

ISSUE 9 | September 2024

"Self-Care for Election Season"



Image Description: Photo of an electoral map of the United States. A majority of states are colored red. The rest are blue, light blue, or pink.

From September 1, there are 65 days until Election Day. September 10 is the primary day for Delaware. Every election, every ballot, every vote this year is important, just as they are every year but with an added weight. I would wager that not since the Civil War has this nation been so polarized, so divided.

Voices are exuberant or angry or silent, tempers are easily provoked, and we're all holding our breath some days. The tension is palpable on the roads and highways we drive. Continuing underneath all of this is the COVID virus still with us. It can all be spiritually

and physically draining, and so we need to be extra careful with our self-care and community care.

Maybe you've heard all of this before, from different sources, but it still bears repeating, like any spiritual practice. It also reminds us of our care for one another and that we are not alone.

- 1. Under times of stress and anxiety, we are more prone to accidents of all kinds and so is everyone else. Leave extra time to drive to appointments and in between events on your calendar. Be mindful of your movements on stairs and uneven surfaces. Slow down. Take deep breaths.
- Watch only as much news as you can take. Consider reading or listening to the news instead. Subscribe to a trusted service that gives a summary description. Augment your regular news sources with news from the UCC. https://www.ucc.org/news/
- 3. As you are able, make a contribution budget and when

- you have reached it, unsubscribe from the emails and texts.
- Go to https://www.vote411.org/
 and find out all you need to know about candidates, polling places, dates and times, and to check your registration.
- Make a plan to vote. Early voting and absentee voting are available. Go to the website above to find out what is available to you.

In 2016 we hosted what I called an Election Escape at the church. We had spaces for people to gather, eat pizza and chocolate, play games, watch election coverage, or to be in quiet and prayer. I'm planning on hosting another similar event this year on November 5 as part of our community care for this election.

Lastly, come to church however you can, whenever you can and be with people you love and who love you.

Continued on Page 3

NEW ARK UCC

A Just Peace, Open & Affirming, Earthwise Congregation

Rev. Cynthia Robinson, Pastor



CONVENER'S CORNER

Jenny Greenzweig, Convener

Welcome back to the new church school year! I hope you all were able to rest and reconnect this summer. September is always both an ending and a beginning in so many ways. However, I urge you to "hold the pumpkin spice" for a few more weeks until the official end of summer so that you can ease your way back into the busyness of church life and your own life.

Rally Sunday is on September 8, Newark Community Day is on the 15, and the proposed By-Law changes re: Background Checks will be read two times. There are many ways to be involved in church life. We have openings for selected positions and there are committees that would love your ideas and participation.

Throughout the busyness, remember to practice self-care. I will leave you with these words borrowed from one of Pastor Cynthia's 2-minute meditations: *I wish you peace and every good.*



10th Anniversary Meeting Friday, September 27, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

September Projects:
 Mind Leaps
 and
Moving the Goalposts

Yes, the Newark Main Street chapter of Together Women Rise began ten years ago this month. We will have a celebratory lunch at 12:00 p.m. on September 27 to which we invite all who have ever attended and new folks who might want more information.

The September focus is on two projects, **Mind Leaps** and **Moving the Goalposts (MTG).** These two projects in Africa use creative means to empower young women—the arts and sports.



Mind Leaps creates educational paths for at-risk children and youth through the creative arts and 21st Century skills built on data-driven metrics.



MTG is a unique organization that links gender-based violence, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, and economic

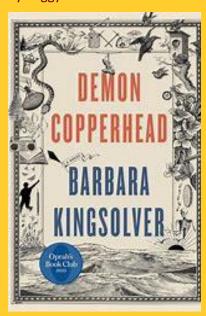
empowerment within youth sports programming.

Come, share lunch and good conversation, and then learn more about these two projects in Uganda and Kenya—and contribute if you wish. Together Women Rise is a powerful community of women and allies dedicated to achieving global gender equality. Join us!

Looking ahead: In October we've invited a Syrian refugee, who is hoping to begin her own catering business, to prepare our lunch. Consider joining us to enjoy some Middle Eastern food!

BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, at the home of Flo Waibel. A discussion of the book, *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, will be led by Peggy Dillner.



