



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 3 | March 2024

“A Different Kind of Easter Story”



Image Description: Photo shows faces of four medical professionals looking down at a patient being prepped for surgery.

On January 10 of last year, Su’s sixty-four-year-old brother, Dave, sadly died of a heart attack in Salisbury, MD. Many years prior to his death he had willed his body to the Maryland Anatomy Board in Baltimore. That means that upon notification of his death the Anatomy Board sent a vehicle from Baltimore to deliver Dave’s body to the Board’s mortuary. Su and I were notified that Dave’s body would be prepared and in their care for as much as a couple of years. Why? The Board coordinates providing cadavers to medical institutions for educating medical students, EMT trainees, and other related budding medical professionals. A year and almost two months following

Dave’s death we have not yet received news that Dave’s cremated remains will be delivered to us for final farewells.

Fourteen years ago, when Su’s father died, he too had donated his body to the Maryland Anatomy Board. At the time of his death Su and I related to friends of ours—a pastor colleague of mine and his wife—that her dad’s body had been donated to the Board. Their second son, Matt, had recently completed medical school and passed his medical boards. They told us about Matt’s experience during his first or second year of medical school. Matt and his lab partner received the body of a man upon whom they would have hands-on learning of anatomy, physiology, and basic principles of medical treatment for the entire school year. They received no information about the identity of this deceased person who lay before them day after day. Matt told his parents that he and his partner gave him the name Howard, and imagined a life history for him that he might have had. Matt said that they developed an emotional tie to Howard

who, Matt said, became their first patient to whom Matt continues to feel a deep debt of gratitude.

In a sense Howard’s story is a kind of Easter story of one who in death gave himself for the life of others and in the process received a new life! I wonder if Dave, like Howard, is also now a similar kind of Easter story, becoming a couple of students’ “first patient” who will prepare them to be effective healers.

On Easter Sunday, NAUCC will join our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in the cemetery of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church at 7:00 a.m. for an Easter sunrise celebration, followed by a morning refreshment of donuts and coffee. Our service of Easter celebration then continues in our church space at the normal time with a festive worship service and fellowship together.

Peace,

Doug

NEW ARK UCC

A Just Peace, Open & Affirming,
Earthwise Congregation

Rev. Cynthia Robinson, Pastor



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CONVENER'S CORNER

Jenny Greenzweig, Convener

I convened my first Coordinating Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. To accommodate my meeting schedule at school, these meetings will be on the *third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.* I'd like to thank the Committee chairpersons for their flexibility. We noted that we are already halfway through our time with Pastor Doug and that Pastor Cynthia will be back from her sabbatical at the beginning of April. Pastor Doug's last Sunday is Easter Sunday. We are grateful and blessed that Pastor Doug (and his wife, Su) agreed to take on this role, providing both sermons and pastoral care as needed.

One of our discussion topics was our Care Committee that has been "on hiatus" for quite a while. This committee provided transportation, meals, cards, and calls among other care needs. At a certain point, there was a lack of a chairperson, and meetings dwindled to none, but individuals took up some of the responsibilities of the committee such as sending birthday cards. There is still a need for these services. (They were temporarily filled, during COVID, by a group of phone callers who checked in regularly with members and friends of our Congregation.) We discussed having a "point person" that can coordinate these services. This person would keep the pastor "in the loop," and Pastor Cynthia would make this person aware of needs as they arise. There might be "Care Teams" as opposed to a full-blown committee. Pastor Doug advised that to prevent burnout, the pastor should not be providing *all* of the care.

So, I have "Homework" for the Congregation as we prepare for Cynthia's return. Please consider what model we would like for Care at the New Ark and what role you are able to play. Please reach out to me via e-mail before our next Coordinating Committee meeting on March 19. Thank you!



Join us at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22, in Wells Hall to share lunch and conversation as we learn about this worthwhile project. You may bring a small dish to share or your own bagged lunch.

