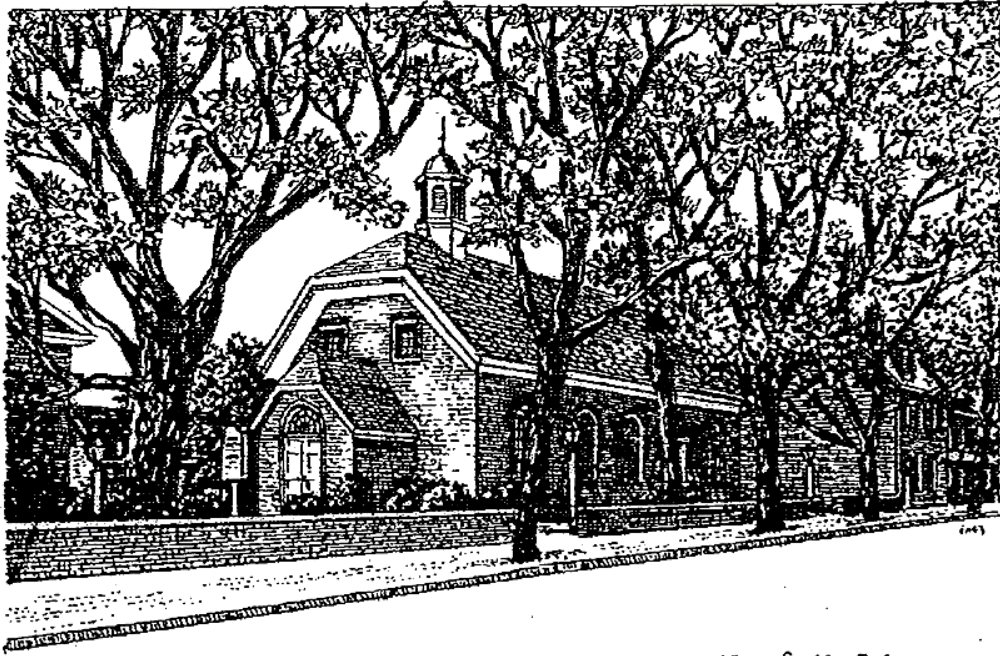


# New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E 2nd Street, New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279 | Email: [office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)

[www.newcastlepreschurch.org](http://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!

In person and via livestream, we gather as a faith community, 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.

**A little help** - Please see an usher to receive any assistance, including a seat cushion.

**Nametags** – We encourage everyone to use the nametags available in the Meeting House entrance during worship and coffee hour. Please return to their box in Fellowship Hall.

**Restrooms** are located in the Education Building, at the far end of the Fellowship Hall.

**Children are always welcome in worship!** Worship Bags and children's bulletins are available at the back of the Meeting House. 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 at the Presbyterian Manse (20 The Strand).

**Worship "code":** \* = please stand if able    **bold** = all speak together

### Gentle Reminders:

Please turn off all cell phones.

Parking spaces on 2nd Street are for  
handicapped parking only.

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30am-12:30pm  
Pastor Miriam's day of rest is Monday.

### Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook,  
302-328-7346 [suzieflook@hotmail.com](mailto:suzieflook@hotmail.com) or Fran Ginger, 302-994-5988 [silverfran@aol.com](mailto:silverfran@aol.com)

### Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:

#### **Linda Twyford**

ACTS Country House  
4830 Kennett Pike, DW15  
Wilmington, DE 19807  
(302) 328-2580

#### **Mary Duncan**

HarborChase of Wilmington  
2004 Shipley Road #1107  
Wilmington, DE 19803  
(302) 482-3547

#### **Fran Ginger**

Cadia Rehab  
3540 Three Little Bakers Blvd  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
(302) 533-2952

### At Home:

#### **Kathy Griffin-Graham**

323 Oregon Avenue  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 324-9944

#### **Anita Johnson**

724 Loveville Road  
HealthCare Rm 2006  
Hockessin, DE 19707

#### **Jo Viola**

Lodge Lane Assisted Living  
1221 Lodge Ln, Studio 119  
Wilmington, DE 19809

#### **Judy Hentkowski**

128 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 328-8266

#### **Robert Lindfors**

202 Brylgon Avenue  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 220-7161

#### **Ringo Keka**

358 Ailsa Drive  
Rising Sun, MD 21911  
(410) 658-7639

#### **Carol Mayhew**

17 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
New Castle, DE 19720

### On Assignment with Coast Guard:

#### **SN George Spock**

1425 McFarland Rd. Apt. 506  
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15216

### On Assignment with Air Force:

#### **James Boyle**

2525 Date St. Apt. 3804  
Honolulu HI 96826

# **New Castle Presbyterian Church**

## **First Sunday of Christmas**

December 28, 2025

10:30 a.m.

