

# *New Castle Presbyterian News*

## *February 2020*

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In Sunday worship this month, our Scripture readings will cover the first chapter of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is recounted in Matthew 5-7. Jesus' teachings will travel from a Galilean hillside overlooking the sea to our meetinghouse in New Castle, Delaware. The Living Word has traveled far, but it's beauty and challenge remains constant. In the midst of this dreary winter season, Jesus arrives to kick things up a notch.

Come be awestruck by the Beatitudes as Jesus proclaims: BLESSED. Blessed are the poor, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the meek, blessed are the merciful. We will hear these words on Soup-er Bowl Sunday. Started 30 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a South Carolina Presbyterian youth group collecting donations for their local food pantry. At the worship service, their pastor offered up this prayer:

*“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”*



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. The Word draws our attention to the ways that we are blessed by God and can be a blessing to others.

Come be shaped by Jesus' teachings about being salt and light. As we prepare the meal for Emmanuel Dining Room on February 7 or donate undies each Sunday this month, may our actions bring a little more flavor into this world and provide comfort to our neighbors.

Come wrestle with Jesus' teachings on relationships. He speaks of anger and marriage, making promises and caring for our enemies. Christ does not promise that the journey of faith will be easy; he bravely lays out the challenges ahead of us as we live as disciples. So bring your worries and cares, soup cans and underwear, and let's encounter the Living Word together this February.

- Pastor Miriam

## Many Thanks from NCPC's Pastor and Staff

THANK YOU for all your generosity this Christmas season! Your Christmas cards and gifts brought great cheer to our hearts and homes this season. We are grateful to serve Christ alongside you, and we are nourished by the love and care that this church pours out throughout the year but particularly at Christmas time. Many thanks!

## Five Wishes Talk with Rev. Tim Rodden - Sunday, March 8

As Christians, we proclaim that in life and in death, we belong to God. Yet, we often have such a tough time facing the "in death" part. One of the greatest gifts that we can give to our loved ones is to think through our end-of-life desires and communicate them clearly. NCPC Deacons and the Congregational Life committee has planned an event to help you, wherever you are in the planning process. On Sunday, March 8, from 12:15-1ish, Rev. Tim Rodden, Chaplain at Christiana Care, will present the ["Five Wishes"](#) document. If you've received a copy of it before, this is a great time to dust it off and make any updates! If you haven't heard about it, come learn about this wonderful resource that guides you through thinking about your emotional, spiritual, and physical needs; we will have free copies available. We'll also review NCPC's cemetery and memorial garden policies, as well as provide resources for funeral and memorial service planning. As we witness to the hope of the resurrection together, let us affirm that in life AND in death, we belong to God.



## Ash Wednesday - February 26

Begin your Lenten season with a Taize worship service on Wednesday, February 26. We'll gather from 7-7:20 for a service of music, confession, and the receiving of ashes. Ash Wednesday is a long-standing Christian tradition that helps us remember our mortality, while also symbolizing mourning and repentance. We begin our journey to Holy Week with the words of Genesis 3 - "from dust you have come, to dust you shall return." If you're unable to attend the evening service, Pastor Miriam will be offering "Ashes To Go" during the day; keep an eye out for more location details.



## Lenten Weekly Bible Study

As we prepare during Lent to once again hear of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his final days in that city, and ultimately the empty tomb, Amy-Jill Levin's ["Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week"](#) will help us ask faithful questions about the meaning of Holy Week. From the Last Supper to Gethsemane, we'll consider Christ's teachings and example about faith, atonement (or as Levine refers to it as "at one-ment"), risk, and the cross that we take up. We'll gather on Tuesday's during Lent from 3 to 4 at New Castle Presbyterian for coffee, and we'll discuss a chapter each week, starting with the introduction and chapter 1 on Tuesday, March 3.

