



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 10 | October 2023

“Sabbatical, 2.0”



Image Description: *Photo of the sun low and golden in the sky, shining through a small grove of trees onto a patch of dandelions gone to seed. Background is blurred and out of focus, foreground is clear and crisp.*

Incredible as it is, I have been your pastor for ten years now. The difference between the first five years and the second five years has been like night and day. So are my plans for spiritual restoration. Where my first sabbatical was about pilgrimage to places, now I find myself wanting to make a pilgrimage to people. People who helped me become the person I am today.

One of those people is my husband, David. 2024 marks our 30th wedding anniversary, so we want to make a special trip together during my time away January-March 2024. We've never been to Hawai'i so we will spend some time there

as the first leg of our journey. Then we'll go on to Christchurch, New Zealand to visit my dear friend Mary, partner in crime in seminary and maid of honor at our wedding.

I'm also going to spend the month of March in New England, staying at my parents' house on Cape Cod, and visiting college friends as well as the church in which I was raised and ordained, UCC Norwell. I'll also spend time at home resting and reading.

This past spring, when I was recovering from surgery and grieving the loss of my brother, reminded me of the spring of my sophomore year in college when I was recovering from another abdominal surgery and grieving the loss of my father. My close circle of friends helped restore me to myself and I find myself drawn to them once more. Even though we keep in touch via Facebook and I've had sporadic visits with two of them, two others are mostly homebound and so I must go to them. If it's one thing loss and grief do, they teach us how short and precious life is and to live as deeply as we can for as long as we can.

Who are the people who restore you to who you are? One of my favorite Lenten devotions (that was introduced to me by one of these college friends) is to make a list of people who are beloved to me and to send a card to one or two of them each day, from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week. This time, instead of writing cards, I will be bringing my love to them in person.

As before, there will be a part-time Sabbatical Pastor who will preach, attend Coordinating Committee meetings, provide pastoral care, and have an office day. There will be more details forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

How will you use this time to rest and to be restored? Sabbatical is also a time for congregations to reflect, to study, and to renew. I'm looking forward to the stories we will share with each other.

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

Our Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held on October 29 at 10:45 a.m. in the church sanctuary and online. The agenda will be sent out by email. In this meeting and in all we do, we aim to keep our focus on the business at hand to support the ministries of the church. All that you do to support the church is appreciated.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

October 27 Meeting of Together Women Rise

formerly *Dining for Women*

October Project:

Kaavish: Girl Rising in Pakistan

The October project for Together Women Rise is ***Kaavish: Girl Rising in Pakistan.***



Adolescent girls are at the heart of the gender-based inequity in education. Girl Rising targets girls who live and study in environments that are hostile to their schooling and development. This project provides training and mentoring to teachers and school administrators, provides financial support to adolescent girls and parents, and facilitates the inclusion of menstrual health and mental health to the curriculum.

Join us for lunch on **Friday, October 27 at 12:30 p.m.** to share some stimulating conversation and good food as well as

learning how “*Kaavish: Girl Rising*” empowers young women in Pakistan.



WISDOM WEDNESDAY



This month we will begin to examine **Reparations**. What does the term mean? Why should reparations be made? Who should receive them and who should make them? Is there history to reparations? Is there a role for the New Ark UCC?

Join us on **October 4 at 7:00 p.m.** to begin to examine these questions!

HOPE DINING ROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We could use some additional folks to put themselves on the Hope Dining Room List to assist periodically at this Newark soup kitchen. Vacations, appointments, childcare, and health issues (all legitimate reasons) sometimes hinder folks on our current list from being able to help. If you are available during the day, please consider putting your name on our list, so we might call on you periodically to either help prepare (mostly 9:30-11:00 a.m.) or help serve (mostly 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.) on the **third Friday of the month**. If you are available, please contact either Connie Cox or Peggy Dillner by email: (mikeandcon@comcast.net) (dillner@comcast.net).



