

# New Castle Presbyterian Church



## ***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.

**Sunday School and Nursery will be offered today.** Children 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. Please see an usher for a registration form or if you have any questions.

**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 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 Gingham**

Lorelton  
2200 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilmington, DE 19805  
(302) 573-3580

#### **Ringo Keka**

Sterling Care Bel Air  
410 E Macphail Road,  
Bel Air, MD 21014

#### **Carol Mayhew**

Bryn Mawr Rehab  
414 Paoli Pike, Room 122W  
Malvern, PA 19355

### 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

### 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**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

December 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

**GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

**Prelude**

**The King Shall Come**

arr. Lloyd Larson

Bethany Faiz - 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**

**Choral Introit**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

**Dunson/Shaw Families**

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

**We journey to Bethlehem, with peace in our hearts and praise on our lips.**

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

**Radiant beams from his holy face shine the dawn of redeeming grace.**

Silent night, holy night. **Christ's light of peace shines.** *(Candle is lit.)*

With the angels let us sing: **Christ the Savior is born!**

\*Hymn #122

Silent Night, Holy Night, verses 1 and 2

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

KOREAN

1 고요한밤 기록한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앉아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!  
 Todo duerme en derredor,  
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,  
 brilla la estrella de paz,  
 brilla la estrella de paz.*

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

**God of all creation, we do not know peace. We have been hurt, and we have hurt others. Prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may know your peaceful kingdom. (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

### Choral Anthem

### Advent Meditation

Michael Larkin

Bethany Faiz - Piano

*Come, O come, Emmanuel, ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lowly exile here, 'til the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, Israel.*

*Savior of the nations, come. Come, Thou dayspring from on high. Virgin's Son, make here your home. Cheer us by Thy drawing nigh. Marvel now, O heaven and earth. That the Lord chose such a birth. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Wondrous birth! Oh, wondrous child. Come, O come, Emmanuel, of the Virgin undefiled. Ransom captive Israel. Mighty God and Mary's Son, eager now His race to run. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O Israel.*

### Scripture Conversation with Children

### Prayer for Illumination

**Holy God, into our noisy and unfaithful world, you send messengers to proclaim your peace and your truth. Fill our lives with your righteousness, that we would participate in preparing your world for the coming of Christ, your Son. Give us opportunities for holy silence in which we might glimpse your dawn of redeeming grace.**

### Scripture Lesson

**Luke 1:67-79**

**Page: NT 58**

Then [John's] father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child

David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. <sup>78</sup> Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, <sup>79</sup> to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

Sermon

*The Dawn of Redeeming Grace*

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

### **Blest Be the God of Israel**

#### **\*Hymn #109**



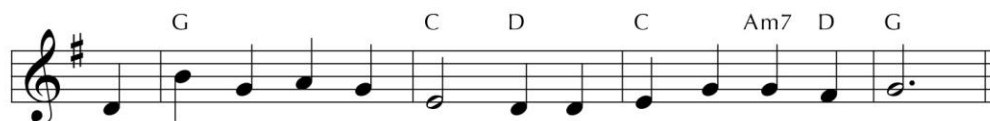
1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;  
2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;  
3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.  
a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.  
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;  
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,  
God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.  
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.  
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68–79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

## Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

**Watchman, Tell Us of the Night**

arr. Mark Hayes

Bethany Faiz - Piano

### **\*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, as we journey through Advent, we remember that your time is different from our time. We do not know the hour or the day of your coming, but we know that we can hold fast to the hope that you are with us even now. Bless these offerings to your work of peace. Come, Lord Jesus, we pray! Amen.**

## **Communion and Prayers of the People**

Invitation

**The Lord be with you. And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

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.**

Words of Institution & Partaking

Prayer

# GO IN GOD'S NAME

## \*Hymn #122

## Silent Night, Night, Holy Night, verses 3 and 4



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

### GERMAN

1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
 schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

### KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤  
 어둠에 묻힌밤  
 주의부모 앉아서  
 감사기도 드릴때  
 아기잘도 잔다  
 아기잘도 잔다

### SPANISH

1 ¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!  
 Todo duerme en derredor,  
 entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
 bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,  
 brilla la estrella de paz,  
 brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

