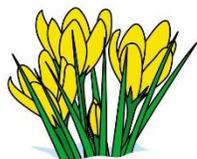


New Castle Presbyterian News

May 2021



*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
- Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth #250*

Hope Springs forth this Easter Season! NCPC's Session is working hard to safely gather us together for a range of in-person events through the coming months. We recognize that there are members of our church who won't be able to be vaccinated for some time, particularly our children, so we will expect everyone gathering on church grounds to abide by our Covid Covenant of Care instructions on masking, distancing, etc. However, with increased vaccination rates and basic precautions, we can gather with good faith that we are not risking one another's health. So! Stay tuned for more details, but mark your calendars now for:

Summer Worship at NCPC: We will continue to offer livestream worship at 10:30. In May, Session will vote on allowing a limited in-person congregation beginning in June. Once the plan is approved, we'll share more information about how to RSVP to join us in person.

Pentecost Picnic on May 23: While we won't yet be back to in-person worship, the Worship Committee will offer a Spirit-filled celebration and fellowship gathering in the church yard at 12:30 (weather permitting)! Bring picnic supplies, wear red, and join us then.

"A" Church Picnic and Annual Congregational Meeting on June 10: The Congregational Life Committee is organizing a church picnic at 12:30 in the church yard (weather permitting). As we mark a unique end to the church programming year, we will elect new officers and celebrate the summer season.

In Christ,
Pastor Miriam

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you, members for signing up to be liturgists through "Sign-Up Genius" at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050B44ADAA2AAOF94-2021>. At this point we have worship leaders signed up through June 13.

One Great Hour of Sharing offerings are still being collected at the church office. Sunday worship services continue to be livestreamed via YouTube, and they are all archived and accessible on the church's website.

Special music for Sunday worship services is scheduled through May. Sarah McCann will sing May 2. A quartet will bring multiple voices to the May 23 service. Then on May 23 Carolyn Hendrix will return, playing a cello selection. Minerva Lermond and a few valiant bell choir members are preparing a duet presentation and a separate trio performance.

Pentecost Sunday will be May 23. Plan to wear red that day and join us for worship & fellowship.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Wednesdays at 1 via Zoom as we read and discuss the Scripture readings for the following Sunday! We'll conclude our weekly lectionary study on Wednesday, May 26. During the summer, we'll gather for book discussions on a monthly basis; stay tuned for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

THE GIFTS OF LOVE FOR THE SPRING SEASON (MARCH-JUNE)

Thank you for all of your help in providing for our friends in need all year round, not just during the cold holiday months

NOMINATING COMMITTEE OFFICERS NEEDED!

The nominating committee has worked hard to pull together a new class of officers. However, the slate isn't quite full. We are still in need of one Elder and one Trustee. If you are interested or have another member in mind you believe would be a fit for one of these roles, please contact Melissa Boris at borism1010@gmail.com or 302-750-4185.

BECOME A MEMBER OF NCPC THIS SUMMER!

We will be offering a New Members class this summer to share about the mission of New Castle Presbyterian and help welcome you to our community. If you'd like to learn more about our church's beliefs and ways you can be a part of serving Christ with us, please email Pastor Miriam by the end of May. Classes will be held either over Zoom or outside as the weather permits.

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING OPPORTUNITY THIS SUMMER

Learn more about the legacy of racism in our nation and the ways that Christ is calling us to work for racial reconciliation. The PCUSA's office of Gender, Racial, and Intercultural Justice is offering a free virtual training session on June 29. Pastor Miriam will be attending and is available for additional conversations following the event.

Register here:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvde2gpj0qHdXU16k4px2ZGuwC9yo3ywj2>

MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS

Exciting News of the Guatemala Project

Through the Presbytery's Guatemala Project, we are working in partnership with Westminster Church to provide a Revolving Fund (formerly called Microloans) to a Mam women's group called Claveles 1 (the Carnations 1). The group has 12 women who want to grow potatoes and corn and are asking for additional funds. This amount is a bit higher than the typical "loan" to individuals, but apparently, growing these crops is a more expensive endeavor. The women have been vetted and their plan has been approved by the Board of the Association. They will also receive training from Carlos, our agricultural expert. The funds should arrive just as the growing season is about to begin. There will be a joint venture between New Castle Presbyterian Church and Westminster.

Through the generosity of many, the project also raised enough funds to provide each of the 530 women of the Association with a set of 3 egg-laying chickens which will go a long way to meet the urgent needs of food insecurity in their communities. Many of you contributed to this effort through Christmas gifts and other donations. The program also underwrites critical training to insure the success of the chickens. To see this program in action, be sure to watch the video on [the Guatemala Project site](#).

