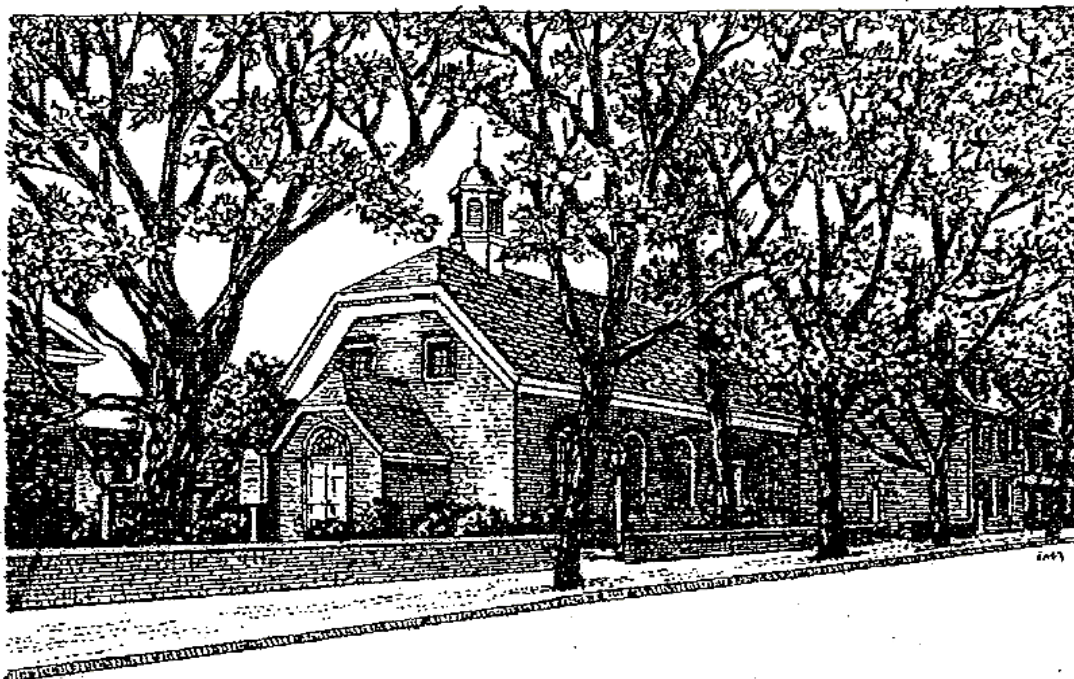


New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E 2nd Street, New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279 | Email: office@newcastlepreschurch.org

www.newcastlepreschurch.org



New Castle Presbyterian Church ~ Built 1707 ~ New Castle, Delaware

Our Mission

New Castle Presbyterian Church offers a nurturing and supportive church community where all are welcomed to join in prayer and song, study and service as all are called to demonstrate understanding, compassion, and acceptance.

By God's Spoken Word and Holy Spirit, we seek to live out the Gospel of the Risen Christ, as we grow spiritually, in strength, and with inclusiveness.

We worship God in simplicity and with clarity; we study God's Word to direct our lives; and we nurture the young and the searchers in our midst.

As a congregation and in cooperation with others, we engage in service and outreach with the local community and the world. We work to feed, clothe, and shelter our brothers and sisters while sharing the selfless and forgiving love of Jesus Christ.

As we have been blessed, we seek to use all that we have to bless others with this good news of grace and joy.

Welcome to New Castle Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshiping with us in-person or joining via livestream, we gather today as a community of faith, seeking and serving the God we know in Jesus Christ. May this worship service remind you that you are God's own and that together we are called to live out God's way of love, justice and peace.

For folks joining us for in-person worship,

A little help - Please see an usher to receive any assistance, including a personal seat cushion.

Restrooms are located in the Education Building, at the far end of the Fellowship Hall.

Children are always welcome in worship! Worship Bags and children's bulletins are available at the back of the Meeting House. If your family needs to step out of the Meeting House for a time, there is a livestream feed and "pray ground" in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School and Nursery will return next week.

At the end of worship, please join us for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship "code": * = please stand if able **bold** = all speak together

Gentle Reminders:

Please turn off all cell phones.

Parking spaces on 2nd Street in front of the Meeting House are for handicapped parking only.

Please put your bulletins in the blue recycle can at the door as you leave – we recycle!

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Pastor Miriam's day of rest is on Mondays.

The NCPC Office will be closed January 1-2.

