

New Castle Presbyterian News

May 2020



I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together!



I am ever amazed at the ways that God's goodness and generosity flows through the Body of Christ. Since we last gathered in the meeting house on March 8, New Castle Presbyterian Church has embodied Christ's grace and hospitality. We have gathered with flexibility and creativity, and I am grateful for the ways that you have each participated in our church's worship. You have contributed pictures and video clips, your own voices and prayers, to our Wednesday Prayer Services and Holy Week Services on Zoom as well as our Sunday Home Worship services on YouTube. To each of you who has gathered with us in physically-distanced worship, thank you! I am grateful for the ways that our voices can join together, even at a distance, to praise God and hold one another fast in love through these times.

Over these past seven weeks, NCPC has heard God's call to Stewardship. From your regular offerings to the church to supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing to volunteer commitments, I rejoice at your faithful generosity. The Mission and Outreach committee is following through on our commitments to our mission partners, and our Meals on Wheels volunteers have carefully kept on delivering food to our homebound neighbors. The Trustees are ensuring the buildings are maintained so that we can safely gather on the other side of this pandemic, and it's been a delightful season of behind-the-scenes care. In the midst of deep needs in our community, from the loss of loved ones to financial concerns, my heart has been warmed by the ways that we as a church have risen like Christ to care in everyday, extraordinary ways for strangers and friends.

In the midst of this pandemic, the life of the church keeps moving forward. We have a class of new members who've been approved by session, and we'll welcome them via live zoom worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Additionally, our Nominating Committee has been hard at work, and we'll get to celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit by mail-in vote in place of our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Remember the lyrics of this song during this time, and take a moment to sing it out loud. It's a helpful reminder to us all during this time: *I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes we're the church together.* Even at a distance, the work of Christ continues, and no matter how long a race this is that we're running, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Miriam

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Will be held via mail-in vote. Ballots will be mailed out to all members by May 8th and should be returned by mail to the church office by May 29. Results will be publicized in our June newsletter.

CHURCH OFFICER NOMINEES

ELDERS ON SESSION CLASS OF 2023

CANDY DUNSON joined New Castle Presbyterian Church shortly after moving to New Castle in 1986. Finding a welcoming home for our young family, I became involved with the Sunday School program, Someplace Else, Vacation Bible School and Youth Group as my children grew. I have previously served as an Elder on session with the Budget Committee. I spent 23 years at Hagley Museum in Visitor Services and Education. After retiring from there, I currently work part time as a garden guide at Winterthur.

Recently, I've found myself looking for ways to make my life more meaningful, to be a part of something more than myself, to have an impact on others. When I got an unexpected call asking if I'd be willing to serve on Session with the Mission Committee, I felt God opening the door I'd been looking for and am excited at helping the church further its mission in our community.

JANET SPRING is married to Bob Spring for 49 years. Three grown children and four grandchildren. Two greyhounds. Enjoys singing with three choirs and also plays in NCPC's bell choir. Retired from the Christina School District and currently teaches at Christ Church Episcopal Preschool. Hobbies include embroidery, reading, and working in the garden.

No longer serve on Friendship House board, but continue to support their efforts. I have served on Session, taught VBS, served on two pastoral nominating committees, and chaired Mission and Outreach committee.

BEVERLY STOUTD I have been a member of New Castle Presbyterian church a long time, beginning with Sunday School and officially joining when a teenager. I have worshiped, prayed, decorated, sung, and meditated in our sanctuary. I have served the congregation as a Sunday school teacher, Deacon, choral and bell choir member, Elder, and various positions with the Women's Association.

My husband, Jim, and I live in Newark and find the drive to New Castle relaxing and expansive, if not convenient. Three of our four grown children live out of state, while our daughter Cris and her family live within walking distance in our neighborhood. Both Jim and I are retired—Jim from General Motors and I from Engineered Systems and Designs where I did general office work. After graduating from UD I taught elementary school in Elsmere, DE for two years before starting a family.

My Christian faith began at home with Alice and David McCallion and was nurtured in Sunday schools in Ocean City, NJ (Methodist), Holloway Terrace (Baptist), and here in New Castle (first in the arsenal, then in our CE building). I have benefited from the loving labors of teachers and youth group advisors, and talented music directors, as well as, effective and brilliant pastors. Christ has been my constant companion through all stages of my life and I am totally at home among our committed congregation and in our Christian witness here in New Castle.

