



# New Ark

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 5 | May 2024

### “Summer Meetups”



**Image Description:** Photo of the Carpenter Center at White Clay Creek State Park. Wooden amphitheater with a large crowd attending on a summer evening.

What is it about summer that gives us permission to take our time more than any other season? Is it the longer days, the warmth of the sun that lulls us into spending more time in it? I hope you will take time this summer to slow down, rest, and be present to the beloveds in your life.

Abraham Heschel wrote, “Just to be is blessing; just to live is holy.” Once again I’ve scheduled on the calendar some times and places for us to just meet up and be restored in one another’s company. Come when you can, invite your friends, and just enjoy.

➤ **Wednesday, June 12:** Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m. White Clay Creek State Park, Carpenter Recreation Center, 880 New London Rd., Newark, DE. Bring a picnic supper, blanket, or lawn chairs. Concert is free; park entry fee is \$4 in-state, \$8 out-of-state. Newark Community Band (marches, Broadway shows, patriotic songs, classic music).

➤ **Wednesday, June 26:** Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m. Magical Mystery Tour (Beatles tribute).

➤ **Saturday, June 29:** The Creamery at St. Georges, 5 N. Main St., St. Georges, DE 19733. Bring a lawn chair if you wish. Ice cream optional. 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Optional bike ride along the canal, 4:30 p.m.

➤ **Saturday, July 13:** Somerset Farm, 3027 Denny Rd., Newark, DE 19702. Bring a lawn chair if you wish. Ice cream optional. 4:00-6:00 p.m.

➤ **Wednesday, July 17:** Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m.

Acoustically Sound (Rock and Country with strings).

➤ **Wednesday, July 24:** Joe Baione Quartet (Jazz Vibraphonist).

➤ **Saturday, Aug. 3:** UDairy, 535 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19716. Bring a lawn chair if you wish. Ice cream optional. 4:00-6:00 p.m.

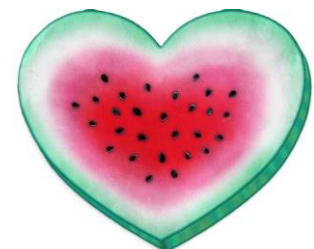
I invite you to circle these dates in your calendar. All ages are welcome.

All events are weather permitting.

Hope to see you sometime this summer!

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

Jenny Greenzweig, Convener

Congregational Care is still on my mind. We discussed the Care Committee at the last Coordinating Committee meeting and, I think, we all agree we prefer its more affectionate nickname: Care.Net. We think we have a point-person and now need to update the lists of volunteers for cards (birthdays/get well/thinking of you) and meals (post-surgery/birth/loss). We can't have a "formal" list for transportation due to insurance concerns. However, let Pastor Cynthia or me know if you are available, so we can have folks contact you directly for a ride. Bev Wieland still coordinates the electronic "Prayer Chain" and, for now, the best way to reach her with requests is at her personal email address in the Church Directory.

Self-care is also important and, I think, Fellowship fills that need for many of us. So, if you don't yet have it on your calendar, put our 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 23 in your calendar!

special worship service that morning, followed by a potluck lunch. The service will include participation by Central Atlantic Conference staff Freeman Palmer and/or Marvin Silver.

Potluck meals have been a hallmark of our congregation practically since the beginning, so continuing our celebration in this manner after the service seems quite appropriate. The service and luncheon will include tributes to our founders and our rich history as an Open and Affirming, Earthwise, and Social Justice-focused congregation.

Circle the date on your calendars; you won't want to miss this celebration! For those unable to attend in person, we will be making arrangements for participation via Zoom.



## TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

**Regional Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**  
**6:15-8:30 p.m.**

On **Tuesday evening, May 21** from **6:15-8:30 p.m.**, the Delaware and SE Pennsylvania chapters of Together Women Rise will have a joint meeting at the **First Unitarian Church of Wilmington**, 730 Halstead Road, Sharpley, Wilmington. Besides meeting other RISE members and learning about May's projects, you will meet and hear from the RISE CEO, Beverley Francis Gibson.