PASTORAL CARE DURING SABBATICAL

The Rev. Douglas Griffin is serving as our Sabbatical Pastor during Pastor Cynthia's absence. If you need assistance, the best way to reach Pastor Doug is by calling (301) 938-4860 or emailing griffinuacc@icloud.com. Pastor Doug's NAUCC office hours are on Wednesday.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

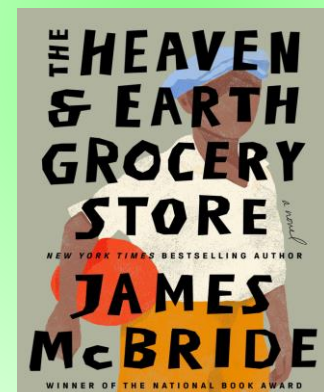
March Project: BRIDGE

This month's focus project is in Afghanistan. BRIDGE ("Building Real Interactions Driving Gender Equality") is a project of International Action Network for Gender Equity and Law. This project will provide key support for Afghan women, both inside the

country and in exile, by partnering with Afghan women's rights defenders on international legal research, connecting with Afghan women lawyers inside and outside the country via Zoom through the BRIDGE project, and by providing direct assistance and support to Afghan women who operate underground schools.

BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21, at the home of Patricia Hall. A discussion of the book, *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride, will be led by Brenda Chisholm.



**A FRIENDLY
REMINDER
from the PCRC**



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

**LECTIONARY
READINGS**

■ **March 3**

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
I Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

■ **March 10**

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

■ **March 17**

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

■ **March 24**

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1—15:47

■ **March 31**

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
I Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18



March 6, 7:00 p.m.

Immigration Issues from a
Recent Arizonian

Debbie and I lived in Tucson, AZ while I served as pastor of Church of the Painted Hills, UCC. During that time, we were in daily contact with the multi-faceted issue of immigration, and the ministry opportunities immigration presented.

During our Wisdom Wednesday on March 6 I will present an overview of the issues surrounding immigration, and our ministry experiences with God's immigrant children and those seeking to answer God's call to love mercy and seek justice.

—Mike Lonergan

**IN SEARCH of 2024
BENEVOLENCE
RECIPIENTS**

Each year, the Social Justice Committee chooses small, local organizations to whom our NAUCC benevolence funds could make a difference. We try to distribute our \$6000 among those who work for peace and justice, hunger, housing, and the environment. We also try to balance those who work to alleviate immediate needs and those who work for systemic change. In 2023, our benevolence funds went to the Delaware Center for Justice, Delaware Interfaith

Power and Light, Exceptional Care for Children, Family Hope Coalition, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids, Hope Dining Room, Housing Alliance Delaware, Meeting Ground, and 1 in 7B.

If you are aware of a 501c3 or other non-profit group that you would like to have considered as a benevolence recipient, please contact any member of our committee. (The members of the Social Justice Committee are Lynn Boulter, Don Crary, Peggy Dillner, Pat Eber, Ron Hartman, Kathy Hyde, Jean Kutcher, Mike Lonergan, Bob Pasteris, and Gail Pasteris.)

We will be making our decisions during May and June.

**EASTER FLOWERS and/or
DONATION to
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE or
MEETING GROUND**

An opportunity exists for enhancing our sanctuary décor for Easter with the purchase of a pot of tulips (**\$10.00**) which may be in honor or in memory of an individual(s) OR you may donate the



same amount to Friendship House or Meeting Ground also in honor or in memory of an individual(s). Please sign up on the sheet in Wells Hall or email Peggy Dillner (dillner@comcst.net) to indicate what you wish to contribute.

All checks should be made out to the **New Ark UCC** with the memo **"Easter Remembrances."**

HOPE DINING ROOM

Did you know that there is more than one way to volunteer to help our church serve our monthly meal at Hope Dining Room (HDR)? For 40 years, dedicated volunteers have come to the Kingswood Methodist Church in Brookside on the third Friday of the month to cook and serve our oven-fried chicken dinner. We know that being there on Friday is not something everyone can do, but if you would like to be a part of this mission of the church, we have another way you can volunteer.

We would like to start a group of volunteers who take turns making desserts to serve with our HDR meal. A good part of our food budget goes toward buying dessert for the 30-40 people, so when dessert is donated, it helps quite a bit to keep the costs down.

