



NEW LIFE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

July 27, 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

July 27, 2025

Reflection

“Opening Cry: Where Are You? (Psalm 10:1). Talk to God. Talk out loud. Many sufferers stay submerged in their thoughts and feelings, and stifle spoken prayer. Prayer means asking someone for help. Too often prayer is indistinguishable from thought life. God becomes blended with chaotic mental processes, rather than existing as a distinct person. But God is a person. Talk to him. Jesus prayed out loud with feeling: ‘He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of his piety’ (Hebrews 5:7). Cry out.” - David Powlison, *Why Me?*

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship

Elder Brian Fitz

Minister: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,

People: Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Minister: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

People: But one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Minister: Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

All: That we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer of Praise

Desert Song

Verse 1

This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry
This is my prayer in my hunger and need
My God is the God who provides

Verse 2

This is my prayer in the fire
In weakness or trial or pain
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold
So refine me Lord through the flame

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 3

This is my prayer in the battle
When triumph is still on its way
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ
So firm on His promise I'll stand

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Bridge (4x)

All of my life in ev'ry season
You are still God
I have a reason to sing
I have a reason to worship

Chorus

I will bring praise
I will bring praise
No weapon formed against me shall remain
I will rejoice
I will declare
God is my victory and He is here

Verse 4

This is my prayer in the harvest
When favor and providence flow
I know I'm filled to be emptied again
The seed I've received I will sow

"Desert Song" words and music by Brooke Ligertwood
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I Need Thee Every Hour



1. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, most gra - cious _ Lord; No
 2. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, stay Thou ___ near _ by; Temp -
 3. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, in joy ___ or ___ pain; Come
 4. I need Thee ev - 'ry hour, most Ho - ly ___ One; O

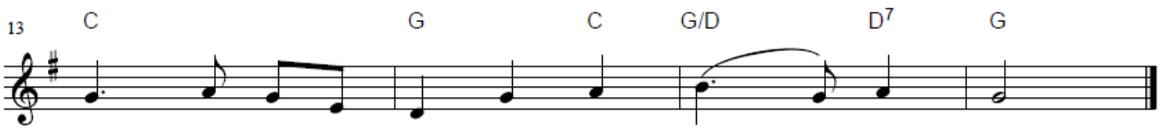
CHORUS



ten - der voice like Thine can peace ___ af - ford. I need Thee, O I
 -ta - tions lose their pow'r when Thou ___ art ___ nigh.
 quick - ly and a - bide or life ___ is ___ vain.
 make me Thine in - deed, Thou bless - ed ___ Son!



need Thee; Ev - 'ry hour I need Thee; O



bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come ___ to Thee!

Affirmation of Faith – Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Scripture Reading – Acts 16:25-34

Mark Flaharty

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – from Tim Keller

O Lord God, thank you for sustaining my physical life through food and shelter; for giving me new life through the gospel; for the assurance that my bad things will turn out for good, and that my good things cannot be taken from me; and for the certainty of the best and perfect life, which is yet to come. Now give me a joyful sense of your presence, and freedom from my characteristic sins of perfectionistic works-righteousness, fear of criticism, and self-comfort. Don't allow my affections to be tangled in inordinate desires for the things of this world, but let me set my heart on things above, where Christ, my life, is seated at your right hand. In Jesus's name.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

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

The first system of music features a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff, with lyrics underneath. The bass line is on a five-line staff below, providing harmonic support. The system concludes with a fermata over the final note.

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 -

The second system continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes. The system ends with a fermata over the final note.

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.

The third system concludes the piece. The melody and bass line are shown. The lyrics are aligned with the notes. The system ends with a fermata over the final note.

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 – *Psalms 120*

- ¹ In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.
- ² Deliver me, O LORD,
from lying lips,
from a deceitful tongue.
- ³ What shall be given to you,
and what more shall be done to you,
you deceitful tongue?
- ⁴ A warrior's sharp arrows,
with glowing coals of the broom tree!
- ⁵ Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech,
that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!
- ⁶ Too long have I had my dwelling
among those who hate peace.
- ⁷ I am for peace,
but when I speak, they are for war!