### **GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

**Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head** arr. by Michael Larkin  
Amy Shimmin - Flute / Eileen Larkin - Piano

### **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**

#### **Call to Worship**

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!

**We have arrived to Bethlehem, with hope, peace, joy, and love in our hearts and praise on our lips!**

O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant.

**Son of God, love's pure light, lies in the manger.**

Fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere:**

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary!

**Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!**

#### **\*Hymn #137            He Came Down**

*v.1 ... that we may have hope, v. 2... that we may have peace*

*v. 3... that we may have joy, v. 4... that we may have love*

#### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**Ever-present God, you came down in Christ that we would know your saving grace. In all the ways that we have hurt others, in all the ways that we feel hurt, be with us this day. Hold us to account. Comfort us. Welcome us to Bethlehem, and show us your miraculous gift of the Christ Child. Lift us up and show us your hope, peace, joy, and love. (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 #134 Joy to the World, verse 1**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!**

**Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

## **PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

### **Scripture Conversation with Children**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Holy God, at an unexpected hour you sent an unlikely liberator to an undeserving world. What child is this? Christ – our savior, our king, your light for the world. Help us to keep asking questions and seeking answers in you, so that all the world would know your unfailing justice, your unfathomable grace, and your unlimited love. Hear our unending praise. Thank you for Christ, whose light shines in the darkness! Amen.**

#### **Scripture Lesson**

**Luke 2:1-7**

**Page: NT 58**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

# Hymn #140 v. 1 and 2

## Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.

MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919

IRBY

8.7.8.7.7.7

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Hymn #147 v. 1 and 6

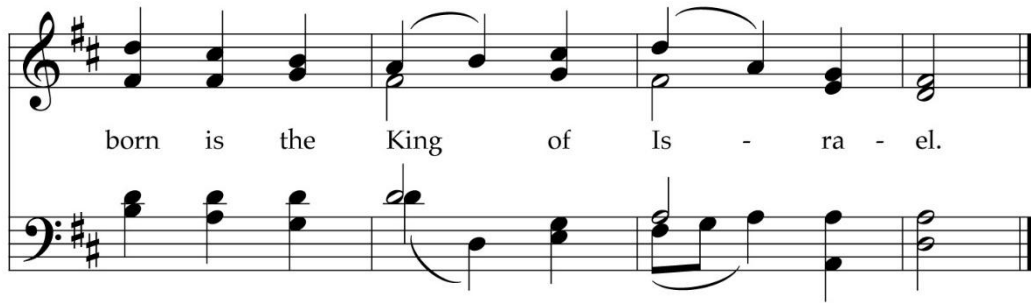
The First Nowell

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

*Refrain*  
 Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,



5 Then entered in those wise men three, 6 Then let us all with one accord  
 full reverently upon their knee, sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
 and offered there in his presence that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 their gold, and myrrh, and and with his blood our life hath bought.  
 frankincense. *Refrain*

"Nowell" is the English form of the French "noel," a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer's "Franklin's Tale"), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to "born" (*natus / né*) as well to "news" (*nova / nouvelle*).

TEXT: English carol; *Some Ancient Christmas Carols*, 2nd ed., 1823, alt.  
 MUSIC: English carol; Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

THE FIRST NOWELL  
 Irregular

## Scripture Lesson

**Luke 2:15-20**

**Page: NT 58**

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God*

**A Special Christmas Message: *Extra Yarn***

# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

## \*Hymn #113

## Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.  
MUSIC: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937  
Music © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr.  
(admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

GLORIA  
7.7.7.7 with refrain



Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

**The Coventry Carol**

arr. by Amy Shimmin

Amy Shimmin - Flute

**\*Response #134 Joy to the World, verse 2**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we join with the angels in singing:  
Christ is born! In this Christmas season, we proclaim that Christ will come  
again. We do not know the hour or the day of his coming, but we know that  
we can hold fast to the hope that you are with us even now. Bless these  
offerings to the work of your new creation in Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, 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 #134

### Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **Steeple Bell**

### **Postlude**

### **Tambourin**

by Francois Joseph Gossec

Amy Shimmin - Flute / Eileen Larkin - Piano

*Please remain seated through the Postlude. As you exit, you may recycle your bulletin in the basket at the door. Join us after worship for coffee hour in the Presbyterian Manse (20 The Strand).*

