



# New Ark

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 2 | February 2025

“The time is now”



**Image Description:** Photo of a bridge painted black above a highway. On the railing in white letters: Be Love ed.

On Wednesday, January 29, I testified before the House Health and Human Development Committee regarding HB 140—the Ron Silverio/Heather Block End-of-Life Options Act. This legislation has been more than 10 years in the making. Last year it finally came to the governor’s desk, only to be vetoed. In my previous testimony I had told my story of ministering to a family who would have been spared terrible trauma if this legislation had been available to them. This time I chose another approach.

“We live in a pluralistic society, with people from many different

faith traditions and people of no faith tradition. No one tradition can speak for everyone, but we can speak to each other and listen to each other’s wisdom. No one person can decide for everyone else, but one person can make a difference in the life of another.

“When you consider whether you will vote for this legislation, it is not about whether you can square it with your own conscience or faith tradition, but whether you are acting in the name of love for your neighbor. Not how you would want to be loved in a similar situation, but how your neighbor who is approaching the end of their life needs to be loved by you.

“This legislation has taken more than 10 years to get to this point. People who would have chosen to use medical aid in dying died without it. The time for compassion is now. The time for kindness is now. The time for us to love our neighbor is now.”

This legislation still has several more hurdles before it reaches our new governor’s desk. Change always takes more

time than we wish it would, and we resist change that we’d rather not have to live through.

Author Octavia Butler wrote, “Kindness eases change.” We can shape the changes in our lives with compassion, kindness, and mercy, both to ourselves and others. Kindness is that thing that does our soul good; it keeps our heart soft.

A spiritual practice of compassion and kindness begins with being kind to ourselves first and then allowing that kindness to spread outward like ripples in water. And the time to begin or to begin again is always now.

Love self.

Love neighbor.

Love God.

*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

Oh, that yellow sign out front! It is literally and figuratively a sign of our church's love for the community and our mission to help the less fortunate. We are investigating the possibility of building a multi-story structure to provide affordable housing while maintaining the first floor as our worship and fellowship space. The Engineering Evaluation Task Force (EET) is completing its tasks much faster than anyone could have hoped. We've had a lot of support from the City of Newark, and dedication and hard work from the Task Force members (Mark Atkinson, Elisa Diller, Mike Lonergan, Debbie Micklos, and John Williams). The EET is offering sessions after the service on the first Sundays in February, March, and April to provide the congregation with information and an opportunity to ask questions.

On February 16, we will hold a special Congregational Meeting to vote on two items of business:

**Vote 1:** To accomplish the Affordable Housing Project, we need to have a group of people who are focusing energy and effort on the details of making this vision a reality. Thus, the congregation is asked to approve the formation of the New Ark United Church of Christ Affordable Housing Task Force with the responsibilities to receive and review the engineering feasibility study, gain and review proposals from prospective development partners, and make a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee and the congregation (more information about the Task Force can be found later in the newsletter).

**Vote 2:** Part of the process will include a Visioning event in the spring. A vote will be taken to approve using \$2800 from the Memorial Funds to pay for the Visioning event.

with access to a holistic high school education which would not otherwise be available to them.

The Kakenya Center for Excellence II is a full support all-girls' boarding school in Narok County for grades 7 to 12. This is a critical age for girls as they face intense pressure to drop out, undergo FGM/C, and marry young. The program provides the opportunity to nurture and release the potential of young women and creates a space for gender equality in a community that has a long history of female oppression.

All are welcome. Join us as we do our part to empower women and girls around the world.

## PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Cynthia will be out of town February 18-20 for Continuing Education.



## TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

February 28, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

### February Project: "Kakenya's Dream"

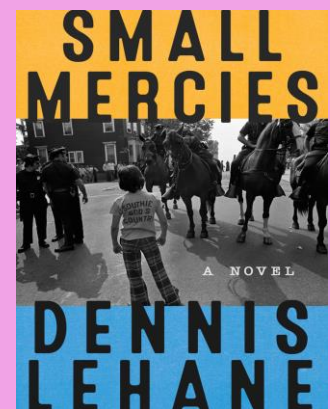
The Newark Main Street chapter of Together Women Rise will meet at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28 in the sanctuary (while Newark Empowerment Center is using Wells Hall) to share lunch and learn about **KAKENYA'S DREAM— "Empowering Marginalized Girls in Rural Kenya."**

The purpose of this project is to educate and empower marginalized girls who are at risk of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and child marriage, and provide them



## BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, at the home of Pam Bitter for a discussion, led by Pam Mezaraups, of the book, *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane.



