



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 1 | January 2024

“Blessed be the ties that unite us”



Image Description: Photo of pole with many strings of lights attached to it, like spokes on a wheel, against a deep blue sky with wispy white clouds.

I am looking forward to serving with you during Pastor Cynthia’s sabbatical. Su and I are “transplanted” Delawareans, having lived here for only seven years. When I first received standing in the Central Atlantic Conference, we lived in Germantown (Montgomery Cnty.) MD. We lived there until we moved to our new home in Smyrna in January 2016. We chose to move here because in 2013 I was called to serve the People’s Church of Dover as interim pastor. Due to the long distance between Dover and our home, we rented an apartment just two blocks from the church. We fell in love with

Dover and “Lower Slower Delaware.” As a result, we decided to make the area our home as I was concluding my ministry at Peoples Church in 2015. After moving here, I served two Presbyterian congregations, one in Dover and the other in Rehoboth Beach.

The past month or so, following conversations with the PCRC, I have reflected on the different connections I’ve had to New Ark Church over the years. Most notable are the numerous weekends in June that Central Atlantic Conference met in Clayton Hall of UD for its annual meeting and, in particular, your former Pastor Peter Wells’ enjoyably animated witness to the mission and vitality of the New Ark Church. Sometime following Peter’s tenure, I recall my colleague and neighbor in MD, the Rev. Don Hammond, being called to serve as your interim pastor. Don and I were in an interim ministers’ support group together, so I regularly heard of your progress through your time with him. Next, I was serving Peoples’ Church when Pastor Cynthia was installed as your pastor and a couple of years later we were two of several UCC

pastors in Delmarva to form a “Community of Practice” with Associate Conference Minister Rev. David Popham as our facilitator. Cynthia and I have continued our participation in this valuable community of peers to the present.

Finally, the New Ark and I share a common connection with your former members Jim and Shirley Meehan. When I began serving Rock Spring Congregational Church in Arlington, VA as interim senior pastor, Jim was President of the Council and Shirley chaired one of the committees.

These recollections remind me of the importance of the wider church connections that we enjoy in the UCC. Our church ties are not so much ties that bind us as they are ties that connect us together as one family in the faith of Christ. So, even though we are relatively unacquainted with one another, we are family, not strangers! Su and I look forward to becoming better acquainted with you.

Peace,

Doug

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 New Year!

I welcome 2024 with hope and optimism. The new year starts with Pastor Cynthia beginning her three-month sabbatical. We are fortunate in having the Rev. Douglas Griffin to serve as our sabbatical pastor. As always, I am appreciative of the faithfulness of our members and friends. Your willingness to support our church mission and the community is valued.

On Sunday, January 28, our Annual Meeting will be held at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary and online. The meeting agenda and the Annual Report will be sent via email.

Thank you for your support during my tenure as convener. Best wishes to all for a joyous and wonderful new year.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

**January Project:
Seeds of Resilience: Building
Women-Owned Legume Seed
Systems in Malawi**

The Newark Main Street chapter of Together Women Rise will return to our **4th Friday, 12:30 p.m.** luncheon meeting on January 26. This month's project is **"Seeds of Resilience: Building Women-Owned Legume Seed Systems in Malawi."** The goal of this project is to help women entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers multiply and distribute climate-resilient, protein-rich legume seed to increase farmer productivity and improve livelihoods. Shared Interest's "Seeds of Resilience" project addresses the shortage of legume seed in Malawi by creating a seed production company owned by women entrepreneurs, African Women in Agribusiness (AWAB). AWAB will distribute seed to

thousands of mostly female smallholder farmers, directly improving their productivity, drought resilience, household nutrition, and incomes.

Join us for lunch (bring a small dish to share or your own bagged lunch) and learn more about how this project empowers women in Malawi.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION for CHILDREN STARTING

Beginning January 14, children from 4 years old to 6th grade will have a Christian Education program on the second and fourth Sundays of the month from after children's time until the end of worship. We are excited to resume the opportunities for our children to learn about the life of Jesus, to understand our faith, and to see our world and ourselves as God sees us.

Children who are 4 years old through 3rd grade will meet in

Kinderkirk and those who are 4th grade and older will meet in the Lounge. We are grateful that Lynn Boulter, Lisa Diller, Lauren Illiano, Debbie Micklos, and Renee Ormsbee have volunteered to facilitate the lessons.