The idea is for a team of Hope Dining Room bakers to take turns making a dessert, a few times a year, that will serve 20 people. Desserts can be made the week we serve or ahead of time and frozen. A few suggestions are a 13"x9" or bundt cake that we can frost the morning we need it, cookies, brownies, cupcakes—basically desserts that are easy to portion and get the most servings. Nothing fancy is required. We often use ice cream that is on sale to make our desserts go further.

Of course, the more of us who are a part of the team, the fewer times we each will need to bake. We can also discuss how we will get the desserts,

either by you dropping them off at church or someone getting them from you.

Please contact Peggy Dillner (410-398-7555 – home, 410-920-1042 – cell, dillner@com-cast.net) or Connie Cox (302 379-1311, mikeandcon@com-cast.net) to let us know if you are interested in helping out. We look forward to hearing from you!

ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING

March 10, 2024

Each year, on one Sunday in Lent, several Christian denominations, including the UCC, participate in the **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)**. Funds from OGHS are used by each denomination to relieve the suffering and pain caused by natural disasters, by war, by famine, by extreme poverty, and by pandemics throughout the world.

Because of the generosity of UCC members, over the past few years the UCC and its partners have provided disaster relief for hurricane victims in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, North Carolina, Texas and Louisiana; assistance to the victims of forest fires in California; help to Earthquake victims in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Indonesia, and Haiti; and assistance to persons left homeless due to flooding in Texas, Mississippi, El Salvador, Hawaii, and South India.

The UCC, with funding from OGHS, has also provided relief and support for persons displaced from their homes due to conflict and violence throughout the world. Recent years

have been particularly difficult due to the worldwide spread of the coronavirus in refugee camps and in other places with minimal sanitation and health services. The UCC has struggled to balance all of the needs and demands for support and assistance. Our donations can make a significant difference at this critical time.

Our church will participate in the **2024 One Great Hour of Sharing** on Sunday, March 10. To make a donation, you can write "OGHS" on the memo line of your check and place it in the collection plate or mail it to the New Ark UCC, 300 E. Main St., Newark, DE 19711; or you may use Givelify, our church's on-line giving tool, located on the New Ark UCC website. There is a place on Givelify for you to indicate that your donation is for **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

Please give prayerful consideration to how much you can contribute to assist our denomination in this vital ministry.

"It's easy to halve the potato where there's love."

-Irish Proverb





CONSIDER SOLAR POWER

DE Ranks Third Best in Solar Power Favorability

According to the report, Delaware has relatively low installation costs (an average cost of \$2.85 per watt) compared to other states. The average system in DE is around \$24,510. With tax credits in place, this price goes down to around \$17,000. Over the course of 25 years, around the average lifespan of solar panels, the estimated savings are around \$29,000 in DE. Statewide and utility programs and policies also favor households who choose to go solar. DE's energy costs are among the country's highest, which means households have more to gain from switching to solar energy.

How to Save Money in DE

Federal tax credits are available that cover 30 percent of the project's cost until 2032. According to the report, the average amount of tax credit per household in DE is \$7,353. For example, lower- and moderate-income Delawareans may be eligible for free or heavily discounted solar panels. Delaware residents interested in installing solar panels on their homes can also get a loan through Energize DE for 70 percent of the project's cost with an interest rate of about 4 percent. DEC has grants for installing solar and

wind energy, fuel cells, and water heaters. The amounts range depending on the project. Other utility companies have direct incentives and grants depending on the size of the solar system you're getting installed.

What to Know Before Committing to Solar

Do your research with installers. Ask for licenses and certifications available and any affiliations with industry groups like the Solar Energy Industries Association, which usually hold the installers to certain standards. Compare quotes. The price of a system will vary depending on the household's electricity usage, the size of the system, and other factors. Ask about the efficiency of the panels you're getting installed. It may cost more to get higher-efficiency panels, but they typically generate more electricity and require less roof space. It's not just solar panels you need to worry about. Inverters, solar batteries, and tracking systems are also part of the solar system that helps power your house, store energy, and monitor the performance of the system. There also are many steps to getting solar panels installed in your home. Households need to get a consultation, site assessment, and go through the design and permitting process before the panels can be installed. Even after the system is installed, the house needs to undergo a final inspection by local utilities and sometimes a utility company before any energy can be generated.

