Web Channing Sundays
For the next several weeks we can anticipate the church being closed for regular Sunday service. However, for the duration. Rev. Bill will continue to provide an abbreviated service with a homily posted Sunday mornings on YouTube, please click here:

April 5: Looking at Jesus in the UU Tradition
This week begins Holy Week in the Christian calendar with its focus on the story of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, the last meal he and the disciples shared and his crucifixion. We UUs don’t talk about Jesus much, but Jesus is an important part of our U and U church history and his teachings are valuable to many UUs today. Bill’s homily will look at how Jesus fits into our heritage and in current times.

April 12: Easter and Transformation
You do not have to believe in the resurrection of the dead to appreciate the power of transformation that Easter symbolizes. Today, Bill will help us look at the message of transformation that is represented by the Easter story.

April 19: What are You Thinking?
Bill would like to provide a venue for members of Channing Church to share with each other our thoughts about the coronavirus. He invites you to send him, by Monday, April 13, your thoughts, reflections, poems about what you or society are experiencing in this time of living with coronavirus. Keep it relatively short. He will assemble your reflections and incorporate them into his homily this Sunday.

April 26: The Road Not Taken
Everyone has regrets, but we almost always think of our regrets as the mistakes that we think we’ve made. But, in truth, as the old adage says: it’s not the things you do in life that you regret, it’s the things you don’t do. Today Bill will reflect on the life issue of the road not taken and the question “are you going to change anything today or tomorrow?” when you think about life’s regrets.

A Virtual Time of Sharing
The Sunday Time of Sharing is an important element in our regular service for many people. Since we cannot do it in person, Rev. Bill suggests we do it virtually. If you would like to share a joy, sorrow, concern, gratitude write an email to Rev., Bill [minister@channingchurch.org] Friday afternoon. We will send them out via an email to the congregation the next week. Please be aware that your Sharing can potentially be seen by all those who are in the Channing email list. With this in mind, you can give your name, use first name or initials only or send a post without a name.

A Zoom “Coffee Break”
Zoom is an on-line video conference service. You will need to download Zoom to your computer (with either a built in or external camera), or you can download the mobile app to your phone. The free version can accommodate up to 20 people for a 40 minute conference. Rev. Bill is going to start using it to have a weekly “Coffee Break” session on Wednesdays, at 11:00am. He will add more if needed.

Email Rev. Bill if you are interested in joining one of the meetings at: minister@channingchurch.org he will need to know by Sunday if you want to participate.
MAKING YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING TO THE CHURCH

The Board, Rev. Bill, and staff are working to keep Channing Church operating, albeit in ways different than our normal activities. This also means that we need to consider how we can make our financial gifts that we usually put into the collection plate.

Even though the church is physically closed, we still have bills and salaries to pay and the Sunday offering is a significant portion of our budgeted revenue.

Please consider sending a check, preferably once a month, that would be equivalent to your typical Sunday offerings for the month. And, if you usually place your pledge check in the collection plate please now mail your check or set up an automatic payment through your bank. Mail your check to Channing Memorial Church, 135 Pelham St, Newport, 02840, with the memo “Collection” or “Pledge”

Another thing to think about - we typically use the 4th offertory collection of the month as our “Share the Plate” collection. If you wish to also support that program please make out a separate check with a memo “Share the Plate”.

The Board very much appreciates your willingness to join in creative solutions for maintaining our Channing connections and financial responsibilities.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to all who have taken the time to pledge for the 2020/2021 Church year. We will continue pledge activities and brainstorm other ways to make this process more streamlined and effective. So … thank you again for your thoughtfulness and cooperation.

To the right are a couple of pictures from our Pledge Kickoff Dinner on March 7th.

If you need a repeat pledge letter and form from email me at stewardship@channingchurch.org If you have questions and/or just need to email your pledge amount (you don’t need a form) please contact Julie Herrick at treasurer@channingchurch.org with your intended pledge amount. To mail pledge forms please send them to Julie Herrick, 401 Broadway Apt#1, Newport RI 02840.

Appreciatively,
Ginny Spaulding
Board Vice President, Pledge Drive Chairperson

DURING THE COVID 19 CLOSURE

Out of consideration for ourselves and for others who normally gather at Channing, the Board has reluctantly decided to close all our buildings until further notice. For everyone health and safety this means that for the time being no meetings, regardless of size, may be held in Channing House, Parish Hall or Sanctuary.

During this time Michele is in the office from 9-1 Monday-Friday, and may be contacted by phone (846-0643) or email (office@channingchurch.org) – please no visitors.

