

# *New Castle Presbyterian News*

## *May 2019*

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### **In the Interim...**

Things always look better on this side of Holy Week, don't they. It feels good to get our "Alleluias" back, to move on at a more normal pace (whatever that means), and maybe to not have people keep asking "What's your Journey Word?" 😊

This year's Holy Week was bookended by two Memorial Services: Jean Swanson's on the day before Palm Sunday, and Don Reese's on the day after Easter. There was something incredibly powerful about this. Confronting the truth of death, as Jesus rode into Jerusalem and on to the cross. Proclaiming the "sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ", with Easter's "Alleluias" still echoing. It was a holy privilege.

But it was not mine to do alone. And though I am no longer surprised by the way this congregation rallies and rises to such occasions, I am certainly still grateful. I am grateful to Kris Krawczyk, who never blinked in the face of all the bulletins I kept throwing her way. I am grateful to the Deacons, who coordinated reception logistics times two. I am grateful to all who shopped and baked, set up and cleaned up, ushered, arranged flowers and made phone calls. Both occasions took a village, and I am grateful to all of you village people!

And in the midst of those times of worshipful gathering, there were others. There was Palm Sunday, with bells, children and waving palm branches processing us in to the Meeting House. There was powerful and poignant music by our choir, leaving us to face the rest of the week, our stones from the communion table in hand. There was Maundy Thursday, as we shared soup supper and the Last Supper at our tables, listened as readers led us through the events of that night, and watched as the candles went out. In the stillness of Good Friday, we were left to wonder at God's costly love on a cross for us. And Easter morning, at least some of us were up and greeting the dawn to proclaim the good news at the Sunrise Service. Then we gathered at the Meeting House, awaiting the children's return of the "Alleluia!" so we could say it, sing it, shout it!

I am not saying it wasn't a lot. But I am saying that it was a holy gift to travel this super-sized Holy Week with you. May the staying power of Easter keep you ever hopeful!

Grateful for you, and that life goes on!

*Jenny*

## **JENNY'S CONTRACT, VACATION, INCOMING PREACHERS & PASTORAL COVERAGE**

At its April 9 meeting, Session acted to renew the Interim Contract with Rev. Jenny Warren, following a review and recommendation by the Resource Development Committee, as her current contract expires at the end of May. Changes were made to some termination provisions, in light of the reality that this will be the pastor search homestretch. Presbytery's Committee on Ministers & Congregations has approved this renewal with these changes.

Jenny's renewed contract is also  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. Part of the way we acknowledge and compensate for that is by providing additional time off. Jenny will be taking the remainder of her 2<sup>nd</sup> year contract time off May 8-22, with coverage as follows:

Sunday May 12 Rev. Nona Holy/Minerva Lermond

Sunday May 19 Rev. Linda Bennett/Kim Beebe

Emergency Pastoral Care coverage will be provided by Rev. Brad Martin, and a call to the church office (328-3279), Candy Dunson, Clerk of Session (322-6882) or Jennifer Dunham, Moderator of Deacons (540-9867) will make it happen.

## **KRIS' VACATION FOR THE MONTH AND PLANNED COVERAGE**

Friday, May 10 10-12 – Conchita Showell

Monday, May 13 10-12 – Joan Appleby

Friday, May 24 10-12 – Shirley Knox

Friday, May 31 10-12 -

## **NEW CASTLE PRESBYTERY MEETING**

The next meeting of New Castle Presbytery is Tuesday May 21, 4 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Smyrna. Session has approved Monty Gerhart and Scott Selheimer as our elder commissioners to that meeting.

## **Welcoming vs. Affirming: The Invitation of Christ to “Be the Church”**

At New Castle Presbyterian Church, we all view ourselves as welcoming of all people. But is “welcoming” a passive act of accepting the presence of those who choose to join us in worship? Or is it something more – an active “welcoming” of the full person, however God has beautifully made her, him, or them? Is it something we say about ourselves to make ourselves feel better? Or do we truly wish to celebrate and affirm the presence of other people whose walks through life may not resemble our own very closely?

