



# NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

February 9, 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 9, 2025

## Reflection:

He who would correctly and profitably read Scripture should see to it that he finds Christ in it; then he finds life eternal without fail. On the other hand, if I do not so study and understand Moses and the prophets as to find that Christ came from heaven for the sake of my salvation, became man, suffered, died, was buried, rose, and ascended into heaven so that through him I enjoy reconciliation with God, forgiveness of all my sins, grace, righteousness, and life eternal, then my reading in Scripture is of no help whatsoever to my salvation.... I may, of course, become a learned man by reading and studying Scripture and preach what I have acquired; yet all this would do me no good whatever. - *Martin Luther*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Prelude

## Call to Worship – from Zephaniah 3

*Will Pope*

*Minister: Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel!*

**People: Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem!**

*Minister: The LORD has taken away your punishment,  
he has turned back your enemy.*

**People: The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;  
never again will you fear any harm.**

*Minister: The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save.*

**People: He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love,  
he will rejoice over you with singing.**

## Prayer of Praise

# A Mighty Fortress



1. A might - y for - tress is \_\_\_\_\_ our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2. Did we in our \_\_\_ own strength \_ con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3. And tho' this world, \_ with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4. That word a - bove \_\_\_ all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

4 Dm G C C/E C G Em Am D G Am Em F C Am



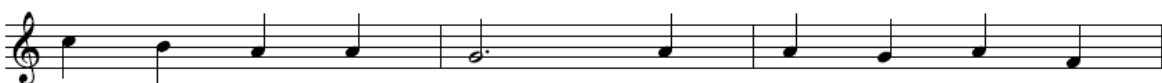
fail - ing; Our help - er He \_\_\_ a - mid \_ the flood of mor - tal ills pre -  
 los - ing, were not the right \_ man on \_\_\_ our side, the man of God's own  
 -do \_\_\_ us, we will not fear, \_ for God \_ hath willed His truth to tri - umph  
 -bid - eth; The Spir - it and \_ the gifts \_ are ours through Him who with us

8 Dm G C Am G/B D G C G/B C F G<sup>7</sup>/D Am E/G#



-vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe - His  
 choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He - Lord  
 thru \_\_\_ us. The prince of dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him - His  
 sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so. The

13 Am E/B Am/C D G F F/A C A/C# Dm



craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cru - el  
 Sab - a - oth His name, from age to age the  
 rage we can en - dure, for lo, his doom is  
 bod - y they may kill; God's truth a - bid - eth

16 E Am Em F C Am Dm G C



hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 same, and He must win the bat - tle.  
 sure: One lit - tle word shall fell \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
 still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

# 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

## 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

## Bridge 3X

(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

## 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

## 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 – 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 46

*Sue Ann Randall*

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Prayer of Confession – adapted from portions of Psalm 51

**God, be merciful to me; On thy grace I rest my plea;  
Plenteous in compassion thou, Blot out my transgressions now;  
Wash me, make me pure within; Cleanse, oh, cleanse me from my sin.  
Sinners then shall learn from me And return, O God, to thee;  
Savior, all my guilt remove, And my tongue shall sing thy love;  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord, And my mouth shall praise accord.**

## 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.*

# Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)

## Verse 1

O come behold the works of God  
The nations at His feet  
He breaks the bow and bends the spear  
And tells the wars to cease  
O Mighty One of Israel  
    You are on our side  
We walk by faith  
In God who burns the chariots with fire

## Chorus

Lord of hosts You're with us  
    with us in the fire  
With us as a Shelter  
With us in the storm  
You will lead us  
Through the fiercest battle  
Oh where else would we go  
But with the Lord of hosts

## Verse 2

O God of Jacob fierce and great  
You lift Your voice to speak  
The earth it bows  
And all the mountains move into the sea  
O Lord You know the hearts of men  
And still You let them live  
O God who makes the mountains melt  
Come wrestle us and win