OPENING FOR ELDER

ELDERS ON SESSION CLASS OF 2021

JOANNE VIOLA (to fill the term of Diana Reilly) Cork and I moved to New Castle in 1969. We have participated in the life, mission, and worship at New Castle Presbyterian for the past 50 years. My volunteer service has included: the nursery, Vacation Bible School, the choral and hand bell choirs, and the mission of Spirit of Christmas.

Since my retirement from active medical practice, I have gained an enhanced understanding of our spiritual heritage of faith by attending the adult Bible Study group. I have also enjoyed participating in Congregational Life and Membership and Nominating Committees, as well as the Pastor Search Nominating Committee.

In the '70s, I did serve, one term on the Session and look forward to exploring how, I can serve, once more, our church family.

BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2023

LINDY BALLANCE

CONCHITA SHOWELL was born, raised and educated in Philadelphia, PA. I worked at IBM Corporation for 23 years, 6 divisions, 5 states, and 10 jobs in staff and management positions before retirement. After a very long absence from church membership, I joined the Heritage Fellowship United Church of Christ in Reston, VA where I ultimately served as a trustee. I also served on the Board of Directors for Reston Interfaith, an organization somewhat like Friendship House providing temporary shelter, transitioning housing and other services for the homeless. I moved to Delaware at the end of 2004 to be closer to my mother. I have been pleased to have found a warm church family that has allowed me to be active in the service of helping others. (Conchita has just completed 2 three-year terms on the Session and has previously served as an NCPC Deacon.)

OPENING FOR DEACON

BOARD OF TRUSTEES CLASS OF 2023

DAN DUNSON - was born and raised in West Virginia and moved to Delaware in 1986. He served 4 years in the USAF after graduating from high school, where he worked on B-52 aircraft. After being discharged from the Air Force, he obtained his Aircraft Mechanic License and worked on private aircraft for 41 years, several of which were as a Field Service Rep with Gulfstream Aerospace, a job that often involved world travel. He retired 6 years ago and enjoys doing projects around the house and playing golf in his free time. He has been a member of NCPC for over 30 years and has formerly served as a Deacon and as a Trustee. Dan and his wife, Candy, have two children who grew up in NCPC and are now happy to see their two grandchildren also attending NCPC.

GAIL SEITZ and her husband C.J. joined the Church in 2011 after moving to the City of New Castle. Gail is currently serving on the Mission & Outreach Committee and has previously served on Session and the Congregational Life Committee. Gail & C.J. have 3 married children and 4, soon to be 6, grandchildren. Gail is retired but has worked in the Delaware District Office of Congressman John Carney, for companies such as DuPont and Accenture as well as taught in elementary schools, middle schools and at the University of Delaware. Gail's community service includes the Board of Directors of the Wilmington YMCAs, the New Castle Senior Center and the New Castle Historical Society; Planning Commission for the City of New Castle; and mentoring in public schools and Boys and Girls Clubs for 20 years.

MARY FONTINHA was born in the Midwest as one of three children, was encouraged to be outside playing and helping her dad with the gardening and projects around the house. Before her final year of high school, she moved with her parents to New York State which began a practice of living in different parts of the country while seeking and finding similarities to the values that she has held from the start. Graduating from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, and following up with a degree in special education from the University of Kansas led to a career in elementary education. Life opportunities expanded with co-opening a full service restaurant, working in the environmental inspection field, and most important, raising two sons. Living in Delaware since 1991, Mary taught for the Red Clay Consolidated Schools, worked in visitor experience for the Delaware Historical Society, and currently manages the office for the Trustees of The New Castle Common. Today, she gardens, loves and listens to music, gathers and shares photos of her grandson, and lives with her cat, Uma.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (2020-2021)

CAROL MAYHEW

MONTY GERHART

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP



Our annual church picnic is currently scheduled for June 14, the day after Separation Day. What food do you think we should serve? Do you have any ideas for games or interactive conversations? Stayed tuned for confirmation.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS UPDATE

Congregational Life Committee met to examine the possibility of hosting Spirit of Spirit of Christmas this December in light of this pandemic. We hope to keep our goals of sharing Christ-like hospitality with the town of New Castle and continue our support for Friendship House. We probably will not be able to stage this wide ranging event in light of the battle against the virus. How can we keep this idea alive with a different face?

