



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 09 | September 2023

“Remember, restore,
renew”



Image Description: *Photo of a waterfall and pool of water from above. A log lies on the ground at the top middle edge of the pool so that it appears to take the shape of a heart. The pool is surrounded by lush green growth, dark rocky beach, and a red earth rocky beach.*

Sunday, September 10, is Rally Sunday, the traditional day when we begin the church year anew. In many churches it is when Sunday School for all ages begins another year. After summer holidays and the last hurrah of Labor Day weekend, people return to a regular schedule of work, school, and volunteering, and the Church does the same.

This year I want to expand our notions about this tradition and invite all of us to think about our

connection, our relationship to each other, to the New Ark, to the United Church of Christ, and to our faith. Right up front let me say that in no way am I implying guilt or judgment. Every relationship requires, from time to time, an occasion for reflection and taking stock of what makes that relationship meaningful.

What makes for a meaningful relationship with Church? Our needs change over time and so can our ability to participate because of life circumstances. Our faith changes and grows in ways that we often do not anticipate. The past 3+ years have taken a toll on all of us, some more than others. When faced with trauma, we can often fall back on coping mechanisms like cocooning or isolating ourselves because anxiety, loss and grief, and the stress of the unknown are no easy things.

What makes for a meaningful relationship with the United Church of Christ? I invite you to make the denomination website one of your news sources. If you don't want another newsletter in your inbox, simply stop by every now and then and see what's

going on in the wider church.

<https://www.ucc.org/news/>

You can also receive a daily devotional or search the archive here:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

The UCC's theme for September 10 is “Remember, Restore, Renew.” What do you **remember** about church that you miss? How does your soul need to be **restored**? What would help you **renew** your relationship with the New Ark?

How can we be Church together in these times? Community challenges us to have greater compassion, to remember that we are on a companion journey. Church is that unique community in which we are a band of pilgrims united by covenant, where we are kindred, no matter what.

Much love to you, Church.

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



300 East Main Street
Newark, Delaware 19711

302.737.4711

www.newarkucc.org

newarkucc@verizon.net

CONVENER'S CORNER

Gloria Noel, Convener

Welcome to September! On September 10 we will celebrate our traditional Rally Sunday as we begin another year of Christian fellowship.



As each year seems to present new challenges, we will continue to offer the in-person and online worship experience.

We continue to have opportunities for you to share your gifts of service. Our needs include, but are not limited to, Greeters, Choir Members, Stream Team, and a volunteer to fill the trustee position of Facilitator.

Let's celebrate the joy of being in church!

about this Kenyan project. All are welcome to bring a small dish to share or your won brown bag lunch. Hope to see you there!

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.



It's Our **20th Anniversary!**

Paving the Path to Gender Equality for 20 Years

September 22 Meeting of Together Women Rise formerly Dining for Women

September Project: Ending Female Genital Mutilation

The September project of Together Women Rise is "**Ending Female Genital Mutilation: A Three-Pillar Approach**," a project of LastMile4D's in Kenya.



The purpose of this project is to end Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) by educating, informing, and enlisting community-wide awareness and support. Last Mile4D uses a multi-pronged approach to

create awareness and eradicate FGM/C in communities that are hard to reach and at the last mile. With the use of innovative technology, real-time monitoring of data, and crises intervention strategies, LastMile4D has been very successful in sensitizing entire communities, increasing schooling levels among young girls, and advocating for the eradication of FGM/C.



We will meet in Wells Hall on **Friday, September 22 at 12:30 p.m.** to share lunch and learn

HELP OUT at



This year, Newark Community Day will be held on Sunday, September 17, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and our church once again plans to have a booth. If you can assist with set up, clean up, or helping us staff the booth for an hour or so at some point during the day, please contact John Micklos at jjmj197@comcast.net.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER from the PCRC



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

LECTIONARY READINGS

■ September 3

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

■ September 10

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

■ September 17

Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Romans 14:1-2
Matthew 18:21-35

■ September 24

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16



Wisdom Wednesdays, the first Wednesday of each month, will resume after our summer hiatus. On **September 6 at 7:00 p.m.**—in a discussion called **“Why Are Cults So Appealing?”**—we will examine the differences between healthy, strong leadership and the leadership of a cult. What qualities does one look for in a good leader? What differences does one see in a cult leader? Who is vulnerable to a cult leader? How does one avoid being taken in?

