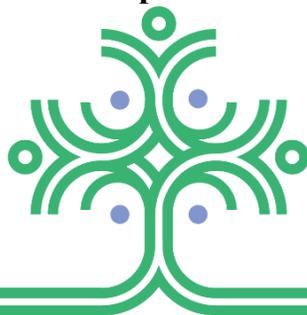


New Castle Presbyterian Church

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www.newcastlepreschurch.org



the good news is..

all are invited

February 18, 2026

7:00pm

GATHERING

Prelude

Ah Holy Jesus

Michael Larkin

Eileen Larkin - Piano

Reading *The Gospel According to Mrs. Farnell's Pre-K Class*

Call to Worship

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.

No matter how many times we overlook or ignore God's outstretched hand, God keeps on reaching out to us.

Let us pull up a seat at God's table, for we are welcome here.

At God's table, our hearts can be wiped clean of worry and fear; God can restore joy in us. **Let us worship the God of our salvation!**

SCRIPTURE**Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, you invite all of us to your table: the faithful and the doubting, the restless and the hopeless, the addicted and the lonely, the lost and the confused. Table-setting God, we don't want to miss your invitation. So, settle our hearts, and open our spirits to hear your word anew. Help us hear your good news today! With hope we pray, Amen.

Luke 14:15-24

¹⁵ One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

¹⁶ Then Jesus said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷ At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’ ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’

¹⁹ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ ²⁰ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’

²¹ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ ²² And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’

²³ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’ ”

Reflection *“The Good News is... All Are Invited”* by Brian Blount

HYMN #695

Change My Heart, O God

Minerva Lermond - Soloist

Sung first by soloist, then joined by the congregation

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Siblings in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marks the penitence of this community.

In the name of Christ, we are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God. Let us turn to God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin.

CONFESSION

Merciful God, you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

HYMN #443

There Is a Redeemer

BLESSING

As we go forth from God's table, may we hold fast to Christ's Good News. We are formed from the dust of the earth, claimed as children of God, and called to share Christ's welcome with others.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*You are welcome to remain in peaceful contemplation
and invited to leave in quiet when ready.*

Worship Leadership: Rev. Miriam Foltz and Eileen Larkin

Join us for the New Castle Ecumenical Lenten Dinners on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.,
beginning February 25 in NCPC's Fellowship Hall.

Tell Me Something Good Lenten Devotionals are available
in the Meeting House Entrance.