Use the following link to both see additional information as well as register:  
<https://www.signupge-nius.com/go/70A0B4BAEAF2EA-B9-48736129-regional>

Please note that we will *not* be meeting on May 24 at 12:30

p.m. in Wells Hall due to this regional meeting.

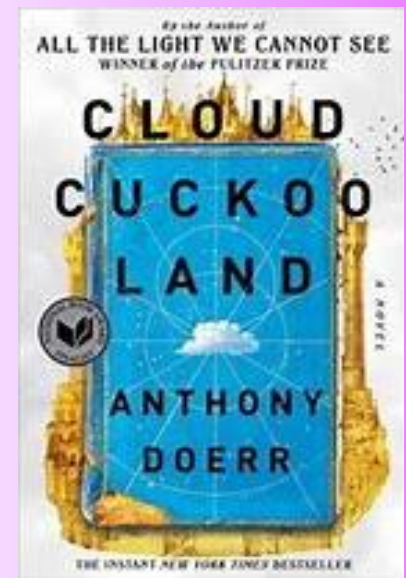


**CELEBRATION SET for  
JUNE 23!**

On Sunday, June 23, the New Ark United Church of Christ will celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We are planning a

## BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, at the home of Maggie Passero. A discussion of the book, *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, by Anthony Doerr, will be led by Shirley Meehan.



**A FRIENDLY  
REMINDER  
from the PCRC**



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

**LECTIONARY  
READINGS**

■ **May 5**

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98  
I John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

■ **May 12**

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

■ **May 19**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26  
Psalm 1  
I John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19

■ **May 26**

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



**May 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

We will be talking about the eight points of progressive Christianity found here: <https://progressive-christianity.org/resource/updated-8-points-of-progressive-christianity/>. We'll watch a video by Alisa Childers who gives a critique of progressive Christianity. Come with your questions and your own perspective and understanding!

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

Holy Humor Sunday—a celebration of laughter, continuing the Easter joy that God got the last laugh on death, that the worst thing is not the last thing—will take place on May 5. Wear a silly hat, dress in joyful colors! If you have a kazoo from a previous year, bring it with you. Share a funny story or joke for all ages. In the gospel for that day, Jesus wants us to "bear fruit that will last," so we will be having bread (regular and gluten-free) and fruit instead of juice or wine.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you for your recent donation to Meeting Ground. We are so grateful for your generosity, as well as your understanding of our work and mission, which allows us the opportunity to provide resources to the most vulnerable members of the community.

—Sara Weimer, Executive Director, *Meeting Ground*

**LAST CALL for  
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.

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 the Social Justice Committee (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.

**HOPE DINING ROOM  
DONATIONS**

If you like to bake, you can always donate a dessert to be served at Hope Dining Room (third Friday of each month).



It can be stored in the church freezer (please mark HDR) or picked up by Connie Cox or Peggy Dillner.

# NEWARK COHOUSING INFORMATION SESSION

Sponsored by the Newark Interfaith Green Team

Intentional, Sustainable, Multi-Generational, Privately-Owned, Socially-Connected Dwellings



Wednesday, May 1, 2024  
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Newark United Methodist Church

69 East Main St.

Newark, DE 19711

Newark Area Cohousing Organization

[newarkareacoho@gmail.com](mailto:newarkareacoho@gmail.com)



COHOUSING WEBSITE



COHOUSING FACEBOOK



ATTEND IN-PERSON



ATTEND VIA ZOOM



GREEN TEAM  
FACEBOOK

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

**JUNE 2024  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE  
12:00 noon  
on Monday,  
May 27, 2024**

09 Isabella Williams  
11 Ed Robinson  
11 Ron Hartman  
13 Bryan Klebon  
18 Mary Jo Williams  
18 Elisa Diller  
20 Emily Cox  
22 Rich Bayer  
26 Thandy Thondhlana  
29 Martha Bailey



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



## **2024 HIGHMARK WALK for FRIENDSHIP HOUSE and NEWARK EMPOWERMENT CENTER**

Friendship House is committed to uniting people facing homelessness with loving, supportive communities they can call home. Your contribution will directly help us achieve this mission. Walking and/or donating helps those in need of financial assistance, those recovering from a substance disorder, or those who are experiencing homelessness in Delaware.

