



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.

Worshiping God

January 7, 2024

Reflection

It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
- Proverbs 25:2

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 47

Wayne Blanding

*Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
² For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.
³ He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
⁴ He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
⁷ For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!
⁸ God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
⁹ The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted!*

Prayer of Praise

Come, Christians, Join to Sing



1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

5 G C G C D⁵ G G



Loud praise to Christ, our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Let all, with
 Let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! He is our
 Life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! On heav - en's

10 C/E D/F# G Am D



heart and voice, be - fore His throne re - joice;
 Guide and Friend; To us He'll con - de - scend;
 bliss - ful shore His good - ness we'll a - dore;

13 G C D G C D⁵ G



Praise is His gra - cious choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 His love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Sing - ing for - ev - er - more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

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

"Better Is One Day" words and music by Matt Redman

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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 – *Deuteronomy 29:29*

Sue Ann Randall

Stories of New Life

Mark Deckard

Prayer of Confession

Good and gracious Father, we have heard the way of kingdom living, and we confess we fall short. You see our sin and stumbling, our rebellion and neglect of your law. Jesus, Lord of Mercy, you paid the penalty of our sins upon the cross. Forgive us, we pray, for so quickly and persistently taking them up again. As our sin was nailed to the cross with you, so may we live for you now. As we turn from our iniquity and mortify our lusts, take away our love of sinning, even as you have taken away our guilt for sinning. Holy Spirit, cleanse us, restore us, and give us a passion for works of new obedience to your Word. With full confidence in the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – *1 John 1:9*

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Capo 3: F(D) C(A) F(D) Bb(G)

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2. When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3. His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4. When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

C(A) F(D) C(A) F(D)

righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found; dressed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Bb(G) C(A) F(D) REFRAIN Bb(G)

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

F(D) C(A) F(D) Bb(G) F(D) C⁷(A⁷) F(D) 7

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

Membership Vows

Jan and Sheila Dunnick, Ed and Carol Feeney, Bontivea Myles

Offering

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 – Ecclesiastes 1

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

³ What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?

⁴ A generation goes, and a generation
comes,
but the earth remains forever.

⁵ The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.

⁶ The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
around and around goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.

⁷ All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they flow again.

⁸ All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
nor the ear filled with hearing.

⁹ What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be
done,
and there is nothing new under the
sun.

¹⁰ Is there a thing of which it is said,
"See, this is new"?

It has been already
in the ages before us.

¹¹ There is no remembrance of former
things,
nor will there be any remembrance
of later things yet to be
among those who come after.

¹²I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

¹⁵What is crooked cannot be made straight,
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind.

¹⁸For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

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

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Verse 1

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

Chorus

O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death

Verse 2

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Verse 3

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore

"Christ Our Hope in Life and Death" words and music by Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker
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Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Sending

Minister: 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. 1/7	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 1/7	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 1/7	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Kay & Loht Homes
W. 1/10	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
W. 1/10	9:00 am	Mom's +	Classroom 2
W. 1/10	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 1/10	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 1/11	11:15 am	Prayer Meeting	Resource Room
Sat. 1/13	2:00 pm	Women's Event: Painting Class	Aquarium
Sun. 1/14	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 1/14	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 1/14	11:30 am	Second Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 1/14	11:45 am	LEAP Meeting	Classroom 2
Sun. 1/14	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2023	\$270,095.95	\$344,933.14
Week of 12/31/23	\$5,096.15	\$5,680.17

Announcements

- **Refreshments:** The volunteer sign-up for 2024's first quarter has been posted in the lobby. Thank you to all our volunteers! You'll notice there is a need for refreshment providers. Remember, please keep it simple!
- **New Life Communications:** Make sure you are receiving all the communication from New Life! We periodically send out congregational emails with dedicated information that does not show up in the bulletin announcements. In addition, we put out a weekly e-newsletter (New Life News) which sometimes includes information about the community at large. Thirdly, we have a private Facebook group where you can view pictures of events, etc. If you would like to be added to any of these three mediums, please contact the office via kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com.
- **Women's Event: Painting Class:** Paint a snowman/snowwoman in this beginner level project led by Donna Ryan on **Sat. Jan. 13** at 2pm at the church. The cost is \$5. Limit: 20 people.
- **Keystone Family Alliance** aims to bridge the gap between the desperate needs in the child welfare system and Pennsylvania churches. By engineering wraparound church Care Communities, Keystone Family Alliance provides tangible support, prayer, resources, and aid, resulting in foster families who are involved longer and stronger. There will be a meeting on **Thurs. Jan. 18** at 7pm at New Life to learn more about the possibility of New Life church journeying alongside a foster family as a Care Community. Nayer Abror will be taking those interested through the Care Community Volunteer Orientation (CCVO). Going through the CCVO doesn't commit you to being on a Care Community, but it will prepare everyone who attends to be able to join one without additional training. If you are interested in learning more about Keystone Alliance and serving in a Care Community, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the lobby. There is also a column to indicate if you are able to attend the Jan. 18 meeting. See any member of the Mercy team with questions. Keystone Family Alliance website: <https://www.keyfam.org/>
- **S.I.L.V.E.R.S. Movie Night:** Ages 56+ are invited to a movie night on **Sat. Jan. 20** at 6pm in Classroom 1 at the church. We will be watching *Fireproof*. Bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided.

- **Congregational Meeting on January 21:** Please mark your calendars for **Sun. Jan. 21** for a congregational meeting at 11:30am. The agenda will include: 1. Giving thanks for the highlights of 2023; 2. Discussion of ministry plans for 2024, including the plan for searching for/hiring a second pastor by mid-year; 3. A presentation of the 2024 budget, which also will include a congregational vote on the proposed cost living increase for the pastor's salary. Regular attenders are encouraged to attend; for any matters that require voting only members may vote.
- **Souper Bowl Sunday:** In celebration of the Super Bowl, February's Second Sunday Lunch will consist of soup and sandwiches. See the sign-up sheet in the lobby.
- **Women's Book Club:** This winter we will be reading *All My Knotted-Up Life* by Beth Moore. Read at your own pace, then join us for a dinner and discussion on **Sun. Feb. 25**. Exact time and place to be determined. Contact Connie Kay with any questions.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Sunday School for all ages is offered during the 9:00 hour.

Women's Bible Study: We will resume again in the spring. Please contact Marlene Spark with questions.

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+: This is a group of women dedicated to living life together. Children are welcome to attend concurrent classes. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Joy Swanson.

Men's Group: Meets at New Life every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 am. **For planning purposes, please call ahead to Rob Rothermel each week that you plan to attend.**

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: We have two opportunities: The evening group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Contact Sherry Rishel. The daytime group meets every Thursday (except the Thursday that follows the Wednesday evening prayer group) at 11:15am. Contact Sue Rothermel.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): 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.

Community Groups: Designed to be a microcosm of the church, this is an intergenerational home-gathering for fellowship, food, bible study, (singing), and prayer. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 6-7:30pm. See Pastor Erik if you would like to join a group.