
BLESSED
is
SHE
WHO
BELIEVED

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 5th 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

Forget your Offering Envelope?

Scan to Donate to NCPC

Gentle Reminders:

Please turn off all cell phones.

Parking spaces on 2nd Street are for accessible 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 or Fran Ginger, 302-994-5988 silverfran@aol.com

Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:

Sandy Wilson
1104 Grandview Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19809

Connie Bell
1106 Ralph Road
Newark, DE 19713
(302) 731-4781

Nanette Nichol
Cadia Rehab Broadmeadow
500 S Broad St
Middletown, DE 19709

At Home:

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

Jo Viola
Lodge Lane Assisted Living
1221 Lodge Ln, Studio 119
Wilmington, DE 19809

Fran Gingher
Lorelton, 2200 W. 4th Street
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 533-2952

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

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

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

On Assignment with the Coast Guard:

SN George Spock
1370 Harris Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

On Assignment with the Air Force:

James Boyle
23 Belle's Cove Drive, Apt F
Poquoson, VA 23622

New Castle Presbyterian Church
First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Bell Prelude **A Joyful Ring** Barbara Kinyon

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".

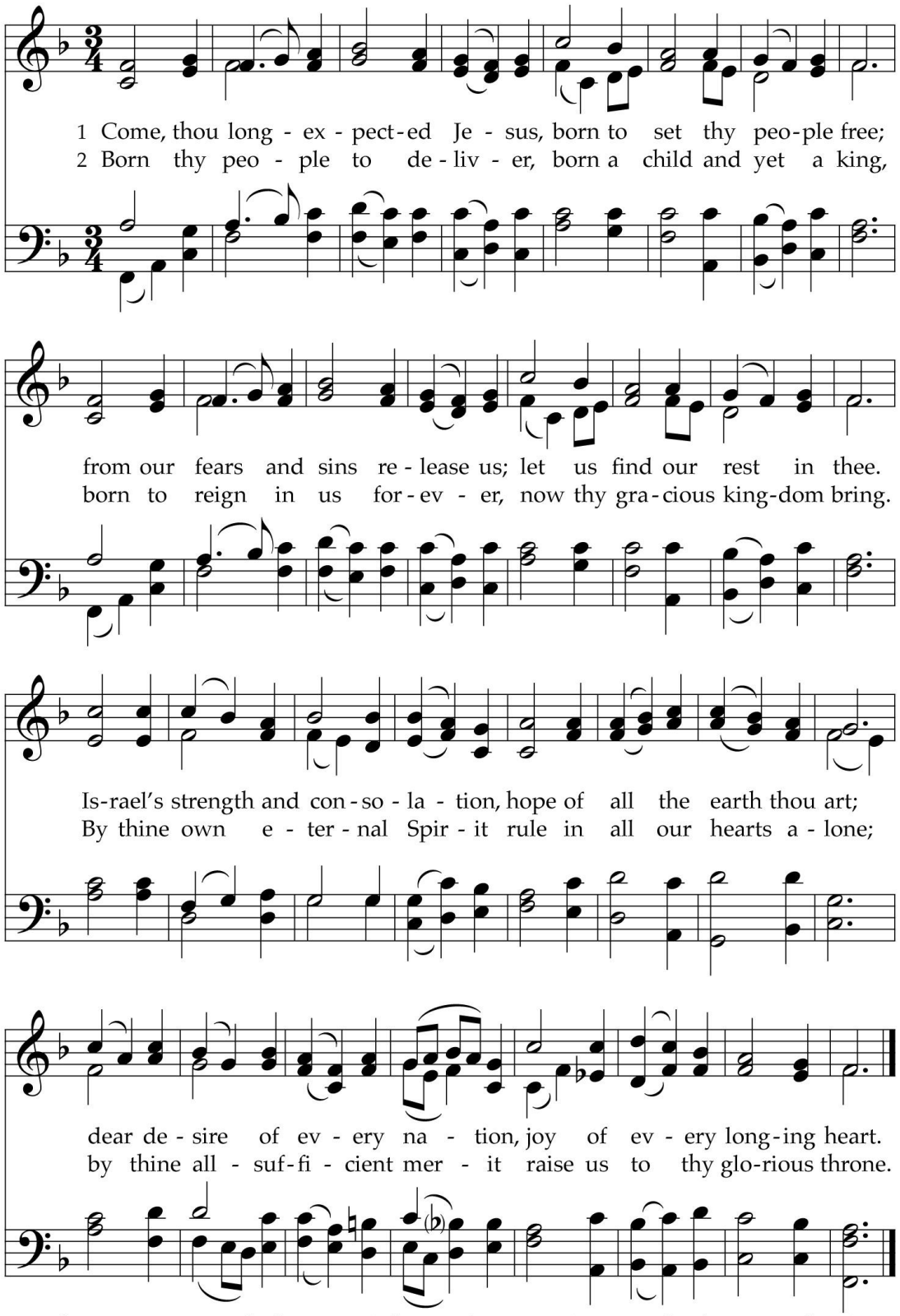
Steeple Bell

Choral Introit **Light A Little Candle** Joseph M. Martin
Adult Choir / Sunday School Children / Bethany Faiz - Piano

Lighting of the Advent Wreath **Boris Family**

A long time ago, when Herod was King of Judea, a messenger from God proclaimed, "Do not be afraid!"… In a hopeless world, where violence and greed do make us afraid, we light the candle of hope. *(Candle is lit.)*
With Christ's hope shining brightly, let us echo the words of the angel Gabriel:
"Do not be afraid! The kingdom of Jesus shall have no end"

*Hymn #82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you sent Jesus to show us the hope of our salvation, yet we confess we often feel hopeless. We hear the despair of the world around us, and we begin to despair ourselves. We taste the bitterness of destruction, and we wonder if we can ever find our way out of this mess. We confess we fear the future instead of holding firm in hope. Forgive us, and fill us with hope, through Christ our Lord.
