

New Castle Presbyterian News

February 2019



In the interim....

An important task of the interim time is to take a look at various aspects of your church life, and imagine how it looks to someone who doesn't know you. If you are wanting to draw new people in, this is a perspective that is crucial. One big project to do just that has been a re-design of the church's website. A decade or more ago, (the age of your original website), church websites often functioned as internal information sources and storage vessels. Think checking the church calendar about a meeting, reading the newsletter, or listening to that worship service you missed.

Now, church websites function very differently. They are the first impression a church makes out in the world to those who do not know you. It is the first place people go to visit you, to see what you are like, what you believe and value, how you live out your faith within and beyond your walls. It is the way people make decisions about **whether to visit for worship**, or even **apply for a pastoral position**. I promise you that this is where pastoral candidates first check you out. While your original website served its original purpose, times have changed, and website design and functionality has changed. And the truth is, by not changing you were sending a message, whether you meant to or not. And as I got to know you, it was clear to me that you are a much more vital and hopeful congregation than your website would communicate.

Last May, Session members got a homework assignment – to visit other church websites. That's all it took – they got it. This fall, after doing some research with church colleagues, I proposed working with Anthony Condoluci-Smith (who is now "St. Anthony" to me). Your Mission Study helped me with some of the content, but much of it is a new content creation. We launched and revealed the new website to the folks who braved that snowy January 13 service. Please check it out yourself, if you haven't yet: www.newcastlepreschurch.org And share it with others! Facebook is a great way to share the new site! "Like" us at "New Castle Presbyterian Church" and share the link to the new site!

A website this "live" needs tending and updating. Please take and email photos to the church office, and let us know if you'd like your plans included under "Upcoming events". This will be a work in progress for some time.

Many thanks to Bruce Raker for bringing you into the website world back in the day. And here's hoping this new design and content helps us wear our welcome beyond our walls!

With hope,
Jenny

ABOUT THAT WEBSITE

The website is still your go-to place for internal church information. The calendar is there – and is live and current. And the Church Directory is there -and, for your sake, is password protected. With the change in website, there's been a change in password. It was emailed with the notice of this newsletter.

KRIS KRAWCZYK LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR FEBRUARY

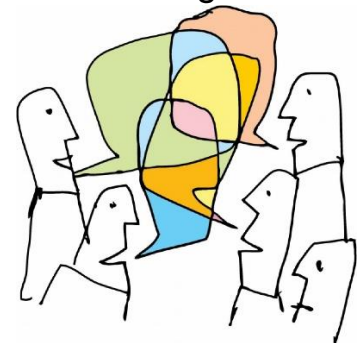
Our Administrative Assistant Kris Krawczyk will be having spinal surgery on February 5, with an anticipated “no work” recovery time of 4 weeks. Please keep Kris and her family in your prayers, for healing and for patience.

Session has provided for temporary office help Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 am- 12:00 pm. Please welcome Gwen Delcoglin to the church office starting February 5, and understand that there is a steep learning curve! Gwen can be contacted by the same email you use for Kris. We will also have church members to cover Monday and Thursday mornings 10am-12pm for the month of February, to answer phones and other possible light office duties. Below is the list of those wonderful volunteers:

Thursday, Feb. 7 – Conchita Showell	Monday, Feb. 11 – Shirley Knox
Thursday, Feb. 14 – Candy Dunson	Monday, Feb. 18 (President's Day-office closed)
Thursday, Feb. 21 – Conchita Showell	Monday, Feb. 25 – Candy Dunson
Thursday, Feb. 28 – Joan Smith	Monday, Mar. 4 – Miranda Matthews

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in learning more about this congregation and our ministry, please contact Interim Pastor Jenny Warren at jpwarren@newcastlepreschurch.org so we can talk about it! We will be receiving new members in February, and would be glad to include you!



FROM THE LGBTQIA+ TASK FORCE

Got questions? So do we. Here are some:

Did you know that 41.8% of transgender people attempt suicide?

Of that number, 92% made their attempt before the age of 25.

Did you know that LGBTQIA+ youth constitute up to 40% of the unaccompanied homeless youth population?

And what do all of those letters stand for anyway?

