



NEW LIFE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

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

January 29, 2023

Reflection:

*When all I see is the battle/ You see my victory
When all I see is the mountain/ You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow/ Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now/ For I am safe with You - Phil Wickham*

The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. - Moses

*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of
the living God? - David*

The battle is the LORD's. - David

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – from Psalm 118

Wayne Blanding

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good and his love endures forever.

All: Let those who fear the LORD say “His love endures forever.”

Leader: The LORD is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation.

**All: I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my
salvation.**

Leader: The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us.

**All: You are our God, and we will give you thanks: you are our God, and we
will exalt you.**

Prayer of Praise

To God Be the Glory



1. To God be the glo - ry - great things He has done! So loved He the
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood - to ev - 'ry be -
 3. Great things He has taught us; Great things He has done, and great our re -

6 G A D D⁷ G D⁷ G G/B D



world that He gave us His Son, who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for
 - liev - er, the prom - ise of God. The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be -
 - joic - ing through Je - sus, the Son. But pur - er and high - er and great - er will

CHORUS

12 G G⁷ C G/D D⁷ G G



sin and o - pened the life gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord! Praise the
 - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

18 G/B D/A G D D/C G/B D/A



Lord! Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re -

24 G D⁷ G G/B D



- joice! O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus, the



Son, and give Him the glo - ry - great things He has done!

Battle Belongs

Verse 1

When all I see is the battle
You see my victory
When all I see is a mountain
You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow
Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now
For I am safe with You

Chorus

So when I fight I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
O God the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
O God the battle belongs to You

Verse 2

And if You are for me
Who can be against me
For Jesus there's nothing
Impossible for You
When all I see are the ashes
You see the beauty
When all I see is a cross
God You see the empty tomb

Bridge

(An) Almighty Fortress You go before us
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God
You shine in the shadows
You win every battle
Nothing can stand against
The power of our God

Tag

O God the battle belongs to You

"Battle Belongs" words and music by Brian Johnson and Phil
Wickham

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Affirmation of Faith – *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

*that is, universal

Scripture Reading – *Revelation 19:1-16*

Connie Kay

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Our Father,

You tell us repeatedly in your Word that the battle belongs to you. Our salvation was accomplished by your son. Our hope for daily strength comes from your Spirit. You are our hope, our righteousness, our refuge, and our rock. We praise you and thank you. We confess, Father, that our hearts are prone to wander. We often turn away from a posture of trusting you. We look at the challenges we face, and we feel overwhelmed. At times, we fail to rely on your promises and your grace. Sometimes that failure to trust leads to actions that dishonor you and wound ourselves and others. Forgive us, we ask, for our hope is in Christ alone. Help us, this week, to trustingly obey you in all things. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness – *Colossians 1:13*

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
 3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight; be thou my
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise, thou mine in -
 5. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won, may I reach

else to me, save that thou art— thou my best thought by
 with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my great Fa - ther,
 • dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light, thou my soul's shel - ter,
 her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly,
 heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -

day or by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 I thy true son; thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 • thou my high tow'r: raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 first in my heart, High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Prayers of the People

Membership Vows – *Seth Champlin*

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.

Doxology:

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here, below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Scripture – *1 Samuel 17:19-58*

¹⁹ Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. ²⁰ And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry. ²¹ And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. ²² And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers. ²³ As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

²⁴ All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. ²⁵ And the men of Israel said, “Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel.” ²⁶ And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” ²⁷ And the people answered him in the same way, “So shall it be done to the man who kills him.”

²⁸ Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, “Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.” ²⁹ And David said, “What have I done now? Was it not but a

word?" ³⁰ And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.

³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him. ³² And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." ³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." ³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, ³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. ³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." ³⁷ And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

³⁸ Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, ³⁹ and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off. ⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. ⁴² And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³ And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." ⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, ⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

⁴⁸ When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹ And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹ Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled. ⁵² And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron. ⁵³ And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp. ⁵⁴ And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

⁵⁵ As soon as Saul saw David go out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, “Abner, whose son is this youth?” And Abner said, “As your soul lives, O king, I do not know.” ⁵⁶ And the king said, “Inquire whose son the boy is.” ⁵⁷ And as soon as David returned from the striking down of the Philistine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand. ⁵⁸ And Saul said to him, “Whose son are you, young man?” And David answered, “I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite.”

Sermon: The Battle Belongs to the LORD

Pastor Erik Swanson

Series: 1 Samuel: A King After God’s Own Heart

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.

