

# *New Castle Presbyterian News*

## *June 2020*

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*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.  
Acts 2:1*

On Pentecost Sunday 2019, I got to meet you and worship with you for the first time. Red balloons filled the meetinghouse, and tables for the church picnic were spread out on the lawn. On that Sunday, NCPC held a congregational vote and elected me to serve as your next pastor. Pentecost Sunday is a day of joy and anticipation, and Pentecost 2019 was full of both!

Pentecost Sunday 2020 will be just as much a day of celebration and openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit, as we will virtually be all together in one place! We'll gather via Zoom to hear the Good News, welcome new members, celebrate communion, and raise our hands and voices together in praise of the Living God.

In this season of Pentecost, my prayer is that despite the space between us, we can still come together in a variety of ways and spaces to live into the Holy Spirit's joy, anticipation, celebration, and openness. The gift of 'virtual worship' is that, whatever your plans for this summer, it's easier than ever to keep up with our worship services!

We'll have several sermon series this summer, starting with a three-part series on June 7 called "Presby-What?". We'll explore what we, as Presbyterians, believe about God, what we believe about sin, grace, and salvation, and how we're called to live in relationship with each other. After three weeks of "Presby-What?", on June 28, we'll celebrate Pride Month and NCPC's recent vote to join the More Light Network. Keeping reading our newsletter to hear from the LGBTQIA+ Task Force about what More Light means.

On Pentecost Sunday 2020, we will explore the question: "*What are we learning in this time that will help us live out Christ's mission?*" Siblings in Christ, my prayer is that as the Holy Spirit moves and reveals, disturbs and inspires us through these days, we will all be filled with a sense of calling through these times.

*Come, Holy Spirit!  
Pastor Miriam*

## **COVID-19 Task Force Update**

This humorous observation is currently circulating online: "Pretty wild how we used to eat cake after someone had blown on it. Wild times."

Just as we are rethinking the safety of extinguishing birthday candles, so too are we rethinking the 'hazards' of our worship practices in a pandemic, from singing, to passing the peace, to even the sacrament of communion. To explore how we might adapt our in-person worship, Session has approved the creation of a "Reopening" task force to design, propose for Session's approval, and help implement how and when we gather in-person again. Members are: Melissa Boris (chair), Lyn Briggs, Kelly Koczak-McCurdy, Eileen Larkin, Mark Rappold, and Amy Selheimer.

After its initial meeting on May 26, the task force recommended that virtual worship continue through the end of the summer. They also recommend that the Congregational Life committee explores the possibility of small, outdoor fellowship gatherings on the church lawn and that the Worship Committee explores the full range of creativity for virtual worship. The task force will continue to assess current conditions throughout the summer and send out regular updates.

## **GUATEMALAN PARTNERS UPDATE** **A Perfect Father's Day (or any day) Gift**

Looking for that perfect Father's Day gift? Most Dads like to cook and feed their family. How about feeding a family of 5 for 30 days for only \$70?

The global impact of COVID-19 is unprecedented. Lives lost, jobs vanished, and plans put on hold. For those already living in vulnerable communities in Guatemala, the effects of this crisis are even more devastating. The government has put curfews in place and halted public transportation, making it difficult for people to get to work. Shelves in the markets are bare and long lines form to get bread when it's available.

### **But even in darkness, God's light shines.**

In response to this crisis, we are teaming up with CEDEPCA and the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development to provide additional support to those in need by supplying Emergency Food Kits. Each kit will feed a family of 5 for 30 days. Pretty amazing and sure to please any thrifty father!

Go to the website <https://ncpguatemala.com/covid/> and click on **Give Now** for an easy way to donate whatever amount you'd like and join us in making a difference in the world.

## **PRAYER WALL** (this will be up June 1)

While our buildings are closed, the church is open! The next time you walk through the church campus, check out our 'prayer wall' on the CE Building door. All who pass-by are invited to "share a prayer, say a prayer." In this time of physical distancing, we can still hold one another in prayer. The instructions are simple.

Share a prayer: You're invited to write a prayer (for yourself, for a loved one, for the world) and leave it on the board. Say a prayer: You're invited to take someone else's prayer request and lift it up to God throughout the coming days.

