

New Castle Presbyterian News

March 2020



*Listen to the word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is close at hand;
Listen to the voice that began creation; listen even if you don't understand...*

- Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken, Glory to God #455

At Christ's Transfiguration, God repeats the words from Christ's baptism to the three disciples, Peter, James, and John. Re-affirming God's love and affirmation of Christ, God adds three additional words to his proclamation: "Listen to him." Yet, even with a direct invocation, these three disciples struggled to grasp and comprehend Christ's teachings as they followed him on his way to Jerusalem.

Through our Lenten sermon series, "Wilderness Training," we'll explore the essentials of our discipleship, considering the ways we grow and tend our knowledge of Christ over the course of our lives. We'll think about what we carry with us, what experiences we seek out, and beyond just surviving, the ways that our faith can thrive in wilderness moments. Our wilderness training will be guided by the stories of disciples who got to listen first-hand to Christ's teachings, including Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, and Lazarus, the resurrected brother of Mary and Martha. We'll consider how Jesus' contemporary audience listened – or didn't listen – to his words. And as we consider how we listen to Christ in the midst of our own wildernesses, we'll ponder Christ's own promise that he is with us, always.

Each Sunday during Lent we'll sing this hymn, "Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken," as our Prayer for Illumination. Musically, it's monophonic, meaning that there is no harmony or accompaniment to the lyrics. It's a forward-moving melody that's haunting and catchy. Adding to its intensity are the lyrics themselves. This short hymn is driven by a single verb: listen. We repeat God's command – listen – for our neighbors and for ourselves. And we'll sing it as a round, capturing the challenge and importance of listening for God's voice in a cacophonous and messy world. This Lenten season, as we make our way to Jerusalem, we tune our hearts and minds to the One who has spoken and who is speaking still. And we listen, even if we don't understand, just like the disciples themselves.

- Pastor Miriam

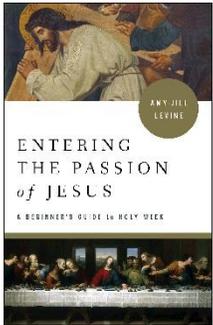
ECUMENICAL LENTEN GATHERINGS

We will meet on Wednesdays from 6pm-7pm for dinner and reflection. These gatherings are free and open to all. Below is the list of the host churches:

- March 4 – New Castle Presbyterian Church
- March 11 – Hope Lutheran Church
- March 18 – New Castle Methodist Church
- March 25 – St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
- April 1 – Immanuel Episcopal Church



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 Levine'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.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
SUNDAY, MARCH 8 AT 2:00 A.M.
Don't forget to "Spring Forward!"
(and change your smoke alarm batteries).**



FIVE WISHES TALK - 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 12:15-1pm 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.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – 70 years' worth of giving!

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. As part of our Lenten discipline of giving, OGHs gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts support 3 different arms of Presbyterian Mission – arms that can reach farther when we all give together.

Presbyterian Hunger Program - works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes. In 2016, PHP gave over 160 grants totaling more than \$1.2 million, in communities across the US and in 37 other countries.

Self-Development of People Program - works with low-income communities across the US. In 2017, they worked with projects focusing on literacy, skills development, farming, immigration/refugee issues.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - responds to communities impacted by crises and catastrophic events and it helps for the long haul. Water crises, hurricanes, fire relief, famine and war's devastation. And they just keep coming. A full interactive map with OGHs recipients can be found at www.pcusa.org/oghsmap.

We will receive this offering starting Palm Sunday April 5. Please give generously and let's bring hope to the world by giving together!



OFFICE NEWS

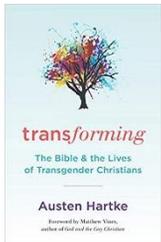
Kris will be at a one-day Administrative Professional meeting on Friday, March 20.

Pastor Miriam will be out of office Tuesday, March 24 – Friday, March 27 for her husband Steven's PhD defense date in St. Louis.

Watch for information to watch remotely!