(*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 #582**

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

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PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** Michael Larkin
Bethany Faiz - Piano

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set your people free. From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the world thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King. Born to reign in us forever now thy gracious Kingdom bring. By thy own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; By thy own sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.
Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set your people free, from our sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, we submit our hearts and minds to the proclamation of good news today. As we hear the message preached, disperse the gloomy clouds where hopelessness causes us anxiety and fear. Have patience with us and visit us with your Good News, Amen.

Scripture Lesson **Luke 1:26-45** **Page: NT 56**

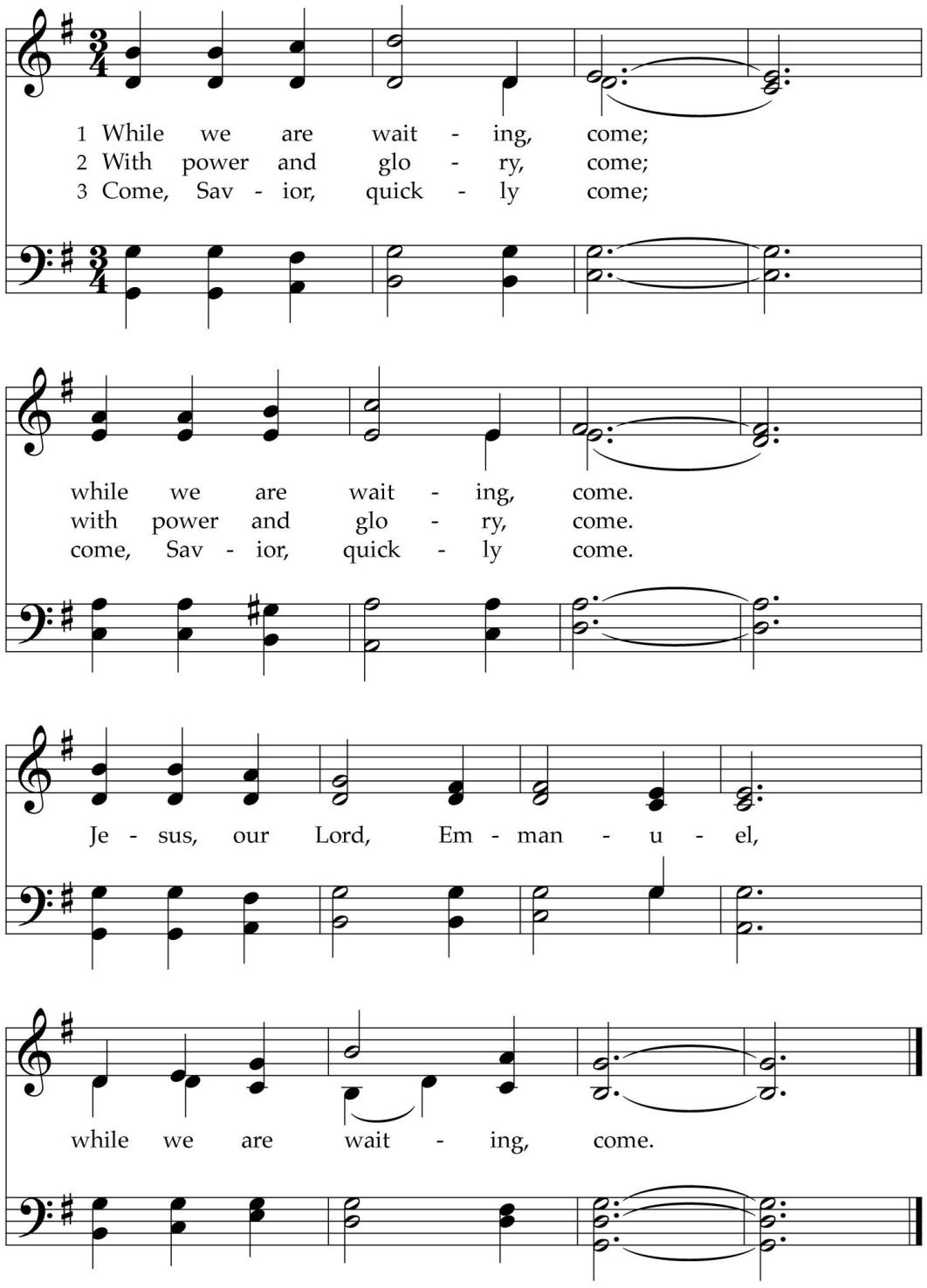
26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called
Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you." **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what
sort of greeting this might be.
30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him
Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God
will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob
forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow
you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36** And now,
your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month
for her who was said to be barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** Then
Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.
39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit **42** and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and
blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43** And why has this happened to me, that the mother of
my Lord comes to me? **44** For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in
my womb leaped for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a
fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

