



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 07 | July 2023

“General Synod 34”



Image Description: Logo for the 34th General Synod in Indianapolis, IN—a golden orange and yellow sun rising over waves of green and blue. The theme, “Making All Things New” from Isaiah 43, is on the left side in blue.

June 30-July 4 I will be attending General Synod in Indianapolis as a delegate for the Central Atlantic Conference. This will be my 8th Synod, my first as an active delegate. Each delegate is randomly assigned to a committee for one of the many resolutions coming before the synod. This year there are 15 resolutions of witness. There are also two prudential resolutions, that is, resolutions regarding policy, structure, and procedure. All of the resolutions can be found here. <https://generalsynod.org/propose-d-resolutions>.

I have been assigned to work on two resolutions with similar content proposed by two conferences, Florida and New Hampshire, entitled, “Free from Plastic Pollution.” I

preached on plastic pollution at Craigville Colloquy a few years ago, which can be found here: <https://irrevrent.blogspot.com/2019/07/love-and-science.html>.

This will be a historic Synod in that we will be electing our first female General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. There is also a proposal to change the bylaws of the UCC regarding the frequency of General Synod from every two years to every three years. Synod is always an expensive proposal, from the conference hosting the event, to the delegates and attendees, and to the national staff. Even if General Synod were to be completely online, it would not lessen the cost to the national staff budget and there would be the loss of in-person connections.

That is one of the main reasons I love going to Synod. I get to see friends from seminary, people I’ve worked with in Massachusetts, Ohio, and Connecticut, and the opportunity to remember once again that I am part of something a great deal larger than myself and our corner of Delaware.

There will be a prayer walk, in support of those harmed by anti-

trans legislation, from the convention center to the capitol grounds on July 1, the day that a gender-affirming care ban would’ve gone into effect in Indiana but is now blocked.

Anything you want to know about General Synod can be found at the following link: <https://generalsynod.org/>. If you want to watch the live-stream, it can be found here: <https://www.ucc.org/gs-livestream/>.

I’ll be taking all of you with me as well as those period packs you put together. I’ll be wearing my New Ark UCC T-shirt at least one day while I’m there, as well as many other T-shirts with messages on them that I’ve worn in worship. I’m proud to be part of a church and a denomination that disrupts its life for the sake of the vulnerable and marginalized in the cause of justice and love.

Love each other,
Share with each other,
Check on each other,

Cynthia

NEW ARK UCC

A Just Peace, Open & Affirming,
Earthwise Congregation

Rev. Cynthia Robinson, Pastor



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CONVENER'S CORNER

Gloria Noel, Convener

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

This is our 44th year as the New Ark United Church of Christ.



Let's take time to thank and reflect on the wisdom of our founders. We can recall their energy as we move forward facing the challenges of today. To all our present members and friends, let's keep moving forward and fulfill our mission.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

formerly *Dining for Women*

July 28 Meeting of Together Women Rise

July Project:
TOMORROW'S WOMEN—
Beyond Wars and Walls:
Palestinian Young Women
Activists Unite



Tomorrow's Women trains young women from Palestine, Israel, and the United States to be strong, compassionate leaders who form partnerships across borders to resolve conflicts and inspire action that promotes equality, peace, and justice for all. This project pro-

vides young Palestinian women with trauma healing, resiliency, and leadership training. The women will also participate in a community needs assessment to mitigate the key barriers to Palestinian young women's engagement in peacemaking. It has long been known that the inclusion of women and young people in peacebuilding efforts produces better results, more long-lasting peace, and ensures the security of women and girls. In this project, young women learn to share their stories and solutions on relevant platforms, and are provided guidance and support to drive positive change in their communities.

Join us Friday, July 28 at 12:30 p.m. **at the home of Jean Kutcher (403 Arbour Drive).** Bring a small dish to share or your own bagged lunch as we share a meal together and learn about this Palestinian project. **Please note the change of meeting site due to an art camp at the New Ark that week.**

MENTORS NEEDED at NEWARK HIGH SCHOOL

Mentors are needed at Newark High School! As a Mentor you can make a difference in the lives of our students. Mentoring involves listening, sharing, and the greatest gift: your time. Spend about 45 minutes once a week with a student at Newark High School. All it takes is the desire to help a student become all he or she can be. Connecting Generations Creative Mentoring program will train you and it's all free. For more information or to sign up, visit our websites, www.connectinggenerations.org, www.volunteermatch.org/search/org230073.jsp; call 302-656-2122; or reach out to Patti Tobin, the Mentor Coordinator at Newark High School via email at patti.tobin@christina.k12.de.us.

GO-BAG THANK YOU

We want to say a huge "Thank you!" to all who have contributed items for Go-Bags. We have enough supplies to assemble 121 bags which will be delivered to the Newark Empowerment Center. We'll take a break during July and August, and then begin collecting items for Go-Bags again in September.