**A FRIENDLY  
REMINDER  
from the PCRC**



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

**LECTIONARY  
READINGS**

■ **February 2**

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
I Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

■ **February 9**

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 138  
I Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

■ **February 16**

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
I Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

■ **February 23**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38



**February 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

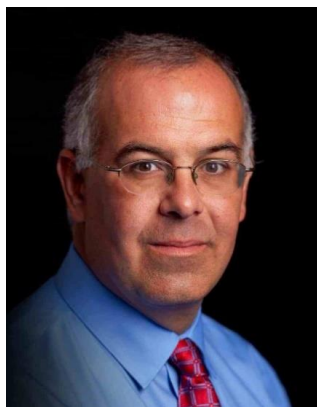
**THE BEATITUDES:** One definition of the word "beatitude" means supreme blessedness, a state of great joy. Biblehub.org, regarding the Greek word 'makarios' (blessed), states: "It denotes a deep, abiding joy and contentment that comes from a right relationship with God."

How do Christians of the 21<sup>st</sup> century approach this blessed state? Is it counter-cultural or counter-intuitive? Join us as we examine this oft-quoted scripture passage to see how it speaks to us in Newark, DE in 2025.



**February 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.**

David Brooks, columnist for the New York Times, has written an essay about his personal faith journey which contains many points worth discussion.



Attached is a **PDF** copy of the essay entitled, in its online version, "The Shock of Faith: It's Nothing Like I Thought It Would Be." (In the print version it is called, "My Decade-Long Journey to Belief.")

We will be discussing many of the same topics with which Brooks wrestled, at our Second Sunday adult education series on February 9 after worship.

**CODE PURPLE UPDATE**

The New Ark UCC has already hosted Code Purple three times this season. Most recently, on January 20-21, we had 25 guests—21 adults and 4 children! Special thanks goes to all those who have helped make these events possible and successful.

We are still in need of twin sheets (thank you to those who have already donated linens). Volunteers, both men and women, are also still needed, particularly during the late shifts.

Please contact Bob Pasteris ([pasteris@comcast.net](mailto:pasteris@comcast.net)) for more information or to volunteer.

**GO-BAGS**

Thank you to all those who brought in supplies for Go-Bags. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!



## DINNER with US

Our first round of dinners together was a success! Richard and Flo Waibel hosted John and Debbie Micklos, Debbie and Mike Lonergan, and Peggy and Harry Dillner. At Cathy and Mark Atkinson's house we had Cynthia Robinson, David Kingsbury, Martha Bailey, and Jim Merrill (sadly, we didn't think of taking a photo!). Lots of good food and warm conversation were enjoyed.

Feeling left out? We are planning to have more dates where we share a meal but were thinking of waiting until the weather is a bit warmer and more predictable. Does May sound good to you? Keep an eye on these pages and look for a date and an opportunity to join in the fun. Any questions? Contact Cathy Atkinson at [mcatkinson@comcast.net](mailto:mcatkinson@comcast.net).



For those of you who did not tune in to the January 7 Zoom presentations on wind energy in Delaware given by our Delaware Senator Stephanie Hansen and Director of Energy Dayna Cobb, you may access the presentations by clicking on the following link:

[https://1drv.ms/v/s!AthE0CJb2O53i5FmHxxQMa\\_wUY\\_FOW?e=n0GC5r](https://1drv.ms/v/s!AthE0CJb2O53i5FmHxxQMa_wUY_FOW?e=n0GC5r)

Hopefully you will find the presentations interesting and informative.

Please see the following list of positives for DE in using US Wind offshore wind turbines. (The below benefits #1-6 were agreed upon and signed by the Governor of DE, DE environmental department, and US Wind on January 9, 2025.)

1) 114 wind energy turbines will supply 1,750 MW of reliable renewable energy electricity to the PJM grid. Delaware residents, including Sussex County, receive in this supply but at a fraction of the cost.

- 2) Community benefits program which will provide \$100,000 annual payments over 20 years to each coastal town which is part of Delaware's Association of Coastal Towns.
- 3) \$40 million in 20 years to fund coastal waterways dredging projects, clean energy workforce training, etc., and capital projects at Delaware State Parks.
- 4) Lease payment for using Delaware Seashore State Park of \$12 million over 25 years.
- 5) Fund \$200 million in upgrades to the transmission system which would bring good jobs for local electrical workers.
- 6) Provide DE with 150,000 renewable energy credits each year associated with wind generation having a value of \$76 million over the projects' lifespan.
- 7) 1,750 MW will power 350,000 homes with clean energy.
- 8) Electricity supplied by wind turbines is less expensive than that generated from oil or gas.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 07 Chris Franson-Wright
- 08 Jon Manon
- 08 John Williams
- 11 Dana Broadway
- 13 Donna Lindsay
- 17 Jenny Dressler
- 18 Pam Bitter
- 18 David Bell
- 19 Angela Seguin
- 20 Kathy Hyde
- 20 Beverly Wieland
- 20 Michael Nagy



**MARCH 2025  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE**

**12:00 noon  
on Monday,  
February 24, 2025**

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).



### HELP! OUR FREEZER is EMPTY!



We are seeking meals which will feed 2-4 people, to fill the church freezer. Please consider making your favorite soup, casserole, slow cooker meal, or more—anything that can be put in the freezer. Meals should be cooked, packaged, and labeled. If there are instructions beyond "heat and serve," please include those instructions as well.

