SUNDAY WORSHIP
AT 10:00AM IN THE
CHURCH SANCTUARY
Services are livestreamed on
the CHANNING YOUTUBE
CHANNEL and available for
viewing afterwards.

Sunday, February 4
Giving
Presented by Margaret Polski
Giving can be defined as giving
from the heart without any
expectation of something in
return. But giving is an art that
encompasses and uses all parts
of ourselves including our head,
our heart and hands to make a
positive difference in our world.
What are the ways we give to
each other in our congregation
and what does giving mean to
us?

Sunday, February 11
Power and
Rightness of Self
Love
Rev. Bill Zelazny
When people talk
about Valentine’s Day our minds
go to the love between people.
But the love celebrated on
Valentine’s Day can also be the
love of oneself. American
author, Parker Palmer, has said
“Self-care (and self-love) is
never a selfish act... Anytime we
can listen to our true self and
give it the care it requires, we
do so not only for ourselves,
but for the many others whose
lives we touch.” On this Sunday
before Valentine’s Day Bill will
help us explore the idea of the
power of self-love.

FROM THE LEARNING CENTER
Guardians of Liberty:
The 1st Rhode Island Regiment
Wednesday, February 28, 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary
The 1st Rhode Island Regiment, which fought
valiantly at the Battle of Rhode Island in
Portsmouth in August of 1778 during the
American Revolution, included several companies
of former slaves who were granted their freedom
in return for a lengthy enlistment. The “1st Rhode
Island” repeatedly repelled attacks by Hessian and
British soldiers, allowing the American Army
under General John Sullivan to retreat from the
island and fight another day.

Sponsored by TLC, RISHM, the Battle of Rhode Island
Association, and the Middle Passage & Port Markers Project.
Rhode Island Historian Robert A. Geake, author of fifteen books on
Rhode Island and New England history, including “From Slaves to Soldiers:
The First Rhode Island Regiment in the American Revolution”, will be the
speaker. He will be introduced by Charles Roberts, executive director of
the Rhode Island Slave History Medallion project, another sponsor of the
event along with the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

A Community Event to Tackle HIV/AIDS Stigma & Spread Awareness
Friday, March 1, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
A play reading and panel discussion
focused on AIDS/HIV education. The play,
titled "262 Stones," was written by Channing
member Gayle Hanrahan. The story takes place in 1981, when
the "gay plague" first appeared. A young man is dying alone in a
hospital room when a visit from a stranger changes everything.

Continued on page 3
MINISTRY TOGETHER

Food Collection

The 2nd Sunday of the month (February 11) is our nonperishable foods collection for local food banks.

Sunday, February 18
Love and Music
Jan Navarro, Bill Zelazny & Guests
Music and love have always shared a powerful connection. Music can illustrate emotions and connect us with past, present and future like few other things. Composers, throughout the ages, have used music to express feelings of love, sorrow, joy and distress. This Sunday we will explore the dimensions of love through music and poetry.

Sunday, February 25
Cancel Culture: A Useful or a Toxic Tool?
Rev. Bill Zelazny
The term “cancel culture” is thrown around by politicians and influencers. Initially used within Black culture it soon spread to the general society. But what is cancel culture? Is it a negative, personal attack used to destroy a person, business or institution, or it is a tool in democracy to hold people and institutions accountable? This service will look at this cultural phenomenon to help us understand its origin, use and impact.

PARKING FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Channing Members may park in the Elks’ parking lot from 9:00am-12:00pm on Sunday mornings while attending Sunday Services. Please place the bright orange parking permit on your dashboard where it is clearly visible. Permits are located on the table to the right as you enter the church. Please do not park in the spaces along the fence that are marked for the B & B Inns down the street.

SUNDAY CHIMING
February 4: Janna Pederson
February 11: Jim Freess
February 18: Linda Beall
February 25: Jim Freess

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP
Fellowship is offered every Sunday morning after church. Many thanks to Sam Jernigan for making delicious coffee every Sunday, which takes a lot of pressure off the Fellowship team! We invite you to bring snacks and/or offer to man the kitchen. There is a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall.

SHARE THE PLATE
The 4th Sunday of the month is “Share the Plate Sunday” when all cash and checks with a memo “Share the Plate” or “STP” collected during the offering are donated to a nonprofit organization chosen by the Social Action Team and approved by the Board of Trustees.

February donations will go to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund. The Disaster Relief Fund is in place to help channel donations from individuals and congregations to UU congregations to help them in the wake of disasters, and for them to also be able to support their local community’s recovery, particularly those most affected and unable to access other funding sources.

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Greetings all,

My message this month is very short and sweet. This is February, the main month of the winter season where the weather is atrocious, unless you are a skier, and those who have not abandoned us for warmer climes, are just trying to shake off the winter hibernation tendencies and keep our fingers and toes toasty!!

So, in passing, I wish each of you a wonderful month. Keep the faith and stay as healthy as possible so as winter moves through and the temperature begins to rise, we can all begin our creep to the outdoors once again looking for those little purple and white flower reminders that Spring is near at hand.