A FRIENDLY REMINDER from the PCRC



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

LECTIONARY READINGS

September 1

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17 Mark 7:24-37

■ September 15

Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38

September 22

Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37

■ September 29

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY TREE

This fall we will be viewing and discussing a video series about our Christian heritage. The eight videos will be shown on Wisdom Wednesdays (at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month) and Second Sundays (at 11:00 on the obvious Sundays!).



September 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

"Christian Origins and Early Schisms"

SECOND UNDAYS

September 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

"Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy"

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION for YOUTH STARTS in OCTOBER

Christian Education for elementary-aged children will begin in October. If you are interested in working with our young children one Sunday a month, please let Debbie Micklos know at djam197@comcast.net.



GO-BAGS

October is another month when our church is scheduled to deliver Go-Bags to the Newark Empowerment Center as we do four times per year. Our goal is to assemble 100 bags during the month of September, to give to our food-insecure neighbors the first week in October.

We are currently in need of all of the following Go-Bag items:

Gallon-size plastic bags
Napkins and Plastic Spoons
Beverages
Crackers with Cheese or PB
Nutri-Grain/Granola Bars
Fruit Cup/Applesauce
Single-serving Protein Items

You may drop off your contributions on Sunday morning, or bring them by the church office M/W/F between 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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Rev. Raphael Warnock said, "A vote is a kind of prayer about the kind of world you want to live in." Let's pray all the ways we can, Church.

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

Cynthia



HOLD the DATE: JANUARY 19, 2025

On Sunday afternoon, January 19, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. we will host a fundraiser for New Beginnings—Next Step with their musician/Executive Director, John Flynn, providing a late afternoon of folk music. New Beginnings—Next Step runs peer support groups inside and outside of prison to help members build resilience by establishing relationships of trust and deep connection to community.

Singer-songwriter and social activist John Flynn has garnered praise and support from legends like Kris Kristofferson and Arlo Guthrie. See additional information about New Beginnings—Next Step at https://newbeginnings-nextstep.org/.

Mark your calendars now to join us to enjoy an afternoon of music and support a worthwhile local agency.



NEW ARK UCC CARES

At the New Ark UCC, we believe in the power of community and the impact we can make together. One of the simplest yet most profound ways to help is by donating a meal for the church freezer. These meals are used to show our love and support, provide hope, and ease burden. This month, we are seeking slow cooker meals to feed 2-4 people. To sign up, please visit

https://forms.gle/dqCh1GbCiKyeDtbZ7 or use the paper copy in Wells Hall.

Do you need a little TLC? Please reach out to Cynthia at irrevrent@outlook.com or 302-602-9360.

MEET MEG MARCOZZI, CARE COORDINATOR

Meg (Dickhart) Marcozzi was raised in the New Ark United Church of Christ, where she was christened, confirmed, and later married. She lives in Newark with her husband, Joe, and their daughter, Leona.

Professionally, Meg works at the University of Delaware in the entrepreneurship center, where she helps foster innovation and creativity among students and faculty.

Deeply connected to her faith community, Meg has felt called to support the Church as a Care Coordinator.

GUESS WHO'S COMING to DINNER?

Hopefully, YOU! I really miss the casual dinner parties I held and attended prior to the pandemic. It's the best motivation to clean the house!

Early next year, we are planning to set up some casual dinner parties that allow us some time to just get to know each other better. The idea is to have several dates so that we can remix groups to give us all a chance to talk. Sign-ups for hosts and attendees will be forthcoming, so look for announcements about where, when, and how!

I'm looking forward to spending some time with you.

—Cathy Atkinson

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE

Good news! At the August 12, 2024, City of Newark Council meeting, the Council voted to award \$110,000 to the New Ark affordable housing project to pay for the engineering survey work for our property. We were fortunate to have everyone present (5 of 7 council members) vote for the funding.

Thank you to everyone who supported us with your prayers, by writing council members, and by attending or listening to the meeting online!

 New Ark UCC Engineering Evaluation Taskforce

PCRC REPORT

The New Ark UCC congregation participated in a large survey asking questions about Pastor Cynthia's effectiveness as our pastor in a number of different areas. Many people were glad for the Zoom and Facebook opportunities to attend worship when it wasn't possible in person. Thirty-four people participated in the survey, with mostly positive responses in all of the following areas.