DART, the public transportation system of Delaware, has an on demand micro-transit service called **DART Connect**. This is available in Newark, Georgetown, and Millsboro. The full cost for a ride is \$2.00, the cost for those over 65 is \$.80 per ride and there are other reductions as well. Check their website at DART Connect - Dart First State.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER from the PCRC



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

LECTIONARY READINGS

■ October 1

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

■ October 8

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

■ October 15

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

■ October 22

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

■ October 29

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
I Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

CHURCH POSITIONS OPEN for 2024

Fall has arrived 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 are as follows:

- **Representatives to Pastor Congregation Relations Committee:** two people needed for a 3-year term
- **Congregational Representative to the Coordinating Committee:** one person needed 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)

Thanks to Pat Eber for taking on the responsibility of coordinating our Fellowship Time, and thank you to Gloria Noel for her assistance with it.

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. Feel free to contact John or myself via email: jimj197@comcast.net or kimber6864@gmail.com.

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!

59th ANNUAL MEETING of the CAC

The Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC will convene its 59th Annual Meeting on Friday, October 13 through Saturday, October 14, 2023. The theme, "For I Know the Plans I Have for You," (Jeremiah 29:11), will be presented by guest speaker Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, President and CEO of the Children's Defense Fund. The meeting will take place in the Catoctin Assoc. at Evangelical Reformed UCC, 15 West Church St., Frederick, MD. It will be a hybrid meeting and will enable attendees to participate in person or via Zoom.

Jenny Greenzweig is our delegate to the conference this year and will be attending the Annual Meeting virtually. Pastor Cynthia will be attending in person. **Lisa Diller** will be preaching on Sunday, **October 15** when Cynthia just returns from Central Atlantic Conference's Annual Meeting.

59th Meeting Teaser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08zLONmSOBk&feature=youtu.be>





SHARING THE JOY!



*“Joy shared is doubled;
pain shared is halved.”*

Well, school got started, the weather has cooled off—at least a little—and we’ve got holiday after holiday coming up. The Social Justice Committee has some upcoming opportunities for **Sharing the Joy** we have in our lives with those who could use a bit of help.

- **SHARE:** your leftover/extra Halloween candy with our college students who would love to chomp on it while studying or cramming for exams (more on that to follow).
- **SHARE:** your holiday food-shopping around Thanksgiving with those who can’t quite afford the turkey and trimmings (more on that to come).
- **SHARE:** the joy of gift-giving with those less fortunate than us during the Christmas holiday season (more on this below).

There are two families in our congregation who are facing significant financial need these days. During the next few months we will be accepting financial donations to enable us to purchase gift cards to stores that these folks can get to and shop at. The gift cards will be purchased through our church’s gift card program which also helps out our church budget. Visit us during Fellowship time after church services for more information or to donate.

We will also be getting some requests for several children who live at Exceptional Care for Children. These children have challenging disabilities so they cannot live at home. Some of them may not have family who visit them and share gifts. We can fill in and make sure these children get a gift that they would like on Christmas. Visit us at fellowship time after church for more information or to donate.

You can also contact Kathy Hyde at 302-367-3701 or thehyd99@gmail.com for information or to arrange a pick-up.



**Ice Cream and Bike Riding
at The Creamery at St.
Georges
August 26, 2023**

*Photos compliments of
Mike Lonergan*

HISTORIC INSTALLATION of the UCC's 10th GENERAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT

You are cordially invited to celebrate the historic installation of our 10th General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson on Friday, **10/20/23 at 5:00 p.m.** EDT. The Installation ceremony and worship service will take place at Lakewood Congregational Church in Lakewood, Ohio, where the Rev. Joanna D'Agostino serves as the Senior Pastor. Register now to celebrate this historic installation virtually!

Details: The Board of Trustees of the United Church of Christ is pleased to announce the installation of our 10th General Minister and President (GMP), The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson. After an extensive and rigorous process, the GMP Search Committee recommended Rev. Thompson for General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. She was nominated for GMP by the United Church of Christ Board at the March 2023 board meeting. At the 34th General Synod on July 3, 2023, in Indianapolis, IN, she was elected General Minister and President. Rev. Thompson is the first woman to serve as GMP of the United Church of Christ. She took office on August 1, 2023.

Register to attend virtually: bit.ly/UCC10202023 / [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

NEIGHBORS = NEED



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

The **Neighbors in Need** special offering, which we will receive on Sunday, October 8, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

Through the ucc.org website, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC *Justice and Peace Action Network* (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness provides strong policy advocacy on issues such as

the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

The other third of the **Neighbors in Need** offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from

dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. You may donate to the **Neighbors in Need** offering by writing a check to the New Ark UCC with "NIN" on the memo line of the check and putting it in the offering on Sunday or mailing it to the church office. You may also donate by using Givelify, the New Ark UCC online giving tool, which has a place for you to designate that your donation to go to the **Neighbors in Need** offering.

