The Board of Channing Memorial Church received notification from Rev. Michael Crumpler, of the UUA, that our congregation has successfully completed the Five Practices of Welcome Renewal of our status as a Welcoming Congregation. Channing originally became a Welcoming Congregation in 2003. The Renewal program, recently developed, is intended to provide some guidance for worship and programs, and to create opportunities for institutional self-examination.

Two relevant worship services were noted in our application: Answering the Call, with Rev. Bill Zelazny as worship leader and Mary Benson, Beth Milham, and Sherill Warch sharing reflections on 6/9/19, and From There to Here with Rev. Lark d’Helen on 10/13/19.


As a Welcoming Module, TLC and Interweave presented a very well-attended panel discussion: Queer History of Rhode Island, featuring Brian Kovacs, Kate Monteiro, Rodney Davis, and Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Howard.

Our “Born this Way Prom” in 2019, and the generous donations that arose from that event, more than qualified for the requirement to “Support a Welcoming Project”

We are now eligible to use the logo above in our communications.

~Susan Kieronski,
For the Board of Trustees
SUMMER SERVICES

Our Sunday Web Services will continue through the summer. The service is posted each Sunday by 9:00am on Channing’s Facebook page and YouTube channel, and is available for viewing anytime afterwards.

Each service will include a chalice lighting, message/homily by a guest presenter, meditation time and closing. Music will be provided by Janet Grant and others. Technical support is provided by Jeff Thomas and John Burnham.

The summer guest presenters include Tom Beall, Ginny Spaulding, Rev. James Ford, Maryellen Doherty, Jeff Thomas, Tim Phelps. There will not be a CMC YouTube service September 6th (Labor Day weekend) Check the weekly email announcements for service details.

Fall services will start on September 13.

Click this logo to watch the Sunday worship on our YouTube page.

To like us on FaceBook Click here:

UPDATE ON PLANS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES AND MORE

The CMC Reopening Task Force, Board and minister have been in discussion about how Channing Church should proceed in the next several months to provide services and programming within the Covid-19 environment. This is what has been decided so far.

Sunday Services. For the summer, services will continue to be pre-recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook. Virtual services will continue into the fall. The fall format is still being discussed – pre-recorded post or Zoom/Facebook Live broadcast with later posting. The decision on how long we will do virtual services will be reassessed as conditions change, but it should be assumed we will have virtual church through the fall at least.

Fellowship. Plans are being made to start a Sunday morning Zoom fellowship event, which will be open to all CMC members and friends. More information to come soon in the weekly announcements.

Sunday Chiming. Chiming will continue through the summer at 10:00 a.m. followed by informal conversation with social distancing practiced by attendees.

Other Programming. Plans are starting to be made for virtual TLC programming in the Fall.

Church Office. The church office hours are reduced in the summer months. During July and August he office hours will be Thursday & Friday, 9-1pm, and will be closed July 13-24. The weekly announcements will continue through the break and Michele will be coming in periodically to check the phone messages and urgent emails.

A survey is being sent to all CMC members and friends to solicit opinions about worship services and programming. The information gathered by the survey will help the minister, Reopening Task Force, Board and committee consider options for the fall. The Reopening Task Force is hoping for a good response.

~Rev. Bill Zelazny

MINISTER ON R & R

Rev. Bill we be on vacation and study leave from July 1 to August 17. In the event of an emergency he can be contacted through the church office at (401) 846-0643.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As the newly elected President of Channing’s Board I have thought a lot about where the Church has been since I became a member in 2009 and where we will go as we face the challenges of a global pandemic and country in conflict. The world as we have known it for the past forty years seems to have changed virtually overnight. If we take a much longer view, however, we can clearly see that the result of treating the interconnected web of life with disrespect, denial and lack of dignity for all creatures of the Universe, has brought us to this pivotal point in history. Whether we lament our lot today or forge into the future with renewed resolve to make things better, is clearly within our scope of action. I see the people of Channing, armed with the 7 UU Principles, as agents for change. We can use our creativity, ingenuity, commitment, and dedication to justice for all creatures in our universe as significant tools to correct inequities, enhance the environment, and in general help to restore Balance to the Force! (OK so I’m a Star Wars freak!)

In the coming year, when we face personal and collective challenges, I invite us all to be guided by our most valued principles and adapt as best we can to the ever-changing landscape of Covid-19 and political and economic unrest.

We can use what we are learning to make Channing a beacon for adaptation and growth in our community as well as to a larger world through our virtual connections.

I vow to keep all members and friends of the Church informed and request that you bring your time, talents, treasure and ties to bear on the very important life of our Church community. My ears will always be open to your thoughts and wishes and I look forward to an amazing ride as we meet the challenges of our collective future.

Thank you for your trust and faith in me … I cherish and honor the post to which I am assigned as your President.

Peace, best wishes and stay safe and well.

~Ginny Spaulding, Channing President

THINGS WHITE PEOPLE CAN DO FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
PART 1

The racial justice issues facing this country are huge. It seems that most of what is being done is demonstration and marches. But what if you want to do something concrete? Here are some ideas from the Good Men Project:

Find of whether your city or town currently employs evidence-based police de-escalation trainings. If it does not, then write the mayor, city manager/administrator, council and police chief and advocate for it. Multiply your voice by soliciting others to advocate as well.

Stories of black people encountering racism in stores, restaurants and with the police are being documented and shared through social media. When you see such a post, call the organization, company, or institution involved to tell them how upset you are. Share the post along with the institution’s contact information to spread the word about what happened and encouraging others to contact the institution as well.