Looking Ahead:

10/04/23 – “Reparations”
11/01/23 – “Saints Among Us”
12/06/23 – TBA



Relative to **Dining Out**, see the following tips from [EarthWise \(liveearthwise.com\)](http://EarthWise(liveearthwise.com))

➤ **Order Consciously:**

First and foremost, be realistic about what you can eat. Restaurant portions are often far larger than they need to be, which leads to a lot of food waste. Try ordering a smaller portion if possible (some restaurants will do this upon request),

sharing meals with others or asking questions about the size of a dish before you order, so that you can make an informed choice.

➤ **Plan for Leftovers:**

Unless you never have trouble finishing a meal, it's a good habit to assume that you may have leftovers that you will want to bring home. Bring your own reusable container so that you don't have to rely on a restaurant's single-use packaging. A small piece of Tupperware, tucked into a purse, briefcase or backpack, can be a lifesaver if you find yourself facing what I call the “doggy bag dilemma,” where you're left debating whether it's better to waste the food you can't finish or the packaging of a doggy bag. A reusable sandwich or snack bag will also work in a pinch, if you prefer not to carry a more bulky container.

➤ **Say No to “Extras”:**

This is especially important when ordering food to go, but it can be relevant when going out to eat as well. Oftentimes, restaurants will give you plastic cutlery, straws, lots of napkins and packages of sauces and condiments with your meal, even if you don't ask for them. Politely say no to anything you do not actually need, and return it to the restaurant so that they can give it to someone who will actually use it.



CHURCH POSITIONS OPEN for 2024

Fall is around the corner and it's time to please consider taking on commitments. The church can't operate without volunteers!

Four open trustee positions are **Convener**, **Treasurer**, and **Recorder**, and a replacement for **Facilitator** from now through 2024.

Other positions needed in 2024:

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

ALERT: Coordinator Needed for Fellowship Time

Enjoy having snacks and beverages while you chat with friends in Wells Hall after church on Sunday morning? Well, all that may be coming to an end. We have volunteers to provide cold beverages and light snacks through September 10 (Rally Sunday). At that point, the program will end unless someone steps forward to coordinate it. Coordinating is a fairly simple process: put out a sign-up sheet on the table each Sunday, monitor the sheet and the online

registration form, and try to find volunteers if there are still empty Sundays. If you are interested in keeping the food and beverages coming, email John Micklos at jimj197@comcast.net or Kim Bell at kimber6864@gmail.com.