Sermon *Hopeful News*

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn #92 While We Are Waiting, Come



This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

TEXT: Claire Cloninger, 1986
MUSIC: Don Cason, 1986
Text and Music © 1986 Word Music, LLC

WAITING (Cason)
SM

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory **Rejoice, Rejoice!** Arr. By Cathy Moklebust

***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, you are the giver of abundant life, and we respond with these offerings. Use our gifts for your glory and for the salvation of your world. May all who are experiencing loss and scarcity be restored and made whole by your generosity and grace. May our lights shine your hope into the world. Amen.

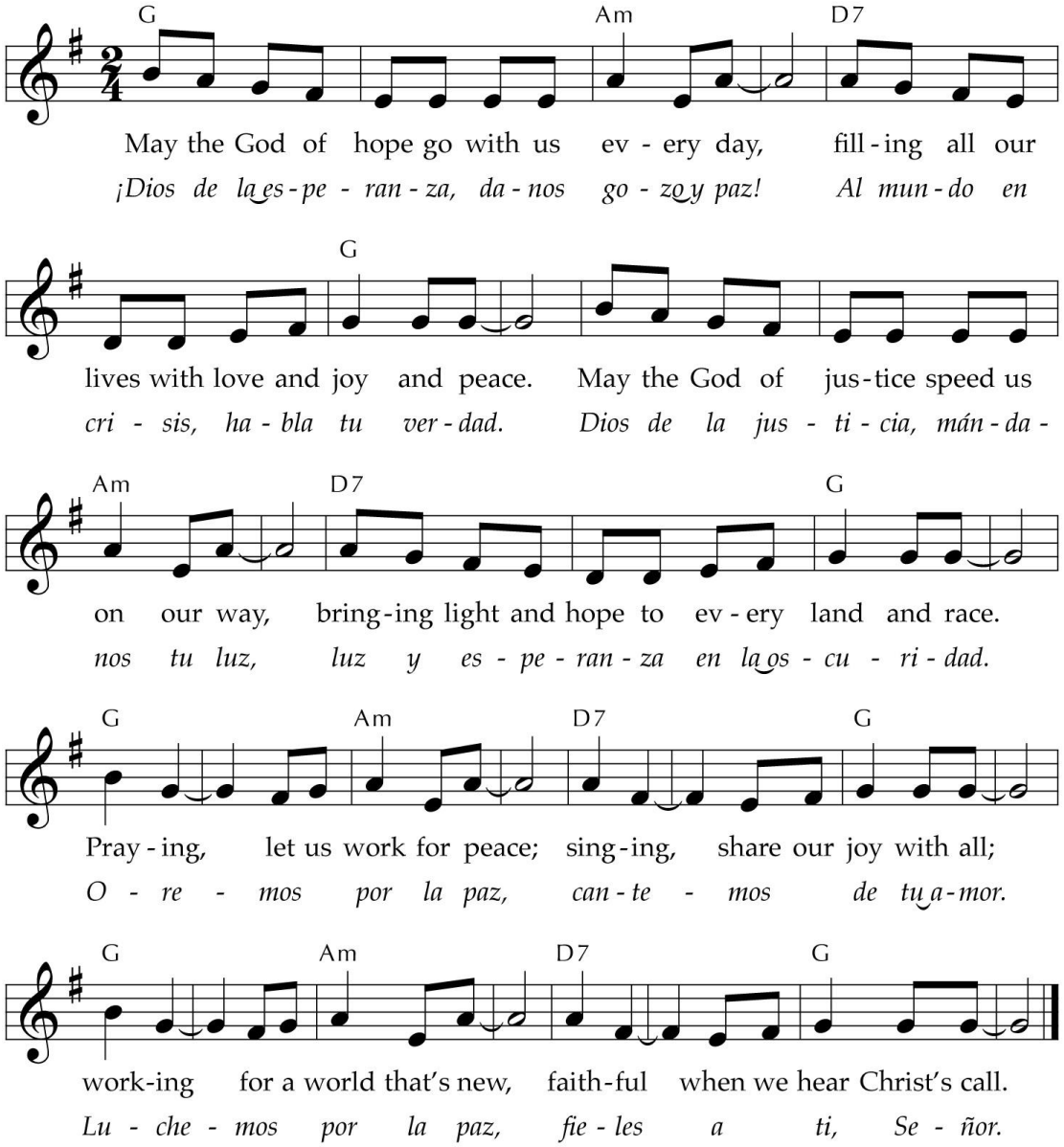
Prayers of the People

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 #765** **May the God of Hope Go with Us**



This Argentine folk melody sets Spanish and English words, both created by a PC(USA) missionary with much Latin American experience. The two versions complement each other: the Spanish text offering a prayer to God, and the English one providing inspiration for the singers.

TEXT: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984
MUSIC: Argentine folk melody

ARGENTINA
11.11.11.11 with refrain

***Charge & Benediction**
Choral Benediction
Steeple Bell
Postlude **The King Shall Come** arr. Lloyd Larson
Bethany Faiz - Piano

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.

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Thank you for serving today:

Worship Leader: Toni Marley