# *Wilderness Wanderings*

Ecumenical Lenten  
Gatherings in New Castle

Wednesdays from 6 to 7ish  
Dinner and Reflection Hosted by:

*These gatherings are  
free and open to all.*

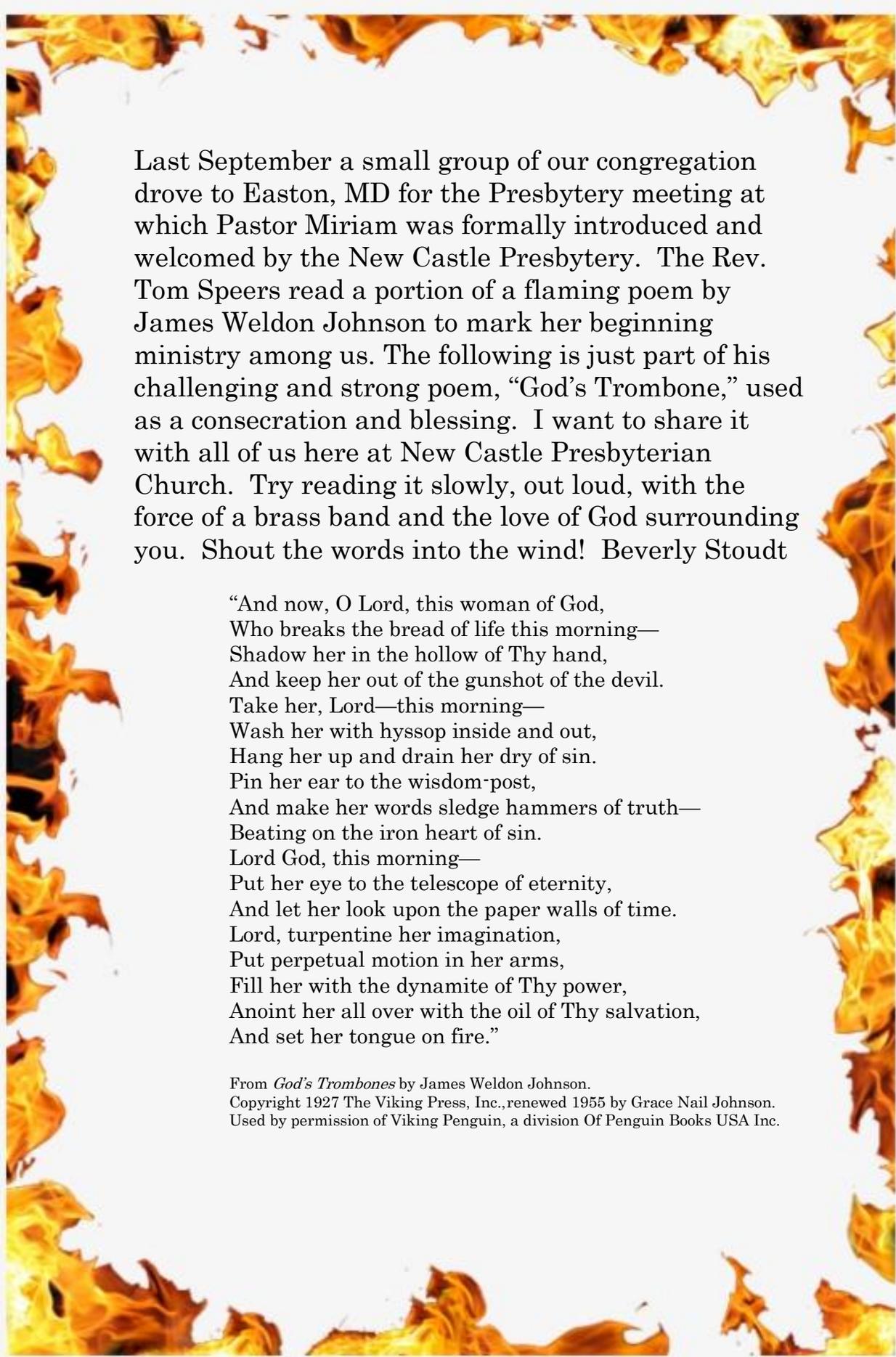
3/4 - New Castle Presbyterian Church

3/11 - Hope Lutheran Church

3/18 - New Castle Methodist Church

3/25 - St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

4/1 - Immanuel Episcopal Church



Last September a small group of our congregation drove to Easton, MD for the Presbytery meeting at which Pastor Miriam was formally introduced and welcomed by the New Castle Presbytery. The Rev. Tom Speers read a portion of a flaming poem by James Weldon Johnson to mark her beginning ministry among us. The following is just part of his challenging and strong poem, “God’s Trombone,” used as a consecration and blessing. I want to share it with all of us here at New Castle Presbyterian Church. Try reading it slowly, out loud, with the force of a brass band and the love of God surrounding you. Shout the words into the wind! Beverly Stoudt

“And now, O Lord, this woman of God,  
Who breaks the bread of life this morning—  
Shadow her in the hollow of Thy hand,  
And keep her out of the gunshot of the devil.  
Take her, Lord—this morning—  
Wash her with hyssop inside and out,  
Hang her up and drain her dry of sin.  
Pin her ear to the wisdom-post,  
And make her words sledge hammers of truth—  
Beating on the iron heart of sin.  
Lord God, this morning—  
Put her eye to the telescope of eternity,  
And let her look upon the paper walls of time.  
Lord, turpentine her imagination,  
Put perpetual motion in her arms,  
Fill her with the dynamite of Thy power,  
Anoint her all over with the oil of Thy salvation,  
And set her tongue on fire.”

From *God's Trombones* by James Weldon Johnson.  
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## **EMMANUEL DINING ROOM**

**Emmanuel Dining Room (EDR)** serves meals to Delaware's hungry at no cost every day of the year. Guests of Emmanuel Dining Room are seated in a clean, cheerful dining room and served a nutritious meal in restaurant fashion.