**New Castle Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Christmas**

December 31, 2023

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head Arr. Michael Larkin
Amy Shimmin – Flute
Eileen Larkin - Piano

Welcome & Words about The Life and Work of the Church

Greeting of Peace

As Jesus greeted his disciples, so let us greet one another:

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*Please wave at your neighbors and extend Christ's greeting,
"Peace be with you".*

Steeple Bell

Call to Worship

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found.

Come, hope of heaven!

When we are overwhelmed with conflict within ourselves or out in the world, the peace of Christ may be found.

We lift up our hearts with anticipation.

In the dark sacred night and the brightness of the noonday, God came to live among us and bring tidings of great joy.

We rejoice at the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.

When all else fails, when hope seems lost, when the night seems eternal, God's love abides in Christ.

Christ, our light of love, shine into our hearts and into our world.

Children of God, where will we find Christ's love this day?

We're surprised by love in a manger, on a cross, and in an empty tomb.

By day or by night, the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of Christ can be found. We all are watching and waiting for a sign of Christ to come, for God's light to shine into our world. We light the Christ candle because God is present for us, in the day and in the night, here and now, just as we are.

(Lighting of Christ candle.)

Children of God, where will we find Christ's light this day?

The good news is here. The child has come. Emmanuel, God with us, has been born for us!

***Hymn #132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Great God, we want to sing like the prophets did. We want to witness God's saving love like Simeon did. We want to tell everyone the good news like Anna did.

But too often we have used our voices to attack our neighbors. We do not seek your presence in your midst. We worry more about what others will think of us rather than if we are following Christ.

As we close this year, forgive us the ways that we have not lived as your disciples. As we look ahead to a new year, give us new opportunities to walk in your way of love... *(Time for silent prayer.)*

Assurance of Pardon

Let us proclaim the Good News together:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***Response #155 Raise a Song of Gladness, sung twice**

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour upon us your spirit of wisdom and understanding, that we may respond to your gracious promises with faithfulness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word, ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn #140

Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

What Child Is This
Amy Shimmin - Flute

Arr. Amy Shimmin

***Response #607**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of all faithfulness, during the bright blessed day and the dark sacred night, we sing your praise. Lead us in the way of righteousness that we might recognize your presence among us. Deepen our faith so that even as we testify to your birth, we might anticipate the eternal life you gave in your death. Use these offerings of our lives and treasures to your work of justice and love. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and
the glory, forever. Amen.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn # 134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIOCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

***Charge and Benediction**

Steeple Bell

Postlude

Tambourin
Amy Shimmin - Flute
Eileen Larkin - Piano

Francois Joseph Gossec

*Please remain seated through the Postlude.
As you exit, you may recycle your bulletin in the basket at the door.*

Thank you for serving today:

Worship Leader: Carol Mayhew

Counters: Cynthia Beam/Lyn Briggs

Ushers: Megan, Monroe & Gary Graham

Coffee Hour: Janet Spring

Nursery: No Nursery

Sunday School: No Sunday School

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

*Alice M. Keegan
1907-1978*

*G. Rolfe Scofield
1917-2015*



WELCOME TO OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY!

The Rev. Jim Mehler who is a three-time retired pastor. He and Tracy live in town and enjoy views of Battery Park and the goslings. Jim walks, jogs, bikes, cycles, and makes hobo art from river driftwood.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING

We are in need of ushers and worship leaders. Please sign up today:

<https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups> We're also in need of volunteers for First Sunday coffee hours, including January 7. Sign up is in the Fellowship Hall.


YOUNG-ISH WOMEN'S GATHERING – JANUARY 7

Our fellowship group for women between the ages of ~25 and 50 will gather next on January 7 after coffee hour. Let Pastor Miriam know if you're able to attend or would like to be included on the list for future gatherings. Childcare can be available; RSVP to Pastor Miriam for more information.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

NCPC will offer a six-week grief support group this winter. Beginning on Tuesday, January 9 and running through February 13, gather in the library at 2 p.m. with Minerva Lermond and Toni Marley to discuss *Your Particular Grief* (Oates). Some copies will be available for purchase for \$15 from the church office, or order your copy through pcusastore.com.

JANUARY 21 SPEAKER ON SUICIDE AWARENESS

 Mark your calendars for a Coffee Hour talk on January 21 by New Castle neighbor Leah Reynolds. Beyond her day job running Kennett Area Community Service, Leah is a passionate campaigner for suicide prevention, awareness, and change. Recognizing the intersectionality of suicide, we will provide information about different resources in our area. In Christ's name, we are called to remove the stigma around mental illness and addiction, encouraging compassionate support for individuals and their families. This event is co-sponsored by the Deacons and Congregational Life.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Anyone considering joining NCPC - or- liking what they observe and wanting to learn more is encouraged to meet other newbies after Coffee Hour on January 28. Join members of the Congregational Life committee in the Fellowship Hall around 12:15 for additional lunch fare and conversation.

