

# Love

THIS IS HOW GOD SHOWED HIS LOVE AMONG US:  
HE SENT HIS ONE AND ONLY SON INTO THE WORLD  
THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM.

1 JOHN 4:9 (NIV)



# **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.

**Sunday School and Nursery will be offered today.** Children are invited to 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. All children must have an information form on file. Please see an usher for a copy of the form or if you have any questions. 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.

**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

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

December 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

In the Bleak Midwinter  
Bethany Faiz - Piano

arr. Jason Krug

**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**

**Call to Worship**

**Rob Barry, Shirley Knox, and Amy Selheimer**

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.**

*(Lighting of the Advent candle)*

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.**

\*Hymn #105

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more  
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are  
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look  
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:  
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.  
 Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of lovingkindness, you showed us a way of love and compassion, yet so often we choose apathy, ignorance, prejudice, and hate. We confess the hateful words, ignorant thoughts, and careless deeds we have perpetuated, in spite of your love and sacrifice. We confess the jokes, the smirks, the eyerolls, disrespect, and condescension. We confess all the ways our hate leaks out upon other humans made in your image.**

**Forgive us, God, and call us to a deeper understanding of what it means to love one another... *(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

### **Anthem**

Savior Of the Nations, Come                      Michael Larkin  
Amy Shimmin - Flute / Bethany Faiz – Piano

*Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son make here your home. Marvel now, both heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth. Wondrous birth, O wondrous child of the Virgin undefiled! Though by all the world disowned, still to be in heav'n enthroned.*

*Christ, the Father's only Son, has o'er sin the vict'ry won. Boundless shall your Kingdom be; when shall we its glories see? Brightly does your manger shine, glorious is its light divine. Let not night cloud o'er the light; let our faith shine always bright, shine always bright. Savior of the nations come.*

### **Scripture Conversation with Children**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

**God of compassion, we do not always know how to love you or each other or ourselves. As we contemplate your message to us today, help us to listen with humility. In this season of preparation, prepare our hearts to be challenged and changed. Speak to and through us today. Amen.**

#### **Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 2:15-20**

**Page: NT 58**

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

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

### **Sermon**

*Readjusting to the Dark*

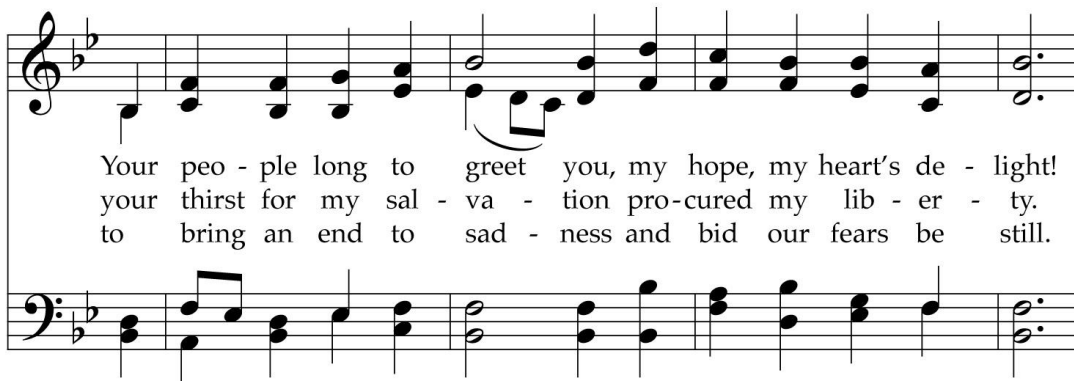
# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

## \*Hymn #104

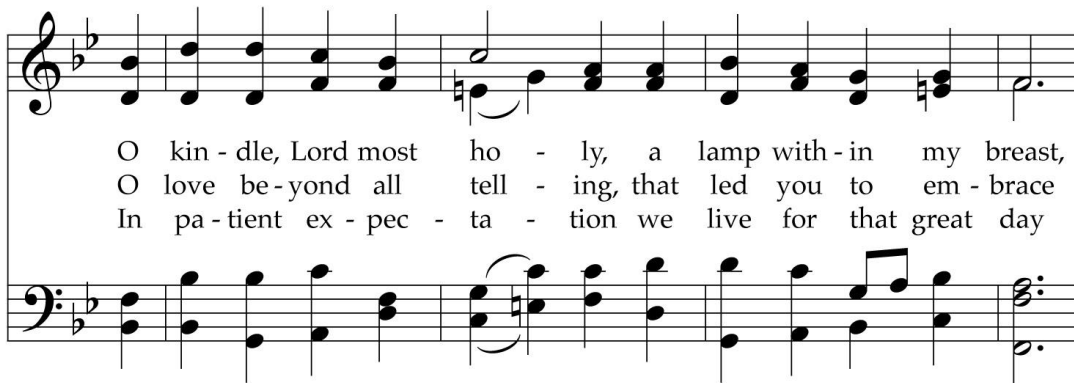
## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