**Our Church cooks a meal for 100 people once a month** and delivers the food to the EDR site at 226 N. Walnut Street in Wilmington (not far from the Wilmington Train Station). By their request, we cook the same meal each month – pasta with lean hamburger, vegetables and sauce along with green beans and the beloved brownies that members of the congregation make. Our meal is served on the 8th of the month, so we cook on the 7th unless that's a Sunday. If the 7<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday then we cook on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Cynthia Robbins and Steve Martin have done the shopping, cooking and delivery nearly every month for the past 15 – 20 years, and Miranda Matthews usually helps cook. They plan to continue taking the lead on this mission activity but need a list of back-up people for July and August as well as times when a family or medical emergency arises. Miranda has written up detailed instructions that are taped to the inside door of the cupboard in the Church kitchen with the EDR supplies. The meal preparation is done in our kitchen and the shopping, meal preparation and delivery can be done in a morning.

**Need:** We will post a sign-up sheet for **EDR back-ups** on the bulletin board in the Christian Education building. As a back-up you would be contacted ahead of time to see if you would be available to help on a certain date. In the meantime if you are available to come help Cynthia and Steve on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> of any month, it would be appreciated and good training. Their emails are [robbins@udel.edu](mailto:robbins@udel.edu) and [martin@udel.edu](mailto:martin@udel.edu).

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

We are planning two events for the winter season. First will be a lunch for recent, potential, and new members at the home of Connie Reese, 112 West 7th Street on Sunday February 23 at 12:30 PM. We will also invite a member from each board, the music department, and Christian Ed., who will share about the work we do as live out our Christian faith at NCPC. We hope to inform, engage, and listen to our new members.

Also, plan to attend a family bowling outing in March. We will gather at Bowlarama, down Route 9, for fun and fellowship. Bumper lanes are available for rookie bowlers. The date is to be determined. Interested? Call or speak with Beverly Stoudt so we can choose the best possible time and day.