--Molly McVety, *News Journal*



GARDEN NEEDS

For Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we will need congregants to do some clipping in their gardens.

1. On the first Palm Sunday residents grabbed local greenery (which happened to be palms) to wave as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. We will have our children wave our **local greenery** as we sing our first hymn on Palm Sunday, but we'll need folks to donate grasses and/or branches that can be waved easily. Palm Sunday will be March 24.
2. The New Ark's traditional flower cross will be put together by Debbie and John Micklos and any others who wish to assist on the Saturday morning before Easter. **Blooms and greenery** of all sorts will be needed to create a beautiful Easter cross for our sanctuary.



Floral donations can be brought either on Friday when Joy is in the office, or on that Saturday morning. Easter is on March 31 this year.

Next Quarterly
Congregational Meeting:
Sunday, April 28, 2024
at 10:45a.m.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 2024

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

12:00 noon

on Monday,

March 25, 2024

- 08 T.J. Marcellino (Dowsett)
- 08 Risa Irrera
- 09 Jan Sparks
- 09 David Kingsbury
- 10 Kay Foster
- 11 Mark Atkinson
- 12 Jordan Seguin
- 15 John Micklos, Jr.
- 16 Pat Eber



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



INCLUSIONARY HOUSING

As you know, we've been talking about the increasing number of people in Newark who are homeless or are dependent upon others to provide their shelter and their meals. And we know that the City Managers and the Newark City Council are now looking at the problem, and considering making changes in the laws that will govern future housing developments in Newark. Habitat for Humanity, Newark Faith Partners, Housing Alliance Delaware, and other concerned citizens and organizations are actively promoting these changes, as are the members of our Social Justice Committee.

The attached letter is similar to a letter approved and sent to City Council by the Social Justice Committee. Now it is in a form that we, as individuals, can download, print, sign, and mail to the City Council at the address given on the letter. The choice, of course, is yours. We've been encouraged to send the letter more than one time, to keep housing at the forefront of city planning. If you prefer to create your own letter, that would be great too.

Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of our community. Your love for mission shows and is appreciated by all who benefit from it.

 [Inclusionary Housing Letter from Congregation.docx](#)





SIERRA CLUB
DELAWARE CHAPTER

NEWARK INTERFAITH
GREEN TEAM

CLIMATE 101:

THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE,
EFFORTS TO COMBAT IT, THE IMPACTS,
AND WHO WILL BE MOST AFFECTED.

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024
7PM AT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
215 E. DELAWARE AVE. NEWARK, DE 19711

Rsvp to register
newarkinterfaithgreenteam@gmail.com
If unable to attend in person, please
request a Zoom link

Presented by: Marissa McClenton
Environmental Justice Associate Organizer
Sierra Club Delaware Chapter

2024 CAMPAIGN TRAINING and STRATEGY SESSION

March 12, 6:30 p.m., Via Zoom

The [Faith & Democracy 2024 Campaign](#) is a unified, coordinated and strategic campaign to involve justice leaders, clergy, and local churches across the Central Atlantic Conference in non-partisan civic engagement. Who should attend? Clergy, justice leaders, and local church justice committees who believe **a)** in faith and democratic principles of valuing and affirming the voice and dignity of all, especially "the least of these" among us; **b)** that every person has a right to participate fully, freely, and fairly in the democratic process without fear, intimidation, limitations, or false information; and **c)** that we are called to advance voting rights and combat voter suppression. RSVP here: [Faith & Democracy 2024 Campaign Training & Strategy Session \(actionnetwork.org\)](#)

DO MORE
DELAWARE **24**TM

Delaware's Giving Day.

3/7 – 3/8

6 PM – 6 PM

DoMore24Delaware.org

Please Note:

Hope Dining Room is part of "Do More 24 Delaware" this year. If you give to HDR via this group on March 7 or 8, a generous donor will match all our donations up to \$5000!

MARCH 2024 CALENDAR

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

Mar 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

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