Please give, as generously as you feel able, to this important special offering.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

November 2023

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

12:00 noon

on Monday,

October 23, 2023



- 03 Amanda Middleton
- 06 Chris Seguin
- 11 Markeyse Bryant
- 12 Linda Wildonger
- 12 Ella Suchanec-Cooper
- 12 William Suchanec-Cooper
- 13 Rashid Masih
- 14 Kira Bell
- 14 Court Buchanan
- 20 Tim Brasel, Sr.
- 22 Larry Stephan
- 25 Elise Choice
- 26 Dana Dimock
- 27 Pat Jeffery
- 28 Elizabeth Harrison
- 29 Renn Kingsbury



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

2023 BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENT: HOUSING ALLIANCE DELAWARE

This is the fourth 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.

The **Housing Alliance Delaware** is a statewide nonprofit organization that works with partners to address the affordable housing needs in our communities and solve the crisis of homelessness. Housing Alliance Delaware builds coalitions, coordinates access to help for people experiencing homelessness, and shares information with the public and decision-makers to achieve their mission. Their Mission Statement reads: Our mission is to advance housing opportunities, end homelessness, and promote vibrant communities.

Unless you've been living on another planet for the last several years, you are surely aware of the homelessness problem in the U.S. Housing costs have risen to the point that many families are paying a large portion of their income just to keep a roof over their heads. Many have found themselves unable to find any housing, and have ended up homeless. Certainly the recent inflation has contributed to that situation, but the wealth gap in the U.S. has played a big part as well. And the direct and indirect effects of the pandemic really hit many families in a variety of negative ways.

I'm certainly not an expert on affordable housing or homelessness, so having an organization like Housing Alliance Delaware has provided a wealth of information to me. I strongly urge you to visit their website at <https://www.housingalliancedel.org/> to explore some of the important ways they are working for Delaware and all Delawareans. —Kathy Hyde, Member of NAUCC's Social Justice Committee





Plant-Based for the Planet

Anyone who considers themselves an environmentalist must, at some point, consider the environmental impact of their food choices. Meat, dairy and egg consumption has long been overlooked as an important factor in our carbon footprint, but there is now enough evidence that animal agriculture is one of the leading causes of environmental degradation that it can no longer be ignored.

For example, we know that:

- Animal agriculture generates an estimated 14.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the second highest source of emissions and greater than all transportation (cars, trucks, planes, trains, and ships) combined.
- The livestock industry uses about [83 percent of all farmland](#), yet meat and dairy provide just 18 percent of all calories and 37 percent of all protein.
- Animal agriculture is also one of the leading causes of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and water pollution, and has thus far directly caused the largest ocean “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico.

- The meat and dairy industries are on track to be [the world’s biggest contributors to climate change](#), outpacing even the fossil fuel industry; the livestock sector could be responsible for 80 percent of the allowable greenhouse gas budget by 2050.

For these reasons, experts around the world have pointed to plant-based diets as one of the most powerful ways to improve sustainability and mitigate climate change. In fact, the authors of the most comprehensive analysis of the food system’s impact on the environment to date found that a global shift to a “flexitarian” diet is [“essential” to avoiding a climate breakdown](#). In practical terms, we need to consume 75 percent less beef, 90 percent less pork and half the number of eggs, while tripling consumption of beans and pulses and quadrupling nuts and seeds.

Of course, not all ingredients that come from plants are automatically healthy and sustainable. Foods that travel a long distance to reach consumers (e.g., tropical fruits like avocados and bananas) are much worse for the planet than foods produced locally. And palm oil is an obvious example of a plant-based food product with a huge environmental toll: the huge demand for this ingredient, used in food products, personal care products, and as a cooking oil, is known for contributing to deforestation, displacing indigenous peoples, generating a lot of greenhouse gas

emissions, and driving several animal species toward extinction.