Other projects keep going during the pandemic. This spring, the Mission and Outreach Committee also provided needed sweat pants to New Castle Elementary School, and distributed excess food from the St. Peter's Food Pantry to New Castle and Eisenberg Elementary Schools. We're also providing dinner to Epiphany House residents the second Thursday of every month. Scott Selheimer drops the food off so if you'd like to help make a main course or salad and dessert for Scott to pick up, contact Scott at selheime@udel.edu.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP

Our two in-person "small groups" continue to meet outside each week. If you are interested in joining our Thursday group at 2pm, contact [Minerva Lermond](#); if you are interested in joining our Saturday group at 11am, contact [Mary Fontinha](#).



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are almost through the first half of what has been a very interesting year! We may not have had the in-person fellowship that we are used to, but through the advantage of Zoom, we were able to journey through the Bible together! We learned what it means to be inclusive to our neighbors, how to be fishers of men; and how we can plant the seed of faith and love, like the sower in the parables! Working together we can see how big our community grows! Thank you to all of our families for joining with us. You walked this uncertain path with us, and together we all learned what we were capable of overcoming! We can't wait to see you all again! Next month will be our final Sunday school class before summer break. We will be having our last class on Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. We hope to see you all again! - Diana Reilly

LGBTQIA+ NEWS

This month marks one year of NCPC becoming a More Light Presbyterian Church, and our mission of outreach and inclusion in Christ's name is just beginning. 2021 has already brought much joy and consternation for the LGBTQIA+ community. The first openly-gay cabinet member (Pete Buttigieg) and transgender official (Rachel Levine) were both confirmed by the Senate. However, state governments have been attacking the rights of transgender individuals and undermining progress for equality. There is still so much that we need to be doing as affirming allies and friends to our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Our church received a letter from the More Light Presbyterian leaders updating us on what has been happening this year, and how much even the smallest contribution can have such an enormous impact! Please read:



“Just recently More Light Presbyterians was mentioned by Senator Coons from Delaware as he accepted a group of petitions from faith leaders in support of the [Equality Act](#), a bill which would prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Senator Coons celebrated the faith leaders’ activism, citing that both Presbyterian churches he has attended in recent decades were affiliated with More Light Presbyterians. On your behalf, More Light was one of several faith groups that have submitted testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of the Equality Act. This is the power of being a More Light Church--a banner under which the good work of communities for the mutual benefit of all its members may be done with clarity of purpose. The More Light name signals a vital place of faith in action. We are excited to share our [2020 annual report](#) with you. We hope that you enjoy reading about the ways your support helped us deepen and expand our ministry in the past year. Please share this with your congregation.”

Thank you for the open arms and open hearts of this small, but determined congregation! Together we will continue to wear our welcome for all to see, continue to reach out to those who feel left out, and continue to support one another on this journey.

- Diana Reilly



WELCOME!

Nora Jean Hayes, beloved child of God! Nora was born to Rachel Handy-Hayes and David Hayes on April 12th, weighing 7 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Many congratulations to Nora's parents and her grandparents, Steve "Poppy" and Dana Handy! Alleluia!

GARDEN KEEPERS NEEDED

Do you like the beautiful garden beds at the church? Beginning May 15th, the Trustees would like some help from church members or friends, in watering the church flower beds this summer. Once a week, or more, in dry weather conditions, the flower beds need watering. There are two main areas: along the south side of the CE Building and a much smaller area near the entrance into the church building itself. Watering takes about 30-45 minutes once a week, or a couple of times a week in dry weather conditions. Many hands, light work=beautiful results! Monthly duty schedules are available! Call Mary Fontinha at 302-740-4340 or email her at maryfo52@yahoo.com for more information. Your help is greatly appreciated and will be recognized.



GRADUATES

If you have a graduating student in your family, please contact the church office with their name, school, degree, and future plans. We would like to honor them in June.



PENTECOST OFFERING

"God, from my youth you have taught me." - Psalm 71:17

We'll collect our special offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, to support the church's ministry to youth and young adults. Session will designate 40% of the offering for a local ministry, and the majority of the collection supports our nationwide Presbyterian youth initiatives (Triennium!), the Young Adult Volunteer program, and our child advocacy work. Give directly online (<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/>) or by making a designated donation to NCPC.



MEALS ON WHEELS

HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for 2021. 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 May 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

Wednesday 5

Karen & Jim
Beatson

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:

March 142
April 142

Income thru 04/01/21:

2021 Budget: \$91,395.00
2021 Actual: \$87,840.00

Expenses thru 04/01/21:

2021 Budget: \$81,934.00
2021 Actual: \$75,201.00



May Birthdays

Mark Rappold, 5/1
Monty Gerhart, 5/1
Kaitlyn Raker, 5/2
Ringo Keka, 5/2
Christopher Raker, 5/5
Rob Barry, 5/9
Bruce Raker, 5/14
Kay Gordon, 5/15
Lia Esham, 5/15
Lindy Ballance, 5/17
Karen Dobson, 5/18
Karen Beatson, 5/18



Steve Martin, 5/20
Erica Russell, 5/21
Corky Viola, 5/23
Ellie Gerhart, 5/24
Barbara Whisman, 5/25
Bruce Gordon, 5/26
Joan Appleby, 5/27
Earl Reed, 5/29
Skylar Teller, 5/29
Liam Collins, 5/30
Allen Hansen, 5/31
Dylan Reilly, 5/31



Miriam & Steven Foltz, 5/26
Dean & Lynn MacEwen, 5/29



THANKS FOR SERVING IN MAY!

