



# NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 16, 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. Jesus welcomed children in worship, and so do we! Having said that, here are some additional options for parents:

- + There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.
- + A private “nursing moms” alcove is available in the nursery.
- + Classroom 1 is a “Wiggle Room” for parents who desire a place to temporarily be with their young ones while still being able to watch the livestream.

*Please be aware that we livestream our services.*

# Worshiping God

March 16, 2025

## Reflection:

“If the Jewish leadership does not teach the way to follow God, then what *is* required to follow God?” – Darrell Bock

“No man can be a true disciple of Christ, to whom Christ is not dearer than what is dearest to him in the world.” – Thomas Boston

“Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” – Jesus

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

## Prelude

## Call to Worship – Exodus 15:1-3

*Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:*

*"I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.*

*The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.*

*The LORD is my strength and my song;*

*he has become my salvation.*

*He is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father's God, and I will exalt him.*

*The LORD is a warrior;*

*the LORD is his name...."*

## Prayer of Praise

# Build My Life

## Verse 1

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise  
    we could ever bring  
Worthy of ev'ry breath  
    we could ever breathe  
We live for You

## Verse 2

Jesus the name above ev'ry other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of ev'ry breath  
    we could ever breathe  
We live for You  
We live for You

## Chorus

Holy there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder  
    and show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love  
    to those around me

## Bridge

I will build my life upon Your love  
It is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone  
And I will not be shaken (REPEAT)

## Chorus

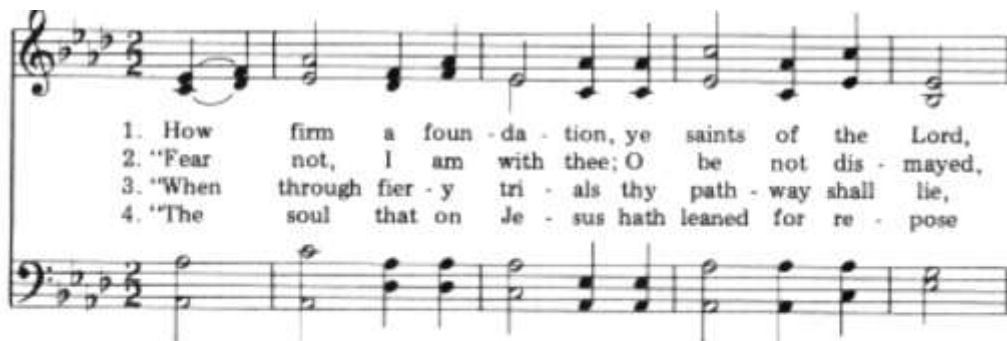
Holy there is no one like You  
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Open up my eyes in wonder  
    and show me who You are  
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## Tag

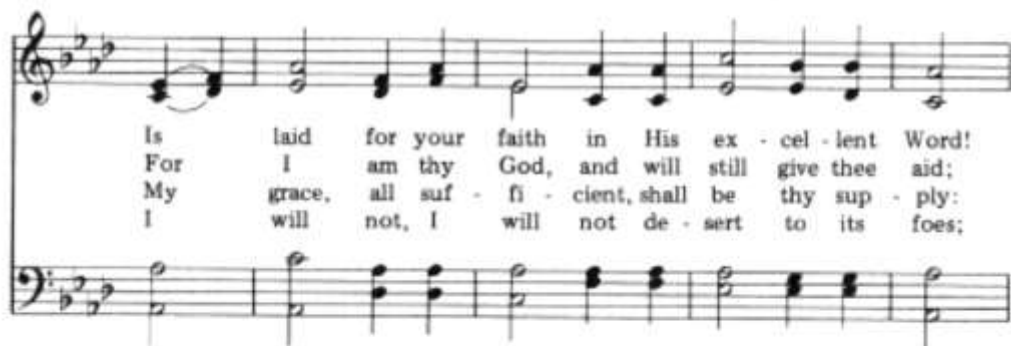
Jesus the name above ev'ry other name  
Jesus the only one who could ever save

"Build My Life" words and music by Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett  
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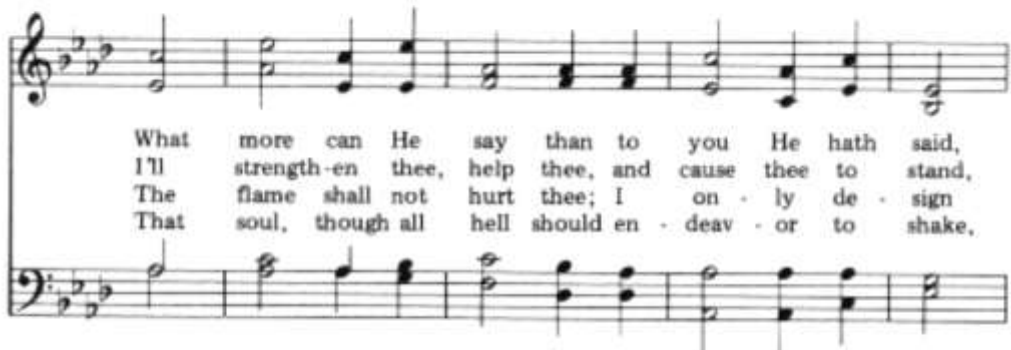
## How Firm a Foundation