Be sure to have the church phone number (846-0643) next to or in your phone. Rev. Bill is available for pastoral care or just to talk during this time. Our voicemail will also be engaged in the event you need to leave a message. For urgent or private matters, Rev. Bill’s Cell Phone is: 401-339-0602.
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Certainly this past month has been one like no other in our lives in many ways. At the time of this writing, Sunday services and all church activities, like those in our communities, are cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus epidemic. However, we do want to emphasize that Caregiving volunteers are available to those who need help. If you are confined to your home and need any assistance with grocery shopping or other errands, please let us know! You may call Michele in the church office, Caregiving co-leaders JoAnn Rosemont, Sally Hanchett, and Lindsay Cassidy, or me if you need anything and we’ll find some help for you.

We are happy to hear that Kate Dempsey underwent a very successful cardiac procedure at Yale University Hospital in early March. She is staying in that area near family until her follow-up appointments are done.

It’s nice to have some good news to report. Congratulations to Isabel Burnham and her husband Sebastian, and first-time grandparents John Burnham and Rachel Balaban, on the birth of Zephyr Strong Candelaria, born on March 10!

Russ and Beth Milham and Sheryl Warch enjoyed a fun trip to Hawaii in February to visit with Milham family members. We’re glad you three got that in before the travel restrictions appeared!

Many thanks to Nan Heroux and JoAnn Rosemont, who served as Caregiving coordinators during March. The April coordinator from April 1-15 is Candy Martin. For the later part of the month, we’ll list a contact name later in the weekly announcements, or you can contact any of the co-leaders listed above with any caregiving needs within our congregation. We hope you and your families will stay safe and healthy during these difficult weeks – and please remember that our Channing community is here for you!

~Linda Beall,
for Channing Caregiving

MARCH INTO MAY PROTEIN DRIVE

Sunday, May 17th

The Margit Baum Committee had designated March 15th for our congregation to participate in the 2nd annual drive to collect nonperishable protein for the Florence Gray Center. Your donations will go into their food pantry to help provide food for the north end community.

Many of you have already collected items for this drive that didn’t happen. Please hold on to those item until our rescheduled event, which will (hopefully) be Sunday, May 17th. We do understand that this date might, or might not happen, given our uncertain future planning.

Last year we had an amazing amount of generous contributions. The Florence Gray Center was so excited to see how much we helped to boost their pantry supplies.

If it’s not May 17th, then we’ll push the date further forward. But it will happen! So please keep this in mind and collect some donations for us.

Suggestions for contributions include (but are not limited to) beans, canned stews, Spam, peanut butter, canned tuna, nuts, etc. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Margit Baum Committee (Sally Hanchett, Jo Freedman, Joy Benson, Judith Porter, or Susan Booth). Thank you in advance for your continued support of this event.

~Judith Porter,
For the Margit Baum Committee

KEEP TALKING TO CHANNING FRIENDS!

Now is a great time to pick up the phone and call a Channing friend or acquaintance. Michele in the church office (office@channigchurch.org) is happy to email you a current directory if you do not already have one!

NEWSLETTER

NEED A CATALYST MAILED TO YOU?

Do you usually grab a “paper” Catalyst at church? While the church is closed due to COVID 19 Michele in the office can snail mail you our monthly newsletter if needed. Just let her know at (office@channigchurch.org)
SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE
The month of March was our first real introduction to what the coronavirus crisis might be like in the months ahead! Our church services were canceled and the use of any of the facilities of Channing has been curtailed for the foreseeable future. We are in uncharted waters here in the “sailing capital of the world”!

Still most of us continue to “sail on” and do what we can to provide support to the people and causes we hold dear. Among the most important of these is the families whose livelihoods have been endangered by the closing of businesses and schools in Newport County. We will work with resources like the Margit Baum Fund, the Newport Partnership for Families and our own Share the Plate to reach out to these families in whatever way we can.

One program of the Social Action Committee (SAC) is our Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministries of RI. UULMRI identifies issues like gun violence prevention, climate crisis and human rights where legislation can be supported and the public engaged to bring awareness to these issues. Our UULMRI Annual Meeting, which was scheduled for April, was canceled and a virtual meeting is being explored to replace it in the near future. Right now the General Assembly is not meeting because of the COVID-19 crisis but we can still call or email our representatives to express our thoughts on these topics.

Another program, Share the Plate, which supports local organizations with our 4th Sunday of the month collection, has been affected by the closure of our Sunday services. If you wish to also support that program, please make out a separate check with a memo “Share the Plate” and mail it to the church office. It will be more important as the coronavirus brings additional hardships to our communities and we hope that you will answer the call as you always have!

And on a personal note, my daughter, my husband and I were quarantined for 14 days following our exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 on March 11 at Middletown High School. As I write this we are nearing the end of our quarantine and fortunately none of us has shown any symptoms of having the virus. This experience sure brings home the seriousness of the crisis and how important it is to follow the instructions of professionals who tell us to keep our social distance!