Thanks to Kris for constructing the 'prayer wall'!



## **SUMMER BOOK GROUP**

We'll kick off our summer church reading list with Rowan Williams' "Luminaries: Twenty lives that illuminate the Christian way." We'll slowly make our way through the book, beginning with the introduction and chapters 1-2, to be discussed on Wednesday, June 3 at 1 p.m.

Our initial gatherings will definitely be via zoom, so RSVP to Pastor Miriam at [pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org) to receive the zoom link! Hopefully towards the end of summer, we can manage an outdoor gathering!

Find the book here: <https://www.amazon.com/Luminaries-Twenty-Lives-Illuminate-Christian/dp/0281082952>

## **SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS**

As summer kicks off, Pastor Miriam and Sarah will hold one more Wednesday night prayer service on June 10 at 7 p.m. Join us for a Service of Healing and Wholeness. Similar to our "Blue Christmas Service," this will be a time of reflection, silence, and lifting up to Christ the burdens on our hearts. We'll light candles and sit in Christ's light together.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020**

With the recommendation of the CE Committee, VBS 2020 will be held remotely, using a simple curriculum and zoom. We'll gather from 10-10:20 a.m. on July 12-July 16. Our theme is "Origin Story." An "origin story" reveals how a character or a group of people become who they are. As Christians, what is our "origin story"? Join us as we turn to the Bible and discover how our story is God's story too! Each day, we'll hear a Bible story, do some simple activities and songs together, then have a 'take-home' project that kids can do off-line.

Interested in helping design the day's creative activities? Reach out to Pastor Miriam!

For registration, submit the information below to [office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org) or register via <https://forms.gle/tKYR5PtcMCQM4tua6>

### **Vacation Bible School Registration Form July 12-16, 2020 New Castle Presbyterian Church**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (cell/home/work) \_\_\_\_\_

Main Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member's Email (for daily zoom link distributions):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

The registration deadline is July 6, so be sure to sign up today!

## **NOMINATION RESULTS**

Pending the election of Jim Whisman at the Called Congregational Meeting on May 31, below are the official results of our 2020 officer elections. Thanks to everyone who returned their by-mail ballots. With 71 votes, these officers will begin training this summer and, hopefully with an in-person installation in September, will serve this fall.

### Nominations for Session:

Class of 2023:     **Candy Dunson** (#850)  
                          **Janet Spring** (#611)  
                          **Bev Stoudt** (#127)  
                          **Jim Whisman** (#1107)

Class of 2021:     **Jo Viola** (#490)

### Nominations for Deacons:

Class of 2023:     **Lindy Ballance** (#1057)  
                          **Conchita Showell** (#1093)  
                          **Kare Smith** (#1179)

### Nominations for Trustees of the Congregation:

Class of 2023:     **Dan Dunson** (#854)  
                          **Mary Fontinha** (#1178)  
                          **Gail Seitz** (#1133)

### Nominations of Nominating Committee Members-At-Large for 2020-2021 (one-year term):

Nominated   **Monty Gerhart** (#418), **Carol Mayhew** (#340) and **Bev Stoudt** (#127)

### **The Corporation of the New Castle Presbyterian Church recommends the election of these officers:**

Nominations for Trustees of the Corporation (one-year term):  
**Peter McCurdy** (#1141), **Brenda Walters** (#746), **Barbara Whisman** (#1106),  
**Joan Lioi** (#1975) and **Steve Handy** (#873)

## **LGBTQIA+ TASK FORCE: MORE LIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

In their May meeting, Session unanimously approved our church becoming affiliated with More Light Presbyterians (MLP), an organization that helps churches welcome LGBTQIA+ people within both their churches and their wider communities. (You can read more about More Light Presbyterians on their website: <https://mlp.org/>)

What does that mean for NCPC?

The immediate benefit is that we become a recognized church of LGBTQIA+ inclusivity. In our own way, it means our church is "coming out of the closet." We will be listed on MLP's directory of churches, which makes us searchable for people seeking an inclusive church home. We will also have access to their logo, information, and banners to communicate our MLP affiliation on our website, bulletins, brochures, etc.