As our plans progress, we are coordinating with other groups involved with the day, including the Historical Society. This committee has money budgeted for Spirit of Christmas, which we could donate directly to Friendship House, but we are currently asking, how can we take that “talent” and multiply it before we give it back to God? We are looking for creative ideas to take the day in a different direction and demonstrate Christian hospitality. Some very early ideas are: a walking tour, more outside activities, a Spirit of Christmas month during which we accept donations, or use social media as place for interactive fundraising. We want to emphasize our feelings of Christian fellowship and unity as we come up with ways to express the spirit of Jesus amongst us.

We are receptive to new, off the wall, and out of the box ideas going forward. Please contact Connie Reese, Beverly Stoudt, Pat Taylor, or Patti Isaacs-Hansen with your opinions, brilliant ideas, and willingness to support. Please pray for God’s guidance and protection each day forward. Friendship House needs our help now more than ever.

EARTH CARE

Sunday, April 26 was our first “Earth Care” Sunday. Next month we will publish a list of activities in which we can choose to act concerning the way we treat our earth. As our church works to become an “Earth Care Congregation”, we’ll share ideas for individual and collective action. More to come!

WORSHIP UPDATE

- ✦ Check out our Sunday Home Worship services through our website
- ✦ Wednesday zoom prayer services will switch to every other week in May (starting May 6)
- ✦ Zoom coffee hour @11:30 on May 10 & 24
- ✦ Live Pentecost Worship on May 31 at 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

VBS UPDATE

It takes an NCPC village to bring Vacation Bible School to life, and it's time to start gearing up for VBS 2020 – to be held July 12-16. This year we will explore Jesus' Parable of the Sower with an environmentally focused VBS program that empowers kids to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world!



VBS is held in the evenings, 5:45-8:15 pm, beginning with supper together and followed by an opening worship time that sets the theme of the night. Each evening, age groups rotate through a Bible lesson, arts & crafts, games, and music, before ending with closing worship together.

If you are a VBS veteran, we need you. If you are a VBS newbie, we need you. The needs are varied – from meal prep, to game leadership, to registration, to crafts, to classroom lessons, to providing snacks and supplies, to creative decorations, to spreading the word. Please keep an eye out for a virtual sign-up sheet in your email!

As of May 1, we are tentatively planning VBS week (July 12-16) and will make a final decision (to either go full-steam ahead or cancel) at our meeting on May 26 at 7 p.m. Be assured, if at that point, we can't guarantee that we can gather a) safely and b) in compliance with the governor's orders, we won't be having in-person VBS. We will use the ReNew curriculum at some point, either this July or in July 2021. So either we're on-time with planning for 2020 or REALLY ahead of schedule for 2021. Please join us at our May meeting to be a part of the planning process.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

The CE Committee is coordinating nursery volunteers to begin in June (or whenever we are able to gather again into the Fall)! If you are interested and haven't volunteered before, please contact Molly Shaw at molly.shaw@delaware.gov. The Christian Education Committee will be in touch to coordinate child protection training and get you on the schedule.

LGBTQIA+ TASK FORCE NEWS

What a year it has been- and it's not even halfway through! It may feel like this year started once the quarantine began- but this year has already been quite eventful! Our LGBTQIA+ Task Force once again helped to chaperone the LGBTQIA+ Valentine's Day Dance, hosted by our Presbyterian Church neighbors at First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. The dance was not only a supportive environment for kids who might not have had the joy and experience of a valentine's dance at their own school, but it was an assurance that they are exactly who they are meant to be, and they are loved! Some of the youth who attended were using their preferred pronouns for the first time! It was truly a privilege to not only be a part of such a special event, but also to have the chance to reach out our hands to those searching for acceptance and to "show our welcome!"