Sermon: Longing to Live in a Land of Peace

Pastor Erik Swanson

Series: Travel Songs

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 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

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 D⁷ G^{sus} 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 – Ephesians 3:20-22

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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. 7/27	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 7/27	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 7/27	11:30 am	VBS Meeting and Set-Up	Classroom 1 and Building
Sun. 7/27	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home
M. 7/28	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School	New Life
Tu. 7/29	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School	New Life
W. 7/30	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School	New Life
W. 7/30	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
W. 7/30	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Th. 7/31	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School	New Life
Th. 7/31	12:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Old Resource Room
F. 8/1	9:00 am	Vacation Bible School	New Life
F. 8/1	11:30 am	VBS Closing Ceremony & Lunch	New Life
F. 8/1	12:30 pm	VBS Clean-up	New Life
Sat. 8/2	1:00 pm	Youth Group Pool Party	McGahan Home
Sun. 8/3	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 8/3	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 8/3	11:30 am	Giant cards for sale	Foyer
Sun. 8/3	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$239,807.67	\$250,955.65
Week of 7/20/25	\$8,269.23	\$8,132.00

Announcements (page 1 of 2)

- ❖ **Refreshments:** Thanks to all the volunteers who helped last quarter! You'll notice there is a new volunteer schedule posted in the foyer. Please consider signing up to provide refreshments one Sunday. You can ask a friend or your discipleship group to sign up with you and please feel free to keep it very simple.
- ❖ **Can you help today?** Are you able to stay for a little today and help stack chairs for VBS?
- ❖ **Vacation Bible School Registration:** VBS is this week! If your children are not signed up yet, please see Megan Reese.
- ❖ **VBS snacks:** If you signed up to bring snacks, you can place them in the kitchen with a note stating "for VBS."
- ❖ **VBS Meeting and Set-Up:** For all helping with VBS, please join a brief meeting after church today in Room 1, followed by helping to set up and decorate the church.
- ❖ **VBS Closing Ceremony, Lunch, and Clean-up:** All are invited this **Fri. Aug. 1** to witness the VBS Closing Ceremony, join us for lunch, and help to clean up and set up the church for Sunday.
- ❖ **Upcoming Youth Group Event: Sat. Aug. 2** from 1-3pm. Pool party at the McGahan's. Bring a camp chair, a food to share (dessert, side, or drink), sunscreen, towel, and change of clothes.
- ❖ **Disaster relief opportunity in Asheville, NC:** The overarching work of Servants in North Carolina is partnered with Baptist on Mission for the next 5 years. There is an upcoming trip from Aug. 17-25. If any congregant feels independently led to participate; please reach out to Kiel Reese, Barbara Henry, or Sue Grim and we will connect you with the point-of-contact at Servants. Note that **we plan to have a meeting on Sun. Aug. 10** after the Sunday service to assess interest in sending a short-term mission in late 2025 (November?) or spring 2026.
- ❖ **Special Service:** The New Life Congregation is invited to the Henry's home on **Sun. Aug. 10** at 5pm for an outdoor evening service and baptism.
- ❖ **Women's Summer Book Club:** Ladies, join us in reading a memoir of Joni Eareckson Tada's marriage. Read [*Joni & Ken: An Untold Love Story*](#) at your own pace this summer and join us for dinner and discussion in late August (exact date TBD.) You can contact Connie Kay with any questions.

(Announcements continue on next page.)

Announcements (page 2 of 2)

❖ Save the Dates!

- + **Camping Trip:** Our 6th annual church-wide camping trip will be **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 and scroll down until you see the link to “Camping Reservations.”
- + **Women,** please mark your calendars for the "Women in the Word" workshop in Philadelphia, **Fri. Oct. 17 – Sat. Oct. 18**. See Sue Rothermel or the office for more information. (womeninthewordworkshop.org/workshop-2025/)
- + **Men’s Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026**.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Youth and Children's classes are on break for the summer. The adult class meets in the Aquarium.

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 – 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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