



**NEW LIFE**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love**

February 23, 2025

# 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.

*Please be aware that we livestream our services.*

# Worshiping God

February 23, 2025

## Reflection:

Christianity is, “a religion which seemed at first so feeble, and helpless, and powerless, that it could not live. Its first founder was One who was poor in this world, and ended His life by dying the death of a malefactor on the cross. – Its first adherents were a little company, whose number probably did not exceed a thousand when the Lord Jesus left the world. – Its first preachers were a few fishermen and publicans, who were, most of them, unlearned and ignorant men. – Its first doctrine was eminently calculated to call forth the enmity of the natural heart. Christ crucified was to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness. – Its first movements brought down on its friends persecutions from all quarters... If ever there was a religion which was a little grain of seed at its beginning, that religion was the Gospel.” – J.C. Ryle

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Prelude

### Call to Worship – from Psalm 116:1-2

*Will Pope*

*I love the LORD, because he has heard  
my voice and my pleas for mercy.  
Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.*

## Prayer of Praise

# Great Things

## Verse 1

Come let us worship our King  
Come let us bow at His feet  
He has done great things  
See what our Savior has done  
See how His love overcomes  
He has done great things  
He has done great things

## Chorus

O Hero of Heaven  
You conquered the grave  
You free every captive  
and break every chain  
O God  
You have done great things  
We dance in Your freedom  
awake and alive  
O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high  
O God  
You have done great things

## Verse 2

You've been faithful through every storm  
You'll be faithful forevermore  
You have done great things  
And I know You will do it again  
For Your promise is yes and amen  
You will do great things  
God You do great things

## Chorus

O Hero of Heaven  
You conquered the grave  
You free every captive  
and break every chain  
O God  
You have done great things  
We dance in Your freedom  
awake and alive  
O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high  
O God  
You have done great things

## Bridge

Hallelujah God above it all  
Hallelujah God unshakable  
Hallelujah You have done great things  
(REPEAT)  
You've done great things

## Chorus

O Hero of Heaven  
You conquered the grave  
You free every captive  
and break every chain  
O God  
You have done great things  
We dance in Your freedom  
awake and alive  
O Jesus our Savior Your name lifted high  
O God  
You have done great things

## Ending

You have done great things  
O God You do great things

# Holy Forever

## Verse 1

A thousand generations  
falling down in worship  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us  
And all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

## Pre-Chorus

(Jesus) Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all

## Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy  
All creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy  
Holy forever

## Verse 2

If you've been forgiven  
and if you've been redeemed  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
If you walk in freedom  
and if you bear His name  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
We'll sing the song forever and amen

## Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy  
All creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy  
Holy forever

## Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing Holy  
To the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy  
Holy forever

## Pre-Chorus

Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions  
All powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all  
(REPEAT)

## Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy  
All creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy  
Holy forever

## Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing Holy  
To the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy  
Holy forever

## Tag

You will always be Holy  
Holy forever

## Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism, Questions and Answers 27 and 28

27. Q. *What do you understand by the providence of God?*

A. **God's providence is his almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.**

28. Q. *What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by his providence?*

A. **We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from his love; for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot so much as move.**

## Scripture Reading – Psalm 67

Brian Fitz

*Minister: This is the word of the Lord.*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Prayer of Confession

*Minister: Most merciful Father, we have sinned against and are guilty before you. Forgive us the sins of our tongues—*

**All: For deception and untruthfulness in our dealings with others; for resentment, coldness, impatience, and tempers out of control.**

*Minister: Forgive us for the sins of our eyes—*

**All: For impurity in our glances and imagination; for pining after more beauty, comfort, status, and wealth than you have given us.**

*Minister: Forgive us the sins of our hearts—*

**All: For hard-heartedness toward you and our neighbors; for pride, self-absorption, self-pity; and above all for rebelling against your Lordship and doubting your love. Oh, Holy Father, kill our envy, remove our pride, melt our hearts. Give us grace to be holy, kind, gentle, pure, to live for you and not for ourselves, to be transformed into your likeness, to live wholly for your glory. Take away our mourning and give us music; remove our sackcloth and give us your beauty. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness – Titus 2:11-14

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

## Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone

### Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

### Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

### Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

### Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

### Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace  
(REPEAT)

### Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" words and music by Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio; © 2006 sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, worshiptogether.com songs; Used by Permission. CCLI License #2410623

## Prayers of the People

## Ministry Moment

## 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 – Luke 13:1-21**

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup> And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ <sup>8</sup> And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup> Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

<sup>10</sup> Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” <sup>13</sup> And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. <sup>14</sup> But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” <sup>17</sup> As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

<sup>18</sup> He said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? <sup>19</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”

<sup>20</sup> And again he said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup> It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened.”



**Sermon:** "Repentance and Restoration"

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

**Series:** *Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem*

**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**

# It Is Well with My Soul



1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
 2. Tho' Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, let  
 3. My sin - O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous tho't - my  
 4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith - shall be sight, the

5 Am C/D D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>sus</sup> G C



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll; \_\_\_\_\_ What - ev - er my  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol; \_\_\_\_\_ That Christ hath re -  
 sin - not in part, but the whole; \_\_\_\_\_ Is nailed to the  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll; \_\_\_\_\_ The trump shall re -

10 F D G G/F C/E F C/G G



lot, Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my  
 -gard - ed my help - less es - tate, and hath shed His own blood for my  
 cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my  
 -sound and the Lord shall de - scend, "E - ven so" - it is well with my

## CHORUS

15 C C G



soul." It is well \_\_\_\_\_ with my soul, \_\_\_\_\_  
 soul.  
 soul!  
 soul.

