



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 08 | August 2023

“Church is an evolution”



Image Description: UCC T-shirt design. Gray background. “Love Is Louder (Louder is in purple). Love Your Neighbor OUT LOUD.” To the left is the Daniel Quasar Pride flag in the shape of a heart.

A couple of weeks after we returned from General Synod, some of the delegates from the Central Atlantic Conference got together on Zoom with our conference minister, Freeman Palmer, for a debrief session. Freeman wanted to know what did we enjoy the most, what did we dislike, and how can we connect local church folks with our synod experience?

People enjoyed all of the things that make Synod such a rewarding experience: the fellowship about the delegate tables and dining tables; the family reunion and making new friends; wonderful speakers like Nadia Bolz-Weber, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, and Bryan Stevenson; electing our new General Minister and President, Karen Georgia Thompson;

working on the resolutions; learning about the UCC and wanting to become more involved; witnessing the wider church beyond the local church; and of course what we call BIG worship.

Some of the things people disliked: a few of the resolutions elicited painful stories of lament from attendees and not enough time or appreciation was given to those who shared; how can we be participatory in moments like that, responding with silence, prayer, or song? How do we allow for God, the Holy Spirit to break in? How do we moderate between timekeeping which keeps us on schedule and yet allow for emotional connection? Sometimes it feels like the clock overrides humanity. One thing I disliked was a consensus exercise that really wasn't consensus but more like taking a temperature reading of the room. We wish we could do more consensus building and yet Robert's Rules of Order help to keep such a large gathering (650+ delegates) on track.

In truth, General Synod is a small local church writ large. We long, we ache, we work for systemic change, to make decisions

that make a material difference in human lives and in the life of the Church, but Church can often be slow to move, even as we make bold decisions at the national level. The UCC became Open and Affirming as a denomination in 1985 and yet almost 40 years later, more than 1,800 churches out of 4,700 are ONA — both a celebration and a lament, especially as state legislatures introduce and pass anti-trans bills.

Enacting change and justice is slow, hard work, and yet it is gatherings like General Synod that fuel my hope. Hope that there will always be people willing to disrupt their lives for the sake of community, who love mercy and do justice, who embody the change they want to see in the world. Let us continue to ask ourselves how we as a local congregation can engage with the wider church to further our mutual work and witness.

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

This month we will hold our Congregational Quarterly Meeting on August 20, 2023. The meeting will be at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary and online. The meeting's agenda will be sent by email.

We are now hosting Fellowship Time each Sunday after the morning service. While we have had guest preachers throughout the summer, Fellowship Time has given us the opportunity to extend our "extraordinary welcome" to those leading the worship service.



Our church is small in numbers but large in willingness to carry out our mission. My thanks to all for everything you do.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Collective action for global gender equality

formerly *Dining for Women*

August 25 Meeting of Together Women Rise

August Project:

Rural Adolescent Girls' Health and Nutrition Education

Rural Adolescent Girls' Health and Nutrition Education is a project of Arogya World in India. Arogya World works to prevent non-communicable diseases (NDCs) through health education and lifestyle change, leveraging technology and partnerships to help people lead healthier lives.



By modifying and testing culturally-appropriate food and nutrition materials, this project aims to improve health behaviors known to prevent non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and chronic lung disease, and to improve the lifelong nutritional status of underprivileged rural adolescent girls.



We will meet again in Wells Hall at 12:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday, August 25, to share a

meal and learn more about this project. You may bring a small dish to share with others or your own brown bag lunch.

All are welcome—bring a friend and join us as we work at empowering women around the world.

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.



Celebrate on Sunday,
August 6, 2023

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER
from the PCRC**



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

**LECTIONARY
READINGS**

■ **August 6**

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

■ **August 13**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

■ **August 20**

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

■ **August 27**

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20



Wisdom Wednesday is on vacation for the month of August. It will meet again the first Wednesday in September. Watch for announcements.



ECO-TRAVEL

Of course, the method of transportation we choose matters. Generally, ground transportation is the most environmentally friendly option, especially in shared modes of transportation (like trains and buses). Cruises are easy to avoid, but if you find yourself unable to avoid a flight, this article from the New York Times offers some suggestions for reducing the carbon footprint of your air travel:

- Buy carbon offsets to counteract some of the damage caused by your flight. Some airlines offer the option to do this, but if yours does not, you can always purchase offsets through other organizations, where your money will go to activities like planting trees.
- Fly economy class, since the emissions generated by flying in business class are about three times as great as flying

coach, according to a study by the World Bank.

