

New Castle Presbyterian News

April 2020



“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”

Romans 12:9-13

Even though we are apart, the ministry of New Castle Presbyterian church continues in creative and innovative ways. This month’s newsletter highlights the many ways that we have been holding fast, loving, serving, rejoicing, and being patient in Christ’s name. Inside are many great updates from our committees on the caring work they’ve been doing during this time. Additionally, the trustees have upgraded our upstairs adult study. We’re excited to welcome everyone back post-pandemic for much more comfortable gatherings in this space!

Our elders and deacons are coordinating outreach to everyone in our directory, particularly asking how we might be holding one another in prayer as well as seeing if anyone needs assistance connecting with worship or other resources during this time. However, don’t wait for us to contact you. As you have prayer concerns or need assistance during this time, please go ahead and reach out to myself or any elder or deacon.

We’ll continue offering our Sunday home worship services, with bulletin and sermon video posted to our website, along with Wednesday night prayer services over zoom. Thank you for your patience as we navigate the joys and challenges of technology.

We recognize that this is a financially uncertain time for many folks, so the deacons have increased our Gifts of Love offering from six gifts to twelve gifts for April. We will be able to support 12 families next month through \$50 Delmarva assistance packages, and we anticipate the likelihood of continuing that offering through May.

We are in the process of setting up online donations through the Presbyterian Foundation. In the meantime, administrator Kris, treasurer Dan, and secretary Shirley are making sure all things financial are running smoothly. If you mail in checks, whether it’s a regular offering or contributions to our Gifts of Love, please know that the church office is taking care of all mail.

Many, many thanks to all our church leaders, as well as our fabulous church staff, who are carrying us through with an abundance of zeal and ardent spirits.

In Christ's abundant joy,
Pastor Miriam



FLOWER DONATIONS UPDATE

Due to a combination of factors, the worship committee has canceled our Easter flowers order with Rosehill Nursery. We ask that any money already contributed be considered a donation to the church's flower/ holiday decorating fund. Rosehill Nursery is still open for business and has vegetable plants ready to go for spring planting. We encourage you to show support for this small family business that's 100 years old!

As creation leaps into spring all around us, there is the opportunity to take home a little green of your own! Our eco-friendly palm branches have arrived, and on Sunday morning, April 5, we'll put them by the door of the meetinghouse for folks to pick up. We might not get to process altogether from the Green into the church, but we can take the joyful frenzy of Palm Sunday out into the world. Be sure to keep an eye out for palm branches in Sunday morning's sermon video as well.



FACE MASKS FOR HEALTHCARE

There is a group in Delaware making face masks for nursing homes, etc. The group is on Facebook as Help for Healthcare Workers in Delaware.

The article is at <https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2020/03/26/worried-mom-facebook-group-sewers-create-thousands-facemasks-delaware-workers/2912688001/>

The Facebook page

is https://www.facebook.com/groups/211368643548041/?multi_permalink=215333353151570%2C215314259820146%2C214644116553827%2C215304236487815%2C215299539821618¬if_id=1585083520766995¬if_t=group_activity

This might be something our crafty people could do, if they can access the information. Our Administrative Assistant, Kris also has a contact in the ER at Christiana Care and if you wanted to leave any made masks for her to take in that would be great.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – 70 years' worth of giving!



Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. As part of our Lenten discipline of giving, OGHS gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, our gifts support 3 different arms of Presbyterian Mission – arms that can reach farther when we all give together.

Presbyterian Hunger Program – works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes. In 2016, PHP gave over 160 grants totaling more than \$1.2 million, in communities across the US and in 37 other countries.

Self-Development of People Program – works with low-income communities across the US. In 2017, they worked with projects focusing on literacy, skills development, farming, immigration/refugee issues.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - responds to communities impacted by crises and catastrophic events and it helps for the long haul. Water crises, hurricanes, fire relief, famine and war's devastation. And they just keep coming. A full interactive map with OGHS recipients can be found at www.pcusa.org/oghsmap.

We will receive this offering starting Palm Sunday April 5. Please give generously and let's bring hope to the world by giving together!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS YOUR INPUT

Each year, the Nominating Committee actively discerns how the Holy Spirit is calling members of the church to particular ministries. We hope to have nominees ready for a congregational meeting in late April/ early May. Training would take place in May/ August, and Ordination/ Installation would take place in early September. The committee has filled the slate for deacons and trustees, but we need your help recognizing who might be called to the work of elder.

Please respond by Sunday, April 5 by emailing Nominating Chair Monty Gerhart at montyellie@aol.com.