BOOK GROUP



The Adult Study Book Club will continue our discussion of "Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians" by Austen Hartke. Join us March 22 at 12:20 in the fellowship hall as we reflect on chapters 7-12. We recommend reading this section ahead of our gathering, but join us even if you haven't had a chance to catch up. This selection is in collaboration with our LGBTQIA+ Task Force; let us know if you need help

acquiring the book!

PRESBYTERIAN 101

Are you a prospective new member – or just wanting to be reminded of what “Presbyterian” means? Join us Sunday, March 29 at 12:10 in the Christian Education building room #206 adult lounge as we review all things Presbyterian. For new members, this will be the class to prepare for joining the church.

LENTEN CONCERT

Sunday, March 29 at 4:00 p.m. is the date and time for the 7th Annual Inter-Denominational Lenten concert hosted by St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 2800 Duncan Rd, Wilmington, DE 19808. Accompanied by chamber orchestra, and conducted by Dr. Michael Larkin, singers from New Castle Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Immanuel Church Highlands, and St. Barnabas Episcopal Church will participate in the concert. Again, the featured work will be Joseph Martin's dramatic and spiritually moving cantata “The Lenten Sketches” in addition to 3 shorter Lenten compositions by Harold Helvey, Gilbert Martin, and Michael Larkin. A free will offering will be accepted, a portion of which will be donated to Family Promise.



FIRST SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR – HOSTS NEEDED!

Thank you to those who have risen to the occasion in the winter months to host the 1st Sunday's Coffee Hour. We are needing people to "spring" into action and host for April 5, May 3 and June 7. Find a "Coffee Hour buddy" and sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Deacons can provide guidance on coffee making and set up. Thank you!



USHERS & WORSHIP LEADERS, TOO!

March & April bring the need for worship leaders and ushers. We know you are out there – please sign up ASAP! Make it part of your Lenten discipline!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS – SAVE THE DATES

The annual Easter Fair will be held on Saturday, April 11th, 10am - 12pm. If you are interested in volunteering for the Fair, please add your name to the Easter Fair Volunteer Sign-up sheet posted in the CE Building.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled for July 12th - 16th. There will be a VBS planning meeting on Monday, April 27th at 7pm in the CE Building. All those interested in volunteering for VBS are encouraged to attend the meeting.

We have collected quite a few cans of soup during the winter season for our friends in need, thank you so much!

THE GIFTS OF LOVE FOR THE SPRING SEASON (MARCH-JUNE) IS TUNA. We will continue collecting toiletries all year round.

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



Audit of Church Records 2017-2019 - Help Needed!!!!

Recently Jen Dunham has agreed to audit (review) church financial records for 2017-2019. Thankyou Jen!! She needs a helper. Dan Knox, our treasurer reminds us that this process is required by Presbytery. Our church is delinquent. This is a task that has a beginning and an end. It does not take a tremendous amount of time. Scheduling is flexible. Complicated math skills are not required. This is a basic addition and subtraction process. If you are interested in assisting Jen contact Monty Gerhart (302-753-8456).



LGBTQIA+ NEWS

Why should we become a MORE LIGHT Presbyterian Church when we already are an affirming and welcoming church to a wide group of diverse people? The simplest answer is, “So that others know that!” Many within the LGBTQIA+ community (if not most) have had experiences that range from poor to traumatic with Christian churches. Yet, some still feel that inner desire to connect with God through a worship community. Becoming a MORE LIGHT church identifies us as a church where they are welcome and safe to reconnect with their spiritual lives.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

The February LGBTQIA+ Youth Valentine’s Day Dance held at 1st and Central Presbyterian Church attracted over 40 enthusiastic, colorful, and wonderfully behaved teens. One of the comments that stand out was this: “It’s so nice to have something like this that is our own.” LGBTQIA+ youth have a much higher rate of depression and suicide than average teens (whose [suicide rate](#) is already skyrocketing). Events like this are more than a nice thing, they are vital to the health of these teens.

March 31 is [Transgender Day of Visibility](#), a time to celebrate transgender people around the globe and the courage it takes to live openly and authentically, while also raising awareness around the discrimination trans people still face.



Flower Donations

In the spirit of the season of Easter, the sanctuary will be decorated with spring flowers. If you would like to donate a flower in memory of a Loved One, or honor of someone, please fill out this form and return it with your check in the amount of \$18.00.