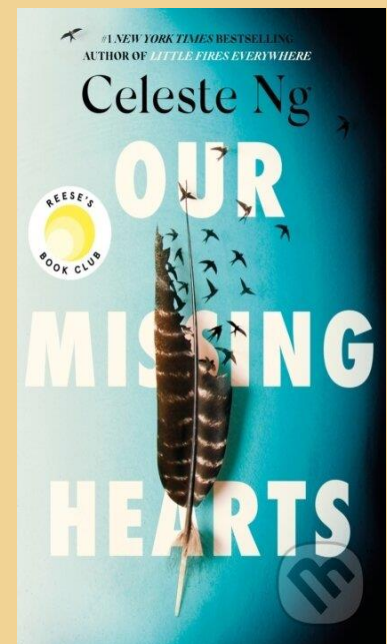


- Fly direct if possible. The article explains: "The more times you take off, the more fuel you use. According to a 2010 report from NASA, about 25 percent of airplane emissions come from landing and taking off. That includes taxiing, which is the largest source of emissions in the landing-takeoff cycle."

—Cont'd. on p. 4

BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, at the home of Linda Brasel. Pam Mezaraups will be leading us in a discussion of the book, *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng.



CHURCH POSITIONS OPEN FOR 2024

Summer has arrived and it's time to (please) start thinking about commitments that will be open at this year's end. The following positions might be something you already know about or some new way you can serve. The church can't operate without volunteers!

Three open trustee positions are **Convener, Treasurer and Recorder**. We also need a replacement for **Facilitator** from now through 2024.

Other positions needed in 2024 are as follows:

- **Representatives to Pastor Congregation Relations Committee**—needs two people for a 3-year term
- **Congregational Representative to the Coordinating Committee**—needs one person for a 1-year term
- **Volunteer Enlistment Committee** needs two people for a 2-year term
- **Central Atlantic Conference representatives** (1 adult, 1 young person under 30)
- **Chesapeake Association representatives** (1 adult and 1 youth under 21)

There are many ways to support this congregation; please consider taking one of these positions. We need to have solid commitments by the quarterly meeting in October so that newly elected people can take their positions at the beginning of 2024.

—Kim Bell and John Micklos of the Volunteer Enlistment Committee 2023

SIGN UP for FELLOWSHIP TIME

In-person attendees have enjoyed gathering in Wells Hall after Sunday services this summer to enjoy cold beverages and light snacks. We have volunteers to provide snacks/drinks through early August, but we still need people for the rest of the month. If you are willing to take charge of a Sunday, please sign up on the sheet that's on the table each week, email John Micklos at jimj197@comcast.net or use this Google form: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nMc2lytoWXJ_yA4o4t7w_pgdozfANH6OrW7JY4ra9Jc/edit#gid=0. Thanks!

NEW ZOOM LINKS

Sunday Worship Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89779533352?pwd=c1l1eHBnWElobORPUTROUJ1hL2NXQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 7953 3352

Passcode: 215918

New Ark Meet Up

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85718260381?pwd=Sm5ORlhSZHI2dnRkcDBBVVR2azlodz09>

Meeting ID: 857 1826 0381

Passcode: 676389



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE/ PASTORAL COVERAGE/ GUEST SPEAKER

Pastor Cynthia will be on vacation through August 7. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact the Rev. Eric Markman (603-770-3239).

Mindy Dowsett will be speaking for our worship service on Sunday, August 7. Please join us.

Eco-Travel, cont'd. from p. 3

Interestingly, [this article](#) in the Guardian reports that a study published in the journal *Nature* revealed that night-time flights are twice as bad for the environment as those that operate during the day.

So, you may be able to easily reduce your impact on the planet by not flying at night

Finally, you might be surprised to learn that you can reduce flight's footprint by travelling more lightly. Every single pound on an airplane matters and has a big impact on how much fuel the flight uses. While it may seem insignificant, minimizing what you bring on board will actually lighten your contribution to the flight's emissions. Consider packing only what you truly need, choosing lighter-weight items (like a thin stainless steel water bottle instead of a glass one), and—no joke—using the airport's bathroom just before you board.

