



New Ark

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ISSUE 5 | May 2025

"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.

Abraham Heschel wrote, "Just to be is blessing; just to live is holy." Rest and pleasure are spiritual practices like any other. They not only require us to make time for them, but they are also the very stuff of a life well lived. I hope you will take time this summer to slow down, rest, and be present to the beloveds in your life.

Once again I've scheduled some places and times for us to meet up and be restored in one another's company. Come when you can, invite your friends, and enjoy.

- **Saturday, May 31:** UDairy, 535 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19716. Bring a lawn chair if you wish. Ice cream optional. 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, June 11:** 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, showtunes, Broadway)
- **Saturday, June 21:** 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.
- **Wednesday, June 25:** Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m. Exit 93 (Classic rock, blues, R&B)
- **Saturday, July 19:** 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 23:** Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m. SLAMM (Party, dance, rock, mashups)
- **Wednesday, July 30:** Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m. Shadows of the Night (Pat Benatar tribute)
- **Wednesday, August 27:** Woodside Creamery, 1310 Little Baltimore Rd., Hockessin, DE 19707. Bring a lawn chair if you wish. Ice cream optional. 4:00-6:00 p.m.

I invite you to circle these dates on your calendar. All ages are welcome. All events are weather permitting.

Hope to see you sometime this summer!

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



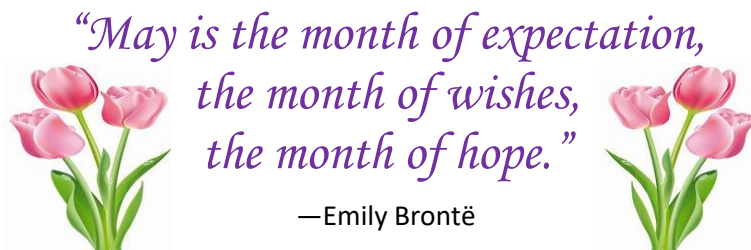
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CONVENER'S CORNER

Jenny Greenzweig, Convener

The flowers are blooming. The temperatures are trending warm. Spring may have finally sprung! I feel a sense of renewal within our church and within myself when I attend church. Our offices are filled, so we have a full complement of Trustees. The EET continues to move the affordable housing project forward. A new fellowship opportunity, Dinners with Us, is off to a tasty start. The Coordinating Committee has approved extending the invitation to use our space to the Newark Empowerment Center. Members and friends are walking—walking in protest and walking to support. This congregation literally walks the talk! We live being an Open & Affirming, Just Peace, and Earthwise church and I love that we do it through balance: self-care and outreach.



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

May 23, 2025 – 12:00 p.m.

May Project: "Adolescent Girls Empowerment Initiative"

Sacred Valley Health's project "Adolescent Girls Empowerment Initiative" in Peru is the focus project this month. The **Adolescent Girls Empowerment Initiative (AGEI)** aims to train and empower adolescent girls from Indigenous Peruvian communities to become leaders in the field of healthy gender relationships and reproductive health within their communities. This project seeks to address barriers to sexual and reproductive health through a culturally sensitive and participatory approach and was

created based on key learnings from a six-week program piloted in 2018 which was extremely successful and very popular among participants.



Join us on **Friday, May 23 (4th Fridays) at noon** to share lunch and learn how this project empowers these teenaged girls. All are welcome; bring a friend!



KEEPING in TOUCH LETTERS

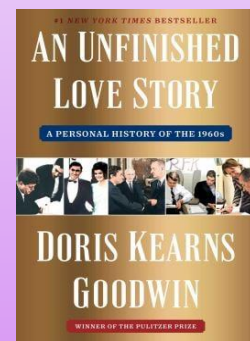
A big thank you to everyone who has filled out and returned their Keeping in Touch surveys. We have received more than 65 so far. If you haven't yet filled yours out, we encourage you to do so. That will save the church the time and cost of sending out follow-up surveys. If you need another copy by mail or email, contact John Micklos at jjmj197@com-cast.net.

FOOD BANK of DELAWARE

The Food Bank of DE needs all of our help. We are asking members of the public to join us in donating some of the Food Bank's most needed items, including hot and cold cereals, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned meats, canned vegetables, and rice or pasta. Find information on how to help the Food Bank of DE here: <https://www.fbd.org/get-involved/>.

