

# New Castle Presbyterian Church



## ***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!

In person and via livestream, we gather as a faith community, 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.

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

**Nametags** – We encourage everyone to use the nametags available in the Meeting House entrance during worship and coffee hour. Please return to their box in Fellowship Hall.

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

**Sunday School and Nursery will be offered today.** Children begin in worship; worship bags are available at the entrance. Following the Scripture Conversation, babies through four-year-olds may go to nursery; children age Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may go to Sunday School. Please see an usher for a registration form or if you have any questions.

**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 are for  
handicapped parking only.

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm  
Pastor Miriam's day of rest is Monday.

### Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook, 302-328-7346 [suzieflook@hotmail.com](mailto:suzieflook@hotmail.com) or Fran Ginger, 302-994-5988 [silverfran@aol.com](mailto:silverfran@aol.com)

### Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:

#### **Linda Twyford**

ACTS Country House  
4830 Kennett Pike, DW15  
Wilmington, DE 19807  
(302) 328-2580

#### **Mary Duncan**

HarborChase of Wilmington  
2004 Shipley Road #1107  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
(302) 482-3547

#### **Fran Ginger**

Cadia Rehab  
3540 Three Little Bakers Blvd  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
(302) 533-2952

#### **Carol Mayhew**

Bryn Mawr Rehab  
414 Paoli Pike, Room 122W  
Malvern, PA 19355

### At Home:

#### **Kathy Griffin-Graham**

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

#### **Anita Johnson**

724 Loveville Road  
HealthCare Rm 2006  
Hockessin, DE 19707

#### **Jo Viola**

Lodge Lane Assisted Living  
[1221 Lodge Ln, Studio 119](#)  
Wilmington, DE 19809

#### **Judy Hentkowski**

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

#### **Robert Lindfors**

202 Brylgon Avenue  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 220-7161

#### **Ringo Keka**

358 Ailsa Drive  
Rising Sun, MD 21911  
(410)658-7639

### On Assignment with Coast Guard:

#### **SN George Spock**

1425 McFarland Rd. Apt. 506  
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15216

### On Assignment with Air Force:

#### **James Boyle**

2525 Date St. Apt. 3804  
Honolulu HI 96826

**New Castle Presbyterian Church  
Third Sunday of Advent**

December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Bell Prelude**

**The King Shall Come**

arr. Cathy Moglebust

**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**

**Choral Introit**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**NCPC Youth Group**

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!

**We journey to Bethlehem, with joy in our hearts and praise on our lips.**

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all creation sing.

**Fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

Christ rules the world with truth and grace!

**Christ's light of joy shines. *(Candle is lit.)***

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

**Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!**

# \*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

ANTIÖCH

CM with repeat

(alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of our salvation, we are not the people you made us to be. We are so focused on getting more for ourselves, we ignore the very ones you favor. In the manger, Jesus proclaims that the last shall be first in your reign. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. May we follow in your way of generous righteousness. Ground us in the joy of your grace that is never earned yet freely given through Christ... (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**

**Choral Anthem**

**O Come, Emmanuel**

by Elaine Hagenberg

Carolyn Hendrix - Cello

Bethany Faiz - Piano

*O come! O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here. Until the Son of God appears. Come, O come thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here, and drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light! Rejoice Emmanuel, shall come to Thee, O Israel. O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; and fill the world with Heaven's peace. O rejoice, Emmanuel! Shall come to Thee, O Israel. O come.*

### **Scripture Conversation with Children**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

**Holy God, you are the God of generations whose promises surprise us still. Fill our hearts with joy and our dreams with visions of new life in Christ. May we greet your gracious promise with hearts that leap for joy through Christ, your Word, fulfilled. Amen.**

## **Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 1:46-55**

**Page: NT 57**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; <sup>50</sup> indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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

Sermon

*Repeat the Sounding Joy*

# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

## \*Hymn #88

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1, 6, and 7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

*One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:*

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

## Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory      **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**      arr. Craig Duncan  
Carolyn Hendrix – Flute / Bethany Faiz - Piano

### **\*Response #134 Joy to the World, verse 2**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while  
fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, as we journey through Advent, we  
remember that your time is different from our time. We do not know the hour  
or the day of your coming, but we know that we can hold fast to the hope that  
you are with us even now. Bless these offerings to your work of peace. Come,  
Lord Jesus, we pray! 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.**



**\*Hymn #100**


**GO IN GOD'S NAME**  
**My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout**

Em C D



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em




God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em




won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

G D



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

Em C D Em



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be


G D Em C Em



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.


Refrain

G D




My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Em C D Em



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990  
MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990  
Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN  
Irregular

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **Choral Benediction**

### **Steeple Bell**

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

### **Bell Postlude**

### **Hark the Herald**

arr. Lloyd Larson

*Please remain seated through the Postlude. As you exit, you may recycle your bulletin in the basket at the door. Join us after worship for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.*

\*\*\*\*

All printed music & performances are covered under: OneLicense #A-720755

### **Thank you for serving today:**

*Worship Leader:* Nancy Kersey

*Coffee Hour:* Session

*Ushers:* Toni Marley

*Counters:* Peter McCurdy/Marshall Freund

*Nursery:* Chris Fagles/Molly Shaw

*Sunday School:* Mallory Mackie/Jane Fouracre

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

*Arthur A. Menard, Sr.*  
*1920 - 1973*

*Laurence E. Cain, Jr.*  
*1914 - 2005*



## **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

Our special offerings are the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to make a lasting impact on the world. We will collect our [Christmas Joy Offering](#) on Dec. 21.