What happens in the long-run is up to us. Our MLP affiliation can be the "ministry-of-the-month" that fades into little more than a search engine result and a small sign in our lawn or it can begin a deliberate effort on our part to be actively inclusive vice passively welcoming to the LGBTQIA+ community. To that end, the LGBTQIA+ Task Force will continue as a group through the rest of this year. It is our hope to integrate features into our routine activities that will prompt us to be mindfully aware of LGBTQIA+ people when we plan various events and for those visitors to feel overtly welcome and included when they visit our church.

We want to close with a reminder that June is recognized as Pride Month by the LGBTQIA+ Community. Typically, fabulous and colorful celebrations occur all over the world from small youth group celebrations to megacity parades and parties. The COVID-19 pandemic has shut down every major celebration for obvious health concerns. A simple way that you can honor our new MLP affiliation and personally shine "More Light" from our church is to send a rainbow note to a family member or friend to let them know how they bring joy into your life.

## **LGBTQ+ TASK FORCE: PRIDE!**

When we think of pride, it may conjure a feeling of deep satisfaction from one's own achievements or those with whom we closely associate. In our modern world this is particularly true for those who identify as LGBTQ+. It could also be defined as having confidence and self-respect expressed as a member of a group, particularly one that has traditionally been socially marginalized on the basis of their shared identity, culture and experiences.

The month of June was chosen for the LGBTQ+ community to commemorate the Stonewall riots which occurred in June of 1969 where police raided the Stonewall Inn Bar in Greenwich Village. During the one year anniversary, hundreds of demonstrators marched past the Stonewall Inn in what many consider the first Gay Pride march – often called Gay Liberation Day. Today, Pride typically involves a series of events and celebrations where LGBTQ and their supporters participate in a colorful parade. In 1978 the most recognized symbol of Gay Pride emerged in San Francisco – the rainbow flag. Each color representing healing, nature, spirit, harmony etc. which has been adopted worldwide. During the 70s the primary focus was to show pride in freedom from being “out of the closet” and the diversity of the LGBTQ community. In the 1980s political and social activism moved to the forefront in light of the AIDS epidemic.

Today, as acceptance for the community increases especially among the straight community, political arena, gay friendly corporations and businesses Pride celebrations reflect the positive impact LGBTQ individuals have had on their local community and the world. In cities such as Amsterdam, Chicago, London, Mexico City, Paris and New York events typically attract hundreds of thousands to over one million supporters. This outpouring of love and support brings with it a sense of tremendous safety and comfort for being your true authentic self and living your best life.

- Written by Mark D. Rappold

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP**

Our every other week Zoom Coffee Hours at 11:30 am have been enjoyed by those who have attended. They last a half hour, and after greeting each other we break out into small groups of five households for five minutes. Then the groups are mixed up for another 5 minute chance to chat with each other. More faces would be welcome and make for more variety. If you have a cell phone or a computer with a camera you can join the fellowship. Getting connected involves clicking on the blue Zoom meeting line in the email that comes with the Sunday worship service, turning on your camera, asking to join the meeting, then waiting for the meeting to begin. If you have trouble, there are several friends who will give clear, helpful directions. Plan to come to the next Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30 am.

### **LIVE ZOOM WORSHIP, MAY 31**

***We've been working hard to plan and prepare for this service; here are a few reminders about what will be happening:***

- Our service is designed to be **bulletin-less**; worship leaders will walk us through the service, so no need to have printed off a bulletin.
- We will **celebrate communion**! So please plan to have some bread and juice, or some form of carbohydrate and liquid.
- We will welcome five **new members**: Jim and Karen Beatson, Greg and Susan Fogarty, and Steven Foltz, so please come help 'welcome' them
- At the end of our service, we will have a **Called Congregational Meeting** for the election of Jim Whisman, Elder, class of 2023, as well as officially announce the results of our by-mail election.

Additionally, it's **Pentecost**! If you'd like to have a decoration on hand, attached is some 'Pentecost art!' If you're up for some coloring, one page has a blank version; if you'd like it pre-colored, look at the second page.

If you aren't available on Sunday morning, no worries! An audio recording of the service will be available on our website on Monday.

### **SMALL GROUPS**

Thanks to everyone who signed up for a summer small group! If you don't hear from your group leader by June 1, let Pastor Miriam know.