—liveearthwise.com



Thank You

from Hope Dining Room

Dear Members of the Social Justice Committee
of New Ark United Church of Christ,

Thank you very much for your generous
donation to Hope Dining Room. We
greatly appreciate your support that
enables Hope Dining Room to continue
fulfilling our mission. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Candy Calo, Hope Dining Room Treasurer

Thank You from



Thank you for your charitable gift to the DCJ. Your gift allows DCJ to fulfill its mission to listen, to amplify, and to act to seek justice for all Delawareans through advocacy and services. Our programs work with nearly 2,000 youth and adults across the criminal legal system annually, from pre-adjudication/detention to incarceration and reentry. Your contribution not only helps us meet the immediate needs of our clients, like obtaining food or securing the work documents necessary to apply for a job, but it also makes possible our work to achieve non-partisan policy reform for everyone in the First State.

Your kindness not only gives those in need a second chance, but it also truly changes lives.

Thank You from

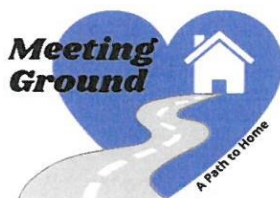


Thank you and the Social Justice Committee for your generous donation. We do appreciate being one of your benevolence recipients. It takes a village and we love having you be a part of ours. Because non-profit developers often get money from HUD to produce new affordable housing, they must lower the carbon footprint. That is one of HUD's important initiatives.

In addition, we are working hard to create a housing advocacy movement.

Thank you again for your donation and for keeping us in your consciousness.

Thank You from



Thank you for your recent donation to support Meeting Ground. We are so grateful for your gift, as well as your faithful support of our important work and mission. Your generosity keeps hope alive for those we serve every day. With your support, we accomplish the possible and sometimes the seemingly impossible. This year we have helped over 400 individuals in Cecil County. We receive requests every day to meet the ever growing and ongoing needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Your gift gives us the opportunity to meet those needs.

Thank You from

Newark Area Welfare Committee



Thank you, congregants of the NAUCC, for your generous donation to the NAWC. We appreciate your support, and your gift directly enables our organization to assist Newark families in crisis. Thanks to donations like yours, we can join together and put our motto, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," into action.

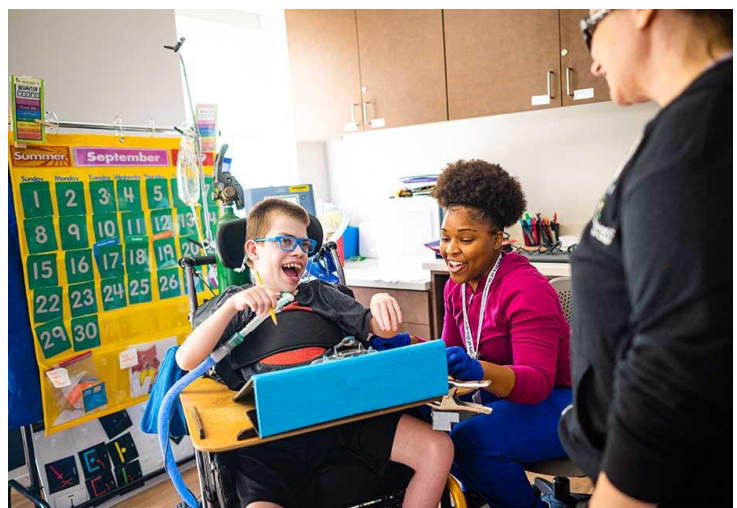
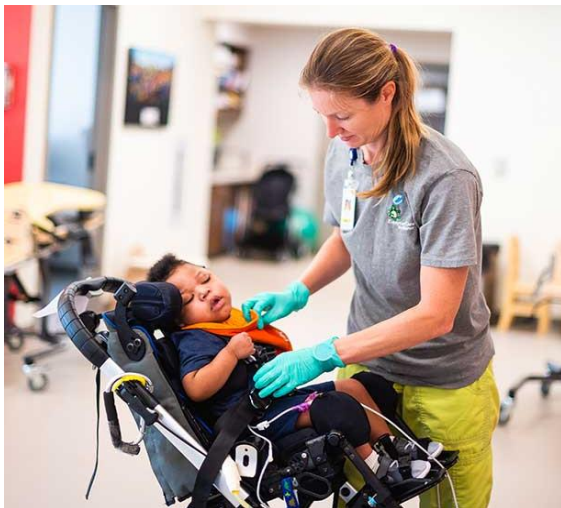
2023 BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENT: EXCEPTIONAL CARE for CHILDREN

This is the second 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.