BOOK GROUP

The NAUCC Book Group will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 at the home of Brenda Toomey, for a discussion, led by Shirley Meehan, of the book, *Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.



**A FRIENDLY
REMINDER
from the PCRC**



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

**LECTIONARY
READINGS**

■ **May 4**

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

■ **May 11**

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

■ **May 18**

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

■ **May 25**

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:1-10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29



May 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us for Wisdom Wednesday on May 7. We will be looking at passages in Revelation which are lectionary readings in May: Rev. 5: 11-14; Rev. 7: 9-17; Rev. 21: 1-6; Rev. 21: 10, 22-22:5.



May 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

For Second Sunday this month, we will have a brief presentation regarding the End-of-Life Options Act, followed by a discussion.

June 8, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Earlier this year, the administration revoked the Sensitive Locations Policy, which protected churches and other sensitive locations from ICE raids. As we have seen, ICE agents and other law enforcement officers will not always respect or honor our rights. Knowing our rights is one of the best ways to protect ourselves, our families, and our neighbors.

Our Second Sunday Program, June 8, is a Know Your Rights training offered by the ACLU of Delaware. The training will help us be prepared if ICE enters the church during worship or another church activity. The training will be in person and on Zoom beginning at 11:00 a.m.

GIVING SNEAKERS NEW LIFE



A large cardboard box sits outside the sanctuary to collect sneakers of all ages. Recycle your sneakers to keep them out of landfills. Sneaker Impact will sort them in four categories with some offered at a fraction of their value to create small businesses in developing countries. Clean out that closet and add to our sneaker collection!

**Reduce Waste
Create Economic Impact
Contribute to Global Health**

**ENGINEERING
EVALUATION
TASK FORCE (EET)
FIRST SUNDAY UPDATE**

The members of the EET invite you to join them on May 4, 2025 for this month's First Sunday Update. They would like the opportunity to share information and to answer questions from you. They will be available in the sanctuary and via Zoom beginning at 10:45 a.m., for 30-60 minutes. Learn what is happening with our potential affordable housing project!

**SHARING THOUGHTS on
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

If you would like to share positive thoughts on Affordable Housing in a future newsletter (see Lisa Diller's remarks on p. 7), please contact Debbie Micklos, Lisa Diller, or Nora Martin for guidelines.

DINNER with US

Looking forward to joining you for dinner on May 18! I've already put in my order with the powers that be for a lovely, warm evening.



An excerpt from *The Opposite of Fascism* by Anand Giridharadas, reads: "Because having, and nurturing, in your life a sphere for joy and connection and community and love and food and music and human difference and living and letting live is everything they are not and is everything they are trying to take away."

So let's build more community. Let's test the fire code. Let's eat food they want to deport, like Venezuelan Pabellon criollo, Central American pupusas, or Ukrainian Pirozhki.

Please join us on May 18 and let Cathy Atkinson know if you would be willing to host (email mcatkinson@comcast.net). Please sign up at church or by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054DACA822A4FD0-56374097-dinner>.

WHAT IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING?

The federal government considers housing as "affordable" when the housing payment—the rent or mortgage payment plus taxes and utilities—consumes 30 percent or less of a household's gross income. Households paying more than 30 percent are defined as "cost burdened."

The table below shows how this policy impacts families who live in our area. Representative District 23 is the City of Newark and some of Pike Creek, 24 is the Brookside area, and 25 is south Newark area, around Glasgow.

	Representative District		
	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
Median Rent	\$1,519	\$1,380	\$1,497
Monthly Income (1)	\$5,063	\$4,600	\$4,990
Annual Income (2)	\$60,760	\$55,200	\$59,880
Hourly Income (2,080 hrs.) (3)	\$29.21	\$26.54	\$28.79
Renters "Cost Burdened"	58.6%	50.1%	44.2%

(1) Monthly Income equals Median Rent divided by .30

(2) Annual Income equals Monthly Income times 12

(3) Hourly Income equals Annual Income divided by 2,080 hours (52 weeks x 40 hours per week)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

**JUNE 2025
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

**12:00 noon
on Monday,
May 26, 2025**

09 Isabella Williams
11 Ed Robinson
11 Ron Hartman
13 Bryan Klebon
18 Mary Jo Williams
18 Elisa Diller
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.