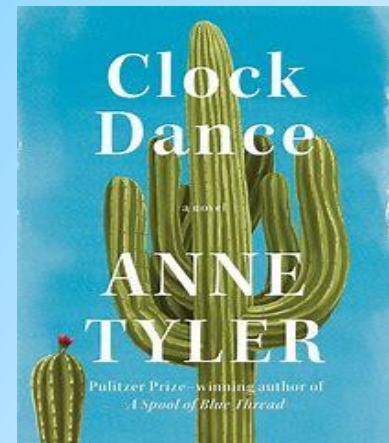


If one were to review the 2023 monthly columns of "Earthwise Tips" and reflect on making New Year's Green Resolutions, it might result in a very long list. Therefore it is suggested that everyone chose a single green resolution such as *elimination of single use plastic bags from one's lifestyle*. Let's all live a little more **"GREEN in 2024."**



BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, at the home of Flo Waibel. We will be discussing the book *Clock Dance* by Anne Tyler.



**A FRIENDLY
REMINDER
from the PCRC**



Wednesday is
Pastor Doug's
"New Ark Day."
Kindly be respectful!

**LECTIONARY
READINGS**

■ **January 7**

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

■ **January 14**

I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
I Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

■ **January 21**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
I Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

■ **January 28**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
I Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28



**REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:
THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES**

January 3, 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for this Zoom presentation on such a hot issue. We will begin with a 14+ minute video from the UCC followed by discussions with local individuals involved in the struggle: **Nick Beard** of First State Abortion Fund, **Mara Gorman**, Public Affairs Manager of Parenthood, and our own **Angela Seguin**, the New Ark's coordinator of the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. Become more informed and learn how people of faith can take action. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85718260381?pwd=Sm5ORlhSZHI2dnRkcDBBVVR2azlodz09>

**NEWARK INTERFAITH
LEADERS PROMOTE
INCLUSIONARY ZONING**

Newark's Interfaith Leaders are encouraging all faith groups to advocate Newark City Council to pass an inclusionary zoning ordinance. Inclusionary zoning (already in New Castle County and many jurisdictions around the country) requires builders to rent/sell a percentage of their units (average 16%) at an affordable rate. Affordable rates are calculated at a percentage of the average medium income (usually 51% - 80%) in the area. Incentives to builders include expe-

ditioned permitting, tax benefits, some increased density, and reduced parking requirements. Mandatory programs are the most successful, and units must remain affordable for 30 years.

The Newark Interfaith Leaders have been examining Newark's housing crisis for over a year and recognize that inclusionary zoning does not answer the problem but is one step forward. You are asked to contact Newark city council members as a resident of the city or as a member of a faith community in the city. The New Ark UCC Social Justice Committee has already sent a letter supporting inclusionary zoning, but individuals are asked to do so as well.

- John Suchanec—District 1
jrsuch202@gmail.com
- Corinth Ford—District 2
Corinth.ford@newark.de.us
- Jay Bancroft—District 3
jay.bancroft@newark.de.us
- Dwendolyn Creecy—District 4
creecydewendolyncouncil@gmail.com
- Jason Lawhorn—District 5
lawhornfornewark@gmail.com
- Travis McDermott—District 6
travismcd8@gmail.com



2023 BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENT: FAMILY HOPE



This is the seventh in a series of articles to inform the congregation about each of the benevolence recipients that the Social Justice Committee chose to benefit for fiscal year 2023.

Family Hope is one of the local non-profits our church supported this year with a donation from our benevolence fund. They provide encouragement and support for foster and adoptive families in our area by providing training, resources, and group events to aid in the unique challenges that these families may encounter. This past year, 43 children and their families were served, a three-fold increase over prior years. They also provide educational programs for churches and volunteers about the needs of children who experience foster care or adoption and roles that one can take to help. More information can be found on their website: <https://familyhopecoalition.org>.



2023 BENEVOLENCE RECIPIENT: MEETING GROUND



This is the eighth in a series of articles to inform the congregation about each of the benevolence recipients that the Social Justice Committee chose to benefit for fiscal year 2023.

Our gift to **Meeting Ground** this year is \$1000. The mission of this Elkton, MD organization is to respect and serve persons at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness by meeting basic human needs, connecting people to service, fostering spiritual and emotional well-being, and advocating for those whose voices need to be heard—all with the goal of creating a path to a place they call home. They operate three sites, (a) Wayfarer House, providing transitional housing for single women and single-parent families, (b) Men's Shelter/Settlement House, providing transitional housing for men with six of the fifteen beds reserved for veterans, and (c) Mary Randall Day Center, providing day services and breakfast for individuals and families where clients may access showers, personal hygiene items, a laundry room, and a mailing address, as well as clothing and food.

Meeting Ground addresses the same issues in Maryland as Friendship House/Newark Empowerment Center does in Delaware. For many years we have supported both organizations financially as well as with volunteer hours from congregational members. "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?" (Isaiah 58:7).