## **ADVENT**

Printed copies of our seasonal devotional “And Heaven and Nature Sing” are available in the Narthex. Be sure to listen to this week’s Hark! Podcast.

## **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – DEC 14**

At the end of worship on today, the Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the 2026 Budget as approved by Session at their December meeting and to vote on the pastor’s terms of call for next year.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS**

For our Christmas Eve service, the Meeting House will be decorated with poinsettias. Donate a poinsettia for \$15 in memory or in honor of a loved one by returning the order form (located in entrance to Meeting House and CE bldg.) to the Church Office by **Monday, Dec. 15**.

## **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS - MANY THANKS**

Thank you to all the folks who made soup, baked, welcomed, cheered on, sang, rang, and volunteered at yesterday's event in support of Friendship House! We rejoice that this day brought joy to all our visitors and will bring joy to our neighbors at Friendship House.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER**

Join us this Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, for **our Longest Night Service** at 7:00pm in the Meeting House. For all who struggle in this season of merry carols, this candlelight service is a quieter time to gather in the promise and comfort of Emmanuel: God with Us.

**Our Christmas Eve Services** on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> are a Family Service at 5 p.m. and a Traditional Service at 7:30pm.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING – DECEMBER 21**

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 6 p.m. for caroling around Old New Castle; we'll begin to walk from the CE Building. We'll provide sheet music, but please bring a flashlight. Christmas lights and festive attire is encouraged! We'll end at the CE Building for refreshments around 7:00pm. You are welcome to come even if you don't go caroling! If you would like to bring a dessert, contact Gina Kouma - [ina.kouma@gmail.com](mailto:ina.kouma@gmail.com).

## **NCPC YOUTH GROUP – DEC 14**

We'll gather after worship today for our Christmas Party at the Selheimer's house. Our festive time together will include a White Elephant Gift Exchange! RSVP to Pastor Miriam.

## **GUATEMALAN ADVENT PROJECT**

It's time again to help with the Guatemalan Advent Project. This year you can buy fuel-efficient stoves for an indigenous family in Guatemala. The full cost of the stove is \$250, of which \$200 is covered by donations. The recipient family contributes \$50 of their own money. (And the stoves are manufactured in Guatemala, by Guatemalans, using local materials!) So many of our neighbors benefit from this project. Check out the table during Coffee Hour and consider buying a stove in honor of a friend or family member who is hard to buy for. Questions? See Scott or Amy Selheimer.

## **WINTER SANCTUARY**

Each Saturday, from 6:00 - 10:00 am, First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington opens their doors to people experiencing homelessness. They may come in for a rest, warmth, a hot meal, coffee & snacks, a place to charge their phones, and even a shower. Here is the link if you'd like to sign up. Questions? Please reach out to Amy Selheimer (302-584-0982)



Signup Genius  
to volunteer

## **SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING**

Sign up to usher and serve as worship leader: <https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups>

***This Week's Schedule***

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/14</b>		<b>THIRD DAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Youth Group</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/15</b>	<b>2:00-5:00pm</b>	<b>Private Counseling – Library</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Staff Luncheon</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Promises of AA Meeting</b>
		<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Christian Edu. Committee Meeting via Zoom</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/17</b>	<b>2:00-5:00pm</b>	<b>Private Counseling - Library</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Longest Night Service in the Meeting</b>
	<b>House</b>		
		<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/18</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Celebration Ringers</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Tai Chi</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/21</b>		<b>FOURTH DAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
		<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Caroling in Old New Castle</b>

# New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E. 2nd Street  
New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279

[www.newcastlepreschurch.org](http://www.newcastlepreschurch.org)

Fax: (302) 328-5670

Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor - [pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant - [office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Mallory Mackie, Sunday School Coord.

Eileen Larkin, Dir. of Music

Dan Knox, Treasurer

Minerva Lermond, Dir. of Handbells

Lyn Briggs, Recording Secretary

Bethany Faiz, Accompanist

## SESSION

2026	2027	2028
Cynthia Beam	Julie Barry	Jennifer Dunham
Peter McCurdy	Sarah McCann	Chris Fagles
Ray Snyder	Amy Selheimer	Gina Kouma
Clerk of Session: Scott Selheimer		

*Session meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month*

## DEACONS

2026	2027	2028
Lindy Ballance	Julia Spock	Mary Anne Brundage
Liz Toto	Beverly Stoudt	Teisha Fooks
		Nan Wallace

*Deacons meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

## TRUSTEES

2026	2027	2028
Mary Fontinha	Gary Graham	Marshall Freund
Gail Seitz	Kelly McCurdy	Mike Smith

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