### **CHURCH VIRTUAL PICNIC**

Our Church Picnic was scheduled for June 14. As part of our worship for the day, Pastor Miriam will put a slideshow together of *picnics*. If you have photos of previous church picnics or have a photo of a recent family picnic, send them to her at [pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org)!

### **FELLOWSHIP HOURS**

We'll have two zoom fellowship hours in June: June 14 and June 28 at 11:30 a.m. Join us via zoom link for break out group reflections. It's a time for catching up, sharing of joys and concerns, and reveling in each other's company. Mark your calendars and hope to see you online then!

## GRADUATES



Monty and Ellie's granddaughters, **Madeleine Gerhart Yeager** graduated with a Masters Degree from Boston University. She accepted a job at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) as a Child Life Therapist. **Emma Lea Casper**. Graduating from Concord High School. She will be attending LIM. Laboratory Institute of Merchandising and Marketing in NYC.

Kris & Chris Krawczyk's daughter, **Danielle Krawczyk** graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Education from Coastal Carolina University. She accepted a position at Maryville Elementary Grade School, Georgetown, SC as a Special Education teacher.

Scott & Miranda Matthews' niece, **Lana Ruthanne Murray**, graduating on June 13 as valedictorian of Portola High School, Portola, California. Will be attending the University of California at San Diego in the fall and majoring in business with a focus on financial engineering.

Heather Raezer's son, **Jamie Kern** graduating 5th grade going to 6th grade in Gauger-Cobbs Middle School.

Nancy Coning's granddaughter, **Jordan Sobolesky**, Elizabethtown, Bachelor's, will receive Master's degree 2021 in 5 year program.

Julia & George Spock's son, **George Spock** is graduating from the University of Delaware with a BS in Environmental Science and Minor in Geology. He is pursuing a job in the environmental science field as well as Naval aviation.

Pastor Miriam's husband, **Steven Foltz** graduated with a PhD from Washington University in St. Louis where he studied cancer genomics. Later this summer, he will join a lab at the University of Pennsylvania as a post-doctoral scholar researching pediatric oncology.

Juliann & Rob Barry's son, **Alexander Barry** graduated from the University of Delaware on May 30th with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, with minors in Sustainable Energy Technology and Chemistry. Near term he plans to do process engineering work in a local manufacturing facility. After that he may relocate to an area of the country with a longer fishing season.

Joan Smith's grandson, **Adam Smith** graduated from Charter School of Wilmington and will be attending the University of Delaware.



## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Minerva Lermond, 6/6  
 Douglas Twyford, 6/8  
 Allie Lundgren, 6/9  
 Diana Reilly, 6/12  
 Molly Shaw, 6/13  
 Nancy Kersey, 6/13  
 Michael June, 6/13  
 Sandra Walker, 6/15  
 Janet Reed, 6/16



Steve Handy, 6/19  
 Danielle June, 6/21  
 Robert Lindfors, 6/22  
 Jim Flook, 6/23  
 Evangeline Studd, 6/23  
 Gisele Vonrhein, 6/25  
 Sarah McCann, 6/26  
 Pastor Miriam Foltz, 6/30

Danielle & Michael June, 6/3  
 Janet & Bob Spring, 6/5  
 Gregory & Susan Fogarty, 6/6  
 Danika & Rhett Teller, 6/11  
 Ellie & Monty Gerhart, 6/18  
 Lindy & Sandy Ballance, 6/19  
 Brenda & William Walters, 6/21  
 Christine & Richard Fagles, 6/21



James & Amanda Anderson, 6/22  
 Julie & Rob Barry, 6/25  
 Brian & Lauren Werkheiser, 6/27  
 David & Joan Lioi, 6/28  
 Susan & Jim Werkheiser, 6/28  
 Bruce & Kay Gordon, 6/30  
 Molly & Matt Cooney, 6/30

## 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 June 22-26. 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 22

Jude Morrow  
 Jo Viola

### Tuesday 23

Joan Smith  
 Miranda Matthews

### Wednesday 24

Karen & Jim  
 Beatson

### Thursday 25

Cynthia Robbins  
 Nanette Nichol

### Friday 26

Susan & Jim  
 Flook

## Monthly Report

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

Membership:

April .....	151
May .....	151



Income thru 05/02/20:

