



New Life Presbyterian Church

Welcome to New Life Presbyterian Church


Dear Visitor,

Welcome! It is a joy and privilege to gather this morning to worship God together. Here at New Life, we are a small part of the worldwide, multi-ethnic, multi-generational, multi-cultural body of Christ. Although we are Presbyterian and Reformed, our identity is found not in what makes us distinct, but in what makes us united: we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not only our Maker; He is our Savior. If you have put your hope and trust in Him, we welcome you as a brother or sister. It is in Him that we have New Life!

If you are here this morning and do not know what you think about Jesus, or about the claims of the Bible, we are delighted that you have chosen to join us for the morning. We hope and trust that you will experience a warm welcome, regardless of your religious convictions. We are a community of those who have experienced the embrace of God, through Jesus Christ. It is our goal to show that love to all who are around us. Please know that I personally would welcome your thoughts and perspectives on anything you observe this morning.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all!

Joyfully,



Pastor Erik Swanson

P.S. There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.

Worshipping God

December 5, 2021

Reflection:

Just 'cause something's important doesn't mean it's not very, very small.

-Frank the Pug, Men in Black movie

The virgin birth has never been a major stumbling block in my struggle with Christianity; it's far less mind-boggling than the Power of all Creation stooping so low as to become one of us.

-Madeleine L'Engle

Man's maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witnesses, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die.

-Augustine of Hippo

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – adapted from Luke 1

Pastor Erik Swanson

Minister: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel.

***People:* He has come and redeemed his people.**

Minister: He has raised up a strong arm of salvation for us.

***People:* Through the house of his servant David, he has saved us from all our enemies.**

Minister: He has remembered his covenant with Abraham, and enabled us to serve him without fear,

***People:* To serve him in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

Minister: He has saved us through His Son, Christ the Lord.

***People:* O come let us adore Him! O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Prayer of Praise

Better Is One Day

Verse 1

How lovely is Your dwelling place,
O Lord almighty;
For my soul longs and even faints for You;
For here my heart is satisfied
Within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts
Than thousands elsewhere.
(Than thousands elsewhere.)

Verse 2

One thing I ask and I would seek:
To see Your beauty,
To find You in the place
Your glory dwells.
(REPEAT)

Bridge

My heart and flesh cry out
For You the living God;
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen;
Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You.
I will draw near to You, to You.

Bridge

Better is one day, better is one day,
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere.
Better is one day, better is one day,
Better is one day than thousands elsewhere.

Jesus, Messiah

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness.
He humbled Himself and carried the cross-
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Chorus

Jesus, Messiah, Name above all names,
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel,
The Rescue for sinners,
The Ransom from heaven,
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

Verse 2

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn-
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Bridge

All our hope is in You.
All our hope is in You.
All the glory to You, God,
The Light of the world.

Ending

Jesus, Messiah,
Lord of all,
The Lord of all,
The Lord of all.

Reader: This second Sunday of Advent we light a candle symbolizing **faith**, as we read, pray, and express **faith** in God's plan, which was foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Christ. We also meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

Two Candles Lit

Reader: "You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm, See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." – Isaiah 40:9-11

All: Father, prepare our hearts to celebrate joyfully your Son's birth! We put our faith in your promise. We thank you for faithfully doing what you promised long ago when you sent your Son to earth so that we might have the chance to become part of your family. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with purpose. As we wait for your plan to unfold, give us the patience we need. We trust your word. Remind us of the peace we can access when we take time to still ourselves before you and remember that you are God. We thank you that you are both sovereign and gracious. Help us to find rest in the midst of what feels like chaos in our world. You are good, and you have shown yourself to be faithful. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

for with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to
 from the realms of end - less day, that the pow'rs of
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

Offering Our Gifts

The offering allows friends and members of our church to express their faith in God's Word, and to support the extension of that Word in our community and in the world.

