

New Castle Presbyterian Church

25 E 2nd Street, New Castle, DE 19720

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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 not be offered today. 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 "pray ground" in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School & Nursery will return next week.

At the end of worship, please join us for sidewalk Coffee Hour.

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.

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY!

The Rev. Jim Mehler who is a three-time retired pastor. He and Tracy live in town and enjoy views of Battery Park and the goslings. Jim walks, jogs, bikes, cycles, and makes hobo art from river driftwood.

New Castle Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

10:30 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

What Is That Noise? Traditional Breton Carol

Amy Shimmin - Recorder / Mary Anne Brundage - Harp

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!**

Steeple Bell

Call to Worship

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with the good news!

In those days, in the beginning, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child. She delivered her child, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

And the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven! And on earth, peace to all whom God favors."

Let us worship our with-us God. **Let us sing songs of praise!**

***Hymn #132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation and believed that your love included them. We wish that we were more like the shepherds. Somewhere between the angels' song and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt ourselves. We doubt your invitation. We doubt that love could know our names. Remind us that your love holds us fast, day in and day out. Help us to sing, to pray, and to run in faith. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief... *(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 #155 Raise a Song of Gladness, sung twice**

Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.

Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Conversation with Children

Prayer for Illumination

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace – we lean forward and crane our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song or an echo of a gloria. Awaken in us a fire for your Word. Awaken in us your love, which is as bright as the evening star. With-us God, be with us this day. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:41-52

Page: NT 59

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus

stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.


⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.
This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

I'll Be Home for the First Sunday after Christmas

GIVE THANKS TO GOD
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

***Hymn #136**

Refrain 

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

Offerings of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

What Child Is This
Amy Shimmin - Flute

Arr. by Amy Shimmin

***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**

O God, in a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start? Your Word invites us how to run in hope and sing in joy. With-us God, help us to trust in Christ's promise of grace and live as your children. Bless our offerings that your love would offer new beginnings to all who need it. 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

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella Arr. by Chip Davis

Amy Shimmin – Flute / Mary Anne Brundage - Harp

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: Conchita Showell

Counters: Amy Selheimer/Mike Smith

Usher: Nancy Kersey & Scott Selheimer

Coffee Hour: Sidewalk Fellowship

Today we remember in the Special Gifts Memorial Case:

Samuel H. and G. Elizabeth

Frederick Burns Hill, Jr.

Carothers

1913-1993



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER ON A SUNDAY MORNING

We are in need of ushers and worship leaders in January.

Please sign up today: <https://www.newcastlepreschurch.org/on-line-signups>

CODE PURPLE

First & Central Presbyterian welcomes Wilmington's unhoused neighbors into their social hall every Saturday during the winter. NCPC's Mission and Outreach committee invites you to sign up at <https://shorturl.at/X6Vyd> or contact Amy Selheimer.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS – THANK YOU!

A BIG thank you to everyone who cooked, baked, volunteered, sang, rang, and attended Spirit of Christmas. NCPC raised over \$2,500 in support of Friendship House. Thank you for generously supporting our neighbors in need!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

Mark your calendars for these happenings in January:

We'll celebrate Epiphany Sunday with star words on January 5. Our middle and high school youth group will gather for a musical celebration from 12-2 on January 12. Our All-Ages Sunday school will collaborate with Congregational Life for a card-writing project on January 19. Happy New Year!

JANUARY BOOK STUDY

January can be a difficult and dreary month. So, in the hope of the resurrection, we face death head on and explore what it means to live as dusty creations of God. NCPC's Book Club will be reading *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Kawaguchi. We'll have two opportunities to discuss the book - at Noon on Sunday, January 26, as well as at 3pm on Wednesday, January 29. Come grow in hope that in life and in death, we belong to God!

SECOND STREET COFFEEHOUSE: OPEN MIC NIGHT

A huge shout out to NCPC neighbors James and Charlotte Eoppolo for launching the amazing Second Street Coffeehouse in 2024! Since February, this monthly Open Mic Night has raised over \$3,300 for Friendship House, and just as incredibly, this gathering has connected our creative community in a unique way. Kudos to the many talented participants, faithful audience members, and incredible volunteers who make this New Castle phenomenon happen. And if you haven't made it to one yet, make a New Years resolution to check out the next Second Street Coffee house at 6:30 on January 19 in our Fellowship Hall.

Prayer List:

To place a name on the confidential Prayer Chain, contact Susan Flook, 302-328-7346 <mailto:suzieflook@hotmail.com> or Fran Ginger, 302-994-5988 <mailto:silverfran@aol.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,
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Mary Duncan

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At Home:

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Gene Mayhew

17 E 5th Street
New Castle, DE 19720

On Assignment with the Coast Guard:

SN George Spock

USCG MST 01-25
PO BOX 6719
Yorktown, VA 23690

On Assignment with the Air Force:

James Boyle

1150 Bole Street,
Unit 54
JBPHH, HI 96860

This Week's Schedule

SUNDAY	12/29		1st Sunday of Christmas
		10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
		11:30am	Sidewalk Fellowship
Tuesday	12/31		NEW YEAR'S EVE Office Closed
Wednesday	1/1		NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed
Thursday	1/2		Pastor Miriam back in the office
Saturday	1/4	8:00am	Tai Chi
SUNDAY	1/5	10:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship
		11:30am	Coffee Hour

*Pastor Miriam will be out of the office December 25 – January 1.
If you require emergency pastoral assistance,
please contact the church office or Deacon Janet Spring.*

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Kris Krawczyk, Admin. Assistant - 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