



# New Ark

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 6 | June 2024

### “Jumpin’ June”



**Image Description:** Photo of a person in silhouette jumping in the air. A mountain range is in shadow with the sky in hues of blue, lilac, pink, and apricot.

We have a lot to celebrate this month!

Sunday, June 2 we will celebrate our graduates, the children receiving their Bibles, and those teaching our young children.

➤ **High School**

Ella Cooper  
William Cooper  
Elizabeth Hamm-Harrison  
Morgan Howard

➤ **College–Bachelors and Masters**

Emma Dressler (2023)  
Sarah Greenzweig  
Olivia Kingsbury (2023)  
Kundai Masunungure  
Jamie Williams (2023)  
Jenny Ziegler (2023)

➤ **Post-Grad**

Dr. Karla Bell, Ph. D.

➤ **Receiving Bibles This Year**

Adrian Brooks  
Cameran Brooks  
Sarah Ormsbee

➤ **Nursery Caregiver**

Dena Birdsall

➤ **Teachers During Spring 2024**

Lynn Boulter  
Lisa Diller  
Lauren Illiano  
Debbie Micklos  
Renee Ormsbee

Juneteenth is on Wednesday, June 19. If you have this day off, you may be asking yourself, How does one celebrate this day? It can be a day to volunteer, to support Black-owned businesses and nonprofits, and to learn about the historical significance of this day and how racial injustice still shapes the lives of Black Americans.

Our church will be celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, June 23. To highlight the celebration, Pastor Cynthia will be a guest DJ on WVUD on Thursday, June 6 at 1:00 p.m., playing music from 1979. Tune in to 91.3 FM and enjoy the groove!

Tuesday, June 25 is the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church of Christ, when the former Congregational Christian Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church united in covenant to become the UCC. Every congregation that is part of the UCC voted in their turn to join this unique denomination of radical welcome and peace through justice. Of the approximately 4,600 churches in the UCC, more than 1,850 are Open and Affirming. This church was the 44<sup>th</sup> church to become ONA in 1990.

What are you celebrating this month? Pride? A wedding anniversary? A graduation? Time with family and friends? The beginning of summer and a slower pace? The gift of each day? Whatever your celebration, may it be joy-filled and full of love.

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

Jenny Greenzweig, Convener

Hello all! We finally got spring to cooperate weather-wise and now it's almost summer. Our weekends have been filling up during this "crazy busy" but "good crazy" time of year. Graduations, cook-outs, getaways ...

There are a lot of opportunities for fellowship at the New Ark this time of year, too. We celebrate our graduates and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on June 2 and our church's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 23. As we look to summer, check the May newsletter for the dates of the "meetups" Pastor Cynthia has planned.

Finally, I hope we all continue to remember self-care and take a break. I include committees in that. Post-COVID, we are once again doing a summer newsletter, so July and August will be combined. If at all possible, I encourage all committees to take a break during the summer and not hold either your July or August meetings. Enjoy!!



June 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Please join Pastor Cynthia for a discussion of the book *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*, which she has been using in preparation for some of her sermons. Written in 1997 and updated in 2017, this impactful book has much wisdom for us to understand the world in which our children and grandchildren are coming of age.



## TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

**June Meeting**  
**Friday, June 28, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**

### June Project: **Upaya Social Ventures**

**Upaya Social Ventures** of India is June's featured project. Upaya Social Ventures provides investment and support to early-stage companies creating dignified jobs for people in extreme poverty. Upaya is building an evidence base and capacity to tackle the gender wage gap among jobs created for people living in extreme poverty. Upaya will gather valuable insights on the gendered experience of jobholders in its portfolio, measure the disproportionate impact of extreme poverty on women, and define effective methods to overcome

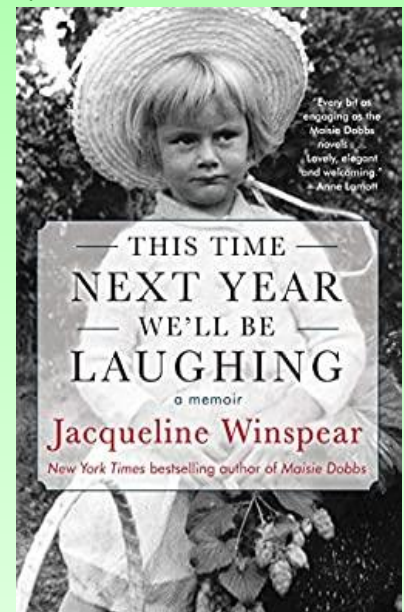
the widening gender wage gap in rural India. Findings from the analysis will be used to help entrepreneurs design sustainable jobs for women and increase their access to equal and just pay.