## **\*Charge and Benediction**

### **Choral Benediction**

### **Steeple Bell**

### **Postlude**

**Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy** arr. Molly Ijames

*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.*

\*\*\*\*

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

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

*Worship Leader:* Nancy Kersey

*Coffee Hour:* Trustees

*Communion:* Candy Dunson\*, Gail Seitz, Gina Kouma, Cynthia Robbins

*Ushers:* Lindy & Sandy Ballance

*Counters:* Cynthia Beam/Gary Graham

*Nursery:* Jacob Fooks/Molly Shaw

*Sunday School:* Chris Fagles/Stephanie Foltz

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

***Florence K. Ballard***  
***1892 - 1973***

***Lynford R. Hampton***  
***1918 - 2005***



### **GIFTS OF LOVE**

This Sunday, December 7 we will do our final Gifts of Love offering for this year. Our contributions for St Vincent de Paul Society at St. Peter's church will assist our New Castle neighbors in need to pay their electric, gas and water bills.

### **ADVENT**

Printed copies of our seasonal devotional "And Heaven and Nature Sing" are available in the Narthex. Be sure to listen to this week's Hark! Podcast.

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

This Sunday during Coffee Hour we will prepare cards to our Homebound and members in need of Christ's Peace.

### **YOUNG-ISH WOMEN'S GATHERING**

We'll gather for lunch fellowship during Coffee Hour and then head upstairs around Noon for a program together.

### **THREE BOARD MEETING**

Elders, Deacons, and Trustees are encouraged to attend our Three-Board meeting on Tuesday, December 9 from 5:30-7:00pm. As a thank you for your service, NCPC provides dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

### **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13**

The CE Building will be open from 10-3 with soups and breads for sale, as well as free refreshments. All NCPC proceeds go to support [Friendship House](#)! We'll offer three (free!) concerts in the Meeting House. We need volunteers to serve as Meeting House ushers, folks to bake bread/ fix soups/ bake cookies, as well as folks to sell the yummy goodies and restock the refreshments table. All sign-up forms, with more information, are posted in the Fellowship Hall.

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – DEC 14**

At the end of worship on December 14, the Session has called a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the 2026 Budget as approved by Session at their December meeting and to vote on the pastor's terms of call for next year.

## CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

For our Christmas Eve service, the Meeting House will be decorated with poinsettias. Donate a poinsettia for \$15 in memory or in honor of a loved one by returning the order form (located in entrance to Meeting House and CE bldg.) to the Church Office by **Monday, Dec. 15.**

## NCPC YOUTH GROUP – DEC 14

We'll gather after worship on December 14 for our Christmas Party at Scott and Amy Selheimer's house. Our festive time together will include a White Elephant Gift Exchange! RSVP to Pastor Miriam.

## DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Mark your calendars for **our Longest Night Service** at 7:00pm on Wed., December 17<sup>th</sup>. For all who struggle in this season of merry carols, this candlelight service is a quieter time to gather in the promise and comfort of Emmanuel: God with Us.

**Christmas Caroling** will be on Sun., Dec 21 at 6:00p.m. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall, stroll and sing through the streets of New Castle, & end with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall around 7:00pm. If you would like to donate desserts, please drop off to Fellowship Hall on Friday, Dec 19.

**Our Christmas Eve Services** are a Family Service at 5 p.m. and a Traditional Service at 7:30pm.

## WINTER SANCTUARY

Each Saturday, from 6:00 - 10:00 am, First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington opens their doors to people experiencing homelessness. They may come in for a rest, warmth, a hot meal, coffee & snacks, a place to charge their phones, and even a shower. Here is the link if you'd like to sign up. Questions? Please reach out to Amy Selheimer (302-584-0982)



## SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING

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

<u><i>This Week's Schedule</i></u>			
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/07</b>		<b>SECOND DAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Young-ish Women Gathering</b>
		<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Community Open Mic Night</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/08</b>	<b>2:00-5:00pm</b>	<b>Private Counseling – Library</b>
		<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Mission &amp; Outreach Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12/09</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>3 Board Dinner &amp; Meeting</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Session Meeting</b>
		<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Promises of AA Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>2:00-5:00pm</b>	<b>Private Counseling - Library</b>
		<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
		<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12/11</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Celebration Ringers</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Tai Chi</b>
		<b>10:00am-3:00pm</b>	<b>Spirit of Christmas</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>12/14</b>		<b>THIRD DAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>10:30am</b>	<b>In-Person &amp; Live Stream Worship &amp; Communion</b>
		<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Deacon's Meeting</b>
		<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Youth Group</b>

*Meals on Wheels Deliveries are this week!*

# New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E. 2nd Street  
New Castle, DE 19720

Phone: (302) 328-3279

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

Fax: (302) 328-5670

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)*