WORSHIP PLANNING DAY CHANGE

There will continue to be worship planning but on the second and fourth **Wednesdays** of the month via zoom at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Doug Griffin expects participants, so don't be shy about zooming in! Usually plans are made for the forthcoming two Sundays with your valued input. No experience required. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82005306138?pwd=a1pFSIV6QlhxbE9SZmh3bGlnQVVVZz09>

PASTORAL CARE DURING SABBATICAL

Pastor Cynthia will be beginning her Sabbatical on January 1, 2024 and the Rev. Douglas Griffin will be serving as our Sabbatical Pastor during her absence. If you need assistance after January 1, the best number to reach Pastor Doug is (301) 938-4860. Pastor Doug's "NAUCC office hours" will be on Wednesday.





YOU'RE INVITED!

ENERGY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The Home Energy Counseling & Check-up Workshop is a fun and educational workshop for renters and homeowners. Workshop includes:

- Do-it yourself energy conservation tips
- Information about additional programs for **UTILITY ASSISTANCE** and **ENERGY-RELATED REPAIRS**.
- Attendees mailed one **FREE WEATHERIZATION KIT (\$50 value)***



LOCATION: New Ark United Church of Christ, 300 E. Main St., Newark, DE

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

CONTACT: RSVP to jtaylor-smith711@gmail.com to register

If unable to attend in person, please request a Zoom link.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2024
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE
12:00 noon
on Monday,
January 22, 2023

- 05 Debbie Micklos
- 06 Evan Cox
- 17 Kit Angell
- 17 Anita Wellner
- 18 Patty Gross
- 19 Karla Bell
- 25 Patricia Hall
- 26 Mindy Dowsett
- 26 Richard Waibel
- 28 Steve Bertsche
- 31 John Henry Suchanec
Cooper
- 31 Linda Raffaele



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



Friendship House hosted an art contest asking students to illustrate what “Home” means to them. The artist who created this postcard is an 8th grader at Stanton Middle School. They write, “This piece is representing community. The reason why I drew this piece is to teach people that home is not always about how much money you have or a building. It’s about the people you care about and trust.”



The Power of Many

A United and Uniting Church Working for Justice

2024 Organizing & Strategy Retreat

Friday January 5th 6pm-8:30pm

Saturday January 6th 9am-12pm

(Coffee & Fellowship Begins at 8:30am)

On-Line Via Zoom

RSVP Now at <https://bit.ly/PowerMany>

Join justice leaders, clergy and local churches across the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ for a *time of worship, prayer, theological reflection, training, strategic planning, setting goals, and building relationships.*

Justice leaders, clergy and local churches will have an opportunity to . . .

- Learn more about our Local Church Covenant Partnership Initiative
- Preview of the Faith & Democracy 2024 Campaign and Racial Justice Initiatives -- (1) *Anti-Racist Local Church Audit* and (2) *“Journey Towards Confronting White Supremacy and Creating a White Supremacy Free Zone Local Congregation: an Intentional Study and Action Guide to challenge Racism and White Supremacy”*
- Receive organizing training on how to be a covenant, strategic partner with the ***Justice & Witness Action Network***
- Build relationships, organize, engage in strategic planning and set goals with justice leaders, clergy and local churches in your State Action Network (DC, DE, MD, NJ & VA) around 2024 legislative & organizing priorities
- Learn about the priorities and focus of our Issue Based Networks (Racial Justice, Environmental & Climate Justice, and Palestine-Israel)

We are building ***a powerful, faithful and effective justice organizing network of leaders, clergy and local churches.***

We look forward to your participation.



Justice & Witness Action Network is a justice movement of local churches, clergy & justice leaders of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ building & organizing power to secure a just and compassionate world for all.

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

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

Jan 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Lessons & Carols	PARENTS DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M) 8:30pm - Membership Growth Com. 8:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Clearing 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Communion 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greater Grace (B) @ Sanctuary	PARENTS DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 8:30pm - Worship Planning 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	8:20pm - Finance C. (online) @ Lounge 8:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness 7pm - Worship C. Mtg (online)	7am - System 4 Clearing 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L) 7pm - Brandywine Recorders (B)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M) 1pm - Greater Grace (M)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	PARENTS DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 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 Clearing 10am - Office Open 11am - Hope Dining Room (offsite) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M) 3pm - Couples for Christ (M, W)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	PARENTS DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 12pm - NL Deadline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M)	10am - Office Open 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 8:30pm - Worship Planning 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Clearing 10am - Office Open 12:30pm - Together Women Rise (M) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M) 3pm - Couples for Christ (M, W)
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	PARENTS DAY OFF 10am - Office Open 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M) 8:30pm - Newark Green Team (B)	10am - Office Open 8:30pm - DE Zan (B) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Clearing 10am - Office Open 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (M) 12:30pm - LCWC (B) 3pm - Oath of the Birch Moon (B)