GUATEMALA FUEL-EFFICIENT STOVES - A HOT COMMODITY!

Many of us will prepare holiday feasts standing at a fancy stove-top, with double ovens and microwaves at the ready. But for many people around the world, their cooking reality is an open fire on a dirt floor and a smoke-filled kitchen. This Christmas, please consider giving the gift of a [fuel-efficient stove](#) to an indigenous family in Guatemala.



These new stoves are great because they:

- Are cost-effective and use far less wood
- Reduce respiratory and eye diseases caused by smoke
- Eliminate the risk of young children contacting open flames
- Offer a comfortable working height for women
- Serve as a table for families to eat together on cold mornings
- Often provide the only source of heat in the home
- Are manufactured in Guatemala, by Guatemalans, using local materials

A NEW TWIST TO UNDIE SUNDAY

Our always popular Undie Sunday is returning on Sunday, February 4 and we've added a new twist this year! Between now and then, we're collecting *new* underwear for Friendship House. All shapes, sizes and colors are needed for men, women and children (even beyond extra-large, like 2X, 3X and 4X), including socks! Donations can be dropped off in the CE building baskets in the entryway.

And for something new this year, our friends at the Clothing Bank have invited us that same day (Feb. 4) to tour their Wilmington facility and volunteer assisting the staff in their duties. (Bring a brown bag lunch, and we'll head out around Noon.) Those of you (ages 6 and up, please) who would like to join our visit/volunteer opportunity, please contact Scott Selheimer (selheime@udel.edu) no later than Feb. 1. Once we get an idea of how many will attend, we can arrange carpooling.

Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook,
302-328-7346 suzieflook@hotmail.com

Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:

Rod Denison

Coral Springs Healthcare Ctr.
505 Greenbank Rd., Room C7
Wilmington, DE 19808

Linda Twyford

New Castle Nursing & Rehab
32 Buena Vista Dr,
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-2580

At Home:

Kathy Griffin-Graham

323 Oregon Avenue
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 324-9944

Anita Johnson

Cokesbury
724 Loveville Road,
HealthCare Rm 2006
Hockessin, DE 19707

Janet Reed

106 Colesbery Drive
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-6749

Mary Duncan

1323 Richard's Alley
Wilmington, DE 19806
(302) 888-0282

Judy Hentkowski

128 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-8266

Robert Lindfors

202 Brylgon Ave.
New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 328-5369

David Lioi

201 Natalia Drive
New Castle, DE 19720

On Assignment with the Coast Guard:

George Spock

USCGC Scheuerman
PSC 851 P.O. Box 11620
FPO AE, 09834

On Assignment with the Air Force:

James Boyle

1150 Bole Street, Unit 54
JBPHH, HI 96860

This Week's Schedule

SUNDAY	12/31		NEW YEAR'S EVE
		10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
			– Guest Preacher Jim Mehler
		11:30am	Coffee Hour
Monday	01/01		NEW YEAR'S DAY
			Office Closed
Tuesday	01/02		Office Closed
Wednesday	01/03	7:30pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	01/04	7:00pm	Celebration Ringers
Saturday	01/06	8:00am	Tai Chi
SUNDAY	01/07	10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship & Communion
		10:50am	Sunday School
		11:30am	Coffee Hour

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New Castle Presbyterian Church

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Pastor E-mail: pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org

Website: www.newcastlepreschurch.org

Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor

Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant

Eileen Larkin, Dir. of Music

Dan Knox, Treasurer

Minerva Lermond, Dir. of Handbells

Shirley Knox, Recording Secretary

Bethany Faiz, Accompanist

SESSION

2024	2025	2026
Rob Barry	Melissa Boris	Cynthia Beam
Chris Fagles	Jennifer Dunham	Peter McCurdy
Greg Fogarty	Connie Reese	Walt Sparrow-Hood
Scott Selheimer		

Session meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

DEACONS

2024	2025	2026
Susan Fogarty	Toni Marley	Lindy Ballance
Julia Spock	Janet Spring	Liz Toto
Sandy Wilson		
Miranda Matthews		

Deacons meet the 2nd Sunday of the month

TRUSTEES

2024	2025	2026
Lyn Briggs	Marshall Freund	Mary Fontinha
Gary Graham	Mike Smith	Gail Seitz
Barbara Whisman		

Trustees meet the 3rd Monday every other month (Sept/Nov/Jan/Mar/May)