Thank you to all who joined us for the book club meetings to discuss the book "Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians." by Austin Hartke. This book gives a very honest account of what the church experience has been like through the encounters of several transgender Christians. If anyone is interested in reading this book and did not have the chance to join the meetings, we will be glad to provide you with a copy!

Who are More Light Presbyterians? "Presbyterian (USA) churches, working toward the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian church (USA) and in society" (MLP.org)

Why become a More Light church?

"Visible, tangible welcome for LGBTQIA+ persons isn't just a Gospel imperative, it's an incredible tool for evangelism. There has never been a better time to become a More Light church. While many strides have been made for LGBTQIA+ inclusion and rights, too many LGBTQIA+ people do not feel they have a place to worship. Though welcome for all God's children might seem obvious within your congregation, do others outside of your walls know of your commitment and support for LGBTQ persons in the church? Becoming More Light is a great way to ensure people in your community know your congregation or group is a welcoming and affirming place to encounter God." (MLP.org)

Who are More Light Presbyterians? Who are we called to serve? What is New Castle Presbyterian Church capable of? We are an affirming congregation, and all are fully welcome, but how do others know that? Change takes faith, only there has to be a willingness to change. What stands out about our church family is seeing the evolution of the congregation over the years, while still respecting tradition. We are a strong church family that works together to enhance and enrich the spiritual lives of our brothers and sisters- and that includes our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ! It seems like it takes courage even to come to church these days. It takes courage to have a sign right outside of the church welcoming people into this building and letting them know that God's love is not a secret! It is an unconditional gift to everyone! We are a small congregation, but together continue to wear our welcome for all to see, continue to reach out to those who feel left out, and continue to support one another on this journey so we know that we are not alone. We can't reach the entire world by ourselves- but we can do our part to help as many people as we can with the resources and gifts that we have.

Who are More Light Presbyterians? We are! We wear our welcome, now it's time to show how we live it! 2020 Has definitely been a historical, memorable year! If this year is going to be historical - why not make history? There is so much darkness and negativity in the world right now- we can all use a little *more light!* The Task Force will bring a motion to Session in May to endorse More Light's statement. Please visit the official More Light Presbyterian church website at MLB.org. We have always been a More Light church, now it's time to make the commitment to share it!

MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS

Here's a sure cure to make you feel better with opportunities to help others in this strange time! The Mission and Outreach Committee has been in touch with the Seamen's Center, learning that the sailors it serves cannot leave the ships while they are in port. Although the Seamen's Center is not open due to the Corona Virus crisis, the director, Joan Lyons is trying to meet each ship with hopeful packages for those aboard of entertaining things like decks of cards, puzzles, DVDs and snacks to help them through the long hours, days and months when they can't leave the ships.



During the month of May, we can all help by collecting these things for Joan to distribute. If you'd like to help out, you can bring donations to the church **Monday through Friday from 9 to noon**. Just ring the bell and leave the bags outside the door, **no need to come inside**. Kris will bring them in and at the end of the month, we'll deliver them safely to the Seamen's Center.

This is also a great time to brush up on your knitting skills and work on those scarves and hats for our ditty boxes this fall!



We continue to support the Emmanuel Dining Room through a monthly donation in place of preparing the actual meal for them. They continue to minister to the homeless through takeout meals

We're also continuing to support Friendship House through dropping off monthly meals at Epiphany House. If you're working through this time at home by trying out new recipes in the kitchen or baking more than you can eat, this is a great way to help out! During this stay at home time, we are dropping off the meals on the second Thursday of each month rather than sharing the meals. If you're cooking up a storm and want to share, contact Scott Selheimer to let him know you can help!



THE MINISTRY OF CARING INC.