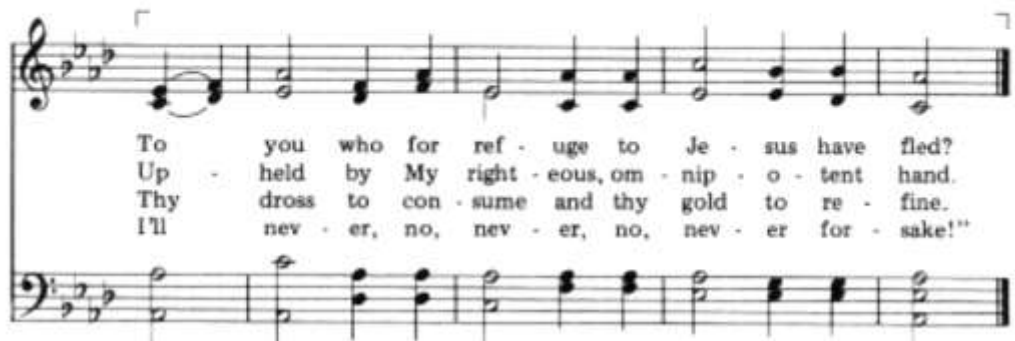
1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2. "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed,  
3. "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
4. "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose



Is laid for your faith in His ex - cel - lent Word!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
My grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
Up - held by My right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
Thy dross to con - sume and thy gold to re - fine.  
I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake!"

## **Affirmation of Faith – *The Nicene Creed***

**We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same  
essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our  
salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under  
Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again,  
according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right  
hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the  
dead. His kingdom will never end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with  
the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the  
prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the  
world to come. Amen.**

### **Scripture Reading – *Luke 9:23-27***

*Wayne Blanding*

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Lord God, You are faithful and loving. You have shown us your faithfulness in keeping  
your promises, and you have shown us your sacrificial love in sending your Son. We  
confess that at times we are faithless and selfish. We fail, often, to reflect your  
character. Forgive us, we pray, for we trust in Jesus Christ. Fill us with your Spirit, that  
we may serve you in newness of life. We ask this through the name of Jesus, 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...*

# My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a - round me spread,  
4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine: now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll, blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

guilt a - way, O let me from this day be whol - ly thine.  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire.  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul.

# Prayers of the People

## Mission Moment

*Denise Fitz*

## 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 14:25-35*

<sup>25</sup> Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

<sup>34</sup> "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup> It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



**Sermon:** A Shocking Teaching with a Surprising Result

*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**

# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

F F
C
F
Gm
D
Gm
F
C
F
7

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the  
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

Bb
F
C7
F
C7
F
C
F
C
F
Gm
D

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ my God: all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down: did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing.

Gm
F
C
F
F
C7
Dm
Gm
C7
F
7

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

## 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. 3/16	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 3/16	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/16	11:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/16	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
Tu. 3/18	7:00 pm	Zoom Women's Bible Study	Zoom
W. 3/19	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 3/19	9:45 am	Moms +	Classroom 2
W. 3/19	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
W. 3/19	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 3/20	9:30 am	Women's In-Person Bible Study	Aquarium
Th. 3/20	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sat. 3/22	3:00 pm	<i>Mystery at Senior Manor</i> Comedy	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/23	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 3/23	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/23	11:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 3/23	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

### Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
<b>Year to Date 2025</b>	\$82,692.30	\$89,987.90
<b>Week of 3/9/25</b>	\$8,269.23	\$7,594.27

## Announcements (page 1 of 2)

- **Decorating the Church for Easter:** Help the church look beautiful on Easter by purchasing tulips or daffodils! You can sign up for these 6-inch flowers (\$11.50 each) via the forms/envelopes in the foyer. You will notice a section to indicate **if you'd like to** dedicate the flowers in memory or honor of someone, but you may leave it blank if you wish. If dedicating, please also indicate which names (honoree and/or giver) you would like printed in the Easter bulletin; **(you may choose to be anonymous.)** Envelopes/forms can be placed on the desk in the office or given to a deacon. Last Sunday to sign up is **TODAY Sun. March 16** as Kelly needs to place the order with the florist this Thursday. Payment is preferred at time of order, but **we will still accept payment** after. Take the flowers home with you after the Easter service!
- **Introducing the "Wiggle Room!"** New Life is now live streaming the weekly worship service in classroom 1. The purpose of this is to create a "wiggle room," a place where any parent can choose to be with their young children as needed during the service.
- **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)).
- **Women's Bible Study:** The study of *Acts* is beginning! It is not too late to sign up. For more information and to get information about the book and materials please contact Marlene Spark or the office. For more information, please visit: [nancyguthrie.com/saved](http://nancyguthrie.com/saved).
  - **Thursday mornings:** Began **March 13** (in-person in the Aquarium room 9:30-11am)
  - **Tuesday evenings:** Begins **this week March 18** (on Zoom 7-8:15pm)

(continued 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 **this 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.
- **Hymn Sing:** On **Sun. March 30** all are invited to gather in the sanctuary at 6pm for an hour of selecting and singing hymns. Please consider bringing a snack to share for afterwards.
- **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 are 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 9:30-11am at church beginning March 13, or Tuesdays 7-8:15pm 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)