Please order as early as possible.

Your donation supports the many visible aspects of the church and is greatly appreciated.

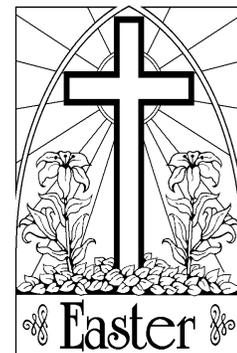
Deadline to order is April 5, 2020 (Palm Sunday).

NAME: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____

(check one) IN MEMORY _____/HONOR _____ OF:

**Please make all checks payable to:
New Castle Presbyterian Church
25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720**



Thanks again for your support!

THE EASTER FAIR **IS COMING!!**

Saturday, April 11th
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

New Castle
Presbyterian Church
25 East Second Street
New Castle, DE 19720

Crafts, an Egg Hunt,
and Refreshments

The Egg Hunt will begin promptly
at 11:00 a.m. on the church grounds.



A Celebration of the
Life Christ Brings!

We need YOU
to make our day complete!

Call the church office at 328-3279

for further information.

Won't you join us?



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 March 9-13. 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 9

Jude Morrow
Jo Viola

Tuesday 10

Miranda Matthews
Joan Smith

Wednesday 11

Carol & Gene
Mayhew

Thursday 12

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday 13

Susan & Jim
Flook

Monthly Report

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



Membership:

January	152
Loss of Victor Clark (#275) by death 2/10	-1
Addition Kare Smith by Profession of Faith 2/23	+1
Transfer of Midge McGraw (#1043) to Red Clay Pres 2/24	-1
February	151

Income thru 02/01/20:

2020 Budget:	\$61,775.00
2020 Actual:.....	\$61,691.00

Expenses thru 02/01/20:

2020 Budget:	\$27,282.00
2020 Actual:.....	\$27,196.00

March Birthdays

Monroe Graham, 3/1
 Howard Sowden, 3/5
 Joan Lioi, 3/5
 Ginny Appleby, 3/9
 Amy Selheimer, 3/10
 Brian Werkheiser, 3/10
 Carl Witt, Jr., 3/10
 Liz Parziale, 3/10
 Jennifer Dunham, 3/12
 Chad Viola, 3/12



John Handy, 3/16
 Katherine Martin 3/16
 Connie Bell, 3/18
 Jane Fouracre 3/19
 Gene Mayhew 3/20
 David Shaw, 3/21
 Jamie Kern, 3/25
 Sandra Wilson, 3/30
 Barbara Toccafondi 3/31

THANKS FOR SERVING IN MARCH!

COMMUNION

March 1 – **Jim and Susan Flook***,
Kelly Koczak McCurdy, Peter McCurdy & Melissa Boris

USHERS

March 1 – Scott & Amy Selheimer
March 8 – Salina Brett & _____
March 15 – _____
March 22 – _____
March 29 – Melissa, Parker & Mackenzie Boris

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

March 1 – _____
March 8 – Diana Reilly & Sunday School
March 15 – Sandy Wilson & Jane Fouracre
March 22 – Ringo Keka
March 29 – Noon Circle

WORSHIP LEADERS

March 1 – Salina Brett
March 8 – Conchita Showell
March 15 – Scott Selheimer
March 22 – Gail Seitz
March 29 – _____

NURSERY

March 1 – Makenzie & Andy Schulz
March 8 – Melissa Boris & Molly Shaw
March 15 – Molly Cooney & Jane Fouracre
March 22 – Amanda & James Anderson
March 29 – Makenzie & Andy Schulz

SUNDAY SCHOOL

March 1 – Bruce Raker
March 8 – Chris Fagles
March 15 – Sarah McCann
March 22 – Melissa Boris
March 29 – Beverly Stoudt

COUNTERS

March 1 – Jane Fouracre & Ringo Keka
March 8 – Carol Mayhew & Steve Handy
March 15 – Jane Fouracre & Carol Mayhew
March 22 – Steve Handy & _____
March 29 – Carol Mayhew & _____

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Steve Martin
Cynthia Robbins
Miranda Matthews

FLOWERS - Brenda Walters

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.

