



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

February 12, 2023

Reflection:

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.
I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
He will send from heaven and save me;
he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah
God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!
- Psalm 57:1-3*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – Psalm 57:7-11

Will Pope

Minister: My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast!
I will sing and make melody!
Awake, my glory!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn!
I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Prayer of Praise

Blessed Be Your Name

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Bridge

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

"Blessed Be Your Name" words and music by Beth Redman,
Matt Redman
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Desert Song

Verse 1

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

Verse 2

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth
than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall
remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 3

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

Bridge

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship
(REPEAT)

Verse 4

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favour and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

"Desert Song" words and music by Brooke Ligertwood
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Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1

Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Scripture Reading – Psalm 142

Sue Ann Randall

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, You have called us by your name and you have placed your love on us. We have sinned against you. We have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, and mind. We have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves. Lord, forgive, we pray, for Jesus's sake. By the power of your Spirit, enable us to follow you this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Psalm 37:39-40

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

The LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Missions Ministry Moment

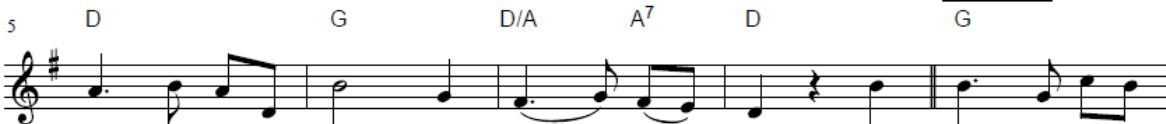
Marlene Spark

I Need Thee Every Hour



1. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, most gra - cious _ Lord; No
 2. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, stay Thou ___ near _ by; Temp -
 3. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, in joy ___ or ___ pain; Come
 4. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, most Ho - ly ___ One; O

CHORUS



ten - der voice like Thine can peace ___ af - ford. I need Thee, O I
 -ta - tions lose their pow'r when Thou ___ art ___ nigh.
 quick - ly and a - bide or life ___ is ___ vain.
 make me Thine in - deed, Thou bless - ed ___ Son!



need Thee; Ev - 'ry hour I need Thee; O



bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come ___ to Thee!

Prayers of the People

Mercy Ministry Moment – Baby Bottle Boomerang

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 24

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, “Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.” ² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. ³ And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. ⁴ And the men of David said to him, “Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.’” Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁵ And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. ⁶ He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed.” ⁷ So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

⁸ Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. ⁹ And David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men who say, ‘Behold, David seeks your harm’? ¹⁰ Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, ‘I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.’ ¹¹ See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. ¹² May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. ¹³ As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes wickedness.’ But my hand shall not be against you. ¹⁴ After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! ¹⁵ May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand.”

¹⁶ As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. ¹⁷ He said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. ¹⁸ And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. ¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. ²⁰ And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. ²¹ Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house.” ²² And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

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

Cornerstone

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name
(REPEAT)

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm He is Lord
Lord of all

Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Verse 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

"Cornerstone" words and music by Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Willam Batchelder Bradbury
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Benediction – Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

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. 2/12	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/12	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/12	11:30 am	Souper Bowl Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 2/12	12:00 pm	Chile Information Meeting	Aquarium
Sun. 2/12	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home
Tues. 2/14	7:00 pm	Bible Study Fellowship	Classroom 1
W. 2/15	9:00 am	Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 2/15	9:00 am	Moms' Group	Classroom 2
W. 2/15	7:00 pm	Chile Information Meeting	Zoom
W. 2/15	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
F. 2/17- Sun. 2/19		Breakaway Youth Retreat	
Sun. 2/19	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/19	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2023	\$30,579.90	\$32,192.57
Week of 2/5/23	\$5,096.15	\$8,720.19
Building-Improvement Fund	\$27,000	\$20,818.57

Announcements

- **Good News Jail & Prison Ministry** is seeking study Bibles. If you can help, today is the last day to drop off new or used study Bibles at the church office.
- **Souper Bowl Luncheon:** In lieu of Second Sunday Lunch, please join us for a Souper Bowl Luncheon TODAY.
- **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.
- **Young Adult Event: Sat. Feb. 25 @ 3 pm:** Soap-making and game-playing at the Waldrops.
- **ESV Scripture Journal: Romans:** Starting on Easter, the preaching series will be on the book of Romans. Divided into two parts, with a break in-between, the series will include approximately 50 sermons. For a convenient record of sermon notes, consider purchasing your own "Scripture Journal" of Romans. Christianbook's description is this: "ESV Scripture Journals pair the text of individual books of the New Testament with lightly lined blank pages opposite each page of biblical text. This allows readers to take extended notes or record insights and prayers directly beside corresponding passages of Scripture." Contact the church office by Wed. March 1 to have your name added to a group order of Romans Scripture Journals. The cost is \$4 per Journal.
- **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.
- **New Adult Ed. Classes:** On **March 5**, there will be a single class instructing parents on how to teach sermon note-taking to their children, including picture notes and outlining. The class content is appropriate for parents of children from birth through the end of elementary school. On **March 12**, a 10-week class entitled "Habits of Grace" will look at how the disciplines of grace (bible study, prayer, etc.) help us grow in our faith.

(continued on next page)

- **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 THIS WEDNESDAY 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.
- **SILVERS: Save the Date: March 18 at 1:30 pm:** Join the SILVERS for lunch at the Lion’s Pride. More details and sign-up sheet will be coming.
- **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.
- **4th Annual New Life Camping Trip:** Mark your calendars for Sept. 7-10 for a community-wide weekend of camping and fellowship. Make a camping reservation ASAP at Codorus State Park (Tents: sites 83-86, 140-143. RV’s: sites 87-93). Non-campers, join in the potluck dinner on Saturday evening. All are invited to worship Sunday morning at 8:15 at site 139.
- **International Short-Term Mission Opportunity:** New Life may be partnering this year with a missionary in Chile. The ministry opportunity is for a New Life team of 8-12 to run a Pastors’ Conference. Pastors in Chile face burnout from overwork and isolation. Teams from the States help provide the gospel teaching and the personal margin for the pastors and their families to be refreshed for ministry. Previous retreats have ministered to around 60 people: pastors, wives, and children. The New Life team would need a variety of gifts in order to teach, lead small groups, lead worship, lead children’s/youth ministry, and cook/serve meals. The trip is for adults and minors (with previous mission trip experience) aged 16+. Trip dates would be Nov 7-14th. Informational meetings will be held Sundays, Feb 12th and 26th, at 12:00 in the “aquarium” classroom and on Wednesday, Feb 15th, at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The hope is to make a decision/have a committed team by March 1st. Please be in prayer for God’s guidance.

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