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

The elders and deacons will serve you in your seats. Please hold the elements so that we can partake together after all have been served. Use the extra time during communion for prayer and reflection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O Church Arise

Verse 1

O church arise and put your armour on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak can say that they are
strong

In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is Love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Verse 2

Our call to war to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword that makes the
wounded whole

We will fight with faith and valour
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which
He died
An inheritance of nations

Verse 3

Come see the cross where love and
mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His
feet

For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him

Verse 4

So Spirit come put strength in every
stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the
prize

Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the
day
When with Christ we stand in glory

"O Church Arise" words and music by Keith Getty, Stuart
Townend

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Benediction – 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The Sending:

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

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This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 1/29	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 1/29	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Tues. 1/31	7:00 pm	Bible Study Fellowship	Classroom 1
W. 2/1	9:00 am	Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 2/1	9:00 am	Moms' Group	Classroom 2
W. 2/1	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat. 2/4	3:00 pm	Young Adults Gathering	Waldrop home
Sun. 2/5	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/5	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2023	\$20,384.60	\$19,458.94
Week of 1/22/23	\$5,096.15	\$4,028.00
Building-Improvement Fund	\$27,000	\$20,418.57

Announcements

- **Young Adult Events:**
 - **Sat. Feb. 4 at 3 pm:** Soap-making and game-playing at the Waldrops.
 - **Sat. Feb. 25 from 3:45-9:00 pm:** Meet at the church for a trip to Middle Creek WMA to observe migrating geese. Bring \$ for a late dinner in Lititz.
- **Church-Wide Game Night:** At 5:30 pm on Fri. Feb. 10, meet in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of games, food, and fellowship. Bring your favorite board games and money to help offset the cost of the pizza. Grapes, carrots, dessert, and beverages will be provided.
- **Good News Jail & Prison Ministry** is seeking study Bibles. If you can help, please drop off new or used study Bibles at the church office before Sun. Feb. 12.
- **Souper Bowl Luncheon:** In lieu of Second Sunday Lunch, please join us for a Souper Bowl Luncheon on Feb. 12. Each family should bring one pound of sandwich meat. We are also asking 10 people to donate a crock pot of soup; please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby. Rolls, cheese, crackers, beverages, and condiments will be provided.
- **Breakaway Youth Retreat:** Please pray for the 13 students and 4 adults who will be attending the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery youth retreat on the weekend of Feb. 17-19.
- **Women's Book Club:** There is still time to read Philip Yancey's *Where the Light Fell* before our discussion date! We will meet at Connie Kay's home for a potluck dinner on Sun. March 5 at 6 pm.
- **Women's Bible Study:** Beginning March 16, women are invited to participate in the spring bible study, using a companion text, *The Son of David: Seeing Jesus in the Historical Books*, by Nancy Guthrie. Order your books with Marlene Spark by Feb. 15 to get a reduced price of \$11.40. Choose a Thursday morning study in-person from 9:30-11:00 am, or a Thursday evening study via Zoom, from 7:00-8:30 pm. To sign up, contact Marlene Spark.
- **VBS Save the Date:** New Life will host Vacation Bible School weekday mornings the week of July 24. Please mark your calendars. More details TBA.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Youth and adult Sunday School are offered during the 9:00 hour.

Women's Bible Study: A 10-week study begins Thurs. March 16. Join in-person at the church from 9:30-11:00 am, or via Zoom from 7:00-8:30 pm. We are using the book *The Son of David: Seeing Jesus in the Historical Books* by Nancy Guthrie. For details, please contact Marlene Spark.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text? Join us at New Life in the TV Room at 9:00 am.

Moms' Group: Regardless of the children's ages, all moms are welcome to come together for support and to study Ephesians on Wednesday mornings from 9-11 at church. Three classes for the children run concurrently. Please contact Joy Swanson for more details.

Men's Group: Meets at Cracker Barrel every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7:00 am. We are discussing *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Contact Rob Rothermel 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 9:15 am. Contact Sue Rothermel.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): We are studying "People of the Promise: Kingdom Divided." Contact Joe Heidler 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.

Susquehanna Valley Presbytery Growth Report to SVP Congregations

At the end of 2018, which was soon after the closure of 2 failed church planting efforts, SVP adopted a “7-Year Church Planting Plan.” The goal set in the Plan was to have 25 churches by the end of 2025. At that time there were 20 congregations in the presbytery. A 25% increase in 7 years is quite a challenge.

Four years into the Plan we have seen the addition of 3 churches added by 3 different means.

- Lebanon Valley Presbyterian Church was a “scratch plant” under the leadership of Francisco (Cisco) Victa and 4 elders appointed by Presbytery. They began worship services in the face of the Covid pandemic.
- Christ Reformed Church is a “transfer church” that came out of the UCC denomination. It is a small congregation in Huntingdon County led by Pastor Angelo Valle and under the guidance of elders from our church in State College.
- Bellefonte Presbyterian Church is a “daughter church” of Oakwood PCA in State College and being led by Owen Hughes the Associate Pastor at Oakwood. Oakwood bought a disused Presbyterian (USA) building for this plant.

Pray with us for:

- The leaders of the 3 current “Mission Churches.”
- The financial resources necessary to carry these churches to maturity.
- That the Presbytery may be guided to churches that may be struggling and wish to transfer into SVP.
- That the right man and the money may become available to do another plant from scratch.
- That other churches in the Presbytery may be able to plant daughter churches.

By the grace of God our goal is within reach. That means the 3 present Mission Church must continue to grow and 2 more churches need to be added to the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery.

If you would like to see a copy of the
“7-Year Church Planting Plan,”
email David Cross