## FRIENDSHIP HOUSE UNDERWEAR DRIVE

**Sundays in February will be “Undies Sundays”** as we collect underwear for people served by Friendship House. According to Cheryl Bryant, Clothing Bank at Friendship House, there is always a need for underwear and it will all get distributed. However, she does have some suggestions:

- Only **new underwear** (actually this is a requirement).
- **Men** prefer boxers, not briefs. Sizes in order of preference are Large (waist 36- 38), XL (waist 40 - 42), 2X (waist 42 - 44), medium (waist 32 - 34). Men's undershirts would fall in the same size preferences - short sleeved undershirts, not sleeveless, are best.
- For **women**, there's a wide range of underwear types, and any style is acceptable. The sizes needed are the same as for men (in order): Large (size 7), XL (size 8), 2X (size 9), Medium (size 6). We don't usually have requests for size small. Sports bras in small, med, large (teenage girls sometimes request these) as well as "training" bras for little girls.
- For **children**, we can use underwear in size 2T and up! Both briefs and boxers are good for boys.

There will be clothes baskets in the entrance area of the Christian Education building in February for your generous donations.



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

When NCPC performed maintenance and upgrades to our historic campus, we are able to claim tax credits under the State of Delaware's Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. As a non-profit, NCPC is unable to take advantage of these credits, but we are able to sell them to individuals that can use them to reduce their taxes. *This would not be a donation to NCPC as anyone buying the credit would get a benefit equal to the amount paid for the credits.* This would however allow NCPC to use the value of the credits to continue to maintain our historic campus. If you have any questions about this program or wish to purchase some of the credits from NCPC please contact a member of the RD Committee. Also - as we have plenty of lawyers in the congregation - a disclaimer - you should consult your own tax adviser, NCPC is not offering any tax, legal or financial advice.

## EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

NCPC has made a commitment to participate in the Presbyterian USA Earth Care Congregation certification program.

There is an environmental audit that will focus on 4 main categories, worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Patti Hansen and Gail Seitz will be contacting the appropriate church leaders to arrange a time to discuss the details of each category.

In addition to contacting Patti or Gail, below are links to the website so that you can read up on the program and the process.

- 1) General Earth Care Information:  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>
- 2) "Earth Care Congregations: A Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches" document: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/earth-care-congregations-guide-greening-presbyteri/>
- 3) Excel spreadsheet application:  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/earth-care-congregation-first-year-application/>

## LGBTQIA+ NEWS

MORE LIGHT is the PCUSA organization that works toward the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society. ([www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)) In the coming months, your LGBTQIA+ Task Force will be working to both inform you about MORE LIGHT and building a groundwork to sustain an Open and Affirming environment within our congregation.



In February, First and Central Presbyterian Church will be hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Valentine's Day Dance for Queer (& Allied) Youth.

<https://www.thevillagedelaware.org/event-info/valentines-day-dance-for-queer-allied-youth>. The event is important, as there are few times or places where young people who identify within the LGBTQIA+ community can socialize freely with one another. Such events reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. This helps reduce risks to themselves as well as helps create a healthy support network for them. We hope to have some people from NCPC participate in that event.

Learning note: The word "queer" is still held to be offensive to many people middle-aged and older as it was an epithet that they endured during their formative years. More recently, the term has been "owned" by the younger community, much in the same way The Religious Society of Friends claimed the term "Quaker." The word "queer" in modern context is generally a simple way of saying the person identifies within the LGBTQIA+ community.

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Worship Committee is looking for someone who would like to take over the work of maintaining the candles in the sanctuary. Ellie Gerhart has carefully done this work faithfully for the past 20 years and has decided to pass the candle job on to someone else.

Would you like to order the candles, keep an eye on their rate of burning at each service, then replace and straighten them on a regular basis? They usually last about three burns. This job can be done anytime throughout the week.

The burning candles add beauty to the spirituality of our worship space, creating a welcoming environment for each person who enters. We praise and pray, give thanks and glory to God, listen to scripture, preaching, and sing in the glow of their light as we fellowship with others. Candles show us the light of Jesus Christ, highlight the steadfast grace of our Heavenly Father, and their flickering presence remind us of the ever present Holy Spirit.