For now, keep the faith that we will get through this and, with luck, become a better world because of it! So, "sail on" with the wind at your back and the sun warming your face. See again at Channing when it is safe once more!

~Nan Heroux, Chair
Social Action Committee
socialaction@channingchurch.org

SOCIAL ACTION

PFLAG MONTHLY MEETINGS
PFLAG is suspending all in-person chapter meetings in both Providence (The Met School, Unity Building) and Newport (Channing Memorial Church, Parish Hall) until further notice. Even though they are not meeting in person, PFLAG Greater Providence leaders are available to provide you support. Please reach out to them as follows: Call our Help Line: (401) 307-1802
Email us: pflagprovidence@gmail.com
For urgent support, visit pflag.org/hotlines for an up-to-date list of emergency hotline numbers, available nationwide.

BORN THIS WAY PROM POSTPONED
It is with a heavy heart that Interweave at Channing Church must postpone the Born This Way Prom that was scheduled for April 24th. Updates are posted on https://www.facebook.com/InterweaveCMC

Some websites to help you learn more about the issues that are important to you: ecori.org; ricagv.org; rinow.org and upriseri.com. To check up on current legislation or to find the contact information of your legislators visit rilin.state.ri.us

And on a personal note, my daughter, my husband and I were quarantined for 14 days following our exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 on March 11 at Middletown High School. As I write this we are nearing the end of our quarantine and fortunately none of us has shown any symptoms of having the virus. This experience sure brings home the seriousness of the crisis and how important it is to follow the instructions of professionals who tell us to keep our social distance!
CHANNING CHURCH HELPING TO START FOOD CUPBOARD
The Margit Baum Committee has approved a $2,000 grant to the Newport Partnership for Families to help re-establish a food bank at St. Joseph Church in response to the dire needs Newport’s marginalized Hispanic members are experiencing during the Covid-19 crisis.

Conexión Latina is coordinating the project with the Newport Partnership serving as fiscal agent. Conexión Latina is a grassroots organization created to provide Hispanic residents with information and resources about local issues in their native language with sensitivity to their culture.

Food distribution is a major need in Newport at this time with many hourly workers being laid off. In the first week of the crisis, the Martin Luther King Community Center gave out $20,000 worth of food. MLK has been overwhelmed, so there is need for an additional food distribution center. PLEASE NOTE: MLK Food Pantry is not currently accepting non-perishable items. If you have the capacity to help at this time monetary donations are the best way to help.

The Baum Fund was established in 2000 through a bequest to Channing Church by Margit Baum to be used for the assistance, care and relief of poor and needy persons in the City of Newport.

The Newport Partnership for Families (NPFF) is a coordinated network of over 30 partners whose mission is to strengthen families and enhance the quality of life for all residents in the City of Newport. Channing became a member this year. If you would like more information about NPFF and its efforts during the crisis, visit the NPFF website at www.newportpartnership.org.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

PURLY GIRLS NEWS
The Purly Girls is a group of dedicated knitters who meet once a month to knit first and socialize second. Sometimes it’s the other way around. Our mission is to knit comfort or friendship shawls for those who are going through a difficult time, medically, emotionally or for any other reason. The shawls are a tangible way for us to say we care about you and you haven’t been forgotten. Shawls can also be given for a number of happy reasons as well such as marriages, new babies, new homes, etc.

So far it has been up to the committee to determine who might be in need of a shawl. Since we may not be aware of everyone’s needs and afraid we might miss someone The Girls have decided to dedicate a space where anyone can take a shawl and present it to someone they know is in need. A small quilt rack will be set up in the back of the church or in the Parish Hall, wherever we can find a space. If you know of someone you think would be comforted by one of our shawls or blankets please take it. There will also be gift bags and cards for you to use. A person does not need to be a member of Channing to benefit from our knitted gifts.

So, be sure to look for our display when church resumes. If you would like to join the Purly Girls (guys welcome too! Then we’d change our name to Purly People) please contact Susan VanDerhoof. Once we can, we will meet the first Saturday of the month in the Channing library.

BOOK RECEPTION RESCHEDULED
The Learning Center’s book reception for Channing author, Terry Gaspard, LICSW, has been tentatively rescheduled for Wed. May 6, at 7 PM, in the Parish Hall.

Local author and long-time Channing member Terry Gaspard, LICSW, will give a talk, answer questions, and sign copies of The Remarriage Manual: How to Make Everything Work Better the Second Time Around. People at all stages of committed relationships or marriage will be able to learn from Terry’s insightful program and book!

Wine and cheese will be served; a $5.00 donation is suggested to help defray costs.