DAY for HOUSING 2025



Join Housing Alliance DE in Dover on May 22 to advocate for solutions to the housing crisis. You will meet with elected officials to educate them about housing needs and solutions, tell your story, and network with fellow advocates from around the state who believe everyone in our communities should have safe, affordable housing. Registered attendees will be provided with free lunch from a local food truck.

New Ark UCC is sponsoring the Day for Housing and will have a table sharing information about our Affordable Housing Project. Join HAD and fellow advocates on Zoom on May 15 to prepare for Day for Housing!

Please register for Day for Housing and the May 15 meeting [here](#).

Content:

- Policy and legislative issues about which we will be speaking to our policy makers and elected officials on Day for Housing.
- Logistics and what to expect.
- Q & A with HAD team.



Join us at the 2025 Wilmington Highmark Walk For A Healthy Community Saturday, May 3



walking for 10 years to help others find **A Way Home**

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025

Location: Tubman Garrett Riverfront Park

Event details:

- 7:45am - registration
- 8:30am - group photo
- 9:00am - 5K walk begins
- 9:15am - 1 mile walk begins

Our Team
Name is:

**Newark
Empowerment Center**

Scan to join and / or
make a donation.



Help us make an even bigger impact!

If we recruit 20 walkers and raise \$2,000, a generous anonymous donor will contribute an **extra \$1,000** to our team! We hope you'll help us get there!

We're excited to share that our team will be participating in our 10th Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, May 3, at the Wilmington Riverfront, and we'd love your support!

This event is close to our hearts, and we're walking to make a meaningful difference. Your partnership means a lot to us, and we invite you to consider supporting our efforts with a donation. Every contribution—big or small—helps us reach our goal and make an impact.

[Click here](#) to support the **Newark Empowerment Center Team**! Donations by anyone are appreciated. As of 04/28/25, the Newark Empowerment Center Team was only at 47 percent of its goal. Walkers will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: LISA DILLER'S RECOLLECTIONS

After my graduation from the University of Delaware (UDel) in 1977, I stayed in Newark to serve as a VISTA volunteer (Volunteers In Service To America). Having been raised a Presbyterian, I attended First Presbyterian Church of Newark where I met people like Jack and Bert Tosh and Clay and Kay Foster, all instrumental in starting the New Ark United Church of Christ. At that time, Jack and Clay also served as Presbyterian members on the board of the United Campus Ministry at UDel and convinced me I should also join their board as a "youth" member. Looking for other ways to increase my connection with the larger community as well, I agreed and joined the group.

In the years that followed, Jack and Clay left the campus ministry and joined the New Ark UCC board where they continued their efforts toward providing adequate affordable housing by working with Habitat for Humanity and making substantial repairs on the old Orchard Road campus ministry, a house they supported toward that end.

I left Newark for some time but was not at all surprised, when I returned in 1999 and attended New Ark UCC, to see that Jack and Clay were still committed to Habitat for Humanity.

With these memories in mind, I believe building affordable housing literally on top of our church is the best way to honor this longstanding commitment.

SAVE THESE DATES!

June 1, 2024

Faith and Housing:

A Congregational Discussion

Start: 9:30 a.m. with worship, continuing after worship with a light lunch/**End:** 3:00 p.m. after small group discussion sessions

Place: New Ark Sanctuary for face-to-face attendees and Zoom for virtual attendance

Who should attend: Everyone! Those who want to register online can do so using this link: <https://bit.ly/HousingEvent6125>. Information will be forthcoming regarding lunch.

June 4, 2025

Meeting with Engineers
for the Congregation

Start: 3:00 p.m./**End:** 4:30 p.m.

Place: New Ark Sanctuary for face-to-face attendees and Zoom for virtual attendance

Who should attend: Everyone!

Why: This is an opportunity to meet with the engineers of the Pennoni firm to learn more about the suitability of building a taller building for the church and affordable housing project. This session will focus on how a new building might fit on our site but *will not include the interior design of the space* (that's what an architect will do). Learn about the joys and challenges that we will face in planning this next phase of the project.