Speak to any member of the worship committee if you would like to serve by maintaining our candles.

*Sarah McCann, Beverly Stoudt, Eileen Larkin, Minerva Lermond, Ellie Gerhart, Brenda Walters, Karen Dobson, or Bruce Raker*

## **Coffee Hour Information**

The deacons are responsible for keeping the kitchen stocked with certain foods, drinks and paper products for coffee hour. We provide cheese, popcorn packs, sweet and salty snacks (for example: cookies, crackers, peanuts and pretzels), drinks (lemonade mix, hot chocolate packets, tea bags and coffee packets), half and half, sugar and artificial sweetener packets. We encourage you to check the foods available the week before you host coffee hour. The benefits are twofold: it can cut down on your shopping and it helps us use the food we purchase. During a recent kitchen inventory, we had to throw away several out of date food items. As a congregation, we take our responsibility as stewards of the earth seriously, and this includes cutting down on waste. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter!

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

For a while now the kitchen has been left less than clean after gatherings at the church. Most of it would just require a simple wipe down of the counter tops. Monday mornings have required the time of others, as our cleaning service only comes on Fridays. Please help us keep surfaces clean and bugs away!



## 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 February 3-7. 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 3

Jude Morrow  
Jo Viola

### Tuesday 4

Miranda Matthews  
Joan Smith

### Wednesday 5

Carol & Gene  
Mayhew

### Thursday 6

Cynthia Robbins  
Nanette Nichol

### Friday 7

Susan & Jim  
Flook



## Monthly Report

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

### Membership:

December ..... 152

January ..... 152

### Income thru 01/04/20:

2020 Budget: ..... \$256,259.00

2020 Actual:..... \$252,670.00

### Expenses thru 01/04/20:

2020 Budget: ..... \$256,259.00

2020 Actual:..... \$256,966.00

## February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Nanette Nichol, 2/1

Steven Foltz, 2/2

Gary Graham, 2/5

Laura Gearheart-Esham, 2/6

James Cottrell, 2/7

Beverly Denison, 2/11

Robert Spring, 2/11



Heather Raezer, 2/12

Maggie Collins, 2/18

Eileen Larkin, 2/21

Cynthia Robbins, 2/25

Zarina Stone, 2/25

Joan Smith, 2/27

Mary Fontinha, 2/27

Ray & Lynn Snyder, 2/7

Amy & Scott Selheimer, 2/14

Judy & Bill Hentkowski, 2/15



## **THANKS FOR SERVING IN FEBRUARY!**

### COMMUNION

February 2 – **Janet Spring\***, Joan Smith, Gail & C.J. Seitz, Rachel Briggs

### USHERS

February 2 – Salina Brett & Mark Rappold

February 9 – Barbara & Jim Whisman

February 16 –

February 23 – Gail & C.J. Seitz

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

February 2 – Ray Snyder

February 9 – Monty & Ellie Gerhart

February 16 – Conchita Showell & Connie Bell

February 23 – Barbara Whisman

### WORSHIP LEADERS

February 2 – Melissa Boris

February 9 – Joan Lioi

February 16 – Minerva Lermond

February 23 – Jane Fouracre

### NURSERY

February 2 – Makenzie & Andy Schulz

February 9 – Jane Fouracre & Melissa Boris

February 16 – Molly Shaw & Bev Stoudt

February 23 – Molly Cooney & Jane Fouracre

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

February 2 – Sarah McCann

February 9 – Bruce Raker

February 16 – Connie Bell

February 23 – Amanda & James Anderson

### COUNTERS

February 2 – Jane Fouracre & Ringo Keka

February 9 – Barbara Whisman & Carol Mayhew

February 16 – Jane Fouracre & Carol Mayhew

February 23 –

### EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Steve Martin

Cynthia Robbins

Miranda Matthews

FLOWERS - Brenda Walters

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Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

