

Channing Memorial Church Newcomer's Guide

This guide serves as a handy reference for newcomers who'd like a brief review of material elsewhere on the website.

Sunday Services

Channing holds one service each week on Sunday mornings at 10:00. Our minister, the Rev. Bill Zelazny, conducts the services three Sundays each month from September through June. While our minister is off during the summer months, our services are lay led and encompass a wide range of guest speakers, Religious Education programs, and musical offerings.

Directions

Channing is located on Pelham Street near the intersection of Memorial Boulevard and Bellevue Avenue. From that large intersection, turn right, away from the mansions. The third street on the left, across from the Newport Art Museum, is Pelham Street. The church is directly across the street from the Old Stone Mill and the statue of William Ellery Channing in Touro Park.

Parking

Channing does not have a parking lot, but parking spaces on the street are occasionally open. You can park along Pelham Street or on the other side of Touro Park on Mill Street. You can also park along Bellevue in front of the Newport Art Museum or in the lot behind the Newport Federal Bank [*check this].

Special Needs

Persons in need of handicapped parking are welcome to park in the semi-circular driveway in front of Channing House, to the left of the Sanctuary. The Elks also allow us to use a few of their parking spaces for people requiring handicapped parking on Sunday mornings. If you are dropping someone off, you can pull into the driveway next to the Sanctuary and the ramp on the side of the building, and then proceed to park elsewhere.

Please be sure to let our Greeter know if you are in need of any special accommodations. We offer amplification headsets and large print Orders of Service.

Where Do I Go?

You may enter the church through the front door or use our handicapped ramp on the side of the building. Please be sure to introduce yourself to our Greeter inside the front door and let him or her know that it is your first visit, so they can assist you and answer any questions you may have. Our ushers will provide you with an Order of Service.

As our church was built in 1886, there are no rest room facilities in the Sanctuary. Those are in our Parish Hall directly behind the church. Our Parish Hall is also the location of the nursery and our Religious Education classes. Before the service begins you can usually find a pot of coffee there as well. Please feel free to help yourself.

Nursery

Children are always welcome in the church during Sunday services. If you need to leave the service with your child, you are welcome to go the nursery at any time.

From September to June, we offer nursery care for children from infancy to 3 years of age. Our nursery is staffed by an experienced, adult, paid childcare provider who has CPR training. Our paid staff member is assisted by a volunteer from our congregation. Everyone involved in childcare and the Religious Education program has undergone a background check. (Child care is not available in summer months.)

For your first visit please, if you can, arrive 20 minutes before the service to allow time to meet the care givers.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

On Sunday mornings during the regular church year we offer Religious Education (RE) classes for children ages 4 through high school. Children usually start with adults in the Sanctuary for the beginning of the regular service before going off to their classes. Please check with the Greeter at the door for details.

On the first time you bring your children, please try to arrive 20 minutes before the service begins, as with the nursery (above). Ask to be introduced to a member of the RE staff or committee member who can assist you with making introductions and to make sure your child is comfortable in the class before you leave.

Please visit the Family Ministry section of the website for full information about our programs.

What kind of religion is Unitarian Universalism?

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion with Jewish-Christian roots. It has no creed. Unitarian Universalists (UUs) share a set of core principles which affirm the worth of every human being, advocate freedom of belief and the search for advancing truth and the democratic process. We strive to provide a warm, open, supportive community for people of all faith traditions, life stories and beliefs. We welcome the LGBTQ community. If you would like to read more about our religion and its rich history, please visit the Unitarian Universalist Association web site and bookstore at www.uua.org. You are also welcome to attend our monthly introduction to UUism and Channing, *100 Questions*

about Unitarian Universalism, generally held on the first Sunday of each month. There is no charge and no need to sign up; just join us in the Ladies Parlor in the Parish Hall.

How are we governed?

Channing Church is a democratic community. The members determine the budget, call the minister, and elect officers, including the Board of Trustees which guides the business affairs, administration, and policy of the church. The church is funded in large part by the pledged contributions and fund-raising activities of the congregation. Those who are not members of Channing are always welcome to attend and participate in all congregational meetings, discussions and events. All meetings are open. Only members, however, may vote.

Want More Information?

Our monthly newsletter, *The Catalyst*, contains all the news, updates and announcements for the month ahead. If you would like to receive our newsletter, please contact the office at (401) 846-0643 or email us at office@channingchurch.org. You can also fill out a blue information card that can be found on the back of each pew and drop it in the collection basket on Sunday.

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