

New Castle Presbyterian News

April 2021



In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

From "In Christ Alone" by Natalie Grant

Alleluia! Eastertide, Springtime, vaccinations! As the cross blossomed on Easter Sunday, I could feel my spirit lighten and grow in hope. I know we still have a ways to go – another two and a half months of a disrupted school year for students and teachers, many more people around the globe to receive vaccinations, a racial reckoning that has only just begun and may still be thwarted before it takes root and bears fruit, economic inequality that has only been made greater by the pandemic, a planet in crisis. *And yet* it feels like the butterfly, we can begin, slowly, to unfurl our wings in the sunshine. In the lengthened days, in the light of sunshine, it feels as though we are strong enough to do the work that still lies ahead.

For now, this slow unfurling is enough. This stretching toward the light which is slow but steady. We are being invited into a future different than the days before we knew of a thing called Covid19. We live in hope, we long for the freedom of flight, but our yearning must not make us reckless or thoughtless. But rather we move with intention, thoughtfulness, and faith. There are choices to be made, opportunities to be seized, blessings to be received and we don't want to miss any of them!

It is time to wriggle free of the cocoon! But if you've ever watched a butterfly emerge from a chrysalis, it can take hours. Slowly, steadily the creature finds its freedom and feels its wings expand. And then there is another pause, as it rests in the sun, waiting for its wings to dry.

My sense is we are in the midst of a slow unfolding. Steadily we make our way to freedom, to flight, to health, to movement. We know the new day will come. Let us work to be sure it dawns for all creation. Let us be those who are energized *and* steady, eager *and* wise. Let us be those who work to bring all of God's children into freedom and light!

Peace, be well -
Pastor Nona

A Note from Pastor Miriam:

A friend once described parenthood as the best and the hardest thing she's ever done; these past two months since Parker's arrival have confirmed the joy and exhaustion of this calling. As I look ahead to my return to the office on April 20 and stepping back into NCPC's pulpit on April 25, I'm excited for the ongoing adventure of parenthood... as well as our ongoing call to be the church during this pandemic season. Just as we celebrate the already and not yet of Christ's resurrection hope, so we celebrate the already and not yet of the vaccination process. We yearn for the coming of God's reign; we yearn to safely gather in person to worship, to break bread, and to care for one another and our neighbors. Soon and very soon! In faith and in courage, our journey is ongoing.

Becoming a parent and living through this pandemic have taught me similar lessons, particularly the importance of loving flexibility, patience, and trusting that Christ will meet us along our way, along our own roads to Emmaus. I continue to hold y'all in prayer, through cancer treatments and surgical recovery, through the grief of loved ones' deaths and the joy of new arrivals. As we journey from Lent into the Easter season, I'm grateful for the wisdom of Pastor Nona, the caring leadership of elders, deacons, and trustees, the commitment of NCPC's staff, and your faithfulness during this time. May Christ's hope hold us all fast this day!

- Pastor Miriam

Parker
2 months



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 people signed up through May 9. Please continue to fill the available slots as we near the possibility of in-person Sunday worship.

One Great Hour of Sharing offerings will be collected during Lent and offered on Easter Sunday. Informational literature and the “Fish” banks have been sent through the mail.



Sunday worship services continue to be live-streamed via You-Tube, and they are all archived and accessible on the church’s web-site www.newcastlepreschurch.org The lit candles and special music by soloists, bells ringers, and instrumentalist have created a spirit filled and prayer centered environment for each Sunday’s worship service. Pastor Nona is continuing to lead using wonderful children’s picture/story books that have given vision and focus as introductions to each sermon: that we have been reminded to stop and lift our hearts to God; that it only takes 2 friends to make a playground; and that we can renew the face of the earth by applying God’s grace, love, peace, and justice each day in each of our lives.

Holy Week Observances will be:

Palm Sunday, March 28: worship began with a processional as we remembered Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem with palms and bells. We heard The Legend of St Christopher and Pastor Nona reflected upon the image of carrying the cross. Worship concluded with a solemn musical offering, marking our turning toward the events of Jesus’s arrest and death.



Come to the church yard on Maundy Thursday, April 1, as Pastor Nona leads us in an **outside**, socially distanced worship service at 6:30 PM around the **fire pit**. For those who wish to come, bring your own chair and face mask. We’ll share Communion remembering the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. Our own Sarah McCann will provide music.



Resources for a prayer walk will be available for use for reflection at home or on a private outside walk for Good Friday, April 2. Look for this on the church’s website under the Worship tab.

