion and support group. Topics to be selected by consensus. Groups are Limited to 11 people. Must be able to commit to twice monthly evening meeting, rotating among members’ homes.

Contact Ginny Spaulding

100 QUESTIONS ABOUT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

A Discussion for People New to Channing Church

Sunday, May 7, 11:30am, Ladies’ Parlor in the Parish Hall

This is an informal introductory class designed for people new to Channing to get their questions answered about Unitarian Universalism and an orientation to Channing Church with members of Membership Committee and Rev. Bill. All questions are encouraged. Grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation in the Ladies’ Parlor, (the room with the large wood table off the main Parish Hall room)

THE LEARNING CENTER AT CHANNING

SEARCHING FOR SUSPECT TERRANES AT BEAVERTAIL POINT

With Prof. Robert M. Thorson
Professor of Geology at UConn; opinion journalist, and author of five books

Saturday, May 13, starting at 2:30 PM (Storm date May 21)

We’ll meet overlooking Beavertail Point on Conanicut Island (Jamestown), RI. There’s plenty of parking in nearby lots and along the road. Car pools are strongly encouraged. Wear sturdy shoes; binoculars, walking sticks, and insect repellent could be useful.

In addition to enjoying this spectacular setting with friends, we will explore clues in the seaside rock exposures that reveal a story you may not have heard before: that Rhode Island’s terra firma is anything but that. Instead, it’s what geologists call a "suspect terrane," a "refugee" of continental crust torn from its ancestral homeland, carried across the sea, and docked against North America. After several episodes of great stress, this immigrant settled down peacefully to call this land home. This rock-to-refugee metaphor vivifies both experiences.

Note: This trip is designed in concert with the Sunday church service of April 30, though either experience can be enjoyed solo.

Limit 20. $5 Registration fee. PLEASE REGISTER AT FELLOWSHIP, AND PROVIDE TELEPHONE AND EMAIL

THE REFUGEE SIDE OF IMMIGRATION

With Chas Lobdell
Political Officer at the U.S. Department of State

Wed., May 31, 6:30 PM; Newport Public Library (watch weekly emails and OOS for further details)

Chas and his wife Stacy have been attending Channing during this past year while he has been working at the Naval War College. Before they are reposted to South Africa, he has kindly provided us with this unique opportunity to learn about his experiences, and to gain some insights into this tragic and politically volatile issue.

Free and open to the public – come and bring a friend!