



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

August 24, 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 24, 2025

Reflection

“Christ has so been communicated to you with all his blessings that all that is his has become yours, that you are become a member of him, in fact one with him. Hence his righteousness overwhelms your sins, his salvation wipes out your condemnations, he intercedes with his worthiness so that your unworthiness may not come into God’s sight.” - John Calvin

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Call to Worship – adapted from Psalm 121

Elder Joe Heidler

Minister: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

People: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Minister: He will not let your foot be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber.

People: Behold, he who keeps us will neither slumber nor sleep.

Minister: The LORD is your keeper. The LORD is your shade on your right hand.

People: The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.

Minister: The LORD will keep you from all evil. He will keep your life.

People: The LORD will keep our going out and our coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Prayer of Praise

O Worship the King

1 O wor - ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove,
 2 O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less Might, un - change - a - ble Love,

G D G C C D7 G

O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love:
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.
 ▶ It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 in whom you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
 whom an - gels de - light to wor - ship a - bove!

D D7 G D G D7

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 ▶ it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 Your ran - somed cre - a - tion, with glo - ry a - blaze,

G D G C G D7 G

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
 ▶ and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!
 in true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise!

Behold Our God

Verse 1

Who has held the oceans in His hands
Who has numbered every grain of sand
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Verse 2

Who has given counsel to the Lord
Who can question any of His words
Who can teach the One who knows all things
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Verse 3

Who has felt the nails upon His hand
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus Savior risen now to reign

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

Bridge

You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill the earth)
(REPEAT 6X)
You will reign forever
(Let Your glory fill)

Chorus

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him

"Behold Our God" words and music by Jonathan Baird,
Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge
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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 1:1-11

Elder Wayne Blanding

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession – based on Psalm 46

Our Father, we thank you that you are our refuge in times of trial and our strength when we are weak. And yet, we confess that we still yield to fear, allowing it to control our actions. Forgive us our fears and help us to hold to your sovereign power over all things. We also confess that we seek to be strong in ourselves and in our own works. Forgive us and free us to cease striving to instead trust and depend fully upon you, so that we may bring you praise as Our God, who is with us always. In Christ's 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 from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Be Still My Soul



1. Be still, my soul! The Lord is on thy side; _____
 2. Be still, my soul! Thy God doth un - der - take _____
 3. Be still, my soul! The hour is has - t'ning on _____
 4. Be still, my soul! Be - gin the song of praise _____

5 C/G F C/B \flat F/A B \flat C/G F



— Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain. Leave to thy
 — to guide the fu - ture as He has the past. Thy hope, thy
 — when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord, dis - ap -
 — on earth be - liev - ing to thy Lord on high. Ac - knowl - edge

10 Dm F/A C Gm F/C



God to or - der and pro - vide; _____ In ev - 'ry change He
 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; _____ All now mys - te - rious
 -point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, _____ sor - row for - got, love's
 Him in all thy words and ways; _____ So shall He view thee

15 B \flat Gm/B \flat A F Dm F/A



faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul! Thy best, thy heav'n - ly
 shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul! The waves and winds still
 pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul! When change and tears are
 with a well - pleased eye. Be still, my soul! The Sun of life di -



Friend _____ through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 know _____ His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
 - past, _____ all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.
 - vine _____ through pass - ing clouds shall but more bright - ly shine.

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 123*

- ¹To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
- ²Behold, as the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maidservant
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,
till he has mercy upon us.
- ³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
- ⁴Our soul has had more than enough
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

Sermon Notes

The Patient Pilgrim in the Predicaments of Life

- A. *Where their Gaze is, vs. 1, 2*
- B. *What their request is, vs. 3a*
- C. *What their manner of living is, vs. 3b, 4*

A song of ascents,

To You I lift up my eyes, 1

O dweller in the heavens.

Look, like the eyes of slaves to their masters, 2

Like the eyes of a slave-girl to her mistress,

So are our eyes to the LORD our God

Until He grants us grace.

Grant us grace, LORD, grant us grace. 3

For we are sorely sated with scorn.

Sorely has our being been sated 4

With the contempt of the smug,

The scorn of the haughty.