May you all be healthy, happy, safe, and live with as much ease as is possible!

Peace and prosperity to all,
Ginny

CHECK WRITING/REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Please submit paperwork for reimbursements to the church office by the 15th or 30th of the month. Checks will be written following receipt of the completed forms shortly after those dates. Reimbursement forms can be picked up or sent by e-mail from Michele in the Church Office. Any other checks by special request (i.e. musicians, contractors, etc.) will be written as needed by people the Finance Committee has designated.

TLC Continued: from page 1:

The panel discussion that follows will focus on the current state of HIV/AIDS diagnosis and treatment. Speakers are David Martins, AIDS Project RI and Stephen Hogan, AIDS CARE Ocean State. Q&A will follow. Rodney Davis from the United Way and Pride RI will be moderator for the evening.

$10 suggested donation.

For more information contact Gayle Hanrahan/playwright at 401 556 5301 or hanrahangayle@gmail.com
Gayle’s website: https://www.gaylehanrahancoaching.com

OFFICE HOURS

Church Office Hours!

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10:00am-2:30pm

PFLAG SUPPORT MEETINGS

The Second Monday of each month in the Parish Hall, 6:45-8:15pm

Contact Doreen LePage for more info at pflag@channingchurch.org

As always, discussion is confidential.

There is no charge to attend, resources are available and refreshments are served.

PFLAG is a national organization that offers resources, education and support to the LGBTQIA+ community in addition to their family, friends, and allies.

INTERWEAVE MONTHLY POTLUCKS

The Third Sunday of each month, 5:30pm, Parish Hall
All are welcome to join our monthly LGBTQIA+ potluck, followed by a short meeting.
CAREGIVING UPDATE

Hope you all have been enjoying a content and healthy new year thus far, keeping warm during our recent cold snaps (like the one we’re in as I type this). Sincere thanks go out to Diane Bonds and Barbara Richter, who served as Caregiving coordinators for January. They reported that they didn’t have any new items for this month’s column, but as always, they are keeping in touch with those in our congregation who are homebound or recovering from long-term illnesses or surgeries.

Please remember that the Channing Caregiving team is always available to offer support to anyone who is feeling isolated, coping with an illness, or just needs a bit of cheer. If you know of anyone who could use a friendly phone call, a meal offering, a ride to an appointment, or some other assistance, we welcome hearing from you. The February coordinators are Rachel Balaban and John Burnham.

Please contact either of these individuals, or Caregiving co-leaders Sally Hanchett and JoAnn Rosemont, with any Caregiving news or needs.

~Linda Beall for Channing Caregiving

COMMUNITY MEAL

Channing Church is part of the network that provides a meal for needy people every day of the month. We serve from 20 to 30 people on the third Monday of every month, at 5:00pm in the Parish Hall. Joan Dermody continues to cook each month so we’re able to provide a nutritious homemade meal. We have a faithful group of volunteers but could always use a few more. Contact Joy Benson to volunteer at communitymeal@channingchurch.org

~Joy Benson, Community Meal Manager

DIAPERS DIAPERS DIAPERS!

The Sharing locker collects toiletries and cleaning supplies that are distributed through local food pantries to those struggling to afford them. One big expense for young families is the cost of diapers. On our recent visit to the food pantry at MLK we noticed this was a much needed resource. For February we are asking for donations of diapers. Larger sizes are especially appreciated.

HOLIDAY GIVING AT WORK

The Social Action Team (SAT) would like to thank everyone who contributed to our holiday support for two families and kids and families through Jeanne’s closet at Rogers high school. Jeanne appreciated the support as they provided assistance to over 120 families.

Our community meal guests and the men at McKinney shelter were also very grateful to receive our gifts of toiletries and warm socks, hats and gloves.

Our regifting sale raised over $700 to be used for environmentally safer products for church use. We distributed some leftovers to our community meal guests and some were tucked away for the church yard sale in June.

~Sally Hanchett for SAT

CIRCLE OF CONCERNS & JOYS

Third Saturday of each month, 9:00am via Zoom

Join us for an opportunity to gather in an interactive, supportive setting to share joys and concerns. Each session includes brief readings, sharing, shared silence, and candle-lighting, and lasts about an hour. All are welcome! Please email Maryellen Doherty at ConcernsAndJoys@channingchurch.org if you’d like to participate, and she’ll send you the Zoom meeting information and readings.
SOCIAL ACTION TEAM

ECO BITS & TIPS

Climate Migration: What to do

Migration from one country to another has happened for centuries. The United States is “exhibit A” with Europeans (mostly voluntarily) and Africans (all involuntarily) coming under different circumstances. Religious persecution, “opportunity”, and leaving war-torn and famine impacted countries have been the most common reasons to leave a home country behind. Last month, I drew attention to environmental stresses as being a growing reason for immigration. Perhaps it’s better to call this displacement.

The difference between migration or immigration and displacement revolves around these causes and whether a person or family’s decision to move is forced on them: wars and natural disasters force humans to move from their home. And while earthquakes (Turkey and elsewhere) and floods (Pakistan and elsewhere) get much media notice, droughts leading to food insecurity garner much less attention.

