



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 3 | March 2025

“Do this in remembrance
of me”



Image Description: B/W photo of a homeless man with a long, untrimmed gray beard, wearing a knit hat and a parka, holding a sign that reads, “Seeking human kindness” as he squats on a subway platform.

February 18-20 I attended a retreat for Central Atlantic Conference clergy and members in discernment. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, who I knew from seminary days as my church history professor. Our focus was Communion—what we know, what we forget, what we ignore, and what we might become.

Mary introduced us to the Table as if it was the first time, and indeed, it was as if I had never encountered it that way before. She reminded us that it is a table of memory where we remember the

communion of the saints, where we remember and serve the poor and the despised, where we do not reminisce about Jesus but where we meet the very real presence of Christ.

Our practice at the Table is intended to shape us and our lives over time, what Mary called “communized.” Workers can unionize; servants in the service of others can become communized. We at the New Ark have come to know Communion’s meaning in a deeper way with the phrase “I am willing to disrupt my life for you,” as Jesus disrupted his life for his disciples and for us. As we come to this Table repeatedly, over time it shapes us into people who are willing to disrupt our lives for others.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Our theme is “Do this in remembrance of me.” Ashes to Go will be in front of the Newark Methodist Church at noon. A community Ash Wednesday service with Communion and the imposition of ashes will be held at the same location at 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal is at 6:15.

Lent is a season in which we engage in the spiritual practice of

disrupting our lives for other people, for something we believe in and care about. It’s a season for doing service in remembrance of Jesus, that our lives would be shaped by the love he shared with the most vulnerable people he knew.

At the Table we raise to visibility those the world erases. We remember, we distribute, share, bless, give thanks, receive, eat and drink, and we proclaim the Word—God’s mighty deeds in human lives. We do these things so that we do not forget.

This Lent I invite you to find ways to do these things in remembrance of Jesus and let your life be transformed by these actions.

Let these words by Kris Kristofferson that John Flynn shared with us be our Lenten mantra, as we remember Jesus.

Tell the truth.

Sing with passion.

Work with laughter.

Love with heart.

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

Many of us feel so unsettled right now for a lot of reasons—personal, professional, and political. My father has been in the hospital and my siblings and I have been working and taking “shifts” at the hospital. A one-day procedure has turned into weeks due to complications. Intubated and sedated, we tell him he will be okay, that he is getting better *and* that it is *okay* to get angry. His anger keeps him feisty and fighting to get home. We are angry that he is in this situation; we can only imagine his anxiety over the confusion and loss of control.

As I describe my father’s situation, I flash to my public school and church communities and to the political climate, and I have some déjà vu: unsettled feelings for those we love, feeling anxious, and feeling mad. Pastor Cynthia advised that it is okay to feel angry; it gives purpose to our feelings. I also heard Pastor Cynthia advise us not to let anyone steal our joy. That resonates! I am angry and unsettled, but I have purpose, and I will find joy where I can. Just as I lean into my own family, I will lean into my church family for support and hope. I urge you all to do the same: lean into the New Ark and continue to find joy where you can.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

March 28, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

March Project:
“Women’s Water Initiative”



At noon on Friday, March 28, the Newark Main Street chapter of Together Women Rise will meet in the sanctuary to share lunch and learn about the “Women’s Water Initiative,” a project of Save the Rain in Tanzania. Save the Rain transforms communities by harvesting rainwater and providing clean, safe drinking water to homes and schools.

Its sustainable practices empower women, improve health, enhance education, create economic opportunities, ensure food security, and cultivate a brighter future for all.



Saving rain saves lives. This particular grant (Women’s Water Initiative) will have teams of female builders employed to construct residential rainwater harvesting systems and greenhouses for 100 families. To

learn more, go to the following link (savetherain.org) and join us on the 28th!

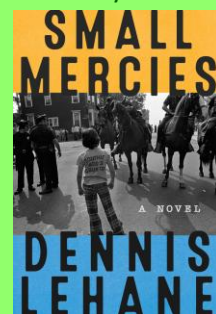
HIGHMARK WALK for FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

The biggest fundraiser for Friendship House (umbrella group of The Newark Empowerment Center) is the Highmark Walk. The walk will be held this year on May 3 which also happens to be when the New Ark UCC is holding its weekend Visioning Workshop. Despite our inability to walk with the many folks at the Riverfront, we can support this worthy group with our monetary contributions.

The Newark Empowerment Center Team web page can be found at http://hcf.convio.net/site/TR/Wilmington/Highmark-Walk?team_id=18992&pg=team&fr_id=4924. We may use a couple of our breaks during our workshop to walk around the building in spirit with the other walkers in Wilmington.

BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 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**

■ **March 2**

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
II Corinthians 3:12—4:2
Luke 9:28-36

■ **March 9**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

■ **March 16**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17—4:1
Luke 13:31-35

■ **March 23**

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
I Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

■ **March 30**

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
II Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



March 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be no Wisdom Wednesday on March 5 as we will be participating in the Ash Wednesday service at Newark UMC.



March 9, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

On **March 9** our Second Sunday series will feature a locally produced 18-minute film, "**Restless Ground: The Untold Story of Mt. Olive.**" Through powerful storytelling, this new documentary portrays how racial segregation in Wilmington followed people into their graves. This film, produced by New Castle County, delves into the history of the cemetery while exploring the complex story of Black burial grounds in Wilmington. New Castle County produced the film.

CODE PURPLE UPDATE

The New Ark UCC has hosted Code Purple four times this season. Most recently, on February 21, we had 13 guests. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make our (hopefully) last Code Purple of the season a warm, comfortable night for our guests.