2020 Budget: .....	\$113,790.00
2020 Actual:.....	\$111,071.00

Expenses thru 05/02/20:

2020 Budget: .....	\$90,849.00
2020 Actual:.....	\$85,450.00

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

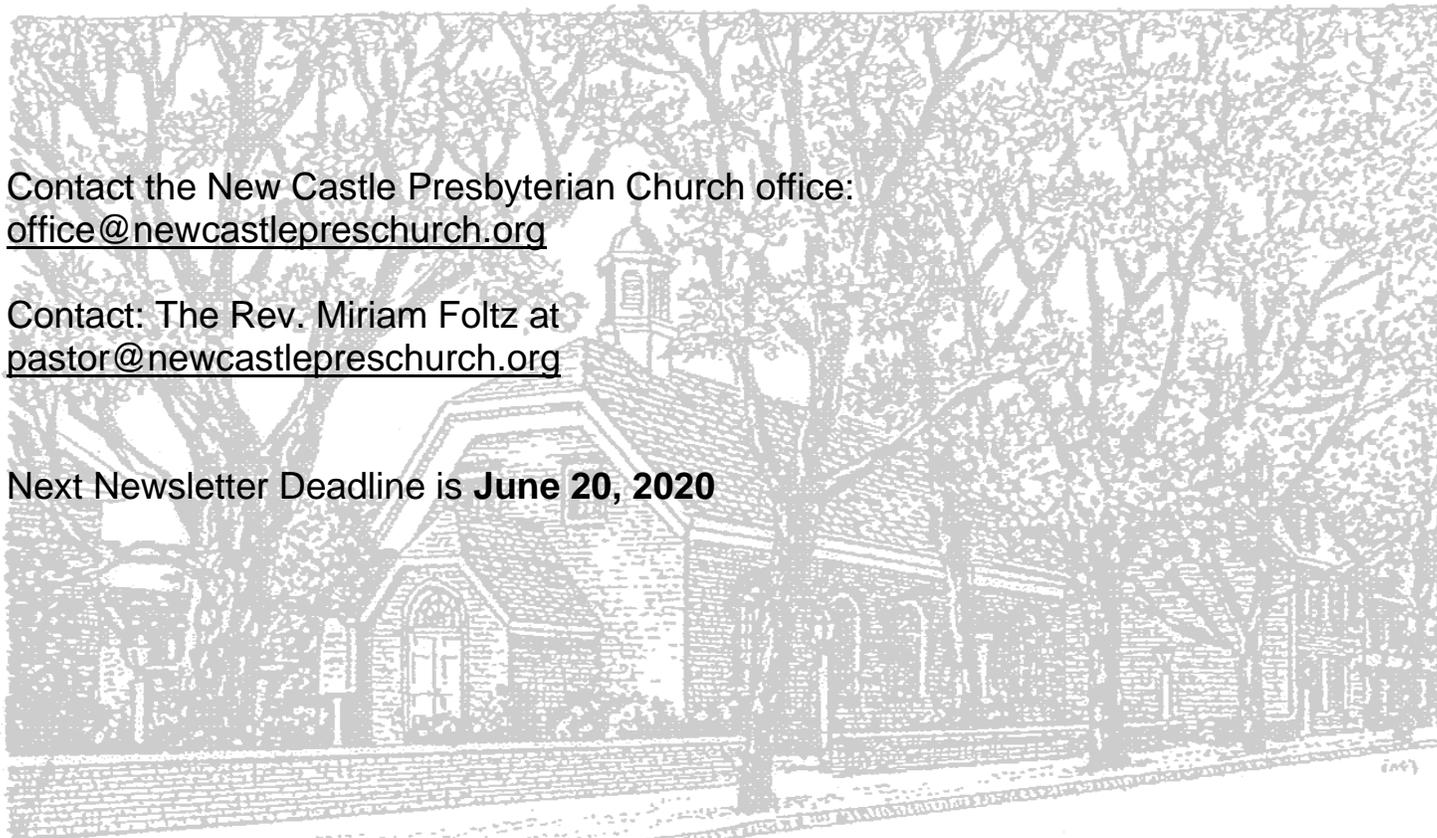


Address Change  
Requested

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 **June 20, 2020**



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