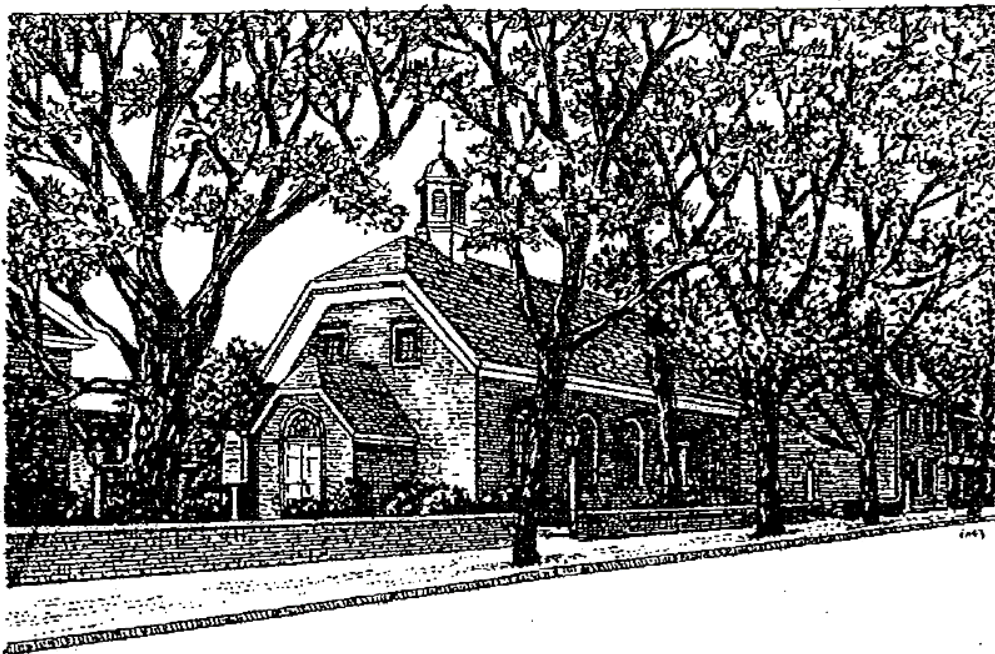


New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E 2nd Street, New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279 | Email: office@newcastlepreschurch.org

www.newcastlepreschurch.org



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

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 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

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 or Fran Ginger, 302-994-5988 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

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. 2nd 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

Carol Mayhew

17 E. 5th Street
New Castle, DE 19720

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
Second Sunday of Christmas**

January 4, 2026

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Michael Hunter

**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

Call to Worship

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

**We have arrived to Bethlehem, with hope, peace, joy, and love hearts
and praise on our lips!**

O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant.

Son of God, love's pure light, lies in the manger.

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

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere:

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary!

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

***Hymn #137**

He Came Down

v.1 ... that we may have hope, v. 2... that we may have peace

v. 3... that we may have joy, v. 4... that we may have love

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, you came down in Christ that we would know your saving grace. In all the ways that we have hurt others, in all the ways that we feel hurt, be with us this day. Hold us to account. Comfort us. Welcome us to Bethlehem, and show us your miraculous gift of the Christ Child. Lift us up and show us your hope, peace, joy, and love. *(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 #134 Joy to the World, verse 1**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

**Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination –

Holy God, help us to follow Christ's perfect light. May we join with him in finding the lost, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, releasing the prisoner, rebuilding the nations, bringing peace to others, and making music in our world. May we join with all creation in singing Christ's praises. Alleluia! Alleluia! We pray in the name of Christ, our King, our God, our Sacrifice. Amen.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

Sermon

The Antidote Called Awe

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn #347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Capo 3: (Bm)

Dm (G) (D) (Bm) (C)
B \flat F Dm E \flat

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim, with

(G) (F \sharp) (G) (D) (Em)
B \flat A B \flat F Gm

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly
earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of light de -
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the

(Bm) (C) (G) (D)
Dm E \flat B \flat F

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

(B) (Em) (Bm) (A)
D Gm Dm C

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may van - ish
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

(Bm) (Em) (F \sharp m) (Bm)
Dm Gm Am Dm

our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.
as the shad - ows clear a - way.
al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high!"

The flowering of English hymnody in the 19th century included the rediscovery, translation, and versification of ancient Christian hymns, such as this text from one of the earliest existing Christian liturgies. It is set here to an adaptation of a 17th-century French melody.