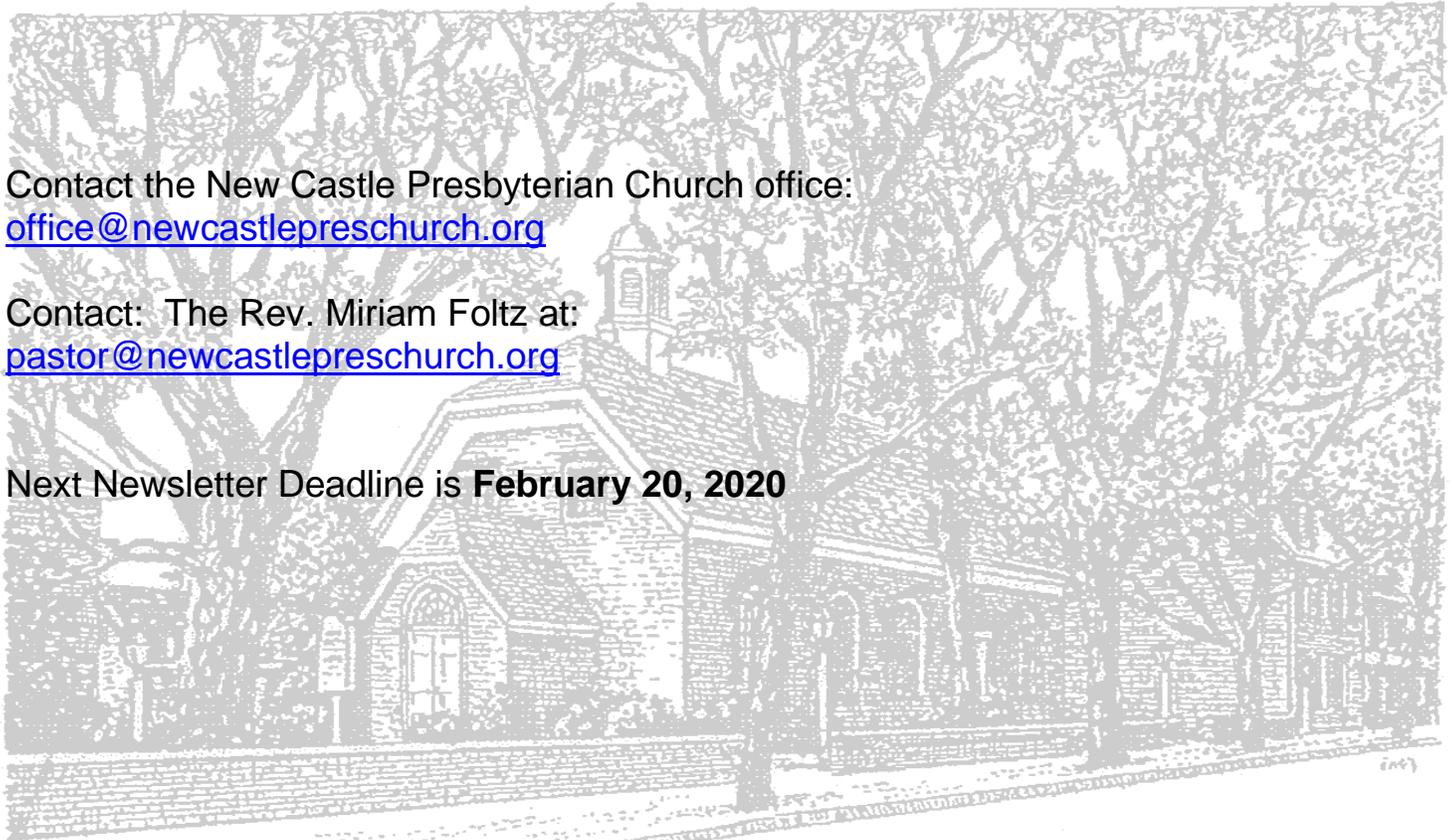


Address Change  
Requested

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:  
[office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Contact: The Rev. Miriam Foltz at:  
[pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org)

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



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