ELDER ON SESSION

Elders are the governing body of the congregation, providing spiritual support and programmatic leadership for our ministries. Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday 7 pm. Each elder serves on or chairs a committee (Worship, Christian Ed, Mission & Outreach, Congregational Life & Membership, Resource Development, LGBTQ Task Force). Session members host Coffee Hour on the 2nd Sunday 1-2/yr, serve communion, and, as possible, attend a presbytery meeting. We have three spots open for three-year terms and one spot open for a one-year term. Whom do you think is called to this service? (please indicate if self-referral)

DEACON

Deacons embody the ministry of compassion, within and beyond the congregation. (No nominations needed at this time.)

TRUSTEE

Trustees are responsible for our buildings, grounds, cemetery and other resources. (No nominations needed at this time.)

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

I Corinthians 12:4-7

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP

We want you to know that the church office has very helpful handouts for the “Five Wishes” presentation by Rev. Tim Redden (March 8). Noting that the “Wishes” format is not a medical order, please look at the Delaware Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (DMOST) in question/answer form. Also, the Deacons have created a form to use to list “Household Information.” There is a NCPC Application for a Cemetery Plot form and a “Service of Witness to the Resurrection” form (the Presbyterian funeral or memorial service form) which suggests order of worship, scripture/hymns, and other topics like scheduling the service and the participation of other clergy. You can also obtain our church’s Official Church Policy appendices F and G, and an application for internment in our Memorial Garden in the church yard. And, there is a form you can fill out listing your instruction for your funeral and memorial service choices. Deacon Salina Brett also suggested keeping and sharing the whereabouts of a notebook containing all the usernames and passwords needed to access the growing list of important web sites, insurance policies, bank accounts, and legal papers we now all have.

Pastor Miriam is continuing to connect with people interested in joining our congregation as members, calling this group, Presbyterian 101. She is whipping us into virtual shape by hosting these gathering on line in this time of separation and health concerns. Pay attention to her emails and the instructions therein.

Cancellations have erased some of our planned events. The town’s May Market disappearance mean we won’t be offering free water by the brick wall on May 1 and 2. Our bowling event at Bowlerama is temporarily a gutter ball. Separation Day looms ahead, when we can support Christian Ed. as they march in the parade advertising our Vacation Bible School.



We will be reviewing all the names on our church roll when these difficult changes calm down. If you have not contacted the church for two or more years and would still like to be considered and active member please let the church office know your concerns and preferences. We would love to hear how you are doing and how we can help you with your relationship with our heavenly Father.



Our annual church picnic is still scheduled for June 13, the day after the Separation Day. What food do you think we should serve? Do you have any ideas for games or interactive conversations? Stayed tuned for confirmation.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & MEMBERSHIP (cont'd)

Looking ahead to the fall, the Spirit of Christmas project needs a sober review and reconsideration. Being such a big event with tentacles into the town of New Castle, it needs a big committee with inspired leadership and an army of worker bees. Now is the time to decide what we should do with this very visible platform we have created. The committee must consist of **leaders**: marketing directors, musical venue producers and talent agents, artistic craft directors, restaurant managers, general services/maintenance supervisors, communicators with the political savvy to reach out to the wider town of New Castle's elements—police, volunteer fire company, historical society, City Council and town Trustees. In addition, there must be other big picture positions that need attention. Then, everyone, everyone needs to get involved on the worker bee level: cooks, bakers, trinket, craft, and ornament makers, singers, bell ringers, docent guides, hosts, Santa and Father Christmas enactors, cookie bakers, servers, used book organizers and sales people, and a strong and efficient cleanup crew. Lastly, consider what would happen if we did not sponsor Spirit of Christmas? Happen to the town of New Castle and Friendship House? We are at a crossroad here. As a congregation we need to think about and make serious decisions.

Next month we will publish a list of activities in which we can choose to act concerning the way we treat our earth. What are new ways our church can reach out into the community, as we seek to become what the Presbyterian Church calls an "Earth Care Congregation?" Are you thinking of buying a new car? Will it be earth friendly? More to come.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Easter Fair Update

In the midst of these uncertain times, the CE Committee has decided to postpone the Easter Fair. We have also decided to reduce the size of the Easter Fair this year, opening it to only church members and their families. The Easter Fair will consist of an egg hunt and 1-2 small crafts. We plan to hold the Easter Fair following a Sunday church service, date to be determined. Stay tuned for more information!