Ushers: Amy & Scott Selheimer
Nursery: Jane Fouracre/Molly Shaw
Coffee Hour: Potluck
Counters: Gina Kouma/Gary Graham
Sunday School: Mallory Mackie/Chris Fagles

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Carlo Viola ***1943 - 2022***
Joanne M. Hopkins ***1937 - 2018***



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING
Interested in ushering? Sign up online here: https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups
Reach out to Elders Jen Dunham or Sarah McCann to learn more.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR – POTLUCK
Today is a "Fifth Sunday Potluck." All are welcome, even if you aren't able to bring something to share!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS
Printed copies of our seasonal devotional "Do Not Be Afraid!" are available in the Narthex.

HELP US SHINE! CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5
Join the Trustees on **Saturday, December 5, at 9am** as we give our historic Meeting House a little extra sparkle ahead of the holiday concerts and festivities. This year, our focus will be on **sprucing up the interior of the Meeting House**, (though there may be some light yard work to tackle as well). Bring your work gloves, basic cleaning supplies if you have them, and a willingness to pitch in wherever an extra set of hands is needed! Whether you can spare an hour or the whole morning, every helping hand makes a difference. **And yes, coffee and donuts will be provided!** Come help us shine as we prepare to welcome our community for this special holiday tradition. Questions? Reach out to any of the Trustees.

