



# NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

September 21, 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

September 21, 2025

## Reflection

In the book of Esther, “God is present even when He is most absent; when there are no miracles, dreams or visions, no charismatic leaders, no prophets to interpret what is happening, and not even any explicit God-talk. And he is present as deliverer. Those whom he saved by signs and wonders at the exodus he continues to save through his hidden, providential control of their history. His people are never simply at the mercy of blind fate or of malign powers, whether human or supernatural. Proverbs comes very close to distilling the theology of Esther in a single aphorism, ‘The lot is cast into the lap, but its decision is wholly from Yahweh’ (Prov. 16:33). But, as Baldwin notes, Esther goes even further than this: ‘even when the dice had fallen the Lord was powerful to reverse its good omen into bad, in order to deliver his people.’”

- Barry G. Webb (*Five Festal Garments*)

## Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Erik Swanson*

**Call to Worship** – adapted from Acts 2:25-28, the words of David

*Elder Wayne Blanding*

*Minister: I see the Lord always before me,*

**People: For He is at my right hand that I may not be shaken.**

*Minister: Therefore our hearts are glad, and our tongue rejoices,*

**People: Our flesh also will dwell in hope, for you will not abandon our souls to Hades.**

*Minister: You have made known to us the paths of life,*

**People: You will make us full of gladness with your presence.**

## Prayer of Praise

# A Mighty Fortress



1. A might - y for - tress is \_\_\_\_\_ our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2. Did we in our \_\_\_\_\_ own strength \_ con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3. And tho' this world, \_ with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4. That word a - bove \_\_\_\_\_ all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

4 Dm G C C/E C G Em Am D G Am Em F C Am



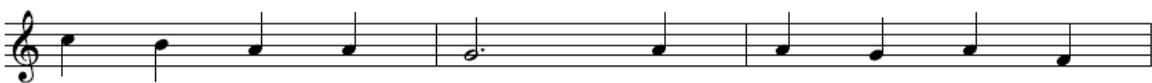
fail - ing; Our help - er He \_\_\_\_\_ a - mid \_\_\_\_\_ the flood of mor - tal ills pre -  
 los - ing, were not the right \_\_\_\_\_ man on \_\_\_\_\_ our side, the man of God's own  
 -do \_\_\_\_\_ us, we will not fear, \_\_\_\_\_ for God \_\_\_\_\_ hath willed His truth to tri - umph  
 -bid - eth; The Spir - it and \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts \_\_\_\_\_ are ours through Him who with us

8 Dm G C Am G/B D G C G/B C F G<sup>7</sup>/D Am E/G#



-vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe - His  
 choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He - Lord  
 thru \_\_\_\_\_ us. The prince of dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him - His  
 sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so. The

13 Am E/B Am/C D G F F/A C A/C# Dm



craft and pow'r are great, and armed with cru - el  
 Sab - a - oth His name, from age to age the  
 rage we can en - dure, for lo, his doom is  
 bod - y they may kill; God's truth a - bid - eth

16 E Am Em F C Am Dm G C



hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 same, and He must win the bat - tle.  
 sure: One lit - tle word shall fell \_\_\_\_\_ him.  
 still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

# You've Already Won

## Verse 1

There's peace that outlasts darkness  
Hope that's in the blood  
There's future grace that's mine today  
That Jesus Christ has won

## Verse 2

So I can face tomorrow  
For tomorrow's in Your hands  
All I need You will provide  
Just like You always have

## Chorus

I'm fighting a battle  
You've already won  
No matter what comes my way  
I will overcome  
Don't know what You're doing  
But I know what You've done  
I'm fighting a battle  
You've already won

## Verse 3

There's mercy in the waiting  
Manna for today  
And when it's gone I know You're not  
You are my hope and stay

## Verse 4

When the sea is raging  
Your Spirit is my help  
He'll fix my eyes on Jesus Christ  
I'll say that it is well  
Oh I know that it is well

## Chorus

I'm fighting a battle  
You've already won  
No matter what comes my way  
I will overcome  
Don't know what You're doing  
But I know what You've done  
I'm fighting a battle  
You've already won

## Bridge

I know how the story ends  
We will be with You again  
You're my Savior my defense  
No more fear in life or death

## Tag

I know how this story ends

## Chorus

I'm fighting a battle  
You've already won  
No matter what comes my way  
I will overcome  
Don't know what You're doing  
But I know what You've done  
I'm fighting a battle  
You've already won

## Tag

I'm fighting a battle You've already won

"You've Already Won" words and music by Brian Fowler,  
Shane Barnard  
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## **Affirmation of Faith – Ephesians 1:3-7**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace.**

## **Scripture Reading – Colossians 1:15-23**

*Mark Deckard*

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Immortal, Invisible, God only wise, how often we go through our daily lives as if you were not our ever-present Savior and Sanctifier. Instead we turn to our own ways, our own plans and of course fall into sinful thoughts and actions. Remind us of your indwelling presence, Holy Spirit, and draw us back to you in confession and repentance so that in Christ's righteousness we shall live, and not stretch out our hands to do wrong. Forgive us our failures to live justly and to practice your justice towards others. We ask in the name of our Savior, Christ. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness – Romans 8:1-4**

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life a - new,  
 2. Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,  
 3. Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am whol - ly Thine,  
 4. Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

7 F F/A B♭

that I may love what Thou dost  
 un - til with Thee I will one  
 till all this earth - ly part of  
 but live with Thee the per - fect

10 Gm<sup>7</sup> F/C C<sup>7</sup> F

love, and do what Thou wouldst do.  
 will, to do and to en - dure.  
 me glows with Thy fire di - vine.  
 life of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.

# Prayers of the People

## Missions Moment

*Marlene Spark*

## 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 125*

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

<sup>2</sup>As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people,  
from this time forth and forevermore.

<sup>3</sup>For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the righteous,  
lest the righteous stretch out  
their hands to do wrong.

<sup>4</sup>Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,  
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

<sup>5</sup>But those who turn aside to their crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!  
Peace be upon Israel!

**Sermon:** Secure in God's Promises

*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**

# Immortal, Invisible

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, in light in - ac -  
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, nor want - ing, nor  
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small; In all life Thou  
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, Thine an - gels a -

6 C Dm F/C C F Dm C/E F Dm

-ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