Many of you stepped forward in faith to discuss LGBTQIA+ issues in our February group discussions, and showed the Light of Christ in our midst, as we explored how we “wear our welcome” and affirm the existence of every human, irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identification. You were able to warmly and thoughtfully discuss prior instances of change in the church; what welcoming means; what the ever-evolving LGBTQIA+ acronym means; and the role of gay, lesbian, and transgender Christians in the life and future of our church, the denomination, and the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

As part of educating ourselves, and engaging with the broader community in an effort to not only welcome, but to affirm, one of the most common requests for further study was to have a trained theologian come in to speak with us about what the Bible REALLY says about homosexuality – not what many of us have become accustomed to hearing for years, based on poor translations of the same 5 or 6 passages from Ancient Greek. We are excited to announce that we will now have such an opportunity, as part of a “lunch and learn” after church on Sunday, May 19. The Rev. Kaci Clark-Porter, Associate Pastor of First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, will be joining us to deliver her thoughts under the title, “Queer Eye: Transforming Texts of Harm into Words of Hope for Us All.”

Please sign up to attend in the CE Building! Lunch will be served, and you need not bring anything – just your mind and the heart of a servant of Christ, ready to welcome, affirm, and learn.

If you have any questions about this exciting event, please contact any of the members of the NCPCLGBTQIA+ Task Force (Scott Matthews, Diana Reilly, Salina Brett, or Miranda Matthews).



## **NEW CASTLE FAMILY MEDICINE AT THE NEW CASTLE SENIOR CENTER**

Here is good news for our congregation and community.

Announcing the Reopening of the Family Medicine Office at the New Castle Senior Center.



After upgrading the computer system, and office equipment, Christiana Care has now reopened the medical office New Castle Senior Center to provide medical care to seniors (age 50 and over).

Initially it will be staffed on Mondays (9am -3pm) and Wednesdays (8:30am to noon). To schedule an appointment, call 302 327-7630.

## **USHERLESS SUNDAYS?!?!?**

We continue to have a hard time getting folks to do one of the easiest things – usher on Sunday mornings. A full, step-by-step list guides you through each item of set up (turning on lights, getting pastor's water, setting up microphone, lighting candles). You get the privilege of greeting people as they arrive. You count heads and receive the offering. And we need 2 people to do this each Sunday. Couldn't you? Could you maybe sign up for a regular Sunday each month?

Please don't leave us usherless!!!

## **“Who Is My Neighbor?”**

It's a good question. It's a Biblical question. And it's our theme for this summer's annual Vacation Bible School.

It takes a whole NCPC village to bring a Vacation Bible School to life, and it is time to start gearing up for VBS 2019 – held July 14-18.

This world can sure use better neighbors. Using stories from the Bible, children will learn how to be just that.

Our VBS is held in the evenings, 5:45-8:15 pm. We begin with supper together. Then we share in an opening worship time that sets the theme of the night with drama and music. We then rotate the ages groups through Bible lesson, arts & crafts, games and music before returning together for closing worship.

We need YOU to help make “Who Is My Neighbor?” happen.

If you are a VBS veteran, we need you. If you are a VBS newbie, we need you. And the needs are varied – from meal prep, to game leadership, to registration, to crafts, to class room lessons, to providing snacks & supplies, to creative decorations, to spreading the word – you name it!

Please keep an eye on the bulletin board for the sign up sheet, to see how you might lend a hand, and a heart, to make VBS happen!



*To My Church Family.*

*It is surely one of God's great blessings to be surrounded with such love and caring during illness and convalescence. Heartfelt thanks to all, for prayers, soups, cards, calls and visits these past three months, following my elective foot surgery in early February.*

*As many of you noted, slowing down and following "doctor's orders" was a challenge for me. Your messages of faith and reminders that God's spirit was with me were so helpful. Thanks to all for your encouragement and support which helped so much to sustain me, and Cork, during my recovery.*

*I found that maintaining a more sedentary habit, did help me to focus on what is important and meaningful to me. I confess, that I truly missed not being able to participate in Worship, Bible Study and Choir. It is also wonderful to be warmly welcomed back into your fold.*

*May God, our healer, the source of strength and mercy continue to bless us all.*

*Sincerely in love and peace.*

*Jo Viola*

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

For Connie Reese and family, and the New Castle Community, as we mourn the loss of Don Reese on April 2.

For Chris Fagles, recovering at home following extensive spinal surgery.

For Lynn and Dean MacEwen, as they transition to their new home at Stonegates, and for Dean, as he recovers at Stonegates Healthcare Center.

## **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Please update your church directory:

Dean & Lynn MacEwen

4031 Kennett Pike

Cottage 7

Greenville, DE 19807

Home phone (302) 543-4575



## JOIN US JUNE 9 FOR THE CHURCH PICNIC!



Our annual picnic will take place on Sunday, June 9 immediately following our 10:30a.m. worship service. Please join us for this wonderful event focused on food and fellowship!

