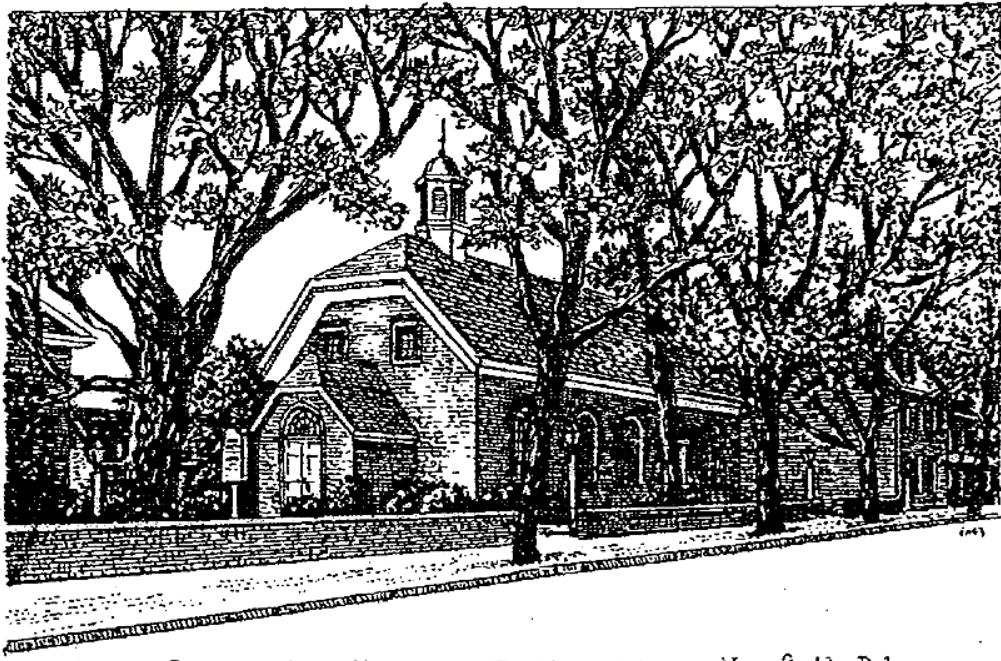


# New Castle Presbyterian Church

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!

Whether you are worshiping with us in-person or joining via livestream, we gather today as a community of faith, 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.

## For folks joining us for in-person worship,

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

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

**Sunday School and Nursery will be offered today.** Children are invited to begin in worship; worship bags are available at the entrance. Following the Scripture Conversation, babies through four-year-olds may go to nursery; children age Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may go to Sunday School. All children must have an information form on file. Please see an usher for a copy of the form or if you have any questions. 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 in the Fellowship Hall.

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

### Gentle Reminders:

Please turn off all cell phones.

Parking spaces on 2nd Street in front of the Meeting House are for handicapped parking only.

Please put your bulletins in the blue recycle can at the door as you leave – we recycle!

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Pastor Miriam's day of rest is on Mondays.

**New Castle Presbyterian Church**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Bell Prelude**

Celebration #4

Michael R. Keller

**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**

**Choral Introit**

**Call to Worship**

We come to worship with joy, as God's Holy Word inspires us.  
**We turn to God for understanding, eager for the Spirit's blessing.**  
May we be counted among the great congregation.  
**May God hear our praise!**  
May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be  
acceptable to God.  
**Let us worship God with our hearts, our hands, and our voices!**

\*Hymn #233

The Day of Resurrection!

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;  
 the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad-ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches.  
In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free.  
Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed,  
when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down.  
Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your  
branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one  
another by your spirit.**

**Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you.**

*(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 #240**

**Refrain:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Give praise to his name**

**2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

### **Anthem**

Love and Mercy  
Amy Shimmin Flute  
Bethany Faiz Piano

by Walter L. Pelz

*Love and mercy, thistle, thorn, God is here and life is born. Love and mercy, ashes, dust, God is here; in God we trust.*

*Love and mercy, awful tree, God is here, so let it be. Love and mercy, silent hill, God is here; O death, be still.*

*Love and mercy, broken bread, God is here and life is shed. Love and mercy, heaven earth, God is here for second birth.*

*Love and mercy, harvest home, God is here and love is done. Love and mercy, Christ, the Lamb. Angel choirs, one God, I Am.*

### **Scripture Conversation with Children**

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new. In water and in Word you feed your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of peace. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

#### **Scripture Lesson**

#### **John 15:1-8**

#### **Page: NT 109**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

#### **Sermon**

#### **“Olive Branches”**

# GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\*Hymn #36

For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
For the won - ders that as - sound us, for the truths that still con -