Exceptional Care for Children is located in Newark and is the only Pediatric Skilled Nursing Facility in DE. It is also one of only a few Pediatric Nursing Homes in the United States. They currently have 31 bedrooms and serve up to 47 children from birth to 21 years old, but will soon be building an attached structure for young adults who have aged out of their program. The population they serve has complex medical and developmental needs. ECC's purpose is to provide each child with the customized learning, therapy, nutrition, and equipment they need to thrive, in a home-like and loving environment. They have onsite nurses 24/7; occupational, physical, speech, and respiratory therapists; nutritionists; and a teaching staff. Children who are able to attend school are taken to school by bus. ECC's mission statement is "Exceptional Care for Children improves the lives of medically fragile children and their families through skilled nursing, transitional, and palliative care. We are a haven for healing fragile bodies when improvement is possible, and a refuge for nurturing vulnerable spirits when a cure is unattainable." They are a top-100 ranked nursing home in the U.S.

We have given Exceptional Care for Children \$1000 a year for five years. In 2023, our money is being used for their Mobility Fund Program. This program pays for wheelchair parts, specialized seating, walkers, and standing equipment expenses that Medicaid does not cover. While standing independently may not be functional for an individual, it is important therapeutically to maintain healthy bones, muscles, and circulation.

To learn more about Exceptional Care for Children, visit their website at www.exceptionalcare.org.



September 2023

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

12:00 noon

on Monday,

August 28, 2023



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 06 Joshwa Mahniam
- 07 Cynthia E. Robinson
- 09 Jake Dickhart
- 10 Kundai Masunungure
- 13 Liz Colton
- 13 Carl Wasylszyn
- 14 Martha Stevenson
- 19 Lauren Fischer Illiano
- 20 Vickie Fischer
- 22 Connie Cox
- 24 Ellie/Eli Seguin
- 24 Carla Durr
- 25 Barbara Williams
- 26 Wendy Bertsche
- 30 Jon Jeffery
- 31 Laura Bitter Czerwinski
- 31 Nancy Chase



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

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



Just a reminder that we are accepting Strengthen the Church offerings through August 15. Among other things, this initiative of the national UCC supports new church starts. More than four decades ago, the fund supported our church as we began. This is our opportunity to pay back and pay it forward. You can find Strengthen the Church envelopes in the back of the church, or you can use the Givelify button on the church's website and look for the Strengthen the Church envelope. If you write a check, note Strengthen the Church on the memo line. Thank you for your support.

AUGUST 2023 CALENDAR

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

Aug 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
8:45am - Choir Practice (B)	Camp Meetings (W, S, R)					8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
9:30am - Worship	PRIBBY'S DAY OFF	9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Closed	10am - Office Open	7am - System 4 Cleaning	
10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	10am - Office Closed	8:30pm - Membership Growth Com.	4:30pm - Greta's Friends	5:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	10am - Office Open	
	7pm - AI-Anon (L)	8:30pm - Social Justice (online)	8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary		8:30pm - Newark CA (L)	
			7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:45am - Choir Practice (B)	PRIBBY'S DAY OFF	9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open	5:30pm - Finance C. (online) @ Lounge	7am - System 4 Cleaning	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
9:30am - Communion	10am - Office Open		8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary	5:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	10am - Office Open	1pm - Greater Grace (M)
9:30am - Worship	7pm - AI-Anon (L)		7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	7pm - Worship C. Mtg (online)	8:30pm - Newark CA (L)	
10:30am - Coffee Hour						
2pm - Greater Grace (B) @ Sanctuary						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:45am - Choir Practice (B)	PRIBBY'S DAY OFF	9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open	2pm - Book Group @ off site	7am - System 4 Cleaning	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
9:30am - Worship	10am - Office Open		4:30pm - Greta's Friends	5:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	10am - Office Open	
10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	7pm - AI-Anon (L)		8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary	8:30pm - Coord. Com.	11am - Hope Dining Room (offsite)	
2pm - Greater Grace (B)			7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)		8:30pm - Newark CA (L)	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:45am - Choir Practice (B)	PRIBBY'S DAY OFF	9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open	5:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Cleaning	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
9:30am - Worship	10am - Office Open		8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary		10am - Office Open	
10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	7pm - AI-Anon (L)		7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)		12:30pm - Together Women Rise (M)	
10:45am - Quarterly Cong. Mtg.					8:30pm - Newark CA (L)	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
8:45am - Choir Practice (B)	PRIBBY'S DAY OFF	9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open	5:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Cleaning	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
9:30am - Worship	10am - Office Open		8:30pm - DE Zen (B) @ Sanctuary		10am - Office Open	
2pm - Greater Grace (B)	12pm - NL Deadline		7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)		8:30pm - Newark CA (L)	
	7pm - AI-Anon (L)					