Notice to Members of Channing Memorial Church
The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held
Wednesday, May 27, at 6:30pm, Via Zoom*
Voting will be done in the two days following by
email/mail.

The Annual Meeting booklet and voting details will
be sent to the congregation by email on Wednesday,
May 13. Printed copies will be available through
Michele in the church office at 846-0643 or
office@channingchurch.org

**Items to be Voted on:**
- Approval of the FY 2020-21 budget
- Election of Officers & Members of the
  Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs & Committee
  Members as required in By-Laws

Committee Chairs are reminded to submit their Annual
Report to the church office (office@channingchurch.org)
no later than Friday, May 8th!

*Zoom is an on-line video conference service. Prior to the meeting
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. Tutorials are available on their website and on
YouTube. If you are not experienced with Zoom there will
be two Zoom Practice Sessions, one on Monday, May 18 at
7:00pm, another Tuesday, May 19, at noon. Please email
Michele in the church office (office@channingchurch.org)
by 9:00am, May 18, and let her know which practice
session if you would like to attend.

Web Channing Sundays
We are unsure when we will be able to hold in-person services in the
sanctuary.

During the month of May, Rev Bill expects to continue our Channing Church Sunday Web Service posted each Sunday by 10:00am on Channing’s YouTube channel (click the icon above). If you “subscribe” you will receive notifications by email as new videos are posted. The 15-20 minute service includes a homily, chalice lighting, music, and meditation. Bill’s homily theme for the week is posted in our Friday email. Music is provided by Janet Grant and others. John Burnham provides the technical assistance. Rev. Bill invites you to send him suggestions for homilies, readings or meditations for the upcoming weeks.

**MAY CHIMERS**
May 3: Linda Beall
May 10: Jim Freess
May 17: Christine Ariel
May 24: Cynthia Skelton
May 31: Janna Pederson

Although we can’t gather at this time, the Channing Chimers continue to practice on Sunday mornings at 10:00am.

On Fridays at noon the Newport Historical Society is ringing the Colony House Bells to remind people we are in this challenging time together and to honor the sick and their loved ones, the first responders and our entire health care sector. Channing Memorial Church chimes with Jim Freess will be joining this joyous sound ringing over our community.
MINISTRY TOGETHER

MAKING YOUR SUNDAY OFFERING TO THE CHURCH

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”

We typically use the 4th offertory collection of the month as our “Share the Plate” collection (the May recipient is the Women’s Resource Center, more info on page 3) If you wish to also support that program please make out a separate check with a memo “Share the Plate”.

HELP REV. BILL CREATE SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH PICTURES!

Rev. Bill is looking for pictures to add into the video as background for the music. Send them as attachments to minister@channingchurch.org

1. Flower Communion/ Mother’s Day: For Sunday, May 10th, Rev. Bill would like to do a virtual flower communion. Send pictures of individual flowers or blooming shrubs, or your garden, present or past, that will be assembled into a virtual bouquet. Pictures are needed by Wed., May 6.

2. Anytime: Pictures of yourself or of gatherings at Channing Church showing our members and friends.

A VIRTUAL TIME OF SHARING

The Sunday Time of Sharing is an important element in our regular service for many people. If you would like to share a joy, sorrow, concern, gratitude write an email to Rev. Bill [minister@channingchurch.org ] by 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.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Happy Spring to everyone!!!

I hope all of you have been outside to see the beautiful flowers and trees. Now that the weather is nicer, even those who have not been taking walks will be out and about. So be careful out there. Wear your mask and keep your 6 feet distance!!

For the months of March and April, I sent out lessons to the Chalice Children’s families about WORKING FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD. That is the 6th Principle, and one that the children chose to work on for a short period of time. With their parents, I asked them to discuss, read, and do activities that relate to peace. The major emphasis was on peace, as in peace of mind. Examples of stories and activities were meditation sessions and living in a peaceful home or a peaceful community. The latter part was about world peace—who are some of the leaders and why we need to work towards it.

For April and May, we were planning to look at the 7th principle, CARE FOR THE EARTH EACH DAY, but since that was going to involve mostly hands-on activities, I am postponing that until September when we can hopefully get our hands dirty! I will be using lessons from Soul Matters to look at issues such as belonging, trusting, and continuing our journey as Unitarian Universalists.

Take care and stay safe.