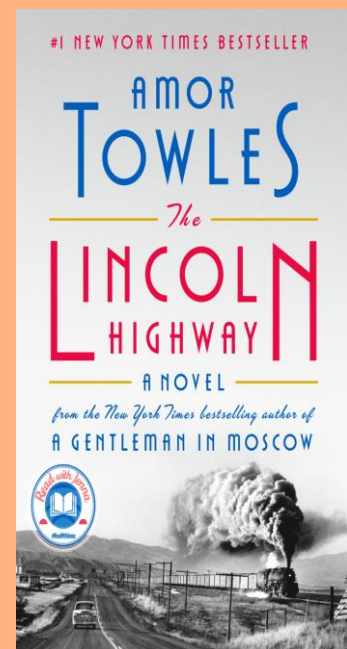
However, as with most things in life, it’s about finding a balance between several imperfect options. In the case of palm oil, some argue that it is better than the alternatives—according to the [Smithsonian magazine](#), oil palm plants yield significantly more oil per acre and require fewer pesticides and chemical fertilizers than coconut, corn, or any other vegetable oil source.

—[EarthWise \(liveearthwise.com\)](#)



BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, at the home of Marcia Rahn. We will be discussing the book, *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles.



**NEW ARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Position Expectations – Keyboardist
Category II Employee**

- Provide keyboard support for the music of Sunday morning worship (9:30 a.m.) and Christmas Eve, plus certain extra services.
- Provide prelude, accompany hymns plus Doxology and Benediction song, and accompany the choir.
- Provide keyboard support for choir rehearsals regularly at 8:45 a.m. before the service, with rare earlier rehearsal starts—normally not earlier than 8:30 a.m.
- Prior to hire, must provide a W-9 form to the treasurer.

Additional compensation will be paid for these activities:

- Provide keyboard support for choir rehearsals as needed for \$50.00/hour.
- Additional services: including but not limited to Ash Wednesday service, the Tuesday evening service before Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve service, for \$50.00/hour.
- Weddings, if requested and available. For payment, see established fee schedule.
- Funerals, if requested and available. For payment, see established fee schedule.

Service term will begin May 28, 2023.

Contact person to indicate a change of schedule:

Music Director

08/20/23

**NEW ARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Employment Terms – Keyboardist
Category II Employee**

Responsibilities:

Per Keyboardist Position Expectations (8/20/23)

Compensation:

\$100.00 /Sunday, plus additional compensation when there is choir rehearsal

Standard Time of Work:

Sunday from 9:00 a.m. through the end of worship

Supervision:

Direct Supervisor—Music Director

General supervision—Trustees

(Convener, Recorder, Facilitator, Treasurer, Financial Secretary) and Pastor

Position Performance discussion:

First year – 3 months and 1 – year discussions

Subsequent years – annually or as needed

Service date:

Beginning May 28, 2023

08/20/23

OCTOBER 2023 CALENDAR

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

Oct 2023 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Communion 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greater Grace (B) @ Sanctuary	PASTOR'S DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 8:30pm - Membership Growth Com. 8:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 12pm - Com. Office Hrs. (online) 4:30pm - Gracie's Friends 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 8pm - Couples for Christ (M, K) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	PASTOR'S TRANSITION 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	8:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 8:30pm - Worship Planning	10am - Office Open 12pm - Com. Office Hrs. (online) 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	8:30pm - Finance C. (online) @ Lounge 9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness 7pm - Worship C. Mtg (online)	CHC/PHWILL MEETING 7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 1pm - Greater Grace (M)
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	PASTOR'S DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	8:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 12pm - Com. Office Hrs. (online) 4:30pm - Gracie's Friends 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	2pm - Book Group @ off site 9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness 8:30pm - Coord. Com.	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 11am - Hope Dining Room (offsite) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 5pm - Couples for Christ (BHWK)
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B) 8pm - Indigenous Conv. Dinner (M, K)	PASTOR'S DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 12pm - Mt. Doreline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	8:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 8:30pm - Worship Planning	10am - Office Open 12pm - Com. Office Hrs. (online) 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 12:30pm - Together Women Rise (M) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Quarterly Congreg. Mtg. 4:30pm - Gospel Truth (B)	PASTOR'S DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	8:30pm - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 12pm - Com. Office Hrs. (online) 4:30pm - Gracie's Friends 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L) 7pm - Brandywine Records (B)	8:30am - Kirtaugi - Martial Arts (M) 8pm - Owl of the Birch Moon (M)