Join us at **12:30 p.m. on Friday, June 28** to share a light meal (bring a small dish to share or your own bagged lunch) and learn more about Upaya. Together Women Rise is a powerful community of women and allies dedicated to achieving global gender equality. As we quote each meeting in our dinner affirmation, "May we all be able to feast together someday."

All are welcome!

### BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, at the home of Jean Kutcher. We'll be discussing the book, *This Time Next Year We'll be Laughing*, by Jacqueline Winspear.



**A FRIENDLY  
REMINDER  
from the PCRC**



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

**LECTIONARY  
READINGS**

■ **June 2**

I Samuel 3:1-20  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
II Corinthians 4:5-12  
Mark 2:23—3:6

■ **June 9**

I Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-15)  
Psalm 138  
II Corinthians 4:13—5:1  
Mark 3:20-35

■ **June 16**

I Samuel 15:34—16:13  
Psalm 20  
II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17  
Mark 4:26-34

■ **June 23**

I Samuel 17:32-49  
Psalm 9:9-20  
II Corinthians 6:1-13  
Mark 4:35-41

■ **June 30**

I Samuel 1:1, 17-27  
Psalm 130  
II Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43



**SIGN UP NOW for OUR  
SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY  
SERVICE and POTLUCK  
LUNCHEON on JUNE 23!**

On Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the New Ark United Church of Christ will celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We are planning a special worship service that morning, followed by a potluck luncheon. Central Atlantic Conference Associate Conference Minister Marvin Silver will preach.

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 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.

So that we may plan for the appropriate number of luncheon guests, please use the links below to sign up for the luncheon and let us know what you will bring (it's not necessary to bring something to attend).

[Attendance Sign-up Sheet](#)  
[Food Sign-up Sheet](#)



HIGHMARK.



**WALK FOR FRIENDSHIP HOUSE**  
and THE NEWARK EMPOWERMENT CENTER

The Highmark Walk for Friendship House will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024 at Tubman Garrett Riverfront Park, Rosa Parks Drive, Wilmington, DE 19801. Registration starts at 7:45 a.m. with a group photo taken at 8:30 a.m. The walk itself starts at 9:00 a.m.

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 NEC through your involvement in the Highmark Walk!! You may register or donate here:

[Highmark Walk – Friendship House \(friendshipousede.org\)](https://friendshipousede.org)

**PASTOR CYNTHIA'S  
JUNE SCHEDULE**

Pastor Cynthia will be working remotely the week of June 24-28 and will be leading worship in person on June 30. While she is out of town, Pastor Corey Fields at Calvary Baptist Church will cover emergency pastoral care. Pastor Cynthia will not be at the Wednesday concert meet-up on June 26 but folks are encouraged to attend. She will carry out all other scheduled duties online. As always, she will be available by email, phone, and text.



## CONTRIBUTIONS to THE CLOTHING BANK of DELAWARE

Thanks to the many members of the congregation who have contributed clothing to the “Clothing Bin” in Wells Hall. The church has donated over 130 pounds of clothing to the Clothing Bank of Delaware since the first of the year! You have provided much needed clothing to Delawareans in need, kept useable clothing out of the landfill, and provided job and life skills training designed specifically to support women rebuilding their lives.

**The Clothing Bank of Delaware** is a program of **Friendship House**. Their mission is to provide new or gently used clothing to people of all ages throughout Delaware. Annually, the Clothing Bank processes approximately 200,000 pounds of clothing and provides clothing assistance to over 11,000 individuals.

