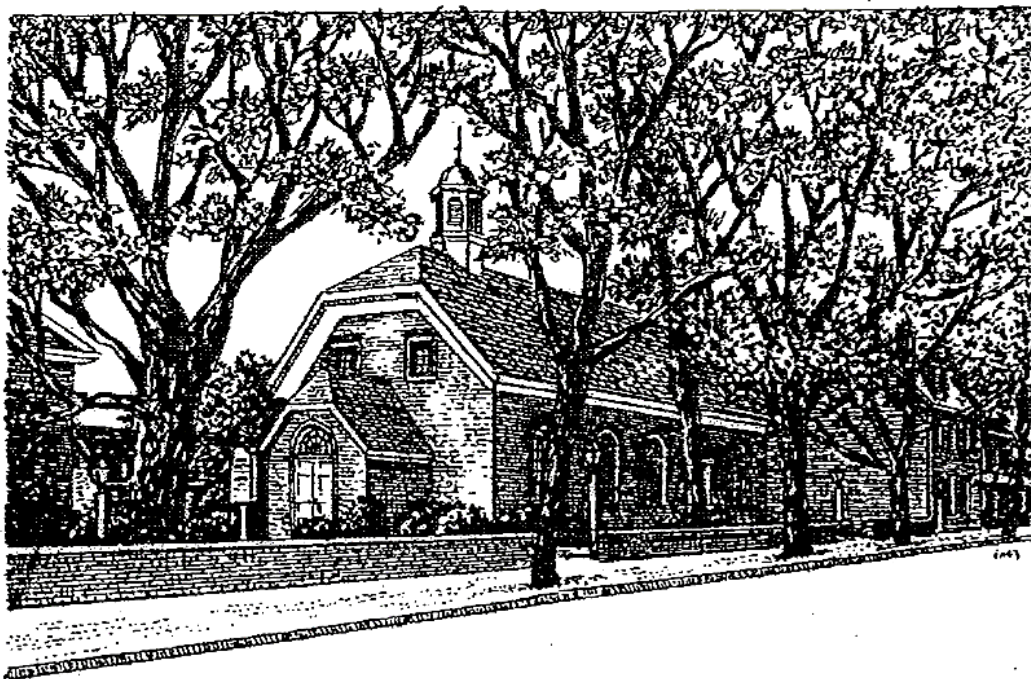


New Castle Presbyterian Church

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!

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 5th 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
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

March 17, 2024

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

Choral Introit

Call to Worship

Why have you come here?

**I seek God with my whole heart and entire mind, with a fire burning
in my bones!**

You're in the right place! This is God's house, and the door is open.

Why are you here?

I seek God with my whole heart and entire mind, with a fire burning in
my bones!

You're in the right place! This is God's house, and the door is open.


Let us worship God.

Let us sing God's praise!

*Hymn #515


I Come with Joy

Capo 3: (D) (G) (A) (D) (Bm)
F B \flat C F Dm




1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F \sharp m) (D)
Csus Cm B \flat Am F



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F \sharp) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)
Gm F/A B \flat C Cm7 F



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.”

**Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.
Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.
Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.**

Like Peter – who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?” – make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility, we pray... *(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

Create in Me

Michael Larkin

Michael Hunter – Piano

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit, with your free spirit. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Amen.

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Teaching God, we want to learn your ways of forgiveness, of grace, and of love. That is part of why we return to your text week after week, because we desire to be more like you. As we prepare to listen to your good Word, calm the noise in our minds. Center our spirits to focus on you, so that we might hear what we have missed in this story before. God, we want to learn your ways. Meet us here. Help us listen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 18:15-22

Page: NT 20

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” ²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon



GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn #754

Help Us Accept Each Other



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Michael Hunter

***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**

Triune God, fill our hearts with eagerness this day. Like Simon Peter, may we be eager to ask questions and to learn. Like Christ, may we be eager to seek reconciliation and to forgive. Meet us in our eagerness with wisdom and guidance, that these offerings would proclaim your love and hope into this world. Teach us, Lord, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

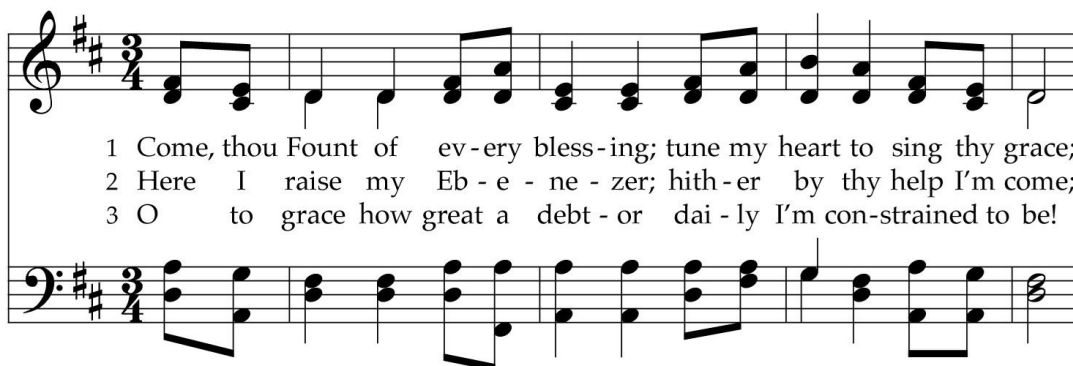
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