Donate to anti-white supremacy work such as your local Black Lives Matter Chapter, the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Many thanks to Tom Goff (Signs by Goff), for creating, and Sam Jernigan, for installing, the new “Black Lives Matter” sign in our Wayside Pulpit!

Continued on next page
Girls, the NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center, United Negro College Fund, Black Youth Project 100, Color of Change, The Sentencing Project, Families against Mandatory Minimums, A New Way of Life, Equal Justice Initiative.

Don’t buy from companies that use prison labor. More information at https://returntonow.net/2016/06/13/prison-labor-is-the-new-american-slavery/

Join, or form a local “white space” group to talk out with our friends and neighbors the conscious and unconscious biases us white folks have.

[We could form one at Channing]

Read The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander.

[Available through the UUA Book Store – uua.org/bookstore]

Don’t be silent about a racist joke.

More ideas next month. Check out the new Black Lives Matter wayside pulpit sign.

~ Rev. Bill Zelazny

**CAREGIVING UPDATE**

The summer of this strange year 2020 has arrived, and while we are still not able to gather in church on Sunday mornings, Channing members are keeping in touch with each other and enjoying Rev. Bill’s YouTube services weekly. Thank you to Sally Hanchett and Betsy Dees, who stayed on top of all Caregiving news during June.

Congratulations and best wishes to our favorite storyteller Piper Padilla, who just retired after many years of teaching at Pennfield School! Her kindness and enthusiasm touched the lives of so many children over the years, and she was honored with a special school online program on June 15. Piper is also preparing for hip replacement surgery at the end of June, so Piper, we all wish you the very best for a rapid recovery.

Jim Freess had knee surgery recently and is doing well with his recuperation. He is working on getting back up into the belfry so he can resume Sunday morning chiming!

Congratulations to Olivia Banister and Julia Forster, who graduated in the top 10 of the senior class at Middletown High School! Julia is Nickie and George Kates’ granddaughter – she will attend Skidmore College next year to study English. Olivia will attend Northeastern and will spend the first semester abroad in London.

Happy birthday to Jake Smith, who celebrated his 85th during June!

Best wishes to Sophia Wittekind, who is recovering from tonsil/adenoid removal surgery. We also hope for a continued good recovery to Bill Campion, who had surgery earlier this spring.

Our condolences go out to Sandra Hammel, whose mother, Evelyn Viola Mickey Hammel, passed away on April 4th. Sandra was unable to travel to the service since it was held out of state, but she recorded a beautiful YouTube tribute to share with her family.

We’re very happy to hear that Ashley Hendrix has finished her tour of duty in Qatar and has rejoined Anna here in Newport. They plan to relocate in early July.

While businesses, restaurants, and other public places have been reopening over the past two months, and stay-at-home orders have been discontinued, we know there are still those at risk for contracting the Covid-19 virus who are remaining mostly at home for a while yet. Please remember that if we can be of help to you or any of our other Channing members or friends, help is just a phone call away.

During July, our Caregiving coordinators are Joy Benson and Kathy Takata. In August, please contact Barbara Russell-Willett or Lindsay Cassidy.

Hope you all enjoy your summer, and please continue to stay safe and well!

~ Linda Beall, for Channing Caregiving
SHARE THE PLATE
The fourth Sunday of the month is “Share the Plate Sunday” when the offering is donated to a recipient chosen by the Social Action Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees. During the Covid 19 pandemic we are dedicating Share the Plate contributions to Newport County organizations that provide critical services to those most impacted. We deeply appreciate your continued support of this program!

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

~Nan Heroux, For the Social Action Comm.

FOSTER PARENTING THROUGH THE GRODEN NETWORK
Interested in learning more about the Groden Network Program and becoming a licensed foster parent? Want to make a difference in the life of a child?

The Groden Network of Programs in Providence’s mission is to support children and adults with autism, and other developmental disabilities and behavioral challenges to lead productive, dignified and satisfying lives by:

• Providing the most effective educational, therapeutic, and other habilitative services;
• Advancing knowledge and best practices through research, education and training;
• Involving, educating, and supporting families in caring and advocating for their children.

The Groden Network of Programs in Providence is currently focusing outreach efforts on creating community partnerships that would lead to increased awareness and the recruitment of therapeutic foster care parents for their Treatment Foster Care program. If interested in finding out more, please contact Danna Spencer at dspencer@grodencenter.org or 401.274.6310, ext 1429. To learn more about The Groden Network, check out their website at https://grodennetwork.org/groden-center-inc/.

HEALTHY SOILS HEALTHY SEAS RI
There is a great option available now to help us to be more green! Healthy Soils Healthy Seas Rhode Island is a project run by Clean Ocean Access, with a grant from 11th Hour racing. Their goal is to clean and protect ocean health by educating the community to make environmentally responsible behaviors. Specifically this project empowers businesses and households to efficiently compost food scraps and divert compostable items from the land fill. There is even a grant to fund a portion of the cost. You sign up for a years subscription, they provide a bucket and provide curbside pickup every other week. Wow. Even if you garden compost, you can use them to dispose of those items that take so long to break down. You can go to the Clean Ocean Access website or click this link: https://www.cleanoceanaccess.org/hshsri/

~Sally Hanchett, For the Green Cong. Committee

CIRCLE OF CONCERNS AND JOYS
Saturday, July 18 and August 15, 9:00am, 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 Doherty at least a few days beforehand if you’d like to participate, and she’ll send you the Zoom meeting information and readings. Plan to sign in a few minutes early to get settled before we begin at 9:00.

~Sally Hanchett, For the Green Cong. Committee