The signs of environmental stresses and ecosystem breakdown are everywhere. The Central American drought that has severely curtailed Panama Canal freighter traffic has also impacted farmers throughout the region. A 2019 Scientific American article “Fifth Straight Year of Central American Drought Helping Drive Migration” cited a UN World Food Program study that drought has lead to 1.4 m people, mostly families, being at high risk for famine due to subsistence farmers being unable to grow enough food to feed their families. The combination of long-term drought and also devastating flooding when it does rain, are signs of human caused climate change.

A more recent 2022 article by the apolitical US Institute of “Peace entitled How Climate Change Catalyzes More Migration in Central America” makes many of the same points as the prior article, but adds that due to violent crime in the northern four countries, farmers are unable to internally migrate for fear of their lives. Crop failures for corn, beans and rice, staples of most Central Americans, along with destruction from devastating hurricanes Eta and iota that struck in 2020 caused added displacement migration pressures. It is so severe (and has been so for such a long time) that the World Food Program www.wfpuse.org/countries/dry-corridor has a information and donation section encouraging information sharing and support.

A New York Times article from 10 days ago reports that one quarter of all of Humanity, which would equate to Over 2 Billion people are now, at this moment in time, being impacted by drought. The surge in emigration from Central America to the US and from North and Central Africa toward southern Europe are likely to continue to grow as the effects of Climate Change worsen. In addition to our carbon intensive lifestyle that contributes to these effects, a decreasing foreign aid investment south of our borders has also likely contributed to political instability. Inadequate adaptation strategies such as lack of drought resistant plant seed, increasing crime and local corruption contribute to the situation.

Erecting a wall along our southern border is NOT a long-term solution as devotees of “the former guy” would have us believe. Instead of long-term food aid commitments however, which can help during crises, making resources available to small farmers on adaptation strategies, prioritizing personal safety and women’s health throughout the region are critical. The wealthy and middle income earners making a personal commitment to getting to a low or no carbon lifestyle could help immensely. To quote Eldridge Cleaver, “If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.” In future Ecobits, I want to explore more detailed solutions for problems created by a warming climate in future articles.

~By Craig Gaspard
ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROUND ROBIN DINNERS
Food, Fun, & Friendship!

Save these dates:
Saturday(s) February 17, March 16, and April 20

This winter Channing will be sponsoring 3 rounds of potluck dinners in people’s homes. We hope you will join in. Here is how it works:
1. **Sign up! We want to get to know you.**
2. Please consider hosting a dinner. The host doesn’t cook. Instead the host provides the setting, the set up and beverages. The host determines the number of guests that will fit comfortably at their dinner.
3. Each guest will be assigned each month to a host and to a part of the dinner. If you sign up as a single, 1 dish. If you sign up as a couple, 2 dishes. Or, for non-cooks, you can bring bread, a bakery dessert or help with beverages.
4. Multiple dinners will be going on at the same time in different homes each month. The following month everything will be changed up: new hosts, new dinner partners, new dishes.
5. Let us know if you need a ride, can host, or if you have any food requests (such as vegan, vegetarian, food allergies, etc).

**Sign up in the Parish Hall on Sundays in January or contact Sondra Gold at Dinners@channingchurch.org**

GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARDS

Our intrepid Channing postcard writers are back in business! We’ll be writing postcards to voters in swing states all year, to help keep our elections fair and competitive.

Our first campaign is to New York voters in the special election to fill the seat vacated by disgraced ex-Rep. George Santos. This year we’re coordinating with local political activists Catherine Hillary and Channing’s own Mary Alice Smith to access postcards and voter lists. So far, ten of us have signed on, and we welcome everyone looking for a way to help during an election year that is critical to preserving American democracy. **Interested? Contact Beth Milham at sacbeth@channingchurch.org**

OPEN-MIC MUSIC AT CHANNING’S COFFEEHOUSE

Sat., February 24, 7:00pm, in the Parish Hall

Join us for our 2nd open-mic coffeehouse of 2024! You’re invited for a night of covers, originals and singalongs with Channing members and friends. Coffee and tea are served, and you’re welcome to bring a dessert to share or a donation ($5 or more suggested) to support the church.

**Want to join the lineup? Contact facilitator John Burnham in advance!**

Email: coffeehouse@channingchurch.org

WINTER STORM UPDATES/CLOSINGS

In the case of extremely bad weather Sunday Worship Service may be cancelled. A cancellation decision will usually be made by late Saturday afternoon (7AM on Sunday morning at the latest). If service is cancelled an email will be sent out and it will be conveyed to media outlets, TV Channels 10 & 12, and radio stations WJAR, WHJj, WPRI, WWBB, and WSNE. You can check the website: ribroadcasters.com for church and other closings, as well as parking bans. The church phone message will also contain information if the worship service is cancelled: 401-846-0643.

Even if the service is not canceled, congregation members should make the decision to travel and find parking that is best for them and their mobility and health condition. We cannot guarantee that all walkways on the church property will be free of ice/snow.