At June's PC(USA) 223rd General Assembly, our denomination voted to affirm and celebrate the "full dignity and humanity" and gifts of all gender identities and sexual orientations. This was hardly the first time such matters were discussed, or even affirmed. But these overtures had New Castle fingerprints on them – both from our Session's actions and our Presbytery's. And this PC(USA) affirming position led, in part, to the placing of 2 signs in our church yard the week of Spirit of Christmas. These signs are a witness to who we are and are part of "wearing our welcome" as servants of Christ. We are looking into purchasing more permanent signs in the future that will demonstrate our welcome to the community, especially the LGBTQIA+ community.

We, the members of the LGBTQIA+ Task Force, imagine there are questions. And we will be hosting conversations with whomever would like to join us on February 10th, 17th and 24th, at 12:15 pm. If we have significant interest, we will order lunch. Please come with your questions and observations. We will listen and discuss what the acronyms (LGBTQIA+) mean, how LGBTQIA people have experienced church, and how our welcome is a move towards living more closely what God's Word calls for.

This is open to all. You don't have to talk, you can just listen. You don't have to have your mind made up to discuss, and you don't have to have any conclusions when you leave (though we certainly hope you will walk away with more knowledge and more facts and ideas to consider). It will be a respectful, "safe" space. If you don't feel comfortable with discussing in a group setting, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the members of the Task Force (Miranda Matthews, Diana Reilly, Scott Matthews, Salina Brett, or Pastor Jenny) to discuss any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have one-on-one.

So let's keep the questions, and the conversation going.....



COME GET YOUR GAME ON -- FAMILY GAME NIGHT FEB 8th!

Bring the kids! Bring the grandkids! Bring the neighbors! Come and join your church family for a Family Game Night on Friday February 8th, 6:30- 8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. We'll have some games on hand – but bring your favorite to share! Snacks will be provided. This is a great way to welcome our community to the church, so spread the word!



BIBLE STUDY IS BACK! JOIN US!

Wouldn't this be a good and faithful New Year's Resolution - to join the Wednesday 1:00 pm Bible Study?!?! We are working through the book of Acts (which is really only its nickname). How did bewildered disciples become the church back then? Perhaps seeing how they got started, will give us bewildered disciples a better idea of how to be church now. Come, join us - and grow your faith in good company!

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy and prayers surround the loved ones of those who have died to this life in these last weeks:

Bill Wilson, who died on January 15th. A Memorial Service and Celebration of his Life will be held in the Meeting House on Saturday, February 2nd at 1:00 p.m., with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. We hold Sandy in our prayers, for God's comfort and peace.

Jean Swanson, who died on January 20th. A Memorial Service and Celebration of her Life is being planned for Saturday, April 13th, with a reception to following in Fellowship Hall. Let us hold Jean's children Che, Christi and Michael, and all who knew and loved Jean, in our prayers.



MENTAL HEATH MATTERS – a LUNCH & LEARN EVENT MARCH 24

Save the date! And plan to stay after worship for a Lunch & Learn event, sponsored by the Congregational Life & Membership Committee.

“Mental Health Matters” – meaning both information about mental health, and the reality that mental health is important – both to understand and to take care of. Mental health matters affect all of us, either directly or through our concern for the people in our lives and in our community. At this Lunch & Learn, we hope to better equip ourselves with understanding.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jim Walsh to lead us in this exploration. James Walsh, Ph.D., is a Pastoral Counselor in private practice in Wilmington, DE. He is an Adjunct Instructor at Wilmington University in the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, where he taught as a core faculty member for 12 years. He has received extensive training in the applications of mindfulness meditation within clinical mental health practice, including instruction at the Center for Mindfulness at the University of Massachusetts Medical School with Jon Kabat-Zinn. Dr. Walsh is a Board Approved Clinical Consultant through the National Council on Problem Gambling and has taught workshops for several state gambling councils, most notably in Delaware and Maryland. He is also a regular consultant with homicide cases.

Please plan to stay on March 24 – it will help us as individuals, and as a church seeking to care for people in our community.