Hamburger, veggie burgers, hot dogs, condiments and drinks will be provided. Beyond that, we ask that you please contribute a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. There will also be activities for children.

Please be sure to RSVP in the CE building so that we can get an accurate count for food.

We hope you will join us!

## GRADUATES



If you have a graduating student in your family, please contact the church office with their name, school, degree, and future plans. We would like to honor them in June.

## KITCHEN HOUSEKEEPING 101

There are a few things that have been noticed and brought to our attention.

If you are the last one to leave the kitchen be sure that the following is done:

- ✦ AC turned off
- ✦ Snacks resealed or placed in ziplock bags
- ✦ Counters wiped down
- ✦ Extra trash bags placed in bottom of cans
- ✦ Only items to go into yellow recycle bin outside are recyclables. Please do not place plastic bags/trash bags in the recycle bin.

## HOW CAN YOUR FEET MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THOSE NEEDING SHELTER?

By joining in this year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community and Team Housing, benefiting Friendship House! Even if your own feet can't do it that day, you can donate to support those of us who will. Here are the details!

What: Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

When: Saturday, June 8 (walk begins at 9 am.)

Where: Frawley Stadium (where the Blue Rocks play) at the Wilmington Riverfront

How Long: One mile walk

Steps to Donate:

1. Register: <https://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org/whc3/index.shtml>
2. Click on "Register Now"
3. Click on Friendship House Inc. at the list of organizations
5. Go to "Donate to a Participant or Team" on right side
6. Click on "Team" and enter "Team Housing"
7. Click on "Donate Now"



Steps to Register to Walk:

1. Go Back to Friendship House page
2. Click on "Register to Walk"
3. Click on "Click Here to Join an Existing Team" (enter "Team Housing")
4. Follow instructions to register

Save the date and look for the sign up sheet in May. Join us as we support the mission of Friendship House!

## MAY 5<sup>th</sup> - LUNCH & LEARN GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

What better day to learn about our new mission relationship with a community in Guatemala than on Cinco de Mayo! Mission & Outreach is sponsoring this Lunch & Learn program, with a presentation by two women from Westminster Presbyterian who co-ordinate our Presbytery's Guatemala Partnership. Please plan to stay and learn about the hard realities in this area of the world – and the hope that our connection brings! And think about becoming a Prayer Partner with one of the 12 women of the Triunfadoras (The Triumphant Women) – the group receiving our microloan. It's simple- just two people promising to pray for each other every day - no emails, letters, gifts, just prayers, crossing the continents! All it takes on May 5 is smiling for a photo!

## **MAY MARKET – MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>**

Are you looking for the perfect plant for a special corner of your garden? an herb plant for your kitchen? something unique for your home? a bargain? the perfect Mother's Day gift? You'll find all this and more at May Market on Friday and Saturday, May 3-4, 2019, on Market Square behind New Castle Town Hall, 201 Delaware Street, in historic New Castle, Delaware. Arasapha Garden Club uses all funds raised at May Market to improve the gardens of New Castle's historic Amstel and Dutch Houses.

May Market is famous for its wide selection of flowering plants and herbs—varieties you won't find in a big-box garden center. "Shop early for the best selection," stresses Linda Suskie, May Market chair. "Most items sell out." If you're new to gardening, members of Arasapha Garden Club and staff from Davey Tree will be on hand to answer your questions. Davey Tree staff will also be offering three short presentations:

"How to Prune Your Shrubs and Trees" at 5 PM Friday

"Keeping Your Plants Healthy" at 10 AM Saturday

"How to Plant Shrubs and Trees" at 1 PM Saturday

If you're looking for a bargain, explore Treasures from Our Home to Yours, an indoor yard sale. And you can pick up even more bargains from plants, garden tools and accessories donated to Miss Kitty's My Garden to Your Garden. If you're looking for something different, over a dozen arts and crafts vendors will offer items you won't find anywhere else. And take a chance on a raffle ticket for a stunning quilt or a framed photograph by renowned New Castle photographer Carlo Viola.

A stop at May Market can be the beginning of a lovely day in historic New Castle. Stop by the Visitor's Center across the street, stroll the cobblestone streets, explore the shops and museums, grab a bite at a restaurant, and take a stroll through Battery Park along the Delaware River.

If you're cleaning out your closets or garden shed or digging out overgrown plants, May Market accepts donations of household items, garden tools and accessories, and garden plants and houseplants. No clothes or bulky items, please! Drop off items on Thursday, May 2, between 3 and 7 PM at the Presbyterian Church Christian Education Building, 25 E. 2nd Street. If you'd like to volunteer at May Market, visit [www.arasapha.org/help-at-may-market](http://www.arasapha.org/help-at-may-market). It's a great way to meet people and enjoy beautiful spring weather.