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER
from the PCRC**



**Monday is
Pastor Cynthia's
day off.
Kindly be respectful!**

**LECTIONARY
READINGS**

■ **July 2**

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

■ **July 9**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,
58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

■ **July 16**

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

■ **July 23**

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

■ **July 30**

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



Wisdom Wednesdays are “on vacation” for the months of July and August 2022. We will reconvene the first Wednesday in September. Please watch for announcements.



Stasher Bags

"**Stasher Bags**: I learned about these nifty silicone replacements for Ziploc bags at a zero-waste presentation I went to several months after deciding to work on reducing my waste, and was thrilled to find out they exist. **Stashers** are reusable, non-toxic, responsibly produced, and safe for the stovetop, microwave, oven, fridge, freezer, and dishwasher. They are supposed to be “endlessly reusable,” but if they do wear out, the company has a repurposing program to convert them into safe playground pebbles. How cool is that?"

—liveearthwise.com

Stasher bags are a little pricey. One can get a set of 7 (different sizes) for about \$75. Or you may choose to buy specific

sizes at the designated price. The idea is to minimize our usage of plastics. Using plastics is promoting fossil fuels. Plastics surround us endlessly and the fossil fuel industry loves our usage. But we do have a choice to fight.



BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, at the home of Peggy Dillner. Brenda Toomey will be leading us in a discussion of the book, *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg.

**DINNERS
WITH RUTH**

A MEMOIR OF THE POWER
OF FRIENDSHIPS

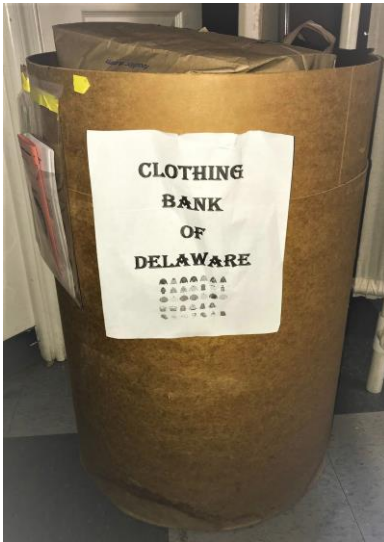


NINA TOTENBERG

NPR Legal Affairs Correspondent

CLOTHING BANK of DELAWARE

The round bin in Wells Hall near the door to our lounge/ office is marked CLOTHING BANK OF DELAWARE. Any new



or gently used clothing, school uniforms, and shoe donations are taken to the clothing bank periodically by Linda Brasel. The Clothing Bank of Delaware is another program of Friendship House which offers job training during which participating women work to rebuild their reputations, renew their spirits, and reinvent themselves by discovering their potential.

Located on Jessup Street in Wilmington, the Clothing Bank of Delaware distributes clothing across Delaware. In 2022, they processed approximately 194,000 pounds of clothing, and 5,865 people received clothing from them. All clothing is given free of charge to the 64 referring agencies with whom they partner. For further information see the following website: <https://www.friendshipousede.org/delaware-homeless/our-programs/clothing-bank/>

FELLOWSHIP TIME VOLUNTEERS, GREETERS WANTED

We are trying to offer cold beverages and light snacks after church each Sunday this summer for fellowship time. We have had volunteers to provide snacks throughout June, but if we want to extend fellowship time into July and beyond, we need volunteers for those Sundays. If you are willing to take charge of a Sunday in July or August, please email John Micklos at jimj197@comcast.net or sign up using this Google form: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nMc2lytoWXJ_yA4o4t7w_pgdozfANH6OrW7JY4ra9Jc/edit#gid=0.

We also can use greeters so that the same people don't have to do it every week. Use the same sign-up sheet. Thanks!



PULPIT SUPPLIES DURING PASTOR CYNTHIA'S ABSENCE



During Cynthia's Synod attendance and vacation times, we will hear new voices in the pulpit. Do plan to attend to hear the following folks this summer:

Jul. 2 Rev. Court Buchanan
 Jul. 23 Rev. Andrew Weber
 Jul. 30 Rev. Andrew Weber
 Aug. 7 Mindy Dowsett

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE/ PASTORAL COVERAGE

Pastor Cynthia will be attending General Synod from June 30-July 5 and on vacation July 21-August 7. If you need pastoral care during these times, please reference the list below:

- **Jun. 30-Jul. 5:** The Rev. Eric Markman (603-770-3239).
- **Jul. 21-30:** The Rev. Andrew Weber (412-327-3731).
- **Jul. 31-Aug. 7:** The Rev. Eric Markman (603-770-3239).

Thank you

to all our walkers, donors, & sponsors!

Wow! The 2023 Highmark Walk was above and beyond our expectations! We have raised **\$91,847** and registered **658** walkers. That is incredible!

Thank you all for your hard work. Thank you for making those last-minute asks. Thank you to those who made last minute donations to get teams to \$2,000. We couldn't have done it without all of you. The Newark Empowerment Team raised **\$3909** and was 5th among the 27 Friendship House teams in money raised. HUGE thanks!

BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENT: HEALTHY FOODS for HEALTHY KIDS

This is the first in a series of articles to inform the congregation about each of the benevolence recipients that the Social Justice Committee has chosen for fiscal year 2023. They will be in no particular order, but Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids is the first one because we were able to watch their team in action on June 20, as their volunteers were completing a rebuild of the raised garden beds at the West Park Elementary School. The raised beds are used during the school year for planting and teaching as an accepted part of the curriculum of all grade levels.

Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids is headquartered in Hockessin, but serves the whole state of Delaware. Last year, when we looked at them statistically, they had started programs in 37 elementary schools throughout Delaware. They now have programs in 48 elementary schools, 1 pre-school, and 1 middle school. They are currently serving 22,000 students.

The curriculum is planned to coincide with the science studies at each grade level, and to allow all students to participate. Younger children learn about, plant, and water the seeds until they sprout. Middle grades study and take care of the growing plants. The upper grades learn about harvesting and making compost. When the vegetables are harvested, they are prepared for all students to eat by the school's nutrition service.

The Social Justice Committee believes that this 501c3 organization is teaching a valuable life skill to our children, and helping to make a contribution to the life of our planet.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

August 2023

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

12:00 noon

on Monday,

July 24, 2023

02 Rich Wildonger
 02 Laura Polis
 05 Jamie Williams
 09 Bill Dickhart
 09 Kevin Nana-Sinkam
 10 Alaric Eber
 14 Lynn Boulter
 22 Susan Yetman
 22 Jim Pletz
 25 Clay Foster
 25 Mindy Cox



If we've missed your special day, please contact the church office at (302) 737-4711 or email newarkucc@verizon.net.



MESSAGE from the REV. CRAIG PETERSON

Associate Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference UCC

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July next week, I know that many Americans will give thanks for the freedoms they enjoy. Sadly, many tend to think about freedom rather narrowly, in terms of what we are free **FROM**. I like to think of freedom a bit differently. I think of it in terms of what we are free **TO DO**.

At General Synod, I will celebrate the freedom we have to do things that can help heal and transform the world. Two forms these freedoms take are in the manner of Prudential Resolutions and Resolutions of Witness. These Resolutions, listed in their assigned order, encourage us to embrace the freedom to:

- Celebrate the 170th anniversary of the UCC Church Building & Loan Fund;
- Affirm licensed and commissioned ministers as authorized ministers in the UCC;
- Denounce the Dobbs decision and proclaim abortion as healthcare;
- Call for a new study by our Church on our relationship with the Indian Boarding Schools and the Boarding Schools in Hawaii;
- Close the digital divide by seeking digital justice and inclusion;
- Urge planning for and implementing electrification;
- Advocate for intersectional and transformational healing in harm reduction;
- Affirm "Guns to Gardens" and other gun violence prevention ministries;
- Urge all responsible entities to join in reparations to fund Christian Hawaiian language education programs to undo a century of extinction;
- Encourage a plant-based life;
- Be free from plastic pollution;
- Support public education educators, academic freedom, and equity efforts in schools;
- Study and develop reparations proposals for African Americans;
- Condemn prolonged solitary confinement as a form of torture;
- Actively affirm the human dignity of transgender and nonbinary persons;
- Call on UCC local churches to witness "A White Supremacy Free Zone" and confront White Supremacy.

My fervent prayer is that in the time leading up to Independence Day, you will exercise your freedom to connect to General Synod in ways whereby you can join with your siblings of faith from around the country to participate in the transformation of the world!

JULY 2023 CALENDAR

Church office, Central Atlantic Conference, NAUCC meetings/events, Other community Events, Festivals

Jul 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 11:45am - Perked Pasta 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	PRISONER DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 12pm - NL Deadline 1:45pm - Piano Tuning 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K)	GRAND OPENING 7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GRAND OPENING 8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Communion 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greater Grace (B) @ Sanctuary	10am - Office Closed 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	FRIDAY 9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K) 9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 8:30pm - Membership Growth Com. 8:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 4:30pm - Gracie's Friends 8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 1pm - Greater Grace (M) 4pm - UDAmy Meet Up
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	PRISONER DAY OFF 9am - Highweek Walk 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K) 9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary 8:30pm - Summer Concert Series 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K) 8:30pm - Finance C. (online) @ Lounge 8:30pm - Coord. Com. 7pm - Worship C. Mtg (online)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 6pm - Couples for Christ (B/NARC)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	PRISONER DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K) 9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 4:30pm - Gracie's Friends 8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K) 2pm - Book Group @ off site	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 11am - Hope Dining Room (offsite) 9pm - Couples for Christ (B/NARC) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 12:30pm - Camp Imagine Set-Up
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	Camp Imagine (M, B, R) PRISONER DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 12pm - NL Deadline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K) 9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 12:30pm - Together Women Rise (M) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	Camp Imagine (M, B, R) PRISONER DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K) 9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 8:30pm - Membership Growth Com. 8:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 4:30pm - Gracie's Friends 8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9am - Simply Delicious Dishes (K)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)