ANITA JOHNSON – MEMORIAL SERVICE
A Memorial Service for Anita Johnson will be held on Saturday, December 5 at 2 p.m. at Cokesbury Village with Pastor Miriam officiating. Join us as we celebrate Anita, one of the saints of NCPC:
https://www.legacy.com/person/anita-s-johnson-62690511

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS
For our Christmas Eve service, the Meeting House will be decorated with poinsettias. Donate a poinsettia for $12 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. 14**.



SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

The CE Building will be open from 10-3 with soups and breads for sale, as well as free refreshments. All NCPC proceeds go to support Friendship House! We'll offer three (free!) concerts in the Meeting House. We need volunteers to serve as Meeting House ushers, folks to bake bread/ fix soups/ bake cookies, as well as folks to sell the yummy goodies and restock the refreshments table. All sign-up forms, with more information, are posted in the Fellowship Hall. *If you can help with Spirit of Christmas (decorators and day-of volunteers), come to an in-person meeting on December 5 at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.*

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Our **Longest Night Service** will be at 7:00pm on Wed., Dec. 16th. Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan will offer her special musical gifts, and in the light of the Advent wreath, we will light candles for ourselves and for our loved ones in need of Christ's grace. Come rest in the presence of Emmanuel, God with Us.
Christmas Caroling will be on Sun., Dec 20 at 6:00p.m. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall, stroll and sing through the streets of New Castle, & end with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm
Our Christmas Eve Services are a Family Service at 5 p.m. and a Traditional Service at 7:30pm.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – DECEMBER 13

At the end of worship on December 13, Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the 2027 Budget as approved at their Dec. meeting and to vote on the pastor's terms of call.

FIRST & CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington is now open each Saturday from 6:00 - 10:00 am to people experiencing homelessness. We have an immediate need for gently used men's winter coats, and shoes for men and women (sneakers and boots). Please drop them off in the CE building marked for Winter Sanctuary. Questions? Please reach out to Amy Selheimer (302-584-0982) Here is the link to volunteer. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849ADA829A7FD0-51684439-winter#/

This Week's Schedule

SUNDAY	**11/29**		**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
		10:30am	**In-Person & Live Stream Worship**
		11:30am	**Coffee Hour - Potluck**
Monday	**11/30**	**9:00am-4:30pm**	**Private Counseling - in the library**
Tuesday	**12/01**	**12:00pm**	**People Who Lunch**
		4:00pm	**Presbytery Meeting via Zoom**
		5:30pm-6:45pm	**Homeschool/Community Band**
		7:00pm	**Promises of AA Meeting**
		7:00pm	**Congregational Life & Membership Meeting**
Wednesday	**12/02**	**11:00am-2:00pm**	**Private Counseling - in the library**
		3:00pm	**Bible Study**
		6:00pm	**Worship Committee**
		7:30pm	**Choir Practice**
Thursday	**12/03**	**7:00pm**	**Celebration Ringers**
Saturday	**12/05**	**9:00am-11:30am**	**Church Cleanup**
		2:00pm	**Anita Johnson's Memorial Service (Cokesbury)**
SUNDAY	**12/06**		**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
		10:30am	**In-Person & Live Stream Worship & Communion**
		11:30am	**Coffee Hour with Christmas Card Making**
		12:00pm	**Spirit of Christmas Volunteer Meeting**
		5:30pm	**Open Mic Night**

New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279 **www.newcastlepreschurch.org** **Fax: (302) 328-5670**

Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor - pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org
Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant - office@newcastlepreschurch.org
Mallory Mackie, Sunday School Coord.
Dan Knox, Treasurer
Lyn Briggs, Recording Secretary
Eileen Larkin, Dir. of Music
Minerva Lermond, Dir. of Handbells
Bethany Faiz, Accompanist

SESSION

2027	2028	2029
Julie Barry	Jennifer Dunham	Cindy Beam
Sarah McCann	Chris Fagles	Melissa Boris
Amy Selheimer	Gina Kouma	Peter McCurdy
Clerk of Session: Scott Selheimer		

Session meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month

DEACONS

2027	2028	2029
Julia Spock	Mary Anne Brundage	Mariellen Edinburg
Beverly Stoudt	Teisha Fooks	Heather Raezer
	Nan Wallace	Connie Reese

Deacons meet the 2nd Sunday of the month

TRUSTEES

2027	2028	2029
Gary Graham	Marshall Freund	Rob Barry
Kelly McCurdy	Mike Smith	Brendan Mackie

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



&

MORE LIGHT PRESBYTERIANS