Our goal is to have the meals packed in the freezer by February 16. If you have any questions, please reach out to Meg Marcozzi (302-562-6035 call/text). To sign up, please visit <https://forms.gle/r8e9hMfV5vmQT6h49> or use the paper copy in Wells Hall.

### THANK YOU from LORI'S HANDS

Thank you so much for you and New Ark United Church of Christ's support of Lori's Hands during our Summer Benefit Series! We were able to accomplish so much more during our biggest fundraiser, in support of Lori's Hands programming, due to your giving. We hope that you have a joyful holiday season!

Warmly,  
Sachi + the Lori's Hands Team

### THANK YOU from



Thank you for your support of Exceptional Care for Children this past year. It would not be possible for us to provide such great care and enrichment without you.

*Autumn Majewski*

Autumn Majewski  
Development Manager

## **ENGINEERING EVALUATION TASK FORCE (EET) UPDATE:**

### ***Good News, More News, and Save the Dates!***

The members of the Engineering Evaluation Taskforce are pleased to announce that we have almost worked ourselves out of a job! Within a couple of months, we will have the engineering reports on our property and some drawings of possible ways to build affordable housing above us while maintaining our church on the first floor of a new building. This process has moved more quickly than we anticipated and we know that we need to move into another phase of planning for this potential project. So ...

1. Please plan to come with questions to the **EET information session to be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025** after worship in the Sanctuary. You may also participate via Zoom.
2. Please be aware that at the February 2 meeting, we will announce that **a congregational meeting has been called for February 16, 2025 (after worship)**. There will be two items voted on at that meeting. One of the items, which is detailed below, is a vote to create a New Ark United Church of Christ Affordable Housing Project Task Force because the EET is finishing its work and we now need to have a group of people who are focusing energy and effort on the next details of exploring if it is a viable option to have a multistory building on this property. Please review the tasks listed below that need to be accomplished in this next phase of the project by this new task force.

We thank you for your interest and look forward to seeing you at these upcoming meetings. Please let us know if you would like to participate in our work.

EET members: Mark Atkinson, Elisa Diller, Mike Lonergan, Debbie Micklos, Cynthia Robinson, John Williams

## **PROPOSAL**

*to be voted on at February 16, 2025 Congregational meeting:*

### **New Ark United Church of Christ Affordable Housing Project Taskforce**

The Coordinating Committee proposes that the congregation vote to establish the New Ark United Church of Christ Affordable Housing Project Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force will do the following:

1. Upon completion of the engineering feasibility study, receive and review the report.
2. Procure the services of outside counsel and consultants needed to complete this task force's work.
3. Prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be issued to prospective development partners.
4. Meet with prospective development partners to answer questions and/or provide additional information regarding our project.
5. Receive and review proposals from prospective development partners and make a recommendation to the Coordinating Committee and the Congregation on the selection of the development partner for the affordable housing project.

# FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

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

Feb 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	27 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - NL Deadline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	28 5:30pm - Namoru Initiative - 6:30pm - Worship Planning	29 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	30 5:30pm - Drama Kids (S)	31 7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - Newark OA (L)	1 12:30pm - LCWC (S)
2 8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Communion 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 10:45am - EET First Sunday 2pm - Greater Grace (S) @	3 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	4 5:30pm - Namoru Initiative - 6:30pm - Membership Growth 6:30pm - Social Justice (online)	5 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	6 5:30pm - Drama Kids (S)	7 7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - Newark OA (L)	8 1pm - Greater Grace (W)
9 8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 11am - Second Sunday (S) 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	10 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	11 5:30pm - Namoru Initiative - 6:30pm - Worship Planning	12 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	13 5:30pm - Drama Kids (S) 6:30pm - Finance C. (online) @ 7pm - Worship C. Mtg (online)	14 7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - Newark OA (L)	15 12:30pm - LCWC (S) 5pm - Couples for Christ (S, W)
16 8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Concert/Fundraiser (S)	17 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	18 5:30pm - DE C3 LGBTQ+ Youth 5:30pm - Namoru Initiative - 6:30pm - Coord. Com.	19 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	20 2pm - Book Group @ off site 5:30pm - Drama Kids (S)	21 7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 11am - Hope Dining Room 6:30pm - Newark OA (L)	22 12:30pm - LCWC (S)
23 8:45am - Choir Practice (S) 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Hour 2pm - Greater Grace (S)	24 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - NL Deadline 7pm - AI-Anon (L)	25 5:30pm - Namoru Initiative - 6:30pm - Worship Planning	26 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 6:30pm - DE Zen (S) @ Sanctuary 7pm - New Ark Meet Up (online)	27 5:30pm - Drama Kids (S)	28 7am - System 4 Cleaning 10am - Office Open 10am - STAR Foundation 12pm - Together Women Rise (W) 6:30pm - Newark OA (L)	1 12:30pm - LCWC (S)