



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

August 3, 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

August 3, 2025

Reflection

“One practical way to think about it is to ask how central God is to our picture of reality: if God is anywhere in our picture of reality, then surely God has to be in the center of that picture. Our natural inclination is always to see ourselves at the center of things and everyone and everything else, including God, as on the periphery. We may pray to God about lots of things, but too often we are asking help for furthering self-centered desires or goals. God can too easily become a background figure whom we treat as providing a sort of cosmic insurance policy...we need constantly to be reminded to recognize that God is at the center of reality.”

– George Marsden (from *An Infinite Fountain of Light*)

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Chorus

Through every storm of life
I know you're by my side
So I am holding on to your promises
You are the God who holds
My future all my dreams
So I am holding on
You never let go of me

Verse

You gave me hope
when hope was all but gone
A second chance
to sing a brand new song
You opened up my eyes to see
When you rescued me rescued me
You showed the way
when there was no way out
Cleared up my mind
when you erased all doubt
You made me strong when I was weak
You rescued me rescued me

Chorus

Through every storm of life
I know you're by my side
So I am holding on to your promises
You are the God who holds
My future all my dreams
So I am holding on
You never let go of me

Bridge

You are my God
I'm holding on to you
You are my God
I know you'll see me through
Hey

Chorus

Through every storm of life
I know you're by my side
So I am holding on to your promises
You are the God who holds
My future all my dreams
So I am holding on
You never let go of me

Bridge

You are my God
I'm holding on to you
You are my God
I know you'll see me through
Hey

"Never Let Go of Me" words and music by Jay Stocker
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Minister: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

People: Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Minister: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: According to his great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Minister: and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade —kept in heaven for you,

People: who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Prayer of Praise

God So Loved

Verse 1

Come all you weary
Come all you thirsty
Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the water
Come and thirst no more

Verse 2

Come all you sinners
Come find His mercy
Come to the table He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness
Find what you're looking for

Chorus 1

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever

Verse 3

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there
With open arms

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Bridge

Praise God praise God
From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him praise Him
For the wonders of His love
(REPEAT)

Chorus 3

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save

Chorus 2

For God so loved the world that He gave us
His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved God so loved the world

Verse 4

Bring all your failures
Bring your addictions
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting
God so loved the world

"God So Loved (Live At The Wheelhouse)" words and music by Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash
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This Is Amazing Grace

Verse 1

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Verse 2

Who shakes the whole earth
with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Chorus

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

Verse 3

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Verse 4

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Chorus

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy

Chorus

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

"This Is Amazing Grace" words and music by Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham
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Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism Question and Answer 1

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

A: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Scripture Reading – Philippians 4:7-14

Elder Wayne Blanding

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music – Rescue Me

VBS Kids

Verse

I didn't know it would be this hard
I didn't think I could fall so far
But here I am
How did I stray so far off course
How can I get back to the shore
Lord here I am
And the waves are crashing all around
I need you God and I need you now

Chorus

Rescue me
I can feel the water rising
Rescue me Jesus
Rescue me
Lord I'm in so deep and I feel
Powerless to save myself
Only you can be the help I need
Rescue me

"Rescue Me" words and music by Jay Stocker
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Prayer of Confession – from Matthew Henry

We are ashamed, Lord, and we blush to lift up our faces before you. Our sins increase over our head, and our trespasses rise up unto the heavens. When our eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts, we have reason to cry out, “Woe unto us, for we are undone!” We know that we have sinned, Father, against heaven and before you, and are no more worthy to be called your children. But there is forgiveness, mercy, and redemption with you. You will not despise a broken and a contrite heart. The ones who cover their sins will not prosper, yet those that confess and forsake them will find mercy. You have said that if we confess our sins, you are faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We ask in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Psalm 103:10-13

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions for us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

He Will Hold Me Fast

Verse 1

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 2

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Chorus

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 3

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

Chorus 2x

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

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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 – *Psalm 121*

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
- ² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.
- ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- ⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.

Sermon: The Lord Is Your Keeper

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

Goodness of God

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other
I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Benediction – John 14:27

Christ says: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
(REPEAT)

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God
(REPEAT)

Tag

I will sing of the goodness of God

"Goodness Of God" words and music by Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson
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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. 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
W. 8/6	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 8/6	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 8/6	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
Sun. 8/10	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School	Aquarium
Sun. 8/10	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 8/10	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 8/10	11:45 am	Short-Term Missions Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 8/10	5:00 pm	Outdoor Worship Service	Ray & Renee Henry Home

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)

- ❖ **Special Service:** The New Life Congregation is invited to the Henry's home **tonight** at 5pm for an outdoor evening service and baptism.
- ❖ **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.

Announcements (page 2 of 2)

- ❖ **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 next Sun. Aug. 10** after the Sunday service to assess interest in sending a short-term mission in late 2025 (November?) or spring 2026.
- ❖ **SILVERS** will be having a picnic at Alice and Dave Lomax's house on **Sat. Aug. 23** starting at 4pm. Please bring a lawn chair if you have one. Please see sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Women's Bible Study:** This fall we will be surveying the prophets for passages concerning the coming Messiah using the book *The Word of the Lord: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets* (A 10-Week Study), by Nancy Guthrie. Both a morning and evening group are available: TUESDAYS (in-person 9:30 -11:00 am in the Aquarium room or at home on Zoom 7:00-8:15 pm) beginning **September 9**. For more information, please contact Marlene Spark. If you would like to pre-order the book for the reduced price of \$8.00 (quantity discount), please let Marlene know by August 20th.
- ❖ **Save the Dates! – NEW INFO!**
 - + **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."
 - + **Candidate Weekend:** We welcome associate pastor candidate Justin Kleiner **Friday the 15th through Sunday the 17th**. Please save the dates; more details to come. Please also plan to attend the congregational meeting on **Sunday the 24th** after the worship service.
 - + **Women**, please mark your calendars for the "Women in the Word" workshop in Philadelphia, **Fri. Oct. 17 – Sat. Oct. 18**. See Sue Rothermel for more information. (womeninthewordworkshop.org/workshop-2025/)
 - + **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026**.