Serving the homeless & poor since 1977

Bethany House I & II
Housing for women
with special needs

Child Care Center
Early learning center for
poor & homeless children

Distribution Center
Supplies, furniture & clothing

Emmanuel Dining Room
Three sites to feed
the hungry

Francis X. Norton Center
Community center

**Guardian Angel
Child Care**
Early learning center for
children of working parents

House of Joseph I
Emergency shelter
for men

House of Joseph II
Housing for men and women
living with HIV/AIDS

House of Joseph Residence
Housing for
men and women

Il Bambino
Care for infants
of working parents

Job Placement Center
Job training
for employment

**Maria Lorenza Longo
Holistic Housing**
Housing
for women

**Mary Mother of Hope
House I**
Emergency shelter
for women

**Mary Mother of Hope
House II & III**
Emergency shelters
for families

**Mary Mother of Hope
Permanent Housing**
Housing for women

Nazareth House I & II
Housing for families

Padre Pio House
Housing for men
with special needs

**Pierre Toussaint
Dental Office**
Dental care for the poor

Sacred Heart Housing
Housing for women

Samaritan Outreach
Basic assistance and rapid
rehousing for the homeless

St. Clare Medical Outreach
Mobile health service
for the poor

St. Francis Holistic Housing
Housing for
women & children

April 16, 2020

New Castle Presbyterian
25 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720-4803

Dear New Castle Presbyterian:

It is with a grateful heart that we thank you for your generous gift of \$150.00 and for your caring during this uncertain time which has impacted all of us.

None are more impacted than the poor, the homeless, and the hungry. With your help, we are continuing our mission of helping the poorest among us.

As you know, for the first time in 42 years, we have closed the doors at our three Emmanuel Dining Room locations. To prevent the spread of coronavirus, we can no longer bring large groups, whether faithful volunteers or guests seeking food, into the dining rooms. Breakfast and the noonday meal are being served in takeout fashion, in increasing numbers. We have not stopped feeding the poor; we are even more committed to feeding the hungry during this crisis. We are seeing new people in the lines at the three dining room locations: mothers with small children, people in wheelchairs, and men who are embarrassed that they now must come to the dining room for help. I witnessed a young boy who tugged on his mother's jacket and said, "will we be eating soon, I'm awfully hungry".

On behalf of the people we serve every day, and on behalf of the Ministry's courageous and dedicated staff, we send our heartfelt thanks.

We pray that you and your family stay safe and well during these uncertain times.

Gratefully,

Br. Ronald Giannone, OFM Cap.
Executive Director

Priscilla Rakestraw
Development Director

The Ministry of Caring is a 501(c)(3) organization (tax exemption #928; EIN 51-0209843) and exists for the sole purpose of providing for the needs of the poor through its various programs. We acknowledge the gift stated above for which no goods or services were provided.

The Ministry of Caring Inc. is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation
115 East 14th Street • Wilmington, DE 19801-3209
(302) 652-5523 • ministryofcaring.org • mail@ministryofcaring.org



Meals on Wheels

HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for 2020. Call Susan Flook at 328-7346 if you are interested. Substitutes needed, too. No weekend deliveries. Thanks. Consider this as your call in Christ!

Our next delivery will be May 18-22. If anyone is interested in delivering meals to shut-in Seniors in the New Castle area, please contact the office at 302-328-3279.

Monday 18

Jude Morrow
Jo Viola

Tuesday 19

Joan Smith

Wednesday 20

Karen & Jim
Beatson

Thursday 21

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday 22

Susan & Jim
Flook

Monthly Report

Look here each month for a statistical report on the life of the congregation:



Membership:

March..... 151

April 151

Income thru 04/01/20:

2020 Budget: \$91,315.00

2020 Actual:..... \$91,469.00

Expenses thru 04/01/20:

2020 Budget: \$70,875.00

2020 Actual:..... \$68,236.00

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mark Rappold, 5/1
Monty Gerhart, 5/1
Kaitlyn Raker, 5/2
Ringo Keka, 5/2
Christopher Raker, 5/5
Rob Barry, 5/9
Bruce Raker, 5/14
Kay Gordon, 5/15
Lia Esham, 5/15
Lindy Ballance, 5/17
Karen Dobson, 5/18
Denise Van Durme, 5/19



Steve Martin, 5/20
Megan Graham, 5/23
Corky Viola, 5/23
Ellie Gerhart, 5/24
Barbara Whisman, 5/25
Bruce Gordon, 5/26
Joan Appleby, 5/27
Earl Reed, 5/29
Skylar Teller, 5/29
Liam Collins, 5/30
Allen Hansen, 5/31
Dylan Reilly, 5/31



Megan Graham & William Turnbull, 5/26
Dean & Lynn MacEwen, 5/29



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New Castle, DE 19720
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Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: office@newcastlepreschurch.org
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