Easter Sunday’s festive worship will include a quartet of singers accompanied by handbells and piano. In addition, a handbell trio accompanied by keyboard will also lift our joy. Communion will be celebrated. The sanctuary will be enhanced with the colorful flowers members have ordered in honor of or in memory of others as well as the flowering of the cross. A beautiful visual of the renewal and new life promised to us in Easter!



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. via Zoom as we continue our Bible study with the book of Ruth. Through Wednesday, April 7, we’ll gather to read a passage together and hear how God is speaking through Ruth’s story. Pat Taylor will lead the conversation; no homework is required! Email Eileen Larkin (sngileen1953@aol.com) for the Zoom link.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP

On Sunday, March 21, Rekha Bharwani offered online art instruction via Zoom to about a dozen members of the congregation. For an hour and a half, participants created works of art using everyday materials and art supplies from watercolors to pencils and crayons, and enjoyed learning how to compose and finesse their re-creations of everything from family photos to flowers to pottery. Thank you, Rekha, for sharing your artistic talent and time!



Based on the success of the virtual **Game Night** held in February, the Congregational Life committee agreed that we should offer another Zoom "Trivia Game Night" in the near future. Watch for further announcements!

Our two in-person "small groups" continue to meet outside each week. Fortunately, COVID vaccination opportunities are increasing, but at this point in time we are considering a churchwide picnic in late August or September after Labor Day weekend.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This year seems to be going so quickly, but we already have fun events to look forward to! We will continue having monthly Sunday school ZOOM meetings until we are able to join together in person. April 3, the annual Easter Fair is back and begins at 10:30!



The festivities will be a little different than what we are used to, but we will still have fun games, crafts, and even a mini Easter-egg hunt! In previous years it has been an event offered to the community; however due to current circumstances and safety concerns, this year's Easter Fair will just be offered to our church families. Please sign up in advance so we can prepare for the fun! We have a new Sunday school curriculum that was sent out to our families along with the colorful fish banks used for "One Great Hour of Sharing" donations.

"When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!"

- Diana Reilly

MISSION & OUTREACH
GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

Exciting news! The Guatemala Partnership of New Castle Presbytery recently formalized its third, three-year covenant with the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development. Effective through 2023, this agreement is a commitment to continue to pray for one another, mutually support one another through faith, education, and resources, and much more.



To learn more about this partnership or how to get involved, visit: ncpguatemala.com/participate/

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.



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 March 29-April 2. If anyone is interested in delivering meals to shut-in Seniors in the New Castle area, please contact the office at 302-328-3279.

<u>Monday 29</u>	<u>Tuesday 30</u>	<u>Wednesday 31</u>	<u>Thursday 1</u>	<u>Friday 2</u>
Jude Morrow Jo Viola	Miranda Matthews	Karen & Jim Beatson	Cynthia Robbins Nanette Nichol	Susan & Jim Flook

Monthly Report

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

Membership:	
February	142
March	142
Income thru 02/30/21:	
2021 Budget:	\$57,275.00
2021 Actual:	\$51,671.00
Expenses thru 02/30/21:	
2021 Budget:	\$27,496.00
2021 Actual:	\$25,805.00



ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP OF BATTERY PARK – YOU CAN HELP!

Saturday, April 17, 2021 – 9:00am - 12:00pm

The New Castle Sailing Club and the New Castle Community Partnership are cosponsoring the annual spring Battery Park Beach Clean-Up on Saturday, April 17th, from 9:00 am to Noon. The park has truly become a beautiful place for all to come and enjoy the river and local scenery. Let's all work together to keep the park pristine and beautiful! Please join friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues in cleaning up the Battery Park beaches. Coupons will be available to volunteers for a discount at local restaurants for lunch on day of clean up. Due to continued Covid-19 the following protocols must be followed: You must wear a mask, you can stay with members of your household, but maintain 6ft distance from others, you must check-in and provide a cell number (if needed for contact tracing). Trash bags, plastic gloves and hand sanitizer will be available, however, please bring your own work gloves, if possible. Volunteer certificates will also be available. On the morning of the clean-up, please sign in at the registration table located by the New Castle Sailing Club sailhouse at the end of West 3rd Street. Questions? Contact Ewa Papiez at 214-543-5843. As a community we all enjoy the beautiful and picturesque Battery Park; so let us work as a community to ensure it stays beautiful! Thank you!

Ewa Papiez
Vice Commodore
New Castle Sailing Club

April Birthdays

Benjamin Cooney, 4/1
Fran Ginger, 4/2
Emilia June, 4/2
Jo Viola, 4/3
Susan Bishop, 4/4
Peter McCurdy, 4/4
Dan Toto, 4/4
Barbara Kuczarski, 4/5



Beth Hentkowski, 4/5
Sidney Wilson, 4/9
Molly Cooney, 4/13
Lisa Raker, 4/13
Linda Bennett, 4/13
Bill Anthony, 4/27
James Boyle, 4/28
Scott Selheimer, 4/30



Eileen & Michael Larkin, 4/12
Rod & Bev Denison, 4/16
Rachel & David Hayes, 4/26



THANKS FOR SERVING IN APRIL!