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

## **Offerings of Tithes and Gifts**

Bell Offertory     I will Arise, and Go to Jesus        Dan R. Edwards

### **\*Response #607**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Christ, all people here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore.**

**Praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy One, we thank you for your gift of guidance. Jesus taught us the blessed lesson that to dwell with you is not an obligation. It is a joy.**

**May these gifts reflect your joy. Help us to abide in you as we live to share your grace with the world. May your church be the bountiful fruit of Christ's vine, that all your people would know your righteousness and justice. In Christ's name, 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 #754

## Help Us Accept Each Other

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;  
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
 who hun - ger for ac - cep-tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve  
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
 to prac - tice your ac - cep-tance un - til we know by heart  
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

we are our-selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.  
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
 the ta - ble of for - give-ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974  
 MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974  
*Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company*

BARONITA  
 7.6.7.6.D

## \*Charge and Benediction

### Choral Benediction

**Steeple Bell**

**Postlude**

**Standing on the Promises**  
**Bethany Faiz - Piano**

**arr. Lloyd Larson**

*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 Fellowship Hall*

\*\*\*\*

## Thank you for serving today:

*Worship Leader:* Carol Mayhew    *Counters:* Melissa Boris/Gail Seitz  
*Ushers:* Julia & George Spock    *Coffee Hour:* Gail Seitz/Mike Smith/Mary Fontinha  
*Nursery:* Stephanie Foltz/Lynn Smith  
*Sunday School:* Mallory Mackie/Jane Fouracre

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

*Marian H. Lounsbury*              *William K. Wilson*  
*1898-1986*                          *1940-2019*



## WELCOME

This morning we welcome Shannon Hanson as our guest preacher. Shannon was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in October 2020. She currently serves as Minister of Reconciliation for New Castle Presbytery. In that capacity, she helps churches throughout New Castle Presbytery engage in the important Holy Spirit work of seeking to understand one another and our differences in honoring ways. Shannon is also convener of New Castle Presbytery's Montgomery Anti-Racism Advocacy Group. Shannon and her husband John live in North Wilmington and are the parents of two grown sons.

## SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING

We are in need of ushers and worship leaders in May and June. Please sign up today: <https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups>

## BIBLE STUDY WITH THE PASTOR – BACK ON MAY 1

We'll gather on Wednesday, May 1 at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to read and discuss the upcoming Sunday's Scripture passages. No need to RSVP; come and join the conversation!

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our slate of Deacons and Trustees is coming together! However, we are still looking for Elders. Terms are for three years and begin in September. Session meets on the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.; committee meetings are flexible. Reach out to a member of the committee if interested: Melissa Boris, Peter McCurdy, Jennifer Dunham, Julia Spock, Pat Taylor, Julie Barry, and Lyn Briggs.

## MUSIC TO MOVE YOU – TONIGHT



The Delaware Women's Chorus, under the direction of Joanne Ward is thrilled to be back to NCPC. DWC will present a choral program entitled "Songs for a Better World" on Sunday, April 28th at 3:00 pm. This free program of thought-provoking music features a wide variety of musical styles which offer hope, wonder, and determination.

## NCPC MEN'S GROUP – APRIL 29

NCPC is starting up a fellowship group for men to grow in their Christian faith and also be encouraged as they juggle work, family and community responsibilities, and so much more. So come be a part of a new thing! Meet at The Legend for food/ beverages on Monday, April 29 at 7 p.m. RSVP to Steven Foltz – (206)953-6490.



## YOUNG-ish WOMEN'S GATHERING – MAY 5

Our fellowship group for women between the ages of ~25 and 50 will gather next on Sunday, May 5 from 12-2pm. Let Pastor Miriam know if you're able to attend or would like to be included on the list for future gatherings. Childcare will be available!

## EMMANUEL DINING ROOM BROWNIES

Brownie mixes for Emmanuel Dining Hall are available in the entryway to the CE Building. Please return on or before Monday, May 6.

## NEW MEMBERS GATHERING – MAY 11

Anyone considering joining NCPC - or- liking what they observe and wanting to learn more is encouraged to meet other newbies on Saturday, May 11 from 3 to 5. Join members of the Congregational Life committee at the Fogarty's house on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; contact Greg Fogarty to RSVP - gregorymfogarty@gmail.com.

## COFFEE HOUR ON MAY 12 - READ HOUSE

After worship on Sunday, May 12, everyone is invited over to the Read House for a special Mother's Day Coffee "Hour". From 10:30 to 1, they're inviting all the congregations around New Castle to gather in their garden for coffee hour refreshments; the rain plan is inside the Read House. All are welcome; there's no charge. Chairs and restrooms will be available.