May Market will be open rain or shine on Friday, May 3, from 2 to 7 PM and on Saturday, May 4, from 9 AM to 4 PM. It is sponsored by New Castle Farmer's Market, Davey Tree, The Garrison, Jessop's Tavern, and Moore Brothers Wine. Admission is free. Credit cards are accepted for purchases. For more information on May Market, visit [www.arasapha.org/may-market](http://www.arasapha.org/may-market), e-mail [arasaphagarden@gmail.com](mailto:arasaphagarden@gmail.com), like Arasapha Garden Club on Facebook, follow @Arasapha on Twitter, and check #MayMarketDE on Facebook and Twitter.

Arasapha Garden Club, founded in 1934, aims to beautify and improve New Castle's Amstel House and Dutch House gardens while preserving their historical integrity. Arasapha has recently completed a major rehabilitation of the Amstel House garden to bring it closer to the original 1930s Colonial Revival design of renowned landscape architect Charles Gillette. To learn how you can support Arasapha, visit [www.arasapha.org/how-to-help.html](http://www.arasapha.org/how-to-help.html).

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*Find unexpected plants, treasures, treats and bargains at Arasapha's May Market!*

*May 3-4, 2019*

[www.arasapha.org/may-market](http://www.arasapha.org/may-market)



**May Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Monty Gerhart, 5/1  
 Mark Rappold, 5/1  
 Kaitlyn Raker, 5/2  
 Ringo Keka, 5/2  
 Christopher Raker, 5/5  
 Rob Barry, 5/9  
 Bruce Raker, 5/14  
 Lia Esham, 5/15  
 Kay Gordon, 5/15  
 Lindy Ballance, 5/17  
 Karen Dobson, 5/18  
 Denise Van Durme, 5/19



Steve Martin, 5/20  
 Corky Viola, 5/23  
 Megan Graham, 5/23  
 Ellie Gerhart, 5/24  
 Barbara Whisman, 5/25  
 Bruce Gordon, 5/26  
 Joan Appleby, 5/27  
 Earl Reed, 5/29  
 Skylar Teller, 5/29  
 Liam Collins, 5/30  
 Dylan Reilly, 5/31

Megan Graham & Will Turnbull, 5/26  
 Dean & Lynn MacEwen, 5/29



**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 April 29-May 3. 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 29**

Jude Morrow  
 Jo Viola

**Tuesday 30**

Miranda Matthews  
 Joan Smith

**Wednesday 1**

Carol & Gene  
 Mayhew

**Thursday 2**

Cynthia Robbins  
 Nanette Nichol

**Friday 3**

Susan & Jim  
 Flook

**Monthly Report**

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



**Membership:**

March..... 154  
 Decrease by death of Donald A. Reese April 2, 2019 .....-1  
 April ..... 153

**Income thru 03/30/19:**

2019 Budget: ..... \$91,063.00  
 2019 Actual:..... \$83,838.00

**Expenses thru 03/30/19:**

2019 Budget: ..... \$74,640.00  
 2019 Actual:..... \$72,022.00

## THANKS FOR SERVING IN MAY!

### COMMUNION

May 5 – **Bruce Raker\***, Pat Taylor, Kaitlyn Raker,  
Nanette Nichol & Candy Dunson

### USHERS

May 5 – Amy & Scott Selheimer  
May 12 – Salina Brett & \_\_\_\_\_  
May 19 – Dan & Candy Dunson  
May 26 – \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

May 5 – Mission & Outreach  
May 12 – Beverly Stoudt  
May 19 – Susan Townsend & Zarina Stone  
May 26 – Steve Handy or Brenda Walters

### WORSHIP LEADERS

May 5 – Carol Mayhew  
May 12 – Minerva Lermond  
May 19 – Kim Beebe  
May 26 – Ray Snyder

### NURSERY

May 5 – Melissa Boris & Molly Shaw  
May 12 – Amanda & James Anderson  
May 19 – Makenzie & Andy Schulz  
May 26 – Lyn Briggs & Bev Stoudt

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 5 – Beverly Stoudt  
May 12 – Bev Stoudt  
May 19 – Melissa Boris  
May 26 – Bruce Raker