**IN SEARCH of
2025 BENEVOLENCE
RECIPIENTS**

Each year, the Social Justice Committee chooses small, local organizations to whom our NAUCC benevolence funds could make a difference. We will distribute our \$6500 among those who work for peace and justice, hunger, housing, and the environment this year. We try to balance those who work to alleviate immediate needs and those who work for systemic change.

In 2024, our benevolence funds went to the Delaware Center for Justice, Delaware Interfaith Power & Light, Exceptional Care for Children, Family Hope Coalition, Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids, Hope Dining Room, Housing Alliance Delaware, Lori's Hands, Meeting Ground, and 1 in 7B. We also gave scholarship monies to the Lenape, the Nanticoke, and the Newark NAACP.

If you are aware of a 501c3 or other nonprofit group that you would like to have considered as a benevolence recipient, please contact any member of our Social Justice committee. We will be making our decisions during May and June.

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, Gail Pasteris, and Pastor Cynthia.



DINNER with US

I hope the recent spate of warm weather has you thinking about pleasant evenings sitting on a deck, enjoying the early evening light, and having conversations with people who share your values and are curious about your interests.



We are planning our next dinner together in May and I will be looking for people to host and people to join us in a shared time of community. Sign-ups will appear in April.

Any questions? Email mcatkinson@comcast.net.



What is Net Zero?

Delaware's long-term greenhouse gas emissions goal is a recognition that it is vital to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible by 2050 to avert the worst-case impacts of climate change. In many economic sectors this is achievable with current and emerging technologies. However, it is expected that by 2050, a few industries may still be in the process of transitioning away from fossil fuels. This is why, instead

of zero emissions, we aim for net-zero emissions.

Carbon sequestration actions, such as planting trees, restoring ecosystems, and investing in new carbon capture technology, can help remove excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. So long as the amount of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere is equal to the amount emitted—like draining a tub as fast as you are filling it—the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere won't rise. That's what we call Net Zero: a realistic, attainable goal that accounts for both the opportunities and limitations of current technology.

—2023 Implementation Report



INDIVISIBLE
NEWARK FIRST STATE

STAND UP for DEMOCRACY RALLY in NEWARK

On Saturday, March 1, come and march with us from 1:00-2:00 p.m. as we protest the Trump/Musk Deconstruction of the US Government. All ages are welcome. Bring signs and your patriotism. This event is sponsored by Indivisible Newark First State, indivisiblenewarkfirststate@gmail.com.

EET UPDATE and CHANNEL 10 - NBC PHILADELPHIA NEWS VIDEO

Join us for an Engineering Evaluation Task Force (EET) update on Sunday, March 2, at 10:45 a.m. Learn about the most recent steps toward our affordable housing plan.

Click the link below to view an exciting news video about our church's potential project: <https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/del-church-wants-to-use-valuable-property-to-build-affordable-housing/4121185/>.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**APRIL 2025
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

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

- 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
- 19 Micah Greenzweig
- 25 Jillian Rae Chase
- 27 Peggy Dillner
- 28 D'Arcy Jeffery
- 30 Sheila Cassels



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



THANK YOU from



What a year we had in 2024! Six new partner schools; 3,000 more students; 250+ teachers trained; 11,750 pounds of produce grown (including 15,000 radishes planted). Because of donors like you, HFHK has an impact on nearly 24,000 students in 55 partner schools across Delaware, teaching them about nutrition and the value of maintaining a healthy and sustainable diet. Thank you for helping us plant the seeds for a better tomorrow, today.

THANK YOU from



Friendship House
A Way Home

Thank you for donating items to contribute to Friendship House's Thanksgiving basket drive. Your donation was able to provide dinner to families in the area. I hope you have a great new year!

- Jayla Hill, volunteer coordinator

KEEPING in TOUCH LETTER

This year the Membership Committee is taking on the task of updating our Membership Records. The records include both Members and Friends of New Ark UCC. Watch for a "Keeping in Touch" letter/survey by regular mail and email sometime in March.

We value our Members and Friends and want to make sure we have the records accurately listed. As all entries noted are at the request of the individual, your input is valuable and your response to the upcoming mailing will be very appreciated. We will be asking for people to return survey responses within two weeks of receipt by mail, email, or by dropping off the form at church.

Thank you in advance for your help!

The logo features the text "DO MORE DELAWARE" in white, bold, sans-serif font, with "24" in a white circle to the right. The background is a circular graphic with diagonal stripes in shades of orange, red, and pink.

**DO MORE
DELAWARE** 24™

Support Hope Dining Room during our statewide giving campaign and make a difference in your community.

Your support goes further thanks to a matching gift from a benefactor for **Hope Dining Room** during Do More 24 Delaware!

Also, any gift received between March 6th at 6pm and March 7th at 6pm will enter the receiving nonprofit for a chance to win more.

**March 6th-7th
6pm-6pm**

Delaware Gives Day | DoMore24DE.org



Annual
Delaware
Interfaith

PEACE
WALK



WALK
DE
TALK

Sunday, April 06, 2025
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Old College Entrance,
E. Main Street, Newark, DE

 
DSC DELAWARE SIKH
COALITION

Register at:
[ipw25.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ipw25)



ONE GREAT HOUR of SHARING

March 30, 2025



Each year, on one Sunday in Lent, several Christian denominations, including the United Church of Christ, 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 aid 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 **2025 One Great Hour of Sharing** on Sunday, March 30. 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 online giving tool, located on the New Ark UCC website. There is an envelope 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Pastor Cynthia will be providing Ashes to Go in front of the New Ark United Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 5, at 12:00 noon.

An Ash Wednesday Service will be held at the Newark UMC at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5. All are invited! If you would like to be a part of the choir, please arrive by 6:15 p.m.



Community Ash Wednesday Service

March 5, 2025 7:00 p.m.

Newark United Methodist Church

Newark, DE

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

-Irish Proverb



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