COMMUNION – Ray Snyder

WORSHIP LEADERS

April 4 – Jane Fouracre

April 11 - Rod Denison

April 18 – Joanne Viola

April 25 – Beverly Stoudt

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM
Steve Martin & Cynthia Robbins

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Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: office@newcastlepreschurch.org
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

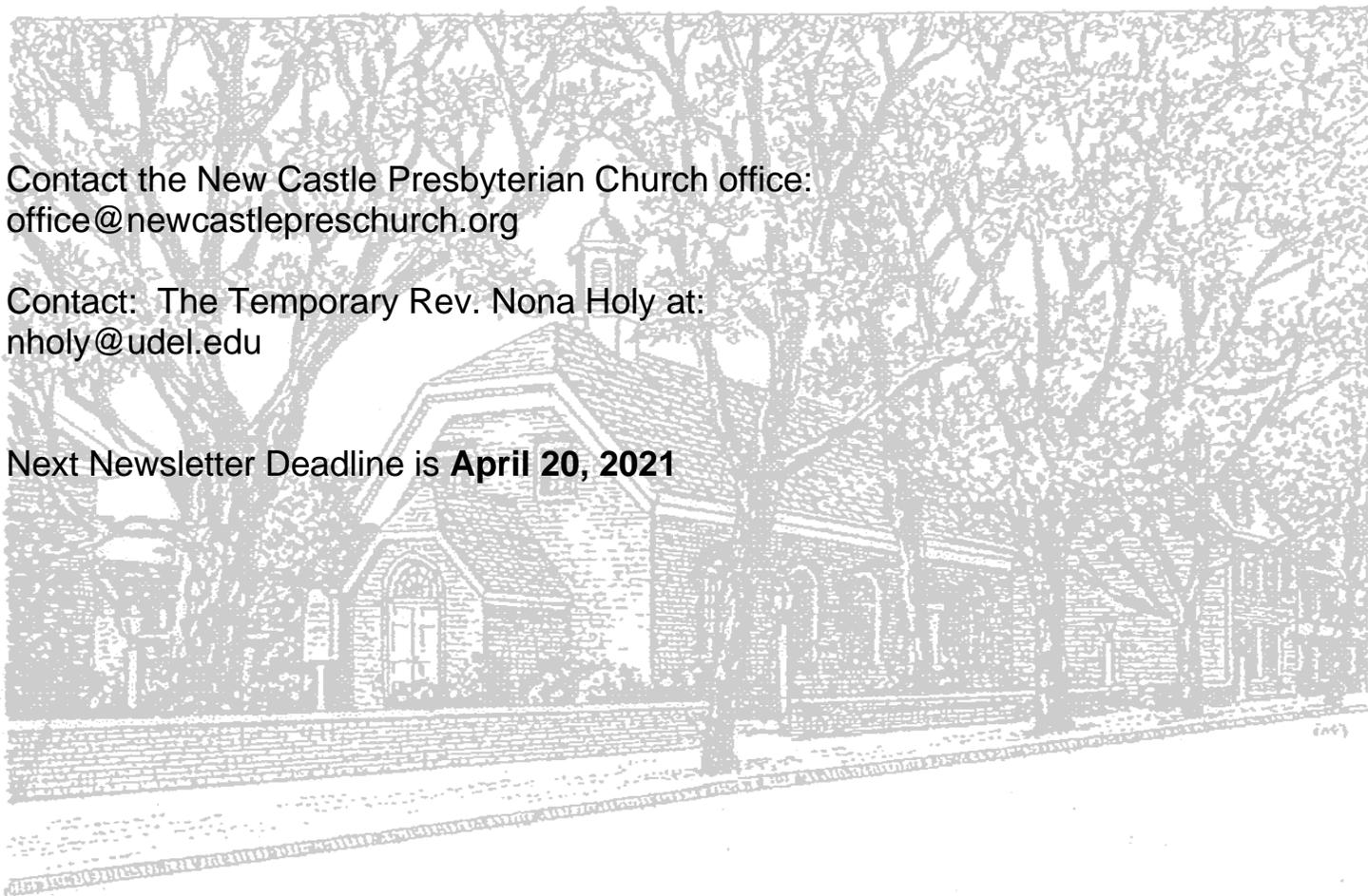


Address Change
Requested

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

Contact: The Temporary Rev. Nona Holy at:
nholy@udel.edu

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



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