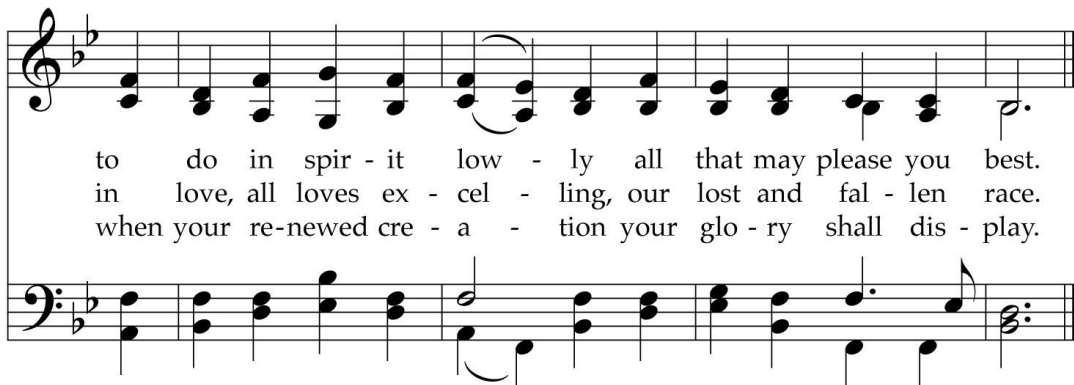
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?  
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.  
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

## **Offerings of Tithes and Gifts**

Offertory    While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks    Thomas Keesecker  
Bethany Faiz - Piano

### **\*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. We love because you first loved us. Your love inspires us to give generously. Guide us to use these gifts to radiate your love to our community and out to the whole world. Glory to you, O God! 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 #110

## Love Has Come

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)  
 F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all  
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the  
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)  
 C F Dm F C B<sup>b</sup> F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of  
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her  
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)  
 Gm7 A7 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)  
 F C B<sup>b</sup> C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.  
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

**\*Charge and Benediction**  
**Choral Benediction**

**Steeple Bell**

**Postlude**

How Great Our Joy!  
Bethany Faiz - Piano

arr. Cindy Berry

*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: Gary Graham      Counters: Jenn Dunham/Marshall Freund  
Ushers: Mike Smith/Aaron Spock      Coffee Hour: Lindy Ballance  
Nursery: Mary Fontinha/Chris Fagles  
Sunday School: Stephanie Foltz/Melissa Boris

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

*Ruth Zimmerman Duling*  
*1905-1977*

*Deborah C. Harrington*  
*1921-2015*



**SPECIAL SEASONAL SERVICES**

We'll gather for our Longest Night Service this Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Our Christmas Eve services (on a Sunday!) will be a 10:30 a.m. Family Service and a 7:00 p.m. Traditional Service.

**CAROLING IN NEW CASTLE**

Join us on Friday, December 22nd at 7pm 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 other festive attire is encouraged! Come back to the Mayhews home for refreshments at around 8:00 p.m. You are welcome to come even if you don't participate in the caroling!



## **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:suzieflook@hotmail.com)

## ***Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:***

### ***Joan Smith***

Kentmere Rehab & HC  
1900 Lovering Avenue  
Wilmington, DE 19806

### ***Rod Denison***

Coral Springs Healthcare Ctr.  
505 Greenbank Rd.  
Room D14  
Wilmington, DE 19808

## ***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

### ***Linda Twyford***

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

### ***Judy Hentkowski***

128 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

|                  |              |                |   |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|---|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <b>12/17</b> |                | <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>                        |
|                  |              | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream<br/>Worship</b>        |
|                  |              | <b>10:50am</b> | <b>Sunday School</b>                                  |
|                  |              | <b>11:30am</b> | <b>Coffee Hour</b>                                    |
| <br>             |              |                |   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>12/20</b> |                | <b>Deadline for Newsletter</b>                        |
|                  |              | <b>7:00pm</b>  | <b>Longest Night Service</b>                          |
| <br>             |              |                |   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>12/21</b> | <b>7:00pm</b>  | <b>Celebration Ringers</b>                            |
| <br>             |              |                |   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>12/22</b> | <b>7:00pm</b>  | <b>Caroling in Old New Castle</b>                     |
|                  |              | <b>8:00pm</b>  | <b>Refreshments at the Mayhews</b>                    |
| <br>             |              |                |   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>12/23</b> | <b>8:00am</b>  | <b>Tai Chi</b>  |
| <br>             |              |                |   |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <b>12/24</b> |                | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>                                  |
|                  |              | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream<br/>Family Worship</b> |
|                  |              | <b>11:30am</b> | <b>Coffee Hour</b>                                    |
|                  |              | <b>7:00pm</b>  | <b>Traditional Christmas Eve Service</b>              |

*The office will be closed on Monday, December 25- Tuesday, December 26  
and Pastor Miriam will be on vacation December 27-December 31*

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# New Castle Presbyterian Church

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Website: [www.newcastlepreschurch.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every other month (Sept/Nov/Jan/Mar/May)*