New Opportunity with Mission and Outreach

For years, Friendship House has been an important mission of our church. Friendship House is a non-profit, faith-based organization in service to those individuals and families that are or are at risk of becoming homeless. We serve them in many ways: Clothing Drive, Sock Drive, Spirit of Christmas, and preparing and serving breakfasts. Those who have been involved in these efforts over the years have worked tirelessly to fulfill our commitment to Friendship House helping those in need. Recently the Mission and Outreach Committee approached Friendship House about looking for new ways we could help them. After discussions with them, we're excited to bring a new opportunity from Friendship House to you which will replace the breakfast offering that we've done for so many years. Starting in February, on the second Thursday of every month, our church will be providing an evening meal at Epiphany House on Union Street, a home for women transitioning into the workforce, providing a secure, supportive, home-like and respectful environment for women ready to work hard on their issues through a rigorous and holistic program.

On the second Thursday of each month, a small group of 2-3 of us will make an easy meal (typically something like chili with cornbread, spaghetti and salad, tacos), take it to Epiphany House and sit down and share the meal with 6 to 10 residents as we get to know them, talk with them and share our lives and stories. When the meal is done, the residents will clean up and you're free to go. Sharing a meal and conversation in a home setting offers a direct, relational way to know and support women who are trying to put their lives back on track.

Many of you have faithfully volunteered with Friendship House over the years, getting up at dawn to serve breakfast to the many homeless. We want to thank Janet Spring, Ray Snyder, Ringo Keka and Mark Rappold, Carol and Gene Mayhew, Joan Smith, Corky and Jo Viola and the Spock family for their dedicated service to the breakfast mission. We sincerely hope they, along with many others, will be excited about this new opportunity to serve in a different way. Scott Selheimer will be heading this new initiative. Scott and Amy Selheimer and Candy Dunson will be serving our first dinner on February 14. We're hoping many of you will find it in your hearts to sign up for an evening, a commitment of about an hour and a half, once or twice a year! A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the CE Building but Scott, Jenny or any one on the Mission and Outreach Committee will be more than happy to talk to you and answer questions about what's involved. We're all excited at this new adventure to further our mission and outreach with our community and hope you'll become a part of it, too!

Epiphany House is located at 722 Union Street in Wilmington. Arrival time is 5:00 pm to 5:15pm with dinner at 5:30pm. Dinner is about an hour and the residents do the clean-up. Reimbursement for ingredients up to \$50 will be provided by submitting receipts to Scott Selheimer.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AT WORK – SEEKS INPUT

Session has shifted the timing of the Nominating Committee's work. The goal is to have nominees ready for a congregational meeting in late March/early April. Training would follow late April/early May. Though Ordination/Installation would take place as usual in early September, this plan will allow the officers-elect to learn from the outgoing officers over the summer, and help get plans underway for the fall. Your input is sought for those you think are gifted for this service. **Deadline for responding is Sunday, February 10** – either by putting this insert in the offering bags, or 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). Session members host Coffee Hour on the 2nd Sunday 1-2/yr, serve communion, and, as possible, attend a presbytery meeting.

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. Monthly meetings are on the 2nd Sunday after worship. Deacons connect with homebound members through cards & visits. They keep the kitchen stocked with supplies for Coffee Hour and special events. They take turns hosting Coffee Hour on the 3rd Sunday, and coordinate the 1st Sunday hosting by congregation members. They serve communion 1-2/yr. Deacons manage our Gifts of Love contributions used to meet needs of our community.

Whom do you think is called to this service? (please indicate if self-referral)

TRUSTEE

Trustees are responsible for our buildings, grounds, cemetery and other resources. They are responsible for counting the Sunday offering on a rotating basis. They also take turns hosting Coffee Hour on the 4th Sunday. They meet on the 3rd Monday at 7:30pm every other month (Sept/Nov/Jan/Mar/May)

Whom do you think is called to this service? (please indicate if self-referral)

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

I Corinthians 12:4,7

JENNY WARREN ON STUDY LEAVE

Jenny will be taking a week of study leave beginning Wednesday, February 27. Part of her plans include the New Castle Presbytery Retreat, with its workshops on the New Book of Common Worship, The Parabolic Imagination of Jesus, and the latest on the Church Leadership Connection system (the computer matching system for seeking churches and pastors), and Church Unglued (a pilot program which develops practices that bring deep and sustainable change for the mission of Jesus Christ in our communities).