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Scripture Reading – *Isaiah 7:1-17*

In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. ² When the house of David was told, “Syria is in league with Ephraim,” the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

³ And the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. ⁴ And say to him, ‘Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, ⁶ “Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,” ⁷ thus says the Lord God:

“It shall not stand,
and it shall not come to pass.

⁸ For the head of Syria is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

And within sixty-five years
Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.

⁹ And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you are not firm in faith,
you will not be firm at all.”

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

Sermon Notes

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

New Life Church invites all baptized Christians who are members of Christ's church to join us in this feast of bread and wine. The inner circle of cups contains red wine and the outer circle of cups contains white grape juice. If you are unable to consume wheat, gluten-free crackers are available. If you wish to participate in the Lord's Supper but mobility is limited, kindly let Pastor Erik or one of the elders know. They are happy to serve you in the pew.

Prayer

Words of Institution – *from 1 Corinthians 11*

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

All: **Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.**

Communing Together

Allowing space for other family units, please come up front to take communion. After you have been served the bread and wine, please partake and dispose of the communion cup prior to returning to your seat. Use the extra time during communion as a time for prayer and reflection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to
 2. Born Thy peo - ple to ___ de - liv - er, born a

6 F F/A Gm/B \flat Dm C F C F Gm/F C 7 /E F



set Thy peo - ple free; From our fears ___ and sins ___ re -
 child and yet ___ a King; Born to reign ___ in us ___ for -

12 C Dm C F/A C 7 /G F F/A Gm/B \flat Dm C F Am



-lease _ us, let us find our rest ___ in Thee. Is - rael's
 -ev - er, now Thy gra - cious King - dom bring. By Thine

18 Dm 7 Dm Gm 7 Gm C 7 Dm 7 C 7 /E F F/E Dm F/A Gm B \flat maj 7



strength _ and con - so - la - tion, hope of all ___ the earth ___ Thou
 own ___ e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all ___ our hearts _ a -

24 C^{sus} C F/A Dm 7 /F Gm/F C 7 /E F F/E Dm 6



art; _____ Dear ___ de - sire ___ of ev' - ry
 -lone; _____ By _____ Thine all - suf - fi - cient

28 C B \flat /D C 7 /E F F 7 /A B \flat F/A B \flat F/C C 7 F



na _____ tion, joy of ev' - ry long - ing heart.
 mer - it, raise us to ___ Thy glo - rious throne.

Benediction – Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

The Sending:

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*All songs are either public domain or licensed under CCLI #2410623.

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 12/5	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages	Classrooms + Fishbowl Rooms
Sun 12/5	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun 12/5	6:00 PM	Community Group	New Life
Tu 12/7	7:00 PM	Bible Study Fellowship	New Life and/or Zoom
W 12/8	8:00 AM	Men’s Group	Fishbowl Room
W 12/8	9:00 AM	Moms’ Group	Fellowship Hall
W 12/8	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Study	TV Room
W 12/8	9:00 AM	Prayer Group	Library
W 12/8	7:00 PM	Music team rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat 12/11	9:00 AM	Kids’ Christmas Party	New Life
Sun 12/12	9:00 AM	Sunday School for all ages	Classrooms + Fishbowl Rooms
Sun 12/12	10:00 AM	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun 12/12	11:45 AM	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun 12/12	12:00 PM	Second Sunday Lunch	New Life

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date Offering	\$195,692.16	\$192,909.15
Week of 11/28	\$4,076.92	\$2,384.00

Announcements

- **Congregational Meeting:** Please attend the congregational meeting for today at 11:45am. The only item on the agenda is for the congregation to discuss and then vote on Willard Pope as an elder candidate. Only members may join the discussion and voting; regular attenders and visitors are more than welcome to be present!
- **Advent at New Life:**

Advent Reading Guides: Individuals and families are invited to stop at the information table to pick up guides for advent readings.