VBS Update

The CE Committee is happy to announce our theme for Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year is Renew: The Green VBS! We hope you will join us as we explore Jesus' Parable of the Sower with an environmentally-focused VBS program. VBS is scheduled for July 12th-16th, from 5:45pm-8:15pm. A VBS planning meeting will be held on Monday, April 27th at 7pm in the CE Building or remotely via Zoom, if required. All those interested in volunteering for VBS are encouraged to attend the meeting. If the meeting must be held remotely, an email will be sent out with information/instructions to access the meeting via Zoom.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Although regular services, choir and bell practices, and meetings have been cancelled through April and perhaps beyond, worship committee has met and creatively made decisions about Holy Week activities and alternative ways for us to worship God.

Pastor Miriam is continuing to develop creative and diverse worship bulletins and teachings for each Sunday morning that we can access through our church website, www.newcastlepreschurch.org. Wednesday, March 26 we had a “virtual prayer service.” Stay tuned for more Wednesday evening zoom gatherings.

“One Great Hour of Sharing” envelopes and small fish boxes are safe in the church office. In the mean time we can be collecting change in jars at home and setting aside cash for the envelopes.

The first Sunday we are able to worship together will probably be after Easter. That will be a glorious resurrection for us! Plan to celebrate that day with much joy in your hearts.

Looking to the future we are planning an “Earth Care” service for May 3 and a Hymn Sing for Memorial Day weekend Sunday, May 24. Start researching your suggestions for hymns. Mine is “Fairest Lord Jesus.”



Pentecost is May 31. Plan to wear red.



MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS

UNDIES SUNDAYS FOR FRIENDSHIP HOUSE A SUCCESS!

The Thank You note from Cheryl Bryant, Friendship House Clothing Bank, follows.

On behalf of Friendship House Clothing Bank I'd like to send a huge THANK YOU to the members of New Castle Presbyterian Church! The donations from your Undie Sunday are so greatly appreciated and will benefit so many people in our community!

Our mission of uniting people facing homelessness with loving, supportive communities they can call home is only accomplished because of the generosity of our supporters. We are so very thankful to have New Castle Presbyterian Church helping us to make a difference. Our burdens become lighter when we all come together to lift them.

Again, thank you so very much! It's an honor to work with you to empower our community.

ST. PETERS FOOD BANK

Along with the Deacons we are donating funds to support the St. Peters Food Bank which services people in need in the New Castle area. Their requests for food and other supplies have picked up significantly and are expected to continue over the next couple of months.

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM (Ministry of Caring)

The Emmanuel Dining Room, which in normal times serves a daily hot meal to Delaware's hungry, has closed because of gathering restrictions. Instead they are serving take-out meals to those in need. Our Church will continue to support their efforts by making monthly donations until we are able to return to delivering our hot meal and brownies.

EPIPHANY HOUSE (Friendship House)

We will continue to provide a monthly hot dinner meal for the residents of Epiphany House. Because of current restrictions we will drop off the food rather than sitting down and sharing the meal with them.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We plan to host Vacation Bible School on July 12 - 16! We will have more updates as we get closer, but it's never too early to start thinking of ways that you can help be a part of this amazing program!

A preview & planning meeting will be held Monday April 27, 7:00 p.m. in the CE building or on zoom.

All curious folks please come to see what this year's VBS theme and plans will involve, and how you can help out. It takes a village – please see how you can be one of the VBS village people!





Meals on Wheels

HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for 2020. 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 April 13-17. If anyone is interested in delivering meals to shut-in Seniors in the New Castle area, please contact the office at 302-328-3279.

Monday 13

Jude Morrow
Jo Viola

Tuesday 14

Miranda Matthews
Joan Smith

Wednesday 15

Karen & Jim
Beatson

Thursday 16

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday 17

Susan & Jim
Flook

Monthly Report

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



Membership:

February 151

March..... 151

Income thru 03/01/20:

2020 Budget: \$74,250.00

2020 Actual:..... \$73,853.00

Expenses thru 03/01/20:

2020 Budget: \$50,566.00

2020 Actual:..... \$47,815.00

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Benjamin Cooney, 4/1

Fran Gingher, 4/2

Emilia June, 4/2

Jo Viola, 4/3

Cora Lundgren, 4/3

Susan Bishop, 4/4

Peter McCurdy, 4/4

Dan Toto, 4/4

Barbara Kuczarmarski, 4/5

Beth Hentkowski, 4/5



Laurie Powell, 4/9

Sidney Wilson, 4/9

Molly Cooney, 4/13

Lisa Raker, 4/13

Linda Bennett, 4/13

Liam Powell, 4/20

Bill Anthony, 4/27

James Boyle, 4/28

Scott Selheimer, 4/30

Julia Lundgren, 4/30



Eileen & Michael Larkin, 4/12

Rod & Bev Denison, 4/16

Rachel & David Hayes, 4/26



God ^{be} with
you

till we meet again;

By His counsels guide,
uphold you;

With His love securely
Fold you.