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



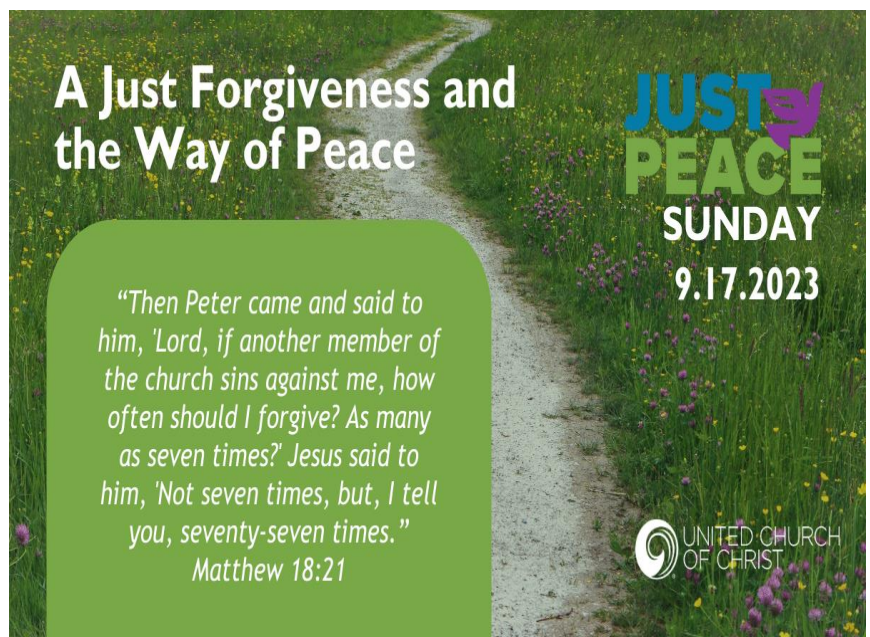
PASTOR SURVEY

In early October, the Pastor Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC) will be distributing a pastor survey via online link and paper copies. Be on the lookout for the email and notices coming your way soon!

BOOK GROUP

Thanks to all who responded regarding attendance at September's book group. So many are going to be unable to attend that we are going to NOT meet in September but move the book discussions forward one month.

See you in October!



Thank You

from Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids

Aug 1, 2023



Dear Lynn, Cheryl & New Ark UCC,
 Thank you all so much for your generous donation & support of Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids! We appreciate it so much. And thank you again for visiting us at the West Park Place rebuild! Glad to meet you in-person & show you some of the work in action! It would be lovely to get you back to see the program itself. We look forward to being in touch! Thank you again for helping us "Veggie-cate the First State"! With gratitude, Lydia, Jen, Rachel, Anita & HFHK.

Thank You from



Delaware Interfaith
 Power & Light
 A Religious Response to Climate Change
www.delawarcipl.org

Dear Social Justice Committee,
 I am immensely grateful for your generous gift of \$500 in support of Delaware Interfaith Power & Light, and our mission to combat climate change and promote environmental justice in Delaware.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our cause. Your contribution not only helps us achieve our goals but also brings hope to the lives of countless individuals who are at the forefront of climate impacts. We will keep you informed of our progress and the positive change that your gift enables.

With heartfelt appreciation,
 Aaron Sharp, Executive Director

Thank You from



Exceptional Care
 for Children

Dear New Ark UCC,
 On behalf of the children, their families, and our staff at ECC, I want to thank you for your recent donation of \$1000. This generous gift will enable ECC to continue a legacy of love and support for children who are medically fragile.

Thank you again for making an impact on all the children and staff here at ECC, especially in these trying times!

Sincerely, Autumn Majewski,
 Development Manager, ECC

Thank You from



Family Hope
 COALITION

Dear New Ark UCC,
 As we consider the ways in which we have supported foster and adoptive families and the children in their homes this summer, we want to acknowledge your contribution to this great work! Thank you for joining us in meeting the needs of vulnerable children. We are honored to have your support and look forward to what is to come!

Many thanks,
 The FHC Team 😊

Thank You

from The Newark Arts Alliance and Camp Imagine

The Newark Arts Alliance held their 25th Camp Imagine this Summer. We met at the New Ark UCC with over 40 students enrolled in theater, dance, singing, and art classes. Thank you to the New Ark UCC for everything—we had a great camp this year!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**October 2023
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
12:00 noon
on Monday,
September 25, 2023**

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 Joan Hamilton
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.

2023 BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENT: HOPE DINING ROOM

This is the third 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.

"... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink," Matt 25:35. The New Ark UCC has been supporting **Hope Dining Room** since 1983. The stated vision of Hope Dining Room is to serve a midday hot meal, with dignity, to those in need in the greater Newark, Delaware area. We currently serve at noon on the third Friday of each month (and can always use more folks on our volunteer list). The New Ark's regular budget allocates money to purchase the food we serve (baked chicken legs, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, bread/butter, and a dessert). Hope incurs additional expenses such as utilities, supplies, and the salary of one part-time employee. Our additional contribution of \$500 goes to assist in those operating expenses. The photo below features some of the New Ark volunteers preparing to serve our guests.



SEPTEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

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

Sep 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)

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