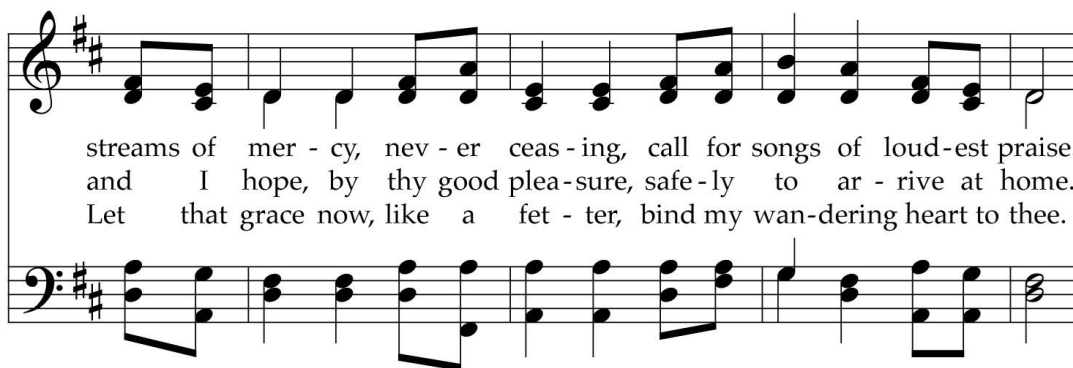
GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Hymn #475

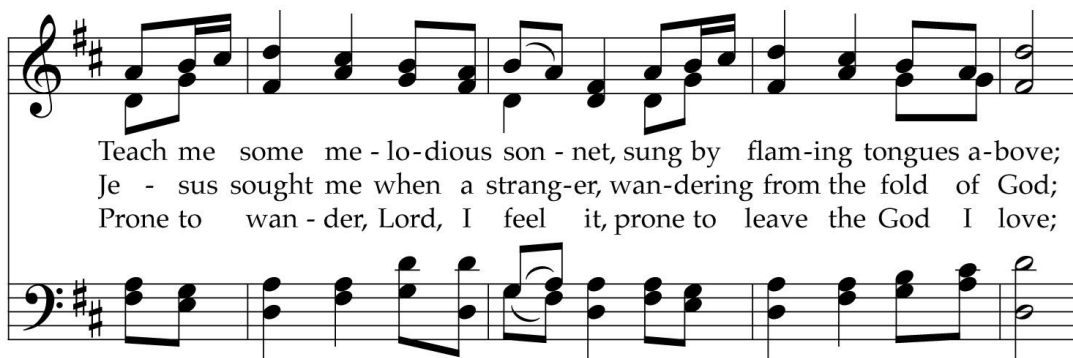
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



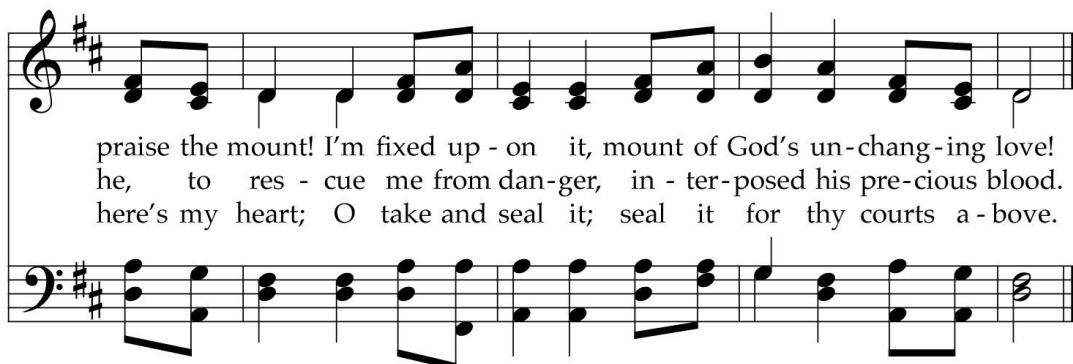
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

***Charge and Benediction**
Choral 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.*

Thank you for serving today:

Worship Leader: Susan Flook Counters: Barbara Whisman/Connie Reese
Ushers: Connie Reese/Marshall Freund Coffee Hour: Liz Toto/Toni Marley
Nursery: Chris Fagles/Mary Fontinha
Sunday School: Mallory Mackie/Kim Beebe

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Lillian L. Brown
1913-1985

Ronald Verrecchio
1934-2018



FISH BANKS / ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Through the season of Lent, the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing offering supports our ministries of resurrection hope: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People Grants. Make a donation through a fish bank or pew envelope, or give online today at:



<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

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. Sign up is in the Fellowship Hall.