(Robert Alter translation)

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

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

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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.

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. 8/24 | 9:00 am | Adult Sunday School | Aquarium |
| Sun. 8/24 | 10:00 am | Corporate Worship | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 8/24 | 11:45 am | Congregational Meeting | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 8/24 | 6:00 pm | Women's Book Discussion and Dinner | Kay Home |
| Sun. 8/24 | 6:00 pm | Young Adult Gathering | Grim Home |
| W. 8/27 | 7:00 am | Men's Breakfast | Fellowship Hall |
| W. 8/27 | 9:00 am | Wednesday Morning Bible Study | Classroom 1 |
| W. 8/27 | 7:00 pm | Youth Discipleship | Classroom 1 |
| W. 8/27 | 7:00 pm | Music Team Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Fri. 8/29 | 4:00 pm | Youth Group Pool Party | Spark Home |
| Sat. 8/30 | 8:30 am | Young Adults Activity | Guppy Gulch |
| Sun. 8/31 | 9:00 am | Adult Sunday School | Aquarium |
| Sun. 8/31 | 10:00 am | Corporate Worship | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 8/31 | 6:00 pm | Hymn Sing | Sanctuary |

Church Financial Summary

| Category | Budget | Actual |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Year to Date 2025 | \$272,884.59 | \$287,705.18 |
| Week of 8/17/25 | \$8,269.23 | \$7,096.30 |

Announcements (page 1 of 2)

- ❖ **Congregational Meeting Today:** Please stay after the service today for a congregational meeting. The elders have docketed two business items:
 - + The congregation's deliberation and vote on Justin Kleiner's candidacy.
 - + An informational report for the congregation. The elders are deliberating using a portion of this year's surplus to give a \$25,000 gift to the Presbytery Revolving Building Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide interest free loans to churches in presbytery who are buying their first building. In summary, the elders are considering giving because of the present need that presbytery has to replenish that fund, and because New Life has personally benefited both from the use of that fund in our early days and from receiving the gift of a forgiven loan from presbytery. Greater detail will be presented at the meeting. This will be an informational report, with a Q and A but no vote taken, and individual members and regular attenders are encouraged to provide any additional feedback to their flock elders (or any elder). Presently, the elders plan to make a decision at the September 10th elders meeting.
- ❖ **Women's Summer Book Club:** Ladies, join us **tonight** at 6pm at the home of Connie Kay for dinner and a discussion of [*Joni & Ken: An Untold Love Story*](#). Please bring a dish to share and thoughts or questions for the group. You can contact Connie with any questions.
- ❖ **Youth Group Event:** Come to a pool party **this Fri. Aug. 29** from 4-7pm at the Spark home. Bring something to share (dessert, side, or drink), sunscreen, towel, and a change of clothes.
- ❖ **5th Sunday Hymn Sing:** Join us **next Sun. Aug. 31** for a hymn sing beginning at 6pm. Please bring a snack to share.
- ❖ **Fall Adult Sunday School Classes:**
 - + A Bible study on **2 Corinthians** will begin on **Sept. 7**. Meet in the aquarium classroom, the room off of the fellowship hall.
 - + An **Inquirer's Class**, discussing New Life's history, doctrine, and membership, will begin on **Sept. 21**. Meet in classroom 2.

(Announcements continue on next page.)

Announcements (page 2 of 2)

- ❖ **Women's Bible Study:** Please consider joining us 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 meeting on **TUESDAYS** (in-person at church 9:30 -11am; at home on Zoom 7-8:15 pm) beginning September 9, 2025. For more information, please contact Marlene Spark.
- ❖ **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.** (womeninthewordworkshop.org/workshop-2025/)
 - + **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026.**
- ❖ **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.

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: The fall session begins **Tues. Sept. 9** mornings at church 9:30-11 or evenings on Zoom 7-8:15 using the book [*The Word of the Lord: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets*](#) (A 10-Week Study), by Nancy Guthrie. Please contact Marlene Spark for details.

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 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 meet on the first **Wednesday** of every month at 7pm. Contact Sherry Rishel.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Contact Elder Will Pope 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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