Parents' Day Out and Kids' Christmas Party: On Sat. 12/11 from 9:00am-2:00pm, parents from New Life and the surrounding community can drop the kids off at New Life. While the parents have an opportunity for Christmas preparations, the kids will have a Christmas party. There will be games, crafts, snack and lunch, Christmas carols, and teaching on the real meaning of Christmas. Pre-registration is requested, although it will be possible to register at the door. Please prayerfully consider whom you can invite.

Open House Christmas Party at the Swansons': NLPC is invited to stop in at the Swansons' (55 Blueberry Lane, Red Lion) from 3pm-8pm on Sat. 12/18. There will be a white elephant gift exchange at 4:30, and we will sing Christmas carols at 7:00.

Christmas Eve Service: A "Lessons and Carols" service will be held on Christmas eve at 7pm.
- **Christianity Explored Dinner and Discussion:** Advent and Christmas focus on the good news: Jesus came to seek and save! Please prayerfully consider whom you can invite to join you in a bible study of Mark called "Christianity Explored". This outreach-focused study will explore the fundamentals of Christianity: Jesus' identity, mission, and call. This study is geared for the person willing to consider the claims of Christianity. If interested, contact Pastor Erik and please consider joining a planning meeting on Sun. 12/19 at 11:45. The hope is to have enough interest to offer this class starting some time mid-Jan. The class will meet for dinner and discussion. A host family who is willing to provide dinner for 8 weeks is needed.
- **Short Term Missions Opportunities in 2022:** Interested in the possibility of a short-term missions trip? Join the conversation on Sun. 1/9 at 11:45. Meet in one of the fishbowl rooms.
- **Men's Book Discussion:** The early winter activity for the men of the church is reading and discussing "Live Not by Lies," by Rod Dreher. We will discuss part two on Sun. 1/23 at 7:30pm.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Sunday School Class is offered for all ages at 9am.

Women's Bible Study: Contact Marlene Spark (717-428-3827) for details.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Anyone interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text is welcome to join us at 9am here at New Life.

Moms' Group: Meets at the church from 9:00-11:00am on Wednesdays and is studying the book of *James*. The children are welcome in the nursery/preschool class, the elementary school class, or study hall.

Men's Group: Meets at New Life every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 8:00-9:00am. Currently we are discussing *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Contact Rob Rothermel at rrothe01@gmail.com for details.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: Join us in prayer at New Life on alternate Wednesdays, beginning at 9:00 AM. Contact Sue Rothermel at rothermelfam@gmail.com.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Meets Tuesdays at 7pm at New Life and studies the book of Matthew via Zoom. Contact Joe Heidler at jvheidler@comcast.net with questions.

Discipleship Groups: Same-gender groups meet to encourage each other to follow Jesus as we walk with each other. Please contact Pastor Erik to join a group.

Community Group is designed to be a microcosm of the church. It is an intergenerational gathering of men, women, and children. Whatever age or stage of life you find yourself in, you are welcome. Currently our one group meets at the Swanson's home (usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 6:00-7:30pm) to enjoy food, fellowship, a discussion of the Scriptures, and prayer.

New Life Presbyterian Church Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Vision: *To see York and beyond embrace God's beauty and extend God's love.*

Mission: *To receive the grace of God, to give the glory to God, and to follow the Word of God.*

Core Values:

- **His Voice:** While God speaks through creation, God speaks directly in the Word of God. Therefore, we receive and obey God's Word.
- **His Plan:** Because God is love, God is on a mission to save. We seek to follow Him in His mission.
- **His Grace:** The good news for sinners is that Jesus saves by grace. Through faith, we believe in Christ and grow in Christ.
- **His Power:** Only God has power to save and sustain His people. We depend on the Holy Spirit.
- **His People:** In Christ, the church is made one. In the midst of both unity and diversity, we must love one another.
- **His Gifts:** Creation, redemption, and the ability to serve are all gifts from God. The entire church should be equipped and empowered to serve gratefully.
- **His Timing:** All things are in God's hands. Therefore, we trust in His ways.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.newlifeyorkpca.com/about-us.html>

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