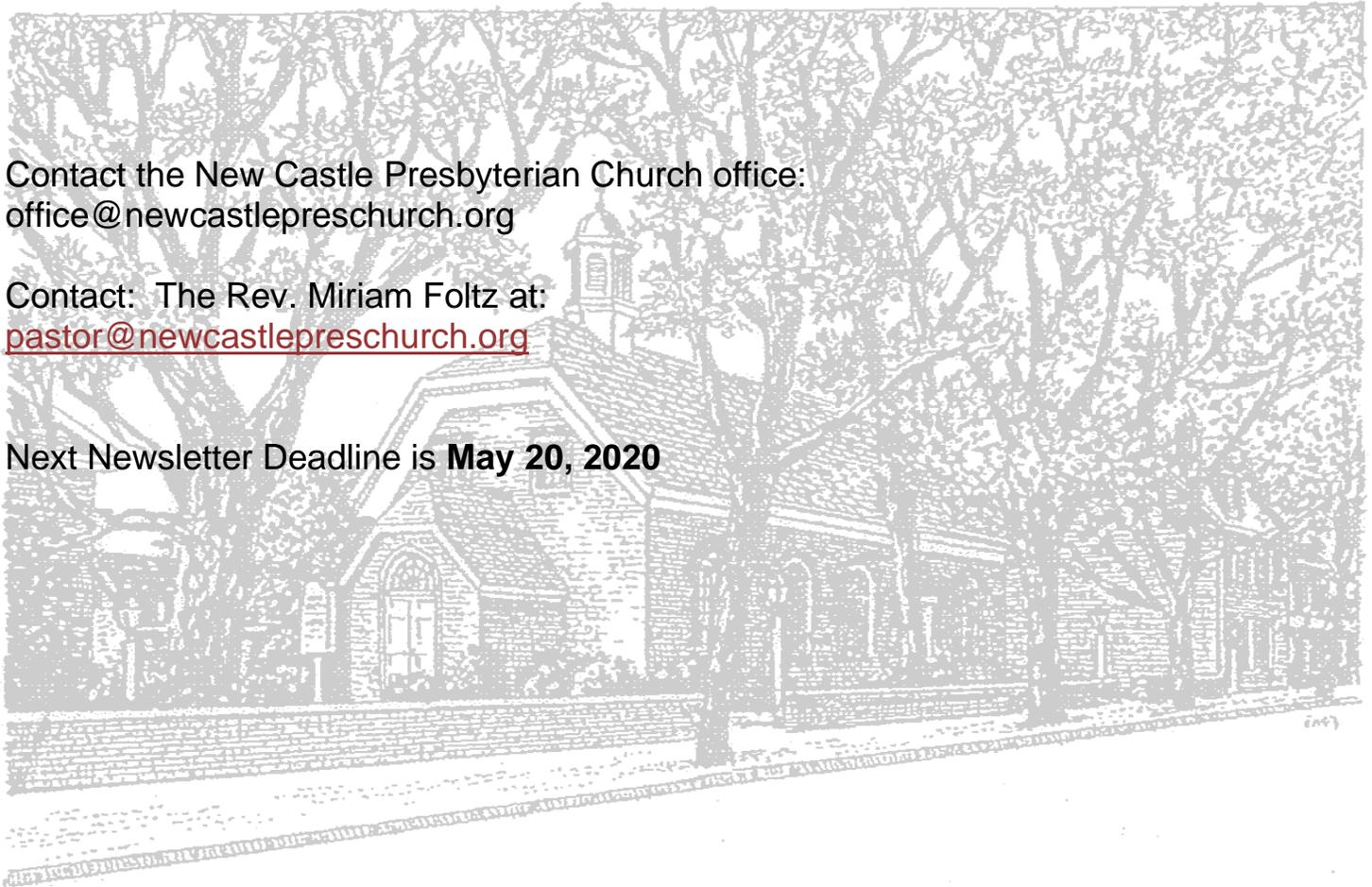


Address Change
Requested

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:
office@newcastlepreschurch.org

Contact: The Rev. Miriam Foltz at:
pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org

Next Newsletter Deadline is **May 20, 2020**



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