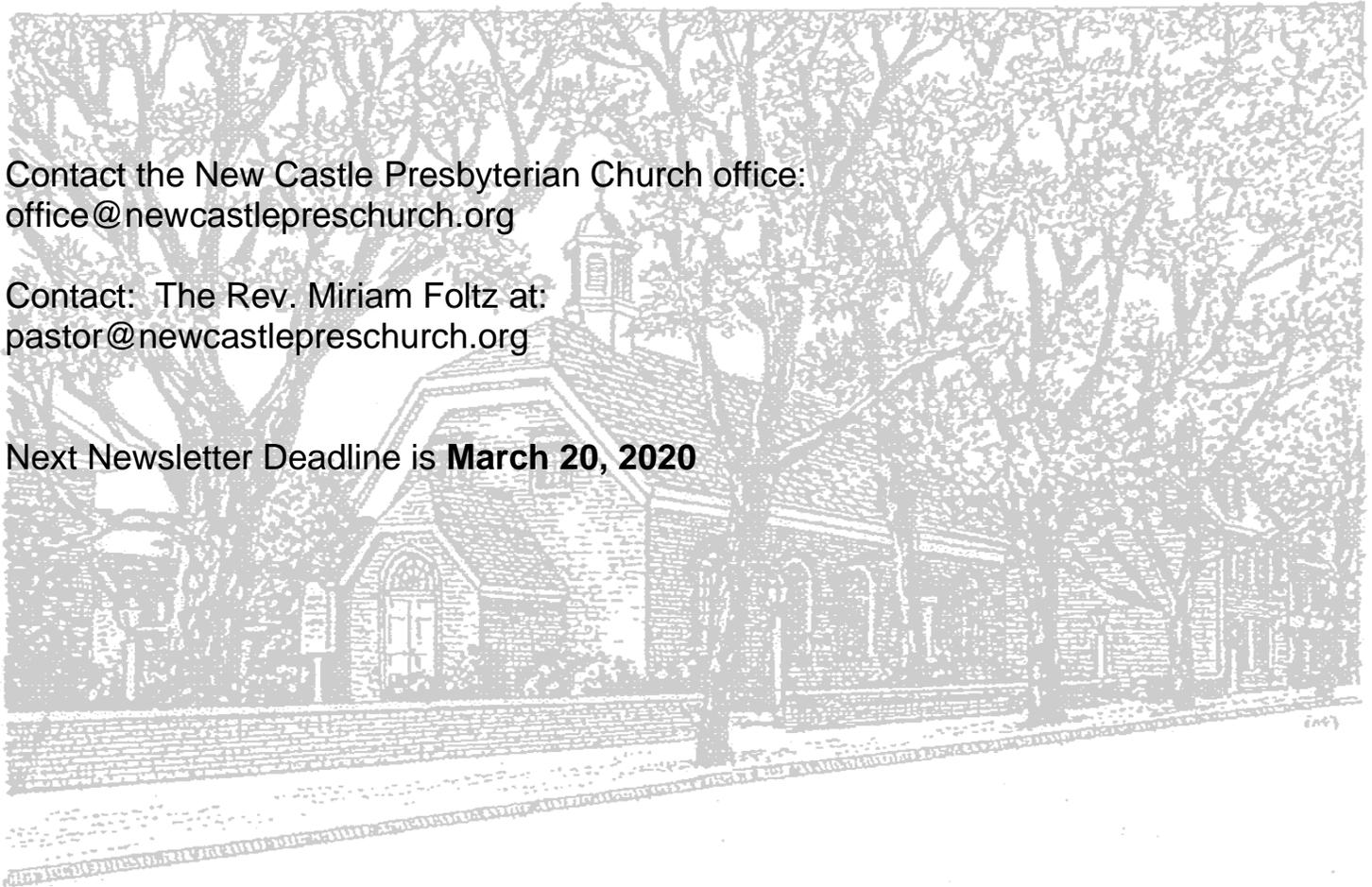


Address Change
Requested

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

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

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



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