New Castle Presbytery's Connectional Presbytery – and our manse neighbor – Rev. Jessie MacMillan will lead the worship service on Sunday, March 3rd.

YOUR GIFT AT CHRISTMAS

Again, dear New Castle Presbyterian Church, you have responded to your annual Christmas gift in ways that no longer surprise me about you, but that touch me deeply nonetheless. Thanks to your generosity, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will receive \$1,417! The demand upon PDA has only increased this year, with continued Hurricane responses, wildfire responses, gun violence responses, and responses to needs at our southern border. It is indeed an honor to know that, thanks to you, more help is on the way! Thank you for being church in these places, and for these people, who need to know they matter!

“Weather” or not to church?

In this season when the weather may make driving risky, we want you to, above all, be safe and wise about whether or not to make the trip in to worship on a snowy or icy Sunday. Should conditions make it serious enough to cancel the worship service, we have some ways to get the word out.

We will send an "email blast" to the congregation and post it on our New Castle Presbyterian Facebook Page (please "like" us!). We'll include the scripture for the day for you to read at home.

And we participate in the WDEL(101.7 FM/1150 AM)/WSTW(93.7) SnoWatch, broadcast on radio and available online at www.wstw.com and www.wdel.com

So stay tuned and stay safe!

Meals on Wheels

HELP! We need Meals on Wheels delivery people for 2019. 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 February 18-22. 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 18

Jude Morrow
Jo Viola

Tuesday 19

Miranda Matthews
Joan Smith

Wednesday 20

Carol & Gene
Mayhew

Thursday 21

Cynthia Robbins
Nanette Nichol

Friday 22

Susan & Jim
Flook



Monthly Report

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

Membership:

December 155

Loss by death – William Wilson (1/15/19)-1

Loss by death – Jean Swanson (1/20/19)-1

January 153

Income thru 01/01/19:

2019 Budget: \$256,613.00

2019 Actual:..... \$244,014.00

Expenses thru 01/01/19:

2019 Budget: \$256,617.00

2019 Actual:..... \$250,112.00

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dot Campbell, 2/1

Nanette Nichol, 2/1

Gary Graham, 2/5

Laura Gearheart-Esham, 2/6

James Cottrell, 2/7

Beverly Denison, 2/11

Robert Spring, 2/11

Heather Raezer, 2/12

Maggie Collins, 2/18

Eileen Larkin, 2/21

Cynthia Robbins, 2/25

Zarina Stone, 2/25

Joan Smith, 2/27



Ray & Lynn Snyder, 2/7
Amy & Scott Selheimer, 2/14
Judy & Bill Hentkowski, 2/15



THANKS FOR SERVING IN FEBRUARY!

COMMUNION

February 3 – **Janet Spring***, Joan Smith, Gail & C.J. Seitz, Rachel Briggs

USHERS

February 3 – Mason & Dylan Reilly

February 10 – Jim & Susan Flook

February 17 – Ringo Keka, Mark Rappold & Salina Brett

February 24 - Amy & Scott Selheimer

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

February 3 – Ray Snyder

February 10 – Scott Selheimer

February 17 – Joan Smith & Sandy Wilson

February 24 – Bruce Raker

WORSHIP LEADERS

February 3 – Beverly Stoudt

February 10 – Joan Lioi

February 17 – Jane Fouracre

February 24 – Kim Beebe

NURSERY

February 3 – Makenzie & Andy Schulz

February 10 – Molly Shaw & Bev Stoudt

February 17 – Molly Cooney & Jane Fouracre

February 24 – Chris Fagles & Lyn Briggs

SUNDAY SCHOOL

February 3 – Chris Fagles

February 10 – Ron & Susan Studd

February 17 – Sarah McCann

February 24 – Laurie & Connie Bell

COUNTERS

February 3 – Ringo Keka & Barbara Whisman

February 10 – Jane Fouracre & Carol Mayhew

February 17 – Barbara Whisman

February 24 – Jane Fouracre & Carol Mayhew

EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Steve Martin

Cynthia Robbins

Miranda Matthews

FLOWERS - Brenda Walters

New Castle Presbyterian Church
25 E. 2nd Street
New Castle, DE 19720
Phone: (302) 328-3279
Fax: (302) 328-5670
E-Mail: office@newcastlepreschurch.org
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