\*\*\*\*

All printed music & performances are covered under: OneLicense #A-720755

### **Thank you for serving today:**

*Worship Leader:* Jacob Fooks

*Coffee Hour:* All-Ages Sunday School

*Ushers:* Amy & Scott Selheimer

*Counters:* Amy Selheimer/Gail Seitz

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

*Alice Irene Eberly*  
1922 - 1973

*Vera E. Coleman*  
1917 - 2005



### **ALL-AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL – TODAY**

After worship today, Pastor Miriam's family and the CE Committee will host Coffee Hour in the Manse (20 The Strand). As part of our Open House, we are celebrating the 75th anniversary celebration of the Meeting House's renovation. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases!

### **NCPC GRIEF GROUP**

Sign up for a four-week grief group led by Teisha Fooks, a licensed clinical social worker. Meetings will be Monday afternoons at 1:30 from January 12 through February 2. Cost is \$50 for the series. To sign up or for more information, contact Teisha at (302)883-7167.

### **WINTER SANCTUARY CLOTHING DRIVE & POP-UP DONATION SHOP**

Winter Sanctuary is a program that First & Central Presbyterian Church has provided for more than 30 years. Every Saturday morning from 6 am to 10 am, November to March, First & Central opens its doors to those experiencing homelessness. In Dec 2026, the number of guests welcomed on a Saturday morning has risen to more than 150, nearly twice a typical Saturday in prior years. In addition to warm drinks, breakfast foods and a freshly baked treat, the volunteer crew provides 25-30 showers and fulfills more than 70 requests for clothing or toiletries each week. Keeping the shelves stocked is a challenge; here's how you can help:



**1. Donate Gently Used Winter Clothing:** We're collecting gently used casual, cold weather clothing including jeans, khaki pants, sweatpants, long sleeved shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, boots, sneakers, and comfortable shoes.

**2. Shop Our Pop-Up Donation Show:** Our special Winter Sanctuary Pop-Up Donation Shop will be open during fellowship hour and is filled with affordable shower services supplies including new underwear, t-shirts, sweatpants, and hygiene supplies. Come purchase items to donate to First & Central's shower services. Items will range in price from \$2 to \$10. Cash and check will be accepted. Checks can be made out to First & Central Presbyterian Church with "Winter Sanctuary" in the memo field.

**3. Purchase from Our Amazon Wish List:** If you're not able to attend the Pop-Up Shop, items can also be purchased from our [Shower Services Amazon Wish List](#). Items purchased will be shipped directly to First & Central.

4. **Sign up to Volunteer:** It takes 15-20 volunteers to make Winter Sanctuary happen every Saturday, and we're always looking to welcome more volunteers.

### **SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING**

Sign up to usher and serve as worship leader: <https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups>

#### **This Week's Schedule**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/28</b>	<b>10:30am</b> <b>11:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship</b> <b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/29</b>	<b>2:00-5:00pm</b>	<b>Private Counseling – Library</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Promises of AA Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/31</b>		<b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> <b>Office is closed</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>01/01</b>		<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>01/03</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Tai Chi</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>01/04</b>	<b>10:30am</b> <b>11:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship</b> <b>Guest Preacher Bill Hathaway</b> <b>Trustees</b>

*Pastor Miriam will be out of the office on Monday, December 29 - Monday, January 05*

# New Castle Presbyterian Church

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New Castle, DE 19720

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Rev. Miriam Foltz, Pastor - [pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant - [office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Mallory Mackie, Sunday School Coord.

Eileen Larkin, Dir. of Music

Dan Knox, Treasurer

Minerva Lermond, Dir. of Handbells

Lyn Briggs, Recording Secretary

Bethany Faiz, Accompanist

## SESSION

2026	2027	2028
Cynthia Beam	Julie Barry	Jennifer Dunham
Peter McCurdy	Sarah McCann	Chris Fagles
Ray Snyder	Amy Selheimer	Gina Kouma
Clerk of Session: Scott Selheimer		

*Session meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month*

## DEACONS

2026	2027	2028
Lindy Ballance	Julia Spock	Mary Anne Brundage
Liz Toto	Beverly Stoudt	Teisha Fooks
		Nan Wallace

*Deacons meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

## TRUSTEES

2026	2027	2028
Mary Fontinha	Gary Graham	Marshall Freund
Gail Seitz	Kelly McCurdy	Mike Smith

*Trustees meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every other month (Sept/Nov/Jan/Mar/May)*