God be with you
till we meet again.

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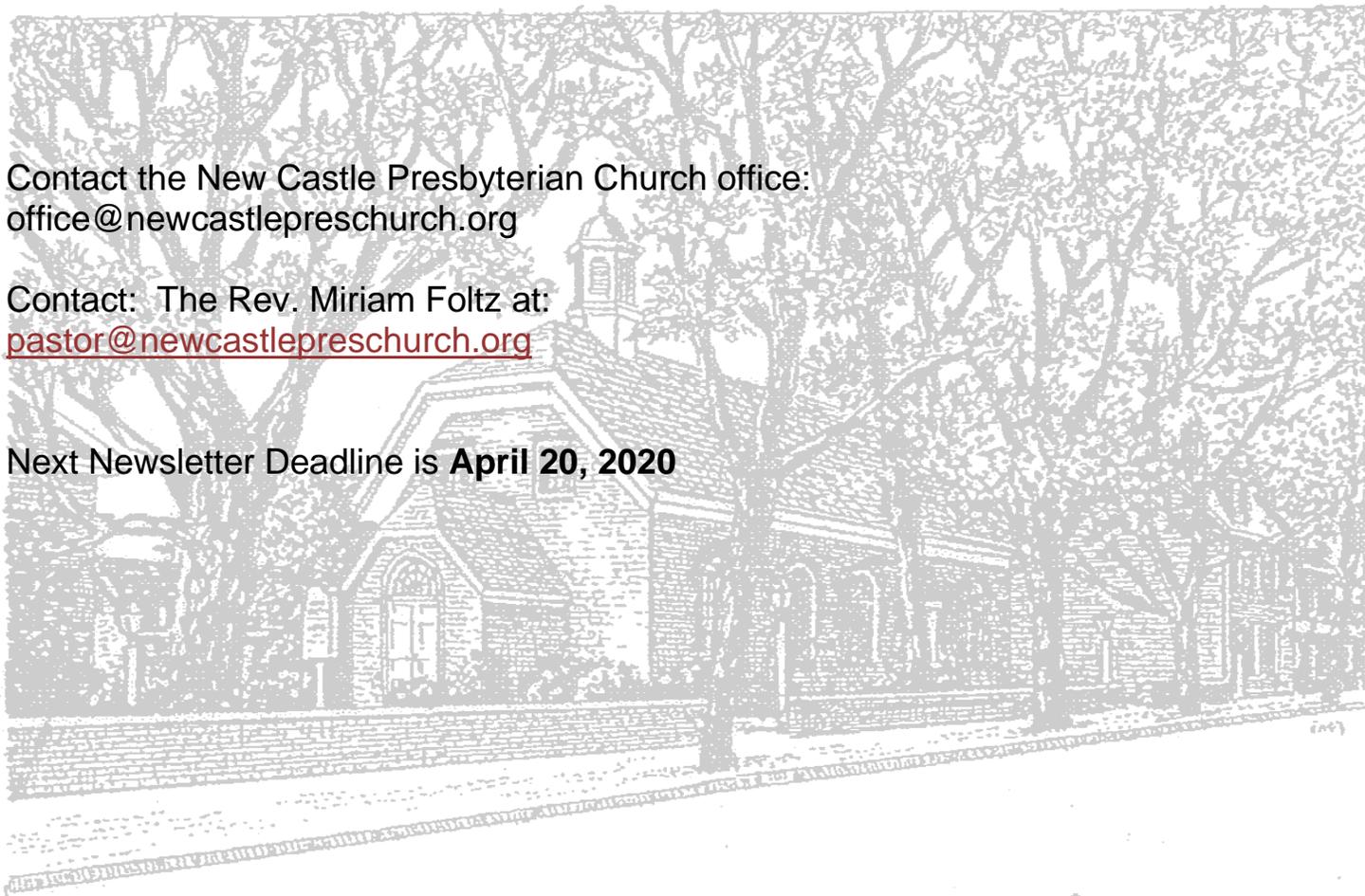


Address Change
Requested

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

Contact: The Rev. Miriam Foltz at:
pastor@newcastlepreschurch.org

Next Newsletter Deadline is **April 20, 2020**



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