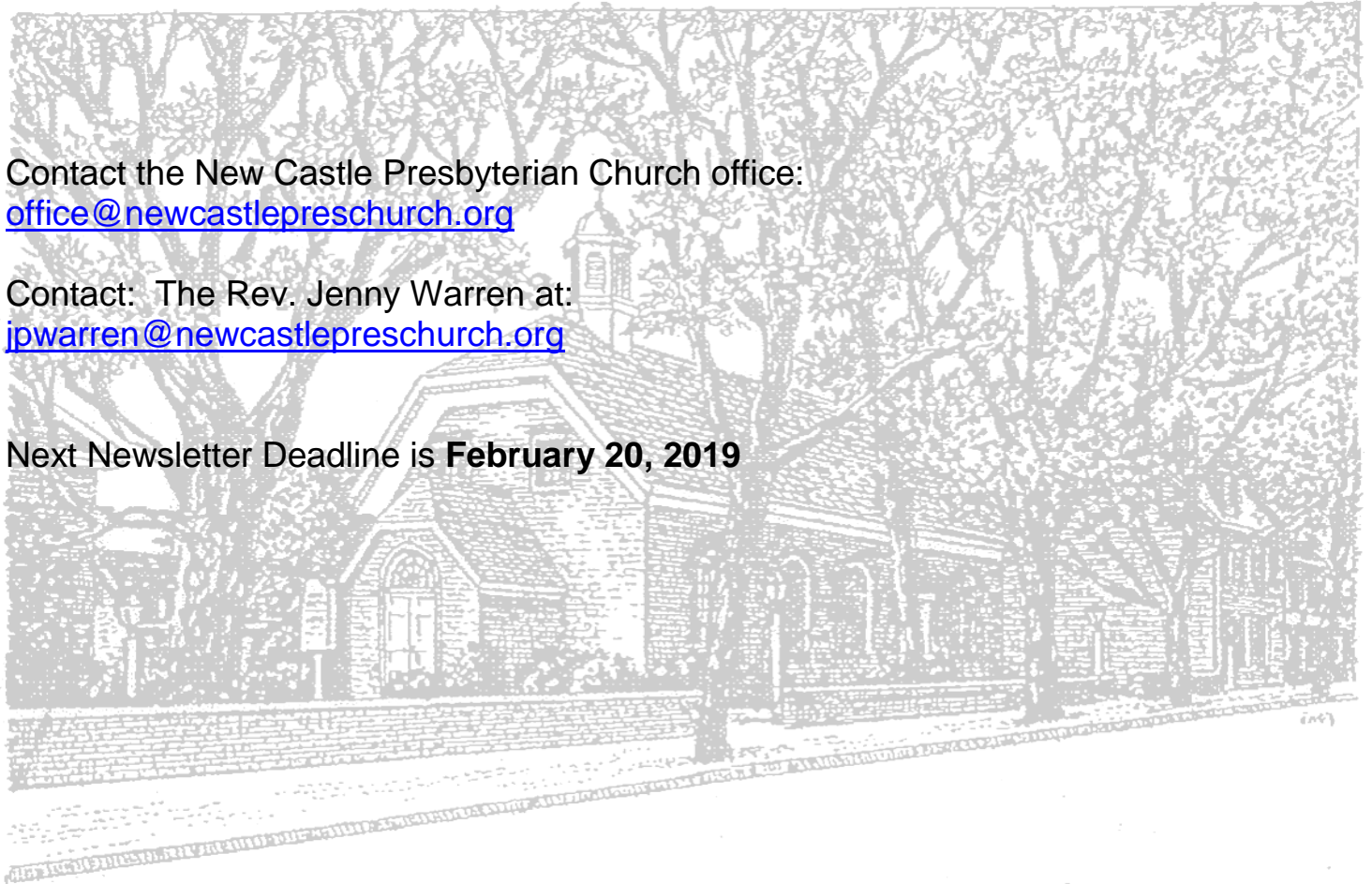


Address Change
Requested

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

Contact: The Rev. Jenny Warren at:
jpwarren@newcastlepreschurch.org

Next Newsletter Deadline is **February 20, 2019**



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