As you donate clothing, here are a few things to remember:

- Please place your donated items in plastic bags. The clothing is placed in outside bins at the Clothing Bank warehouse. Inclement weather can damage paper bags and the clothing contents.
- Please do not donate clothing with spots, tears, or other damage. This clothing has to be discarded.

- If you are unable to bring donated clothing to church, please contact me ([LCBrasel@gmail.com](mailto:LCBrasel@gmail.com)) and I can pick up the donations from your home.



Again, thank you for your support of The Clothing Bank of Delaware.

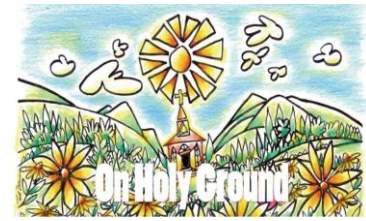
—Linda Brasel

## FOOD DONATIONS

Food that is donated is collected and taken to the **Food Cupboard** operated by the **Newark Welfare Committee**. They serve people in need with three meals a day for one week. Volunteers work at least once a month preparing groceries for clients referred by the Hudson State Service Center as well as from local churches.



Newark Welfare Committee accepts donations from local churches, food drives, and businesses as well as purchasing needed “missing necessities.” Thanks to Richard Waibel who transports the food.



## STRENGTHEN the CHURCH OFFERINGS ACCEPTED through JUNE 30, 2024

Back in 1979, the United Church of Christ’s Strengthen the Church fund helped support the founding of our own church. As we prepare to celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have the opportunity to “pay it forward” by contributing to this year’s Strengthen the Church campaign.

Funds support emerging churches in a variety of ways. You can give through the end of June using envelopes (available near the offering box), mailing in a check made out to NAUCC with “Strengthen the Church” in the notation line, or visiting the church’s Givelify page (choose donation amount and then click the Strengthen the Church button).

Thanks for your support!



An Interfaith Pride Service will be held at First and Central on Wednesday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m. A program is being planned and the Rainbow Chorale is on board to provide the anthem for the service.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

**JULY/AUGUST 2024**

**NEWSLETTER**

**DEADLINE**

**12:00 noon**

**on Monday,**

**June 24, 2024**

- 08 Kim Bell
- 14 Jim Yetman
- 16 Bob Pasteris
- 16 Jim Meehan
- 19 Fa Lane
- 22 Alison Kneeland  
(Dowsett)
- 26 Tony Marcellino  
(Dowsett)



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).



## THANK YOU from



As we reflect on the past year and make plans for 2024 and beyond, we can't help but be proud of the work we do, new friends we have made, partnerships forged, and the lives that have been changed. We also look ahead and see more work to be done, obstacles to overcome and, of course, unseen challenges we will face. We remain optimistic and driven to create an everlasting legacy of hope for those who come to us in crisis. Watch for further updates and details as we work on our facilities in 2024.

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to lifting Meeting Ground staff and clients in prayer, your ongoing support of our work and sharing of resources. I am inspired and humbled every day by the difference we are making in the lives of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. —Sara Weimer, Executive Director

**Please mark your calendars:** Meeting Ground's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Crab Feast will take place on Thursday, August 8, 2024 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Micks' Crab House, 902 E. Pulaski Hwy., Elkton, MD. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

We want to wholeheartedly thank each and every one of you for your contribution of time, talent, and resources to Meeting Ground. In 2023, we served over 450 individuals and serve over 14,000 meals.

### Current Needs:

- Body Wash/Shampoo/Conditioner (full size), Cleaning supplies, Paper Towels
- Contractor garbage bags, Hot/cold 8 oz. cups, Toilet Paper



June 2 is the Sunday we are celebrating those who are receiving Bibles; those who have graduated from high school or college, or have earned an advanced degree; and those who have been teaching our young children. We are excited to have these people join us in person and via Zoom for this special moment. We hope that you will join us as well to celebrate the 19 people.



Juneteenth, celebrated on **Wednesday, June 19, 2024**, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States, marking the end of slavery. Also known as “Freedom Day” or “Emancipation Day,” Juneteenth celebrates the principles of self-determination, citizenship, and democracy that magnified hopes and dreams for true liberty for all. More information, follow this link: <https://nmaahc.si.edu/juneteenth>.