- Preparation for worship Everyone voted very effective or effective.
- Leading worship Everyone voted very effective or effective
- Preaching Everyone responding voted very effective, effective, or somewhat effective
- Involving others in worship Most were some form of effective, 1 not effective, and 1 don't know
- Creativity in worship All answers were very effective or effective
- Involving children in worship
 All but two answers were on the effective scale, 1 not effective, and 1 don't know
- Promoting an atmosphere of safety/inclusion
 All were some form of effective

The general overall feelings were that Pastor Cynthia was very positive, including social outreach, her care for the congregation, and her care for the community. The overall feelings of the congregation are positive.

Those who did not feel able to answer the questions said they didn't know and left their answers blank or marked them don't know.

In looking at the demographics of the congregation, it is seen that a small majority of the people who answered noted that they had been participating in the congregation for more than 20 years. The age range indicated that 35 people are 46 years of age or older.

The themes that were noticed by the congregation were as follows:

- Theme 1: Many in the congregation are very thankful to have Pastor Cynthia leading us and feel she is a good fit for our congregation. They appreciate her community and conference involvement which enlarges our image in both the community and the conference.
- ➤ Theme 2: Praise was given for the adaptations that were made to worshiping online and addressing the needs of the congregation during COVID.

This was an intensive study. The PCRC would like to thank all of those who took the time to share your opinions and thoughts with the committee.





OPEN POSITIONS for LEADERSHIP ROLES

Listed below are the open positions for leadership roles in New Ark UCC:

Trustees

- Financial Secretary
 2 year term
 Candidates will need a background check
- Facilitator2 year term

Other Selected Positions

- Pastor Congregation
 Relations Committee:
 2 positions (3-year terms)
 A third position open
 immediately
- Association Representative1 year term
- Conference Representative 1 year term
- Volunteer Enlistment
 2 year term

Non-Selected Positions

Fellowship Time Coordinator

Our hope is to have these positions filled at our October Quarterly meeting. Please contact Kim Bell or Jon Manon if you are interested in anything or if you want further information about any of the positions.

-Kimberly Bell

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

12:00 noon on Monday, September 23, 2024

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Kitty Harrison
- 01 Nora Martin
- 02 Bavet Heget
- 06 Brent Fischer
- 10 Jane Schaefer
- 10 Mukai Masunungure
- 12 Jean Kutcher
- 13 Sarah Dressler
- 17 Amy Micklos
- 22 Jean Dickhart
- 22 Alex Chase
- 24 John Micklos III



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



THANK YOU from

DELAWARE CENTER FOR

Thank you for your charitable gift to the Delaware Center for Justice, Inc. 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.

In the past year, we brought decades of adult re-entry expertise to our new Restorative Re-entry for Youth program, as well as growing our adult re-entry efforts to include specialized services for job seekers and for folks looking to expunge their criminal record. Since June, we've placed over 600 Delawareans returning from prison with jobs that pay living wages—and we couldn't have done it without your support.

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

With gratitude,

David A. Bever Executive Director Thank you h!

THANK YOU from



Thank you for your recent donation to Meeting Ground. Your contribution will be put to work supporting the organization's mission to help our consumers find a "path to a place they call home." Without generosity from a caring community, we would not be able to offer all the services that we currently do. Whether it is participants at Mary Randall Center, our shelter residents, or our outreach programs, your gift will impact their lives.

—Dane Hutchinson, Executive Director

THANK YOU from



On behalf of all the children, their families, and our staff at ECC, I want to thank you for your continued generosity! This generous gift will enable ECC to contiue a legacy of love and support for children who are medically fragile.

As an organization, ECC strives to build a refuge of hope and support for those in need of this specialized care, but we cannot do it alone. Thank you again for making an impact on all the children and stafff here at Exceptional care for Children!

Autumn Majewski Development Manager Exceptional Care for Children



CLIMATE CHANGE — "Just the Facts, Ma'am," Part 2

My older brother, Ken, composed the following response to the *Arizona Courier*, addressing

- an article regarding climate change. Last month's *Earthwise Tips* covered Ken's first four response's and this month's column covers responses 5-8 along with ending summary comments. I hope you find Ken's comments informative. —Ron Hartman
- 5) CO₂ has been constant at .04 percent forever. False.