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Michael Hunter

***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, we join with the angels in singing:
Christ is born! In this Christmas season, we proclaim that Christ will come
again. We do not know the hour or the day of his coming, but we know that
we can hold fast to the hope that you are with us even now. Bless these
offerings to the work of your new creation in Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, we
pray! Amen.**

Communion and Prayers of the People

Invitation

**The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Words of Institution

Partaking

Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn #12

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise stanzas 1,2, 4

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

*Charge and Benediction

Steeple Bell

Postlude

Michael Hunter

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: Toni Marley

Coffee Hour: Trustees

Communion: Amy & Scott Selheimer*, Julie Barry, and Peter McCurdy

Ushers: George & Aaron Spock

Counters: Jen Dunham/Gary Graham

Nursery: Julia Bechtel/Julia Spock

Sunday School: Mallory Mackie/Melissa Boris

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Paul Witt
1900 - 1973

Jerome A. Bacchetti
1939 - 2006



WELCOME – GUEST PREACHER

Bill Hathaway (The Rev. Dr.) retired in 2018 after 42 years of parish ministry within the PCUSA. He lives with his wife, Alison Halsey (also The Rev. Dr.), in Wilmington just off the Brandywine Park and worship at First & Central Presbyterian downtown. Together they served as guest pastors during Miriam's most recent maternity leave and think of NCPC as a second home.

NCPC GRIEF GROUP

Sign up for a four-week grief group led by Teisha Fooks, a licensed clinical social worker. Meetings will be Monday afternoons at 1:30 from January 12 through February 2. Cost is \$50 for the series. To sign up or for more information, contact Teisha at (302)883-7167.

WINTER SANCTUARY CLOTHING DRIVE & POP-UP DONATION SHOP

Winter Sanctuary is a program that First & Central Presbyterian Church has provided for more than 30 years. Every Saturday morning from 6 am to 10 am, November to March, First & Central opens its doors to those experiencing homelessness. In Dec 2026, the number of guests welcomed on a Saturday morning has risen to more than 150, nearly twice a typical Saturday in prior years. In addition to warm drinks, breakfast foods and a freshly baked treat, the volunteer crew provides 25-30 showers and fulfills more than 70 requests for clothing or toiletries each week. Keeping the shelves stocked is a challenge; here's how you can help:

1. Donate Gently Used Winter Clothing: We're collecting gently used casual, cold weather clothing including jeans, khaki pants, sweatpants, long sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, boots, sneakers, and comfortable shoes.

2. Shop Our Pop-Up Donation Show: Our special Winter Sanctuary Pop-Up Donation Shop will be open during fellowship hour and is filled with affordable shower services supplies including new underwear, t-shirts, sweatpants, and hygiene supplies. Come purchase items to donate to First & Central's shower services. Items will range in price from \$2 to \$10. Cash and check will be accepted. Checks can be made out to First & Central Presbyterian Church with "Winter Sanctuary" in the memo field.

3. Purchase from Our Amazon Wish List: If you're not able to attend the Pop-Up Shop, items can also be purchased from our [Shower Services Amazon Wish List](#). Items purchased will be shipped directly to First & Central.



4. **Sign up to Volunteer:** It takes 15-20 volunteers to make Winter Sanctuary happen every Saturday, and we're always looking to welcome more volunteers.

NCPC YOUTH GROUP - JANUARY 11

NCPC's Youth Group for Middle and High Schoolers meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month. On January 11, our youth will help offer Coffee Hour as a fundraiser for our Confirmation Retreat. From 12-2, we'll kick off our Confirmation series (open to all youth!). For more information and to RSVP, reach out to Pastor Miriam

COMPASSION IN ACTION - JANUARY 18

During coffee hour, NCPC member Toni Marley will present on *Compassion in Action*, sharing resources from her experience as a Hospice Social Worker.

She will provide resources how to provide comfort, dignity, and emotional support for loved ones during life's final stages. We'll have information available about hospice, community programs, counseling, and tools available to guide families and ease the caregiving path.

JANUARY ALL-AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us on January 25 for a Valentine's Day Card-Writing project led by the Christian Education and Congregational Life Committees. You'll get to design or write a card to send to members of our church family who are at home for various reason. We will supply materials, envelopes, addresses, and a variety of Bible verses about God's amazing love. (And NCPC will mail the cards!) Please plan to stay and put your creative skills in full gear as we send love to our members who we might not have seen in awhile!

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

SUNDAY	01/04	10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship & Communion
		11:30am	Coffee Hour
Monday	01/05	2:00-5:00pm	Private Counseling – Library
Tuesday	01/06	12:00pm	People Who Lunch – Jessops Tavern
		7:00pm	Promises of AA Meeting
Wednesday	01/07	2:00-5:00pm	Private Counseling – Library
		3:00pm	Bible Study
		7:30pm	Choir
Thursday	01/08	7:00pm	Celebration Ringers
Saturday	01/10	8:00am	Tai Chi
SUNDAY	01/11	10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
		11:30am	Coffee Hour – Youth Group
		12:00pm	Deacon's Meeting

New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279

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Fax: (302) 328-5670

Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor - pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org

Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant - 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 1st 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 2nd Sunday of the month

TRUSTEES

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

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