### COUNTERS

May 5 – Jane Fouracre & Barbara Whisman  
May 12 – Steve Handy & Brenda Walters  
May 19 – Jane Fouracre & \_\_\_\_\_  
May 26 – \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### EMMANUEL DINING ROOM

Steve Martin  
Cynthia Robbins  
Miranda Matthews

FLOWERS - Brenda Walter

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

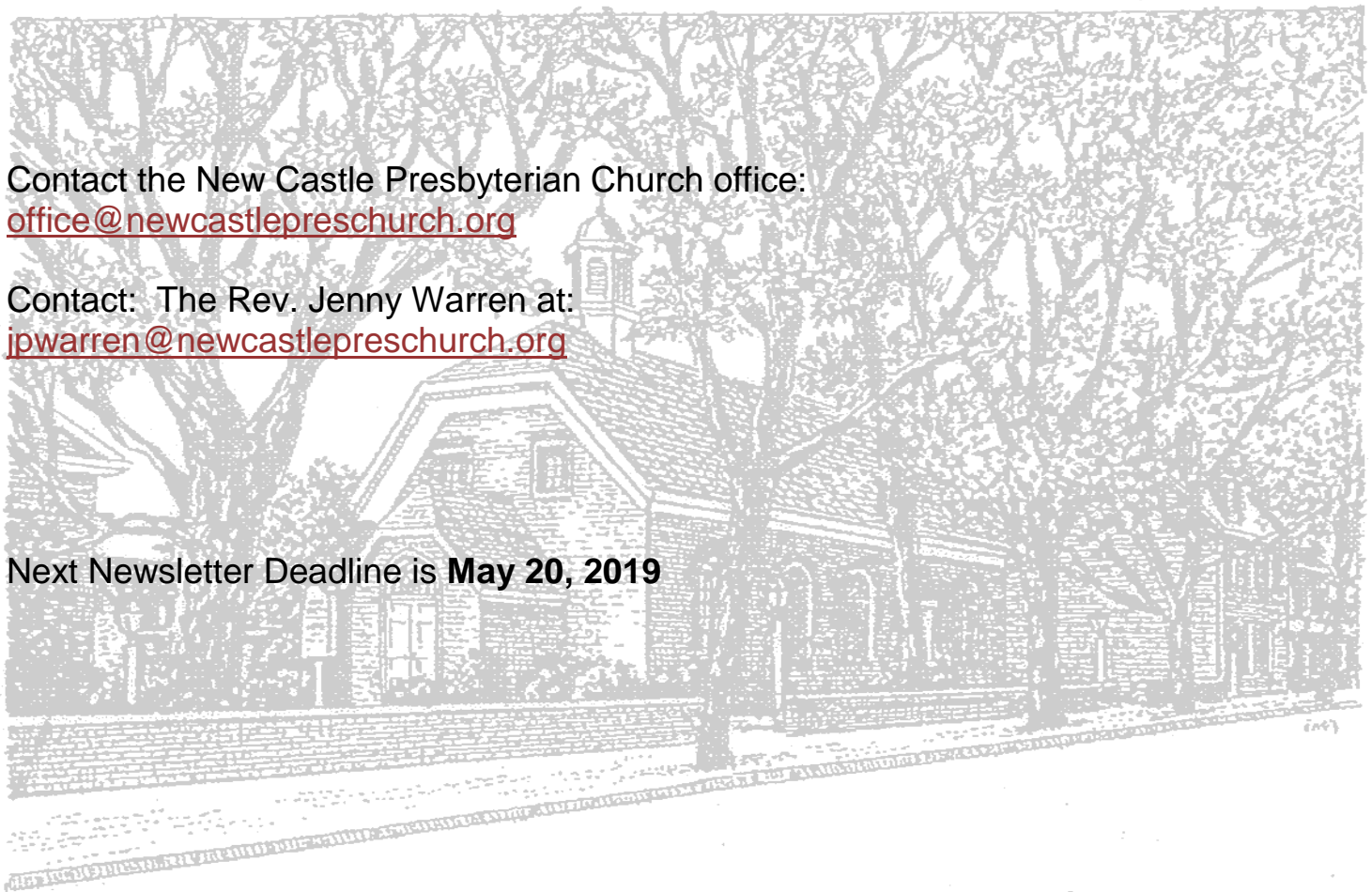


Address Change  
Requested

Contact the New Castle Presbyterian Church office:  
[office@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:office@newcastlepreschurch.org)

Contact: The Rev. Jenny Warren at:  
[jpwarren@newcastlepreschurch.org](mailto:jpwarren@newcastlepreschurch.org)

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



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