## **FRIENDSHIP HOUSE – SCHOOL UNIFORM DONATIONS**

NCPC's Mission & Outreach Committee works closely with Friendship House and the Clothing Bank each year. Thanks to our generous congregation, hundreds of clothing donations are made each year to the Clothing Bank through our Fall Clothing Drive and Undie Sunday underwear drive in February. This May and June, we have the opportunity to donate to one of the greatest needs: School uniforms.

There are few resources for school uniform items like polo shirts and khaki/navy pants when families can't afford to buy them, but many schools in Delaware require them. This can place a burden on students and families as they strive to excel academically. In 2023, the Clothing Bank was able to provide over 10,000 uniform items to 18 public schools in Delaware. Their plan is to expand their reach incrementally until they are eventually serving the entire state.

NCPC can be a part of this effort, and it's so easy, you don't even have to leave your computer. We are asking NCPC members to make online donations during the months of May and June to help this worthwhile cause.

Donations can be made online through the Friendship Clothing Bank website at: <https://www.friendshiphousede.org/delaware-homeless/our-programs/clothing-bank/school-uniform-initiative/>

Go to the right side of the page and select from three different donation registries (Target, Amazon, and French Toast). Clothing items will then be delivered directly to the Clothing Bank. Thank you for assisting with this great cause.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Selheimer at [selheimer@udel.edu](mailto:selheimer@udel.edu) or 302-368-8639.

## **GIFTS OF LOVE UPDATE**

So far in 2024, we have contributed \$2,400.00 to the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Peter's church. Donations through the white envelopes help our neighbors pay the rent, medical bills, car repairs, or utility bills.

We also donate food items for the St Peter's food pantry. While all items are appreciated, mayonnaise, jelly and powdered milk are really needed at this time. Thank you NCPC for being such good neighbors.

## **Prayer List:**

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

## ***Continuing Care Homes / Hospitals:***

### ***Rod Denison***

Coral Springs Healthcare Ctr.  
505 Greenbank Rd., Room C7  
Wilmington, DE 19808

### ***Linda Twyford***

New Castle Nursing & Rehab  
32 Buena Vista Dr,  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 328-2580

### ***David Lioi***

Shipley Living  
2723 Shipley Road  
Healthcare Ctr Rm. 505  
Wilmington, DE 19808

## ***At Home:***

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

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

### ***Anita Johnson***

Cokesbury  
724 Loveville Road,  
HealthCare Rm 2006  
Hockessin, DE 19707

### ***Robert Lindfors***

202 Brylgon Ave.  
New Castle, DE 19720  
(302) 328-5369

### ***Mary Duncan***

1323 Richard's Alley  
Wilmington, DE 19806  
(302) 888-0282

### ***Judy Hentkowski***

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

## ***On Assignment with the Coast Guard:***

### ***George Spock***

USCGC Scheuerman  
PSC 851 P.O. Box 11620  
FPO AE, 09834

## ***On Assignment with the Air Force:***

### ***James Boyle***

1150 Bole Street, Unit 54  
JBPHH, HI 96860

## *This Week's Schedule*

SUNDAY	04/28	10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship – Guest Preacher Shannon Hanson
		10:50am	Sunday School
		11:30am	Coffee Hour
		3:00pm	Delaware Women's Concert
Monday	04/29	7:00pm	Men's Group @ The Legend
Tuesday	04/30	11:00am	Staff Meeting
Wednesday	05/01	3:00pm	Bible Study
Thursday	05/02	7:00pm	Celebration Ringers
Friday	05/03	10-5:00pm	May Market
Saturday	05/04	8:00am	Tai Chi
		9-3:00pm	May Market
SUNDAY	05/05	10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship & Communion
		10:50am	Sunday School
		11:30am	Coffee Hour
		12:00-2:00pm	Young-ish Women's Gathering

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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**

**Shirley Knox, Recording Secretary**

**Bethany Faiz, Accompanist**

## SESSION

2024	2025	2026
Rob Barry	Melissa Boris	Cynthia Beam
Chris Fagles	Jennifer Dunham	Peter McCurdy
Greg Fogarty	Connie Reese	OPEN
Scott Selheimer		

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

## DEACONS

2024	2025	2026
Susan Fogarty	Toni Marley	Lindy Ballance
Julia Spock	Janet Spring	Liz Toto
Sandy Wilson		

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

## TRUSTEES

2024	2025	2026
Lyn Briggs	Marshall Freund	Mary Fontinha
Gary Graham	Mike Smith	Gail Seitz
Barbara Whisman		

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