***This year, the Highmark Walk will take place on June 8 at the Riverfront.***

Donations are not required to participate as a walker, but each participant who raises \$30 towards their page will receive a walk T-shirt. If you're not able to participate as a walker, your donation is greatly appreciated and will help so many people in need! One hundred percent of the proceeds from our team will go directly to Friendship House.

Thank you so much for supporting the Friendship House and Newark Empowerment Center through your involvement in the Highmark Walk!!



*The two managers of the Newark Empowerment Center*



There are two bills presently moving through the Delaware legislature that need support. They are **SB265** (offshore wind) and **SB263** (plastic rings). It is suggested that one contact Senator Stephanie Hansen for **SB265** and Senator Trey Pardee for **SB263** to show support.



Offshore Wind is excited to now have a bill [SB265- DE Energy Solutions Act](#) which will pave the way for Delaware to have its own offshore wind project. We are conducting three events to share information about Offshore Wind, to explain how it can benefit Delawareans and our environment, and to provide more details about **SB265**. The following is a link to an Offshore Wind Factsheet which you might find useful:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gDX9Xwfld-a\\_VlrKe8j-gLkZUqvlrePE/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gDX9Xwfld-a_VlrKe8j-gLkZUqvlrePE/view?usp=sharing).

The next 60 days will be crucial for us to get this bill across the finish line, and there are many ways your church community can help us spread the word and garner support for Offshore Wind.

➤ Write to your legislator to support OSW. This will only take two minutes and is a very effective tool:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/Delaware?actionId=AR0433508>.

➤ Attend **Offshore Wind 101: Harness the Power of Wind!** on Wednesday, May 8, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Rt. 9 Library and Innovation Center, New Castle, DE ([www.OffshorewindDelaware.org](http://www.OffshorewindDelaware.org)).

## TAKE ACTION on PLASTIC SIX PACK RINGS and WRAPS



Perhaps, like us, you did not realize that these were not banned years ago. Delaware code allows plastic six pack rings if they are “photodegradable, biodegradable, or recyclable.” But, plastic six pack rings are not allowed in Delaware's curbside collection program, and are not wanted by companies that take back plastic bags and film such as Trex. Also, photodegradable and biodegradable are not defined or certified, and can take years to happen, all the while being dangerous to the health and life of animals, littering our environment, and becoming contributors of microplastics in our food chain. They are not recyclable, and photodegradable and biodegradable are not acceptable solutions. Truly recyclable or compostable alternatives already exist and are being used widely.

Maine and Canada have already banned plastic six pack rings, and New York has proposed similar legislation.

**Senate Bill 263** has just been introduced in the Delaware legislature and would ban the use of plastic rings and wraps holding beverage multipacks together. Many thanks to our plastic pollution champions who are leading on this bill: Sen. Trey Paradee, Rep. Sophie Phillips, and Rep. Paul Baumbach.

Please [TAKE ACTION NOW](#) to show your support to the state legislature for this important piece of legislation: [Please support Delaware SB 263 to reduce plastic waste & harm to animals - Action Network](#).