 Measurements of Antarctic Ice sheets show CO₂ concentration at 240 ± 50 ppm for 800,000 years until about 1850. Since then it increased to 420 ppm. CO₂ was much higher 2-3 billion years ago when plants/bacteria began reducing it to carbohydrate and O₂.
- 6) Mere humans cannot affect CO₂ level in the atmosphere. False. Until the 19th century, they didn't. Combustion was limited to cooking/heating. With the invention of the steam engine, internal combustion engine, jet engines, etc. to perform work, burning of fossil fuels increased by orders of magnitude. Also, the population exploded from one billion in 1800 to eight billion today (who exhale ~2 billion tons of CO₂ annually). Since 1900 nearly 1.7 trillion tons of CO₂ have been added to the atmosphere principally by combustion of fossil fuels. ~700 billion tons were absorbed by terrestrial and marine sinks, while ~one trillion tons remained in the atmosphere, increasing CO₂ from 295 ppm to 420 ppm.

- 7) Volcanos spew the equivalent of decade's worth of CO₂ in one eruption. False. The strongest eruption in the last half century, Pinatubo (1991), released ~50 million tons of CO₂ and Mount St. Helens (1980) released ~10 million tons. Human activity releases 40 billion tons per year. That's nearly 700 times as much CO₂ as the two largest eruptions produced in the last 40 years.
- 8) All climate fluctuations ever observed fall within a "normal range" which is immutable. Untestable, without a precise definition of "normal range." Irreversible changes in the atmosphere over the earths' four billion years imply the proposition is false.

The above observations don't prove extant climate models, which predict temperature rises of 2-5 °C in the coming decades. However, the increase of CO₂ due to fossil fuel combustion, and the concomitant rise in global temperature over the last century, concurs with those predictions. That evidence alone indicates that it is prudent public policy to reduce and replace carbon combustion with other energy sources, as expeditiously as possible. A comprehensive, universal effort at reforestation/managing plant life to increase CO₂ sequestration is in order.

Just some more of the facts, folks.



Natives Nurture: Supporting Health, Wildlife, and Combat Climate Change, One Garden at a Time.

- Habitat Presentation and Meadow Tour
- Saturday, September 7, 2024, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek
- 579 Polly Drummond Hill Road, Newark DE 19711
- Free kid-friendly event open to the public



This family-friendly event is presented by the Delaware Nature Society and the Newark Interfaith Green Team. Native plants have been growing in popularity in recent years. Learn about why there is a call to action to garden with native plants and how you can make a difference by creating a wildlife habitat. Hear about the function and application of native plants in our environment and in various scenarios from urban pollinator gardens to schoolyards and the certified wildlife habitat program. Discuss practical ways to begin and maintain a native garden and expand the habitat over time.

Please RSVP to newarkinterfaithgreenteam@gmail.com.

REVIEW of OUR RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES RESULTS in BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Votes will be taken at Special Congregational Meetings on September 8 and 22.

Our Treasurer, Cathy Atkinson, has been reviewing the risk management checklist from our insurance company. As a result of this review, the Finance Committee is recommending two amendments to our Bylaws as strategies to reduce risks in the handling of our finances.

As you may realize, the Financial Secretary collects the donations and other payments to the church and deposits those funds into the church's bank account. The Treasurer maintains all financial records which include the income reported by the Financial Secretary and makes payments for all of the church's obligations. Our Administrative Assistant receives checks that come to the church as contributions, parking fees, rental income, and other types of income. Best practice in these situations is for the people handling funds to have a background check that includes a credit check prior to being in a position of taking on the responsibilities. The background check for those in these types of positions helps the church to maintain appropriate cash management controls that protect our financial resources.

The Finance Committee is asking the congregation to approve two amendments to the Bylaws, one to describe how those willing to serve as Treasurer or Financial Secretary will have a background check and the other amendment, describes how church employees will have a background check.

In **Article X. D. 4**, which describes how volunteers are selected, the Finance Committee is asking that this Bylaw be amended:

"Members seeking to volunteer are encouraged to submit their names to the Volunteer Enlistment Committee prior to the beginning of the meeting. However, volunteers shall be accepted until immediately prior to the lot selection."

The language that follows is proposed to be added to this item:

"Those willing to serve as the Treasurer or Financial Secretary must have a background check that includes a credit check prior to their name being placed in the lot. The church will make arrangements for the background check and support the cost of the background check. If the background check indicates that there would be a risk to the congregation for the person to handle church funds, the individual's name will not be able to be placed into the lot."