COMMUNION – Bruce Raker

WORSHIP LEADERS

May 2 – Jane Fouracre
May 9 - Rod Denison
May 16 – Jane Fouracre
May 23 – Jane Fouracre
May 30 – Ray Snyder

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM
Steve Martin & Cynthia Robbins

New Castle Presbyterian Church
25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720
Phone: (302) 328-3279
Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: office@newcastlepreschurch.org
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

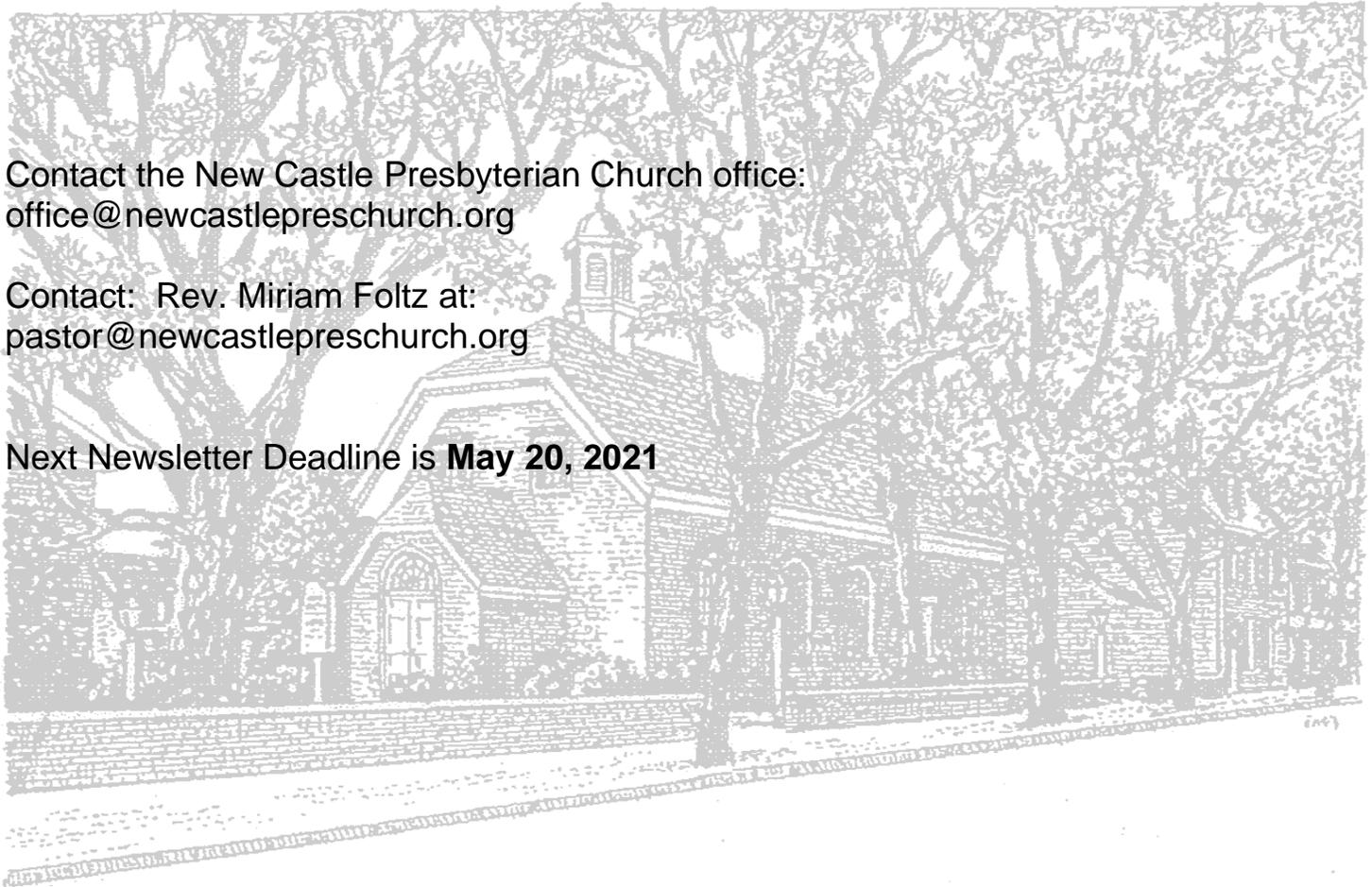


Address Change
Requested

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:
office@newcastlepreschurch.org

Contact: Rev. Miriam Foltz at:
pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org

Next Newsletter Deadline is **May 20, 2021**



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