



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

May 18, 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

May 18, 2025

Reflection

The strength of the Christian system — the acid test of it — is that everything fits under the apex of the existent, infinite-personal God, and it is the only system in the world where this is true. No other system has an apex under which everything fits. That is why I am a Christian and no longer an agnostic. In all the other systems, something 'sticks out,' something cannot be included; and it has to be mutilated or ignored. But without losing his own integrity, the Christian can see everything fitting into place beneath the Christian apex of the existence of the infinite-personal God who is there.

— Francis Shaeffer

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship — from Psalm 100

Elder Wayne Blanding

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



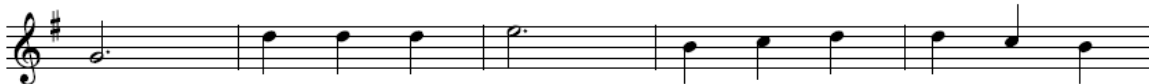
1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign -
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend
4. Praise to the Lord, who hath fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly made
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

6 G G Em D/F# G D Em Bm C G C D7/A Em C D7



-tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va -
 -eth, shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain -
 thee; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend
 thee; Health hath vouch - safed and, when heed - less - ly fall - ing, hath stayed
 Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore

12 G G D/F# G C G C/E D/F# G D7/A G/B



-tion! All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw
 -eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have
 thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
 thee. What need or grief ev - er hath failed of re -
 Him! Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a -

17 D G/B C D7/A Em C B7 C D7 G Fine



near; Praise Him in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 been grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 do, if with His love he be - friend thee.
 -lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade thee.
 -gain; Glad - ly for aye (all) we a - dore Him.

Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

“Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me” words and music by Jonny
Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson

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Alleluia! Music

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Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism, Question and Answer 1

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

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Scripture Reading – 1 Kings 8:41-43

Sherry Rishel

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y la - den, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer?

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

Prayers of the People

Missions Moment

Elder Wayne Blanding

Membership Vows

Karen & Peter Filkins; Lily & Martin Sica

Deacons' Fund Offering

The monies in the Deacons' Fund go toward ministering to those in the congregation with financial needs.

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 18:1-17*

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹⁵ Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

Sermon: *Kingdom Prayers*

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 I Corinthians 11*

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

All: Christ has died.

Christ is 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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1. Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
 2. Sum-mer and win - ter, and spring-time and har - vest; Sun, moon and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thy own dear

6 C/E C D/A A⁷ D⁷ G G⁷ C G⁷/C C Dm C/E



shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in man - i - fold
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright hope for to -

CHORUS

12 Fmaj⁷ F[♯]⁷ C/G G⁷ C G



fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be. Great is Thy
 wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.
 -mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

18 F/C C A⁷ Gm/D Dm G⁷ C Cm⁶ G/D D⁷



faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer - cies I

24 G G⁷ C G⁷/C C Dm C/E Fmaj⁷



see; All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed-



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

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. 5/18	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 5/18	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 5/18	11:45 am	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun. 5/18	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
Tu. 5/20	7:00 pm	Women's Zoom Bible Study	Zoom
W. 5/21	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 5/21	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
W. 5/21	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 5/22	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 5/25	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 5/25	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 5/25	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$157,115.37	\$177,023.55
Week of 5/11/25	\$8,269.23	\$9,321.00

Announcements

- ❖ **Moms+:** Moms+ is celebrating summer vacation. After a brief break, we will start meet-ups in June - from pool to pickleball, feel free to share your ideas. Contact Joy Swanson or the office to be added to the GroupMe messages.
- ❖ **Refreshments:** The volunteer schedule for April-June has been posted in the foyer. Please consider signing up one Sunday to provide refreshments. Feel free to ask a friend or your discipleship group to sign up with you; and please feel free to keep it simple.
- ❖ **Draft Spring Directory:** Please note there is a draft spring directory in the foyer. Please add or update your information as necessary. The final directory will include any new pictures that have been taken/submitted. If you'd like to submit a photo, please do so to kelly@newlifeyorkpca.com.
- ❖ **Congregational Meeting:** The purpose of the meeting at 11:45am **TODAY** is for the congregational election on the slate of eligible candidates for deacon and elder. Please take a bio sheet on the candidates from the foyer. These men have been through a training class and have been examined by the elders, as required by our Book of Church Order (BCO, Chapter 24). Candidates for Deacon: Ed Feeney, Dan Paules, Roger Kay, Ray Henry. Candidate for Elder: Brian Fitz.
- ❖ **Servants Work Week: June 2-6, 2025:** Servants summer work camps are week-long mission opportunities in York County that focus on residential home repair for people in need. We spend the week *serving Christ* through serving others – *building relationships* with our homeowners and each other; *transforming lives* through meeting physical, spiritual, and emotional needs; and *providing hope* to their community. Projects range from painting, yard work, bathroom modifications, and wheelchair ramps. Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer to:
 - + Help serve **dinner** to the workers on Thurs. June 5 at 5pm at Chapel Church, and/or
 - + Provide **dessert** for the meal on Thurs. June 5, and/or
 - + New Life will work together as a group(s), but individual registration is necessary. Half and full-day work available. Register at servants.org/events – **Sat. May 10** is the deadline for registration.
- ❖ **Save the Date:** Women, please mark your calendars for the "Women in the Word" workshop in Philadelphia, **Fri. Oct. 17 – Sat. Oct. 18** (womeninthewordworkshop.org/workshop-2025/). More details TBA.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Youth and Children's classes: Pre-K through 1st meets in classroom 5, 2nd-4th meets in classroom 4, 5-8th meets in classroom 3, and 9-12th 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: Please contact Marlene Spark or the office with any questions about our next Bible study, which will begin in the fall.

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

Moms+: Moms+ is celebrating summer vacation. After a brief break, we will start meet-ups in June - from pool to pickleball, feel free to share your ideas. Contact Joy Swanson or the office to be added to the GroupMe messages.

Men's Breakfast: Meets every 2nd and 4th 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 Elder 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 **1st and 3rd 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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