## Chorus

Lord of hosts You're with us  
    with us in the fire  
With us as a Shelter  
With us in the storm  
You will lead us  
Through the fiercest battle  
Oh where else would we go  
But with the Lord of hosts

## Bridge 2x

Though oceans roar  
    You are the Lord of all  
The One who calms the wind and waves  
And makes my heart be still  
Though the earth gives way  
The mountains move into the sea  
The nations rage  
I know my God is in control

## Chorus 2x

Lord of hosts You're with us  
    with us in the fire  
With us as a Shelter  
With us in the storm  
You will lead us  
Through the fiercest battle  
Oh where else would we go  
But with the Lord of hosts

"Psalm 46 (Lord of Hosts)" words and music by Jennie Lee Riddle, Josh Miller, Josiah Warneking, Shane Barnard  
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## Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment – *Human Life Services*

*Leona Rega*

### 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 12:4-34*

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. <sup>5</sup> But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! <sup>6</sup> Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. <sup>7</sup> Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>8</sup> "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, <sup>9</sup> but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup> And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>11</sup> And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." <sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."



<sup>22</sup> And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup> For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

<sup>32</sup> “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**Sermon: Fear God and Fear Nothing Else**

*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**

# Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart  
 2. Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my true Word  
 3. Rich - es I heed not nor man's emp - ty praise  
 4. High King of hea - ven my vic - to - ry won

5 Naught be - all else to me save that Thou art  
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me Lord  
 Thou mine in - her - it - ance now and al - ways  
 May I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright heaven's sun

9 Thou my best thought by day or by night  
 Thou my great Fa - ther and Thy true son  
 Thou and Thou on - ther ly in my heart  
 Heart of my my own heart what - ev - er be - fall

13 Wa - king or sleep - ing Thy pres - ence my light  
 Thou in me dwell - ing I with Thee one  
 High King of hea - ven and my trea - sure Thou art  
 Still be my vis - ion, O Rul - er of all

## 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

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 2/9	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/9	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/9	11:30 am	Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 2/9	12:00 pm	Young Adult Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 2/12	7:00 am	Men's Group	Fellowship Hall
W. 2/12	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 2/12	9:45 am	Moms +	Classroom 2
W. 2/12	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 2/12	7:00 pm	Inquirers' Class	Aquarium
Th. 2/13	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 2/16	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 2/16	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 2/16	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

## Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
<b>Year to Date 2025</b>	\$41,346.15	\$50,154.33
<b>Week of 1/26/25</b>	\$8,269.23	\$9,405.39

## Announcements (page 1 of 2)

- New Playlist Added:** A new playlist of all of the songs we will sing together in worship in February has been added to New Life's YouTube channel. It is there for us to use to familiarize ourselves and our families with the music we will sing to God each week and also for us to use in personal worship as we reflect on the preaching of God's Word. To access it, go to New Life's YouTube channel (@newlifepresbyterianchurch2087), click on the "Playlists" tab, and open "February 2025 Worship".
- 2024 Donation Receipts:** We hope to distribute 2024 donation receipts documenting tax deductible contributions to New Life within the next week. These receipts will not include donations made through our online giving portal. The PCA Foundation will provide you with receipts for donations made to New Life through the online giving portal.

(announcements continue on next page)

## Announcements (page 2 of 2)

- **Sun. Feb. 9 - 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. Leona Rega is sharing information about HLS during our ministry moment today. Please consider viewing the following video from HLS: [https://youtu.be/x3J\\_7U8M0-E](https://youtu.be/x3J_7U8M0-E)
- **Women's Winter Book Club:** This winter we are reading *Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison* by Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh. Read at your own pace, then join us for a potluck dinner and discussion on **Sun. Feb. 23** beginning at 5:30pm at the home of Connie Kay. Contact Connie or the office with any questions.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Refreshments:** Thank you to all who have signed up to provide post-service refreshments this quarter! We still have 1 spot available for **March 23**. Feel free to pair up with one or two more people and keep it very simple. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- **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.](#)

## 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>

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