NEW PEOPLE to CARE for OUR CHILDREN

At the Quarterly Congregational Meeting, the job descriptions and terms of employment for the new people to care for

our children were approved. Thank you for your approval of these! Let me introduce these new people to you:

- **Delilah Jones**, the new person in the nursery has been an assistant teacher in a toddler classroom at a local childcare center for 18 months. She is currently studying to be a behaviorist, a certification program to work with children with challenging behaviors.
- **Cora Doney**, the new person to work with our older school-age youth each Sunday, is a freshman at Cecil College. She has worked with school-age youth in a summer program run by Cecil College.

A big thank you is extended to **Kara Mey** for spending more Sunday mornings than anticipated with us, caring for our children, to address our childcare needs when Dena Birdsall passed away. Kara will continue to be with us through the summer after a vacation in June.

In the process of seeking people to be with us every Sunday, two people were identified who are willing to be substitutes. You are likely to see these people around this month as we will have need for their services.

- **Viviana Gonzales** is trained in art and has much experience working with children.
- **Kira Jefferson** is a junior at the University of Delaware studying speech pathology, and also has experience with working with groups of children.

As you see these people coming and going, please feel free to introduce yourself and express your appreciation for the time that they spend with our children.



EDF—MEETING TRUMP THREATS with RESOLVE

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) began in 1967 as a scrappy group of scientists and lawyer on Long Island, NY. They fought to save the osprey from DDT and got DDT banned in the U.S. Science guides EDF in everything they do. EDF has 3.5 million members, and takes on environmental challenges in 30 countries with 1000 staff members. Revenue for 2024 was 313 million, with 67 percent coming from membership and less than 1 percent from government; 87 percent of spending is directed to program activities.

During the first Trump administration, EDF's powerful legal team successfully defended our nation's bedrock environmental laws against unprecedented wave of deregulation. Due to EDF's efforts and its allies, the Trump administration lost more than 80percent of its court challenges to environmental roll-backs, with 82 out of 100 cases ending in either rulings against the policies or their withdrawal.

The following article entitled "Meeting Threats with Resolve" was taken from EDF's Spring 2025 Issue of **Solutions**.

Meeting threats with resolve



During my 40 years at EDF, I've experienced many challenges to environmental progress. But I'll be direct: The threats we face today are unprecedented.

The moves have been rapid and relentless. The new administration has worked to dismantle the vital protections of the Clean Air Act, by asserting, contrary to prior Environmental Protection Agency guidance and U.S. Supreme Court rulings, that the government lacks the power to curb climate pollution. EPA programs protecting

the most vulnerable were among the first targeted.

This administration has also set us back in the global clean energy race by withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement and halting federal investments in clean energy.

We are confident that many of these attacks are unlawful. And EDF is already in court fighting back to protect the progress we've made in recent years.

The impacts of climate change are increasingly visible worldwide. For example, 70 miles east of EDF's New York office, residents of Mastic Beach have been experiencing 40 days a year of sunny-day flooding due to rising seas. (See cover story, p. 8.)

Despite the federal setbacks, we are making progress elsewhere. In Washington state, by a vote of 62% to 38%, voters overwhelmingly turned back an attack on the state's landmark cap-and-invest program. It has used pollution fees to incentivize emissions reductions and provide more than \$2 billion for investments ranging from free public transit to renewable energy projects. When the program came under attack, EDF was part of the diverse and powerful coalition that successfully defended it. Now, other states like New York and Maryland are exploring following Washington's lead. (See p. 5.)

And high above us, EDF's methane hunting satellite, MethaneSAT, is circling the planet, exposing pollution that other satellites can't see. (If you're interested, it's releasing its data on a public portal: data.methanesat.org.)

Cutting methane remains the fastest way to slow global warming. And so far, MethaneSAT's data shows what EDF experts have long suspected: Methane pollution from the oil and gas industry far exceeds official estimates. Most of the pollution is coming from widespread, small sources rather than big, super-emitter events. This new data will help slash emissions worldwide. (See p. 13.)

There are significant obstacles ahead, but also major opportunities to make progress. With our uniquely effective combination of science, economics, law and nonpartisanship, EDF was built for a moment like this.

Fred Krupp, EDF President

MAY 2025 CALENDAR

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

May 2025 (Eastern Time - New York)

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