~JoAnne Ritchie,
Family Ministry Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Many thanks to all who have taken the time to pledge for the 2020/2021 Church year. If you need to pledge (you don’t need a form) please email Ginny Spaulding at stewardship@channingchurch.org or Julie Herrick at treasurer@channingchurch.org with your intended pledge amount. Thank you!
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Caregiving leaders and volunteers have been working hard on keeping connections open with our faith community, even during this time when we have not been able to share in-person worship services and activities due to social distancing restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Many thanks to Sally Hanchett for sharing this update with me for the Catalyst:

“We have started our work of reaching out to all members and friends and are finding that people are adjusting to staying home and trying to make the best of it. Some are using Zoom to meet with family and others, including birthday and holiday celebrations. Some are using this opportunity to reach out to friends they have been thinking about. Some are working to declutter, to reorganize, or to complete projects they have been meaning to get to – including one member who is getting a lot of writing done. We have a lot of devoted readers who are finding the time to finally get through that book pile! Many continue to enjoy walks through our neighborhoods or our beautiful parks and other natural areas. A number have mentioned going to Touro Park on Sundays to hear the bells and touch base with friends from a distance. Everyone is thankful for our essential workers and medical personnel. People are concerned for those most at risk, with limited access to food or resources, and saddened for those who have lost family members.”

During May, please contact JoAnn Rosemont or Sally Hanchett for any caregiving needs among our Channing members and friends. We hope you and your families will continue to stay safe and healthy during these difficult weeks – and please remember that our community is here for you!

~Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving

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!

COMMUNITY MEAL

Our Community Meal has changed but it is still happening! In March, we took meals to McKinney shelter and tried to get the word to all of our clients that they could get a hot meal there. In April we offered bagged meals to the shelter and had bagged meals available outside at Channing. The shelter and the people in charge of all of the community meals were made aware of these changes. We will have to see what May brings.

~Joy Benson, Comm. Meal Coordinator

“SHARE THE PLATE”

The fourth Sunday of the month is “Share the Plate Sunday” when the offering is donated to the chosen recipient of the month. The May recipient is the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) in Newport, an organization working with our community to end domestic violence. The isolation and stress resulting from the pandemic may increase the risk and severity of abuse. The WRC remains a safe haven for support, assistance, shelter, and counseling services. They encourage all to stay alert and share WRC resources to neighbors in need. During this time, staff is working remotely. For assistance, you may contact them at 401-846-5263 or info@wrcnbc.org. Their 24-Hour Hotline is 1-800-494-8100. If you are in imminent danger, call 911.

If you wish to also support the May Share the Plate please make out a separate check with a memo “Share the Plate” to the church office, thank you!!

During this time of crisis, the Social Action Committee is dedicating all donations from our Share the Plate contributions for the next several months to Newport County organizations which provide critical services to those most impacted. Some of the many agencies will be highlighted in the coming months. All are deserving of our help. We deeply appreciate your continued support of this program!

~Nan Heroux, Social Action Comm. Chair
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 to join in the meetings. If you are not experienced with Zoom there are easy to follow tutorials are available on their website and (sometimes even better ones) on YouTube. Small Group Ministry and Women of Wit & Wisdom Groups are meeting this way (at each groups discretion), along with the Choir and the Board of Trustees. Please join in one of the open meetings below!

**Wednesday Coffee Break with Rev. Bill**

**Wednesdays, 11:00am, via Zoom**

Join Rev. Bill and other Channing friends for a weekly “Coffee Break” session on Wednesdays, at 11:00am. (We 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 noon on Tuesday if you want to participate.

**Great Guys Breakfast Group**

**Saturday, May 16, 8:45-9:30am, Via Zoom**

The Great Guys Group (the open Channing men’s group) will have a Zoom breakfast Saturday, May 16, from 8:45am- 9:30am. Stop in and chat. Make your breakfast, sit by your computer and talk with other Channing men. Contact Rev. Bill (minister@channingchurch.org) by Friday, May 15, to let him know you want to stop by so he can send you the Zoom URL.

**Circle of Concerns and Joys**

**Saturday, May 16, 9:00am, via Zoom**

“Circle of Concerns and Joys” is an opportunity to gather in an interactive, supportive setting to share joys and concerns. For the time being, we’re gathering virtually, via Zoom, rather than in person. Each session includes brief readings, sharing, shared silence, and candle-lighting, and lasts about an hour. All are welcome! Please contact Maryellen at least a few days beforehand if you’d like to participate, and she’ll send you the Zoom meeting information and readings. (maryellen7@cox.net or 845-0273.) Plan to sign in a few minutes early to get settled before we begin at 9:00.
Covid-19 and the Environment

I first want to apologize for not contributing my Eco-bits column to the Channing Newsletter last month. My excuse was that everything was happening so quickly for us as a family that week. Then, on Friday, March 20th, Terry and I, along with Catie who was already home from Spring Break at RPI, decided to drive to Brooklyn to move her belongings out of her Park Slope sublet, where she had been living until early March. In fact, I was asked to self-quarantine from one of my jobs for having been in Brooklyn for all of 80 minutes, just emptying her bedroom and refrigerator. Incidentally, we all wore latex gloves and N-95 masks the entire time there, did not stop anywhere, and encountered but two adults on the street that evening. And we didn't get back home until after 1 am on Saturday. Too much about us already, but a reminder of how quickly life and circumstances change.