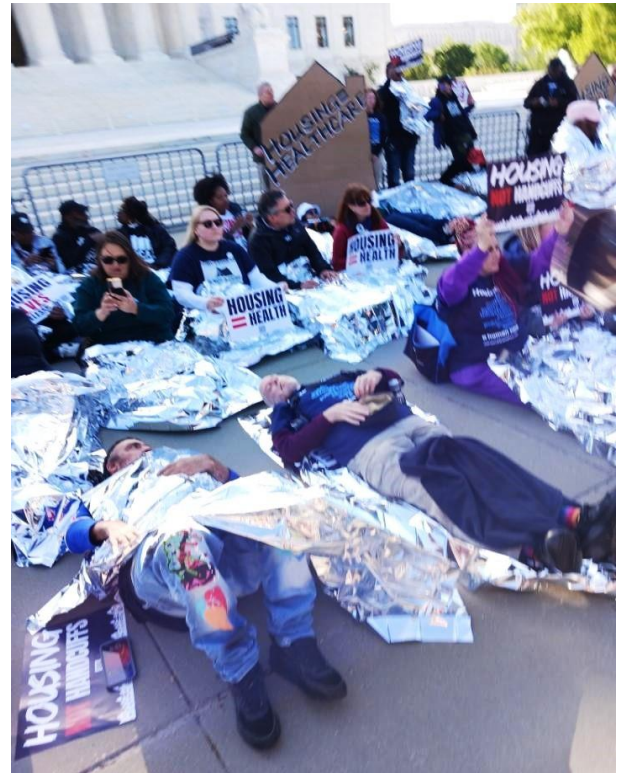
## HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

On April 22, Ron Hartman, Lori Citro, and Mike Lonergan, along with others from the H.O.M.E.S. (Housing, Opportunity, Mobility, Equity, Stability) Campaign, travelled to Washington, DC. They joined over 700 people from across the country to advocate for the unhoused in front of the US Supreme Court, while the Court heard the case of Johnson v Grants Pass.

The city of Grants Pass, OR adopted a law banning sleeping in public places, even though they offered no shelter space for their unhoused residents. The city police department enforced the law and issued tickets and fines to the unhoused sleeping in public parks. The law was challenged and appellate courts have ruled against Grants Pass, leading to the arguments before the Supreme Court.

The rally in front of the court included people lying down in front of the steps, boisterous chants, and a series of speakers from advocacy groups like the ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center, and National Low Income Housing Coalition. We also heard from people who experienced homelessness, and were inspired by the Rev. Dr. William Barber.

While we await the court's decision, there are still opportunities for us to comply with God's mandate to seek justice. The UCC Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington is asking us to contact Rep. Blunt-Rochester and Sens. Carper and Coons to ask them to support two pieces of legislation. The Yes in God's Backyard Act (S. 3910) would provide grants and technical assistance for faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and local governments seeking to increase the supply of affordable housing in their communities, and the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (H.R. 3238/S. 1557), to provide more affordable housing for those most in need.



***Housing is a human right.***

# MAY 2024 CALENDAR

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

May 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	9:45am - Heal In Community (H) 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MWH (L) - on hiatus thru 6/24	7am - Systems 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCWC (S)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Communion 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greater Grace (S) @ Sanctuary	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 4:30pm - Sewing with Jacques (H) 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 8:30pm - Membership Growth Com. 8:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 8:30pm - Worship Planning 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	8:30pm - Finance C. (online) @ Lounge 9:45pm - MWH (L) - on hiatus thru 6/24 7pm - Worship C. Mtg (online)	7am - Systems 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - Newark OA (L) 7pm - Brandywine Recorders (S)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 1pm - Greater Grace (H)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	2pm - Book Group @ off site 9:45pm - MWH (L) - on hiatus thru 6/24	7am - Systems 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 11am - Hope Dining Room (offsite) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCWC (S)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 8:30pm - Coord. Com.	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 8:30pm - Worship Planning 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MWH (L) - on hiatus thru 6/24	7am - Systems 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12:30pm - Together Women Rise (H) 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCWC (S)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - NL Deadline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MWH (L) - on hiatus thru 6/24 9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - Systems 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCWC (S)
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation	9:30pm - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MWH (L) - on hiatus thru 6/24	7am - Systems 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 8:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8:30am - Karateugi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCWC (S)