20 C F C/G G C



\_\_\_\_\_ it is well, it is well with my soul.

## **Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26**

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
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**

## **This Week at New Life**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sun. 2/23	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/23	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/23	5:30 pm	Women's Book Club Potluck	Kay Home
Sun. 2/23	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home
W. 2/26	7:00 am	Men's Group	Fellowship Hall
W. 2/26	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 2/26	9:45 am	Moms +	Classroom 2
W. 2/26	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 2/27	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 3/2	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 3/2	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/2	11:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/2	11:30 am	Giant Cards for Sale	Foyer
Sun. 3/2	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

## **Church Financial Summary**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Year to Date 2025</b>	\$57,884.61	\$64,548.63
<b>Week of 2/16/25</b>	\$8,269.23	\$6,428.00

## Announcements (page 1 of 2)

- **Women's Winter Book Club:** **TONIGHT** is our potluck dinner and discussion of *Captive in Iran*. We will begin at 5:30pm at the home of Connie Kay. Contact Connie with any questions.
- **Palm Sunday Children's Choir:** Once again this year we are inviting students from age 4 to 6th grade to be part of a children's choir that will participate in worship on **Palm Sunday April 13**. Ellen Metzger, who has led children's choirs at a previous church, will be our director this year. She will be assisted by Elissa Ryan and Jami Paules will be the accompanist. Rehearsals will be on **Sundays March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6**. We will begin about 15 minutes after the end of worship--close to 11:30am--and practice for 30-45 minutes. We hope to see your children there! Questions? Please contact Jenn Ryan ([jenn@newlifeyorkpca.com](mailto:jenn@newlifeyorkpca.com)).
- **Human Life Services - Baby Bottle Boomerang:** Baby bottles for this HLS event can be picked up from the foyer. You can support life by collecting your loose change! This fun activity is great for the entire family and raises funds that directly support HLS clients and their needs. Please note our last collection date is **Sun. March 9**. Contact Susette Grim or the office with any questions. Please consider viewing the following video from HLS: [https://youtu.be/x3J\\_7U8M0-E](https://youtu.be/x3J_7U8M0-E)
- **Women's Bible Study:** We are resuming our study to see God at work in *Acts* beginning in March using Nancy Guthrie's study *Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts*. There are two study groups to choose from: **Thursday mornings beginning March 13** (in-person in the Aquarium room 9:30-11am) or **Tuesday evenings beginning March 18** (on Zoom 7-8:15 pm). This study will last 10 weeks. Everyone is welcome. It is not a problem to jump right in, starting with Acts 11:19. For more information, to sign up, and/or get information about the book and materials please contact Marlene Spark or the office.
- **Easter Flowers:** Forms and envelopes for dedicating Easter flowers in memory or honor of loved ones can be found in the foyer. Both tulips and daffodils are 6 inches and \$11.50 each. Please place your completed form and your cash or check payable to New Life in the envelope provided and place in Kelly's in-tray in the office. Last day to place order is **Sun. March 16**. You can take your flower home after the Easter service on Sun. Apr. 20.

(announcements continue on next page)

## Announcements (page 2 of 2)

- **Free Comedy Show:** All adults of any age are cordially invited by the S.I.L.V.E.R.S. to join them for an afternoon of laughter and fellowship. York Theater Arts for Everyone will be presenting *Mystery at Senior Manor* featuring our very own Mark Deckard on **Sat. March 22** here at New Life. Show will begin at 3pm followed by light refreshments in the fellowship hall. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors. Questions see Mel King, Alice Lomax, Dee Flaharty, or Shyrl Tompkins.
- **Save the Date for VBS:** Please mark your calendars for VBS, the mornings of **July 28-Aug. 1**. More details TBA.
- **Save the Date:** Save the date for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual church-wide camping trip: **Fri. Sept. 5 through Sun. Sept. 7** at Codorus State Park. Please make your camping reservation online, as close to site 88 as you can book. Go to [codorusfriends.org/codorus-park-info.html](http://codorusfriends.org/codorus-park-info.html) and scroll down until you see the link to “Camping Reservations.”

## Groups for Fellowship and Growth

**Christian Education: Youth and Children's classes:** Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> meets in classroom 5, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> meets in classroom 4, 5-8<sup>th</sup> meets in classroom 3, and 9-12<sup>th</sup> meets in classroom 1. **Two adult classes:** one studying 1 Samuel and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other studying the book *Biblical Critical Theory* and meeting in Classroom 2.

**Women's Bible Study:** We will be studying *Acts* using Nancy Guthrie's *Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts*. This is a 10-week study. Dates and times: **Thursdays 9:30-11 am at church beginning March 13 or Tuesdays 7-8:15 pm on Zoom beginning March 18.** Please contact Marlene Spark or the office for details.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study:** Interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text? Join us at New Life in Classroom 1 at 9am.

**Moms+:** We meet every Wednesday from 9:45-11:45am. Contact Joy Swanson or the office with any questions.

**Men's Group:** Meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from 7-8am in the fellowship hall.

**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 or the office. The daytime group meets every **Thursday** (except the Thursday that follows the Wednesday evening prayer group) at 11am. Contact Sue Rothermel or the office.

**Bible Study Fellowship (BSF):** Contact Will Pope or the office 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 **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays** of the month from 6-7:30pm. See Pastor Erik if you would like to join a group.

# 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 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 to 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 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>

**New Life Presbyterian Church, (717) 855-2360**  
970 Cape Horn Rd, York PA 17402  
[kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com](mailto:kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com)