News articles are now beginning to cover this pandemic, how it likely began, and what are the environmental repercussions, both short and long term. Danish Environmental Economist Inger Andersen, now Executive Director of the UN Environmental Program strongly believes that Covid-19 was made possible by close too contact between many humans and wild animals slaughtered for human consumption; in this case, in Wuhan, Chinas “wet markets”, that are now reopening. And as humans encroach on ever shrinking wildlife habitat, more of these outbreaks are likely. Medical epidemiologists and researchers agree with this assertion.

And this pressure will increase with an growing human population. With climate change and environmental destruction increasing, human encroachment for food and housing, and climate change rendering some territories less habitable, countries, surely must look to provide at minimum, strong guidance on planning and development, if not severe and enforceable restrictions.

Not surprisingly, one of the benefits of most of the industrialized world closing factories and dramatically curtailing transportation, smog in places like north India has subsided so much that the Himalayan Mountain’s snow caped peaks are visible from over a hundred miles away! Air pollution, including CO2 emissions, have dropped over 50% on an international scale, and wildlife in places like National Parks is more easily viewed to those lucky enough to have access.

While developed and developing nations are still responding to this major public health risk, and will continue to do so through the rest of this year (at least), most of the citizenry in the responding countries, from China and South Korea, to the US and most European, responded, to a great degree in a haphazard but systematic way. I hope we can learn from this, if our politicians couldn’t. Dealing with climate change will require 10 times the motivational commitment, and more of a resource commitment to turn the tide. But I am convinced it’s possible!

~Craig Gaspard, (solely responsible for the content of this article), for the Green Congregation Committee

WHAT IS SAGE?

SAGE Rhode Island’s goal is to provide outreach to isolated older members of the LGBTQ community and to empower older gay men and lesbians to take part in decision-making that affects their lives. The organization is dedicated to meeting the unique needs of the community by providing high quality programs, services and emotional support in a safe environment. To find out more, go to HTTPS://sage-ri.org/.

~Joy Benson for Interweave
UU THE VOTE 2020!

UU the Vote is a non-partisan faith initiative to engage our neighbors, educate our communities, mobilize voters, and rally around key ballot initiatives. All through 2020 the UUA is supporting congregations and UU organizations in activating thousands of Unitarian Universalists to mobilize for electoral justice at the local, state and national levels.

The stakes couldn’t be higher in the 2020 elections. Directly or indirectly, the issues so many of us care most deeply about—climate change, LGBTQ rights, immigration, racial justice and more—will be on the ballot in 2020.

Unitarian Universalists have a legacy of working to expand democracy and to shape a world in which all people are free and flourishing. From our work for marriage equality, women’s suffrage, the abolition of slavery, for civil and voting rights, to advocating for a path to citizenship for immigrants, to taking on the ‘New Jim Crow’ and white supremacy today.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

Our fifth principle:
The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

~Nan Heroux, Chair Social Action Committee

socialaction@channingchurch.org

MARCH FOR PROTEIN UPDATE

March for Protein, the non-perishable protein drive, has staggered to a standstill, unfortunately. This annual event, sponsored by the Margin Baum Committee, must now be postponed, probably until Fall.

When we have some normalcy in our lives again, we will, once again, promote this project for the Florence Gray Center. Stay tuned. Stay in touch. Stay healthy.

~Judith Porter
Margit Baum Committee

HELP KEEP HUNTING OUT OF SACHUEST POINT WILDLIFE REFUGE

The US Fish & Wildlife Service recently proposed a plan to allow limited hunting at Sachuest Point. Hunting would have a negative impact on other visitors to the refuge, disturb the tranquil environment and disrupt the habitat of resident and migratory bird species at the refuge. Because of its close proximity to the beaches, boat ramp, and camping grounds there are safety concerns about gun usage at the refuge. If you are opposed to this, please send an email to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at rhodeislandcomplex@fws.gov and sign the petition at: https://www.thepetitionsite.com/895/820/977/keep-hunting-out-of-sachuest-point-wildlife-refuge-%E2%80%93-sign-now/

There is a group of Sachuest volunteers looking for people interested in taking additional actions like contacting local rep’s, town administrators, writing letters to the editor, etc. If you want to help, contact Channing Member Katherine Carbone (katherine.carbone.arts@gmail.com) and she will forward your interest along to the organizers.

CHANNING COVID 19 CLOSURE UPDATE

All church buildings are closed until further notice. For everyone’s 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 our Office Administrator, Michele Dubuc, is available, and may be contacted by email (office@channingchurch.org) or phone (846-0643) – please no visitors. Office Hours (Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm) may vary during the month of May as Michele prepares for the Annual Meeting. 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. Contact Michele in the office for Rev. Bill’s cell phone if needed.