EASTER FLOWERS FORM

On Easter Sunday (March 31), the Meeting House is decorated with spring flowers to help us celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection. If you would like to donate a flower in memory or in honor of a loved one, please return the form TODAY.

EASTER FAIR REGISTRATION – MARCH 31

Join us during Sunday School on Sunday, March 31, for our annual Easter Fair. We are looking forward to the younger members of the church participating in Easter activities, songs, and stories...as well as everyone's favorite Easter Egg Hunt during Coffee Hour! Register by March 24 at <https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/easterfair>



PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 24

Next Sunday, the Celebration Ringers handbell require will lead us in our Palm Processional at the start of worship. As you are able and interested, we'll meet at 10:25 across 2nd Street by the William Penn statue and walk into worship together.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – MARCH 28

Join us for 7 p.m. Worship with Communion in the Fellowship Hall. We'll gather for scripture, prayer, and singing as we journey with Peter from the Last Supper to the Cross. Light refreshments will be provided.

GOOD FRIDAY – MARCH 29

The Meeting House will be open for quiet reflection all day. A service of prayer and Scripture readings will be available by email as well as in the entryway to the sanctuary.

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31

Join us at 6:30 a.m. for our Sunrise Service at the Battery Park Pier. Join us for 10:30 Worship in the Meeting House, as well as the Easter Fair during Sunday School and Coffee Hour.



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS – BIBLE STUDY

In the CE Building, pick up our Sanctified Art devotional - *Wandering Heart* - as we journey with Simon Peter through this season of preparation for Easter. Join us on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm for Lenten Bible Study with the Pastor in the Fellowship Hall

LENTEN ECUMENICAL DINNER – THIS WEDNESDAY

Our Feasting on the Word Ecumenical Lenten Suppers concludes with our final gathering this Wednesday, March 20, at Immanuel Episcopal at 6 p.m.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It's that time of year where we are putting together our slate of officers for the upcoming year! If you are interested in serving as an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee - please reach out to Melissa Boris or Peter McCurdy. Terms are for three years and begin in September.

SECOND STREET COFFEEHOUSE – MARCH 17

Join us for the second Acoustic Open Mic Night TONIGHT, from 6:30-8:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The \$3 admission goes to support Friendship House; for more information, check out our newsletter.

GIFTS OF LOVE UPDATE

So far in 2024, we have contributed \$2,400.00 to the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Peter's church in support of our mutual efforts to assist our New Castle neighbors in need. This donation will go a long way to help relieve the staggering need that is expressed almost daily. We get calls from people having to choose whether to pay the rent or medical bills or car repairs or utility bills. If you can pay yours without having to choose, you are very blessed. Your contributions will absolutely bless others.

We also donate food items for the St Peter's food pantry. The pantry is experiencing an abundance of tuna, peanut butter and dry cereals but not so much mayonnaise, jelly, and powdered milk. So, while all items are appreciated, mayonnaise, jelly and powdered milk are really needed at this time.

Thank you NCPC for being such good neighbors. To God be the glory!

Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook,
302-328-7346 suzieflook@hotmail.com

Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:

Rod Denison

Coral Springs Healthcare Ctr.
505 Greenbank Rd., Room C7
Wilmington, DE 19808

Linda Twyford

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

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

Judy Hentkowski

128 E. 2nd 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

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| SUNDAY | 03/17 | 10:30am | In-Person & Live Stream Worship |
| | | 10:50am | Sunday School |
| | | 11:30am | Coffee Hour |
| | | 12:00pm | Worship Committee Meeting |
| | | 6:30pm | Community Open Mic Night |
| Monday | 03/18 | | Meals on Wheels |
| | | 6:30pm | Trustees Meeting |
| Tuesday | 03/19 | | Meals on Wheels |
| | | 7:00pm | Christian Education Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday | 03/20 | | Meals on Wheels |
| | | | DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER |
| | | 2:00pm | Bible Study |
| | | 6:00pm | Lenten Supper – Immanuel Episcopal |
| | | 7:30pm | Choir |
| Thursday | 03/21 | | Meals on Wheels |
| | | 7:00pm | Celebration Ringers |
| Friday | 03/22 | | Meals on Wheels |
| Saturday | 03/23 | 8:00am | Tai Chi |
| SUNDAY | 03/24 | | PALM SUNDAY |
| | | 10:25am | Processional |
| | | 10:30am | In-Person & Live Stream Worship |
| | | 10:50am | Sunday School / Easter Fair |
| | | 11:30am | Coffee Hour / Easter Fair |

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New Castle Presbyterian Church

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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

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 | OPEN |
| Scott Selheimer | | |

Session meets the 1st Tuesday of the month

DEACONS

| 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Susan Fogarty | Toni Marley | Lindy Ballance |
| Julia Spock | Janet Spring | Liz Toto |
| Sandy Wilson | | |

Deacons meet the 2nd 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 3rd Monday every other month (Sept/Nov/Jan/Mar/May)

