

Dear Channing Members and Friends,

What a blessed six years we have had together! We have grown spiritually and expanded our intellect. We have celebrated, lamented, and mourned as a beloved community, holding one another through the joys and sorrows inherent in this finite life. It is now time for me to take a sabbatical.

It is a great, humble honor to minister to you. And, it is time to take an intentional pause so I can settle in a sacred time of rest; a time of sabbath. Unitarian Universalist ministers take sabbatical leave every four to seven years, and we have reached this milestone together. Ministering is a sacred blessing just as it is deeply demanding. This time away not only feeds my spirit, but allows me to better serve each and every one of you upon my return. I hope to offer new insight as well as a deeper presence.

My sabbatical will last four months, from February 3 to June 2, 2025. I will return for a two week period in June where I hope to follow up with each of you to hear your joys and struggles, as well as lead a worship service. I will then attend General Assembly, followed by a second pause as I step away for my summer leave.

You will be in good hands while I am gone for sabbatical. We are hiring an Anchor Minister who will lead worship once a month, guide us through Sundays After, and be available for pastoral care needs. I will still be available for true emergencies. We will also welcome guest ministers, a great gift of the church that will allow you to engage with a wide array of theologies and insights. Our cherished Liturgy Team will lead services as will.

I am excited for what this time can offer all of you. Worship services led by an array of ministers will bless all of you as you hear a wealth of different voices, insights, theologies and passions. It is also a time where lay leadership can continue to blossom, thrive, and deepen. What beloved community can you foster and tend to during my time away? This is an opportunity of growth and renewal for all of you as a church as well as for me.

A wise colleague once told me, reflecting on the life of a parish minister, "If you give them all of you, you can't give them the best of you." It is my intention to give you the best of me. I will graciously use my sabbatical to partake in Buddhist meditations and teachings, to spend time with family, to cultivate hobbies, to practice self care, to explore theology and world religions, and to deepen my faith. I will also spend a month as a student at a Quaker retreat center. This is a true blessing and a stretch of sacred

time that I will not take for granted. Thank you for these past six years!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

**\*\*I would love to meet with you before my time away! If you would like to share joys, sorrows, or simply engage in conversation, please let me know, and we will schedule a time to meet.\*\***

With love,  
Rev. Jane