Article XVII is focused on the hiring of other staff. An additional section, D, is proposed to be added to discuss this expectation of church employees such as the Administrative Assistant:

D. If the employee will handle funds of the church, they shall have a background check that includes a credit check prior to beginning to handle church funds and at least every four years thereafter. The church will make arrangements for the background check and support the cost of the background check. If the background check indicates that there would be a risk to the congregation for the person to handle church funds, the individual will not be able to assume any responsibility for handling church funds.

This addition of a new "D" causes the original "D" to become "E." (If you would like to see this text in the context of the full set of Bylaws, the Bylaws are available here.)

Coordinating Committee has called for Special Congregational Meetings on Sunday, September 8 and Sunday, September 22, following the worship service, to vote on these amendments. As a reminder, amendments can be made to our Bylaws at two consecutive, duly-called Congregational meetings scheduled at least two weeks apart. One reason for adopting these amendments in September is to have this procedure go into effect as we select a new Financial Secretary at the October Congregational Meeting.

We have been fortunate to have had hard-working, dedicated volunteers in these positions over the last 45 years. We want to keep it that way.

If you have questions, please contact Cathy Atkinson at mcatkinson@comcast.net.

SEPTEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

urch office, Central Atlantic Conferen Sun	Mon		Tue	Wed	Thu	H	Sat
1	mai	2	3	4			
8:45am - Choir Practice (8) 9:50am - Communion 9:50am - Wership 18:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greeter Grace (8) (8)	18em - Office Open 18em - STAR Foundation 7pm - Al-Anon (L)		5:30pm - Kintsugi - Hartisi Arts 6:30pm - Hembership Growth 6:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	5:45pm - MRH (L)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 18am - Office Open 18am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - Newwrk OA (L)	8:30em - Kintaugi - Martial Arts 12:30pm - LCWC (8) 5pm - Couples for Christ
2:45am - Choir Practice (S) 2:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtuel Fellowship tom - Greater Grace (S)	19am - Office Open 19am - STAR Foundation 7pm - Al-Anon (L)	9	5:30pm - Kintaugi - Martial Arta 6:30pm - Worship Planning	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - DE Zen (\$) @ Senctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (enline)	5:30pm - Financs C. (online) @ 5:45pm - MRH (L) 7pm - Worship C. Mig (online)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 18am - Office Open 18am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - Newsirk OA (L)	0:30am - Kintaugi - Martial Aria 1pm - Greeter Grace (W) 4pm - Funeral (W) - Pending
Newark Community Day @ 11am - 8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowehlp 3pm - Gospel Truth (S)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - Al-Anon (L)	16	6:30pm - Kintsugi - Mertini Arts 6:30pm - Coord. Corn.	18 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - Simply Delicious Dishes 6:30pm - DE Zen (8) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	2pm - Book Group (g off sites 6:45pm - MRH (L)	7sm - System 4 Clearing 18am - Office Open 19am - STAR Foundation 11am - Hope Bining Room 6:30pm - Newark OA (L) 7pm - Brandywine Recorders (8)	8:30em - Kintsugi - Martiel Arts 12:30pm - LCVIC (S)
22 ::45am - Choir Practice (8) ::30am - Worship ::30am - Virtuel Fellowship :pm - Greater Grace (8)	19am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - ML Deadline 7pm - Al-Anon (L)	23	5:30pm - Kintsugi - Martiel Arts 6:30pm - Worship Planning	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - Simply Delicious Diahes 6:30pm - DE Zen (6) @ Senctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	26 5:30pm - Drema Kids (8) Pervaling 5:45pm - MRH (L)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 18am - Offics Open 18am - STAR Foundation 12:30pm - Together Women Rise 6:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kintisugi - Martial Arts 12:30pm - LCWC (8)
29 1:45em - Choir Prectice (S) 1:30em - Worship	10em - Office Open 10em - STAR Foundation 7pm - Al-Anon (L)	30	5:30pm - Kintsugi - Martial Arts 6:30pm - Membership Growth 6:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10em - Office Open 10em - STAR Foundation 12pm - Simply Delicious Diahes 6:30pm - DE Zen (5) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (enline)	5:30pm - Drama Kida (8) Pending 6:46pm - MRH (L)	7em - System 4 Cleaning 18em - Office Open 10em - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	9:30em - Kinteugi - Mertiel Arte 12:30gm - LCWC (8)