## 23 EXTREMELY SIMPLE SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY TIPS to GO GREEN this SEASON

The following tips for eco-friendly summer living are shared on [Teach Go Green - Green Tips For Eco Conscious Living](#). Please follow this link ([23 Extremely Simple Summer Sustainability Tips to Go Green This Season - Teach Go Green](#)) for detailed explanations of how each suggestion can be implemented in your day-to-day life.

1. Use fans
2. Use natural light
3. Don't idle your car
4. Visit the farmer's market
5. Make it at home
6. Ditch single-use disposables
7. Go meatless one night a week
8. Get outside
9. Watch less TV
10. Throw a Zero-Waste event
11. Bring your own bags
12. Bring your own reusable straw and utensils
13. Be conscious of your water usage (shorter showers, etc.)
14. Eat more ice cream cones (use less cups/bowls)

15. Grow a vegetable garden
16. Learn to compost
17. Use reusables whenever possible
18. Volunteer
19. Declutter and minimize
20. Have “no-spend” days
21. Bring your reusable water bottle everywhere
22. Shop sustainable summer clothing
23. Travel sustainably



## NEW CAC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONTINUES; READERS ARE NEEDED

We have the perfect midweek ministry connection for your families--“Bedtime Stories and Prayers”! Join us Wednesday evenings on Zoom to hear a children’s story, pray, and be sent forth with a blessing. Each session is 15 minutes long and perfect for families to add to their evening going-to-bed rhythms.

Come as you are. The weekly event is **FREE!** Here is the Zoom link: [BEDTIME STORIES & PRAYERS](#).

The new Conference children’s ministry offering, “Bedtime Stories & Prayers,” depends upon readers like you to keep it thriving. Readers are asked to pick a children’s book related to the theme of the following Sunday’s lectionary (or assigned) readings if possible. Those involved in this ministry will be happy to provide a list of suggested books. If you are interested in volunteering to read, please contact Rev. Craig Peterson at [cpeterson@ca-cucc.org](mailto:cpeterson@ca-cucc.org) or 747-888-8349.

FEATURING LOCAL & GUEST PERFORMERS



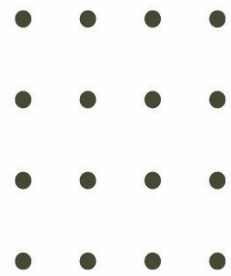
BROADWAY  
POP  
ROCK  
FOLK  
CLASSICAL  
& ORIGINAL  
MUSIC!

**06/17/24**

SKYLINE UMC  
3100 SKYLINE DR.  
WILMINGTON, DE

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~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~  
**BENEFIT  
CONCERT TO  
FIGHT HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

**7PM**



ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT THE WORTHY WORK OF:  
SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL & ZOE MINISTRIES DELAWARE.



# THANK YOU from Direct Relief®

Dear Friends of Direct Relief,

Direct Relief was created 75 years ago based on the idea that private philanthropic resources can improve the lives of people living in under-resourced communities by increasing access to medicine and quality health care. The organization provides year-round support for people in need, yet Direct Relief is best known for responding swiftly to natural disasters and other emergencies, supporting the immediate and ongoing needs of survivors, and preparing for long-term recovery.

I wanted to share some of Direct Relief's ongoing humanitarian responses:

- **6 months after the Maui Wildfires:** Over the past six months, Direct Relief has delivered more than 25 tons of requested medicines and medical supplies to 22 organizations, amounting to \$1.8 million in wholesale value. The organization also provided 20,000 re-entry kits to assist in the safe return of residents into the affected areas. In addition to this support, Direct Relief recently awarded \$2.55 million in grant funding to strengthen response, recovery, and resiliency efforts among local, community-based healthcare organizations to support long-term recovery efforts of those impacted by the wildfires.
- **1 year after the Turkey and Syria Earthquake:** Last month marked one year since a devastating earthquake struck Turkey and Syria. Direct Relief has supported relief and recovery efforts by delivering 577 tons of specifically requested medicines and medical supplies with a wholesale value of over \$133 million. Additionally, the organization provided more than \$6.8 million in financial assistance to trusted partner facilities and organizations providing much needed services such as access to mental health support, rehabilitation services for people injured by the earthquake, and maternal and reproductive health services.
- **2 years after the Invasion of Ukraine:** Direct Relief continues to ramp up its largest humanitarian aid response in its 75-year history to assist its core partners in Ukraine, including the Ministry of Health, delivering more than 1,900 tons of medical aid at a wholesale value of \$1.1 billion. Direct Relief also provided more than \$42 million in financial assistance to groups offering essential health services in response to the prolonged crisis. Most recently, Direct Relief donated over 2,000 battery systems to Ukrainian hospitals to equip them amongst ongoing attacks on their electrical grid.
- **\$10 Million Grant Boosting Resilient Power in Tribal Communities:** Healthcare providers rely on power to access electronic health records, keep temperature sensitive medicines cold, operate diagnostic equipment and literally keep the lights on. However, power outages are common throughout the US, especially during disasters, and disproportionately affect low-income communities. Last month, Direct Relief announced \$10 million in grant funding specifically to boost resilient power for health facilities in Tribal communities. This initiative is part of the organization's larger resilient power program which has provided \$44 million in funding to support resilient power for 130 health centers globally. These grants specifically fund the installation of off-grid, renewable, reliable power systems, improving resilience and continuity of care in these vulnerable communities. The grants cover the full costs of designing and installing solar and battery systems, which are then owned and maintained by the recipient health organization.

Thank you for your partnership with Direct Relief and your support of its humanitarian efforts around the world to help people in need. With your support, Direct Relief provides its healthcare partners with a reliable supply of specifically requested medical aid at no cost.

The most recent information can be found on the Direct Relief website which is updated daily. In addition, feel free to contact me directly with any questions or thoughts. I would love to hear from you.

With gratitude, Olivia Rennacker, MBA, Manager, Partnerships and Philanthropy (805) 879-4349



# JUNE 2024 CALENDAR

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

Jun 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - H.L. Deadline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zan (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MRH (L) - on hiatus thru 07/24 9:45pm - Min. of Repentance & Holiness	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - Newark GA (L)	9:30am - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCHC (B)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Communion 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greater Grace (B) @ Sanctuary	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 4:30pm - Sewing with Jacques (H) 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 6:30pm - Membership Growth Com. 6:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zan (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MRH (L) - on hiatus thru 07/24	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 2pm - Funeral Luncheon (MRH) 6:30pm - Newark GA (L)	9:30am - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 1pm - Greater Grace (H)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zan (S) @ Sanctuary 6:30pm - Worship Planning 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:30pm - Finance C. (online) @ Lounge 9:45pm - MRH (L) - on hiatus thru 07/24 7pm - Worship C. Mtg (online)	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - Newark GA (L)	9:30am - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCHC (B)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 6:30pm - Coord. Com.	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zan (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	2pm - Book Group @ off site 9:45pm - MRH (L) - on hiatus thru 07/24	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 11am - Hope Dining Room (offsite) 6pm - Couples for Christ (H, Hb) 6:30pm - Newark GA (L)	9:30am - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCHC (B) 5pm - Set Up for 40th Anniversary
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Virtual Fellowship 2pm - Greater Grace (B)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - H.L. Deadline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zan (S) @ Sanctuary 6:30pm - Worship Planning 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MRH (L) - on hiatus thru 07/24	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12:30pm - Together Women Rise (H) 6:30pm - Newark GA (L)	9:30am - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCHC (B)
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:45am - Choir Practice (B) 9:30am - Worship	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 4:30pm - Sewing with Jacques (H) 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	9:30pm - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 6:30pm - Membership Growth Com. 6:30pm - Social Justice (online)	10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zan (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	9:45pm - MRH (L) - on hiatus thru 07/24	7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - Newark GA (L)	9:30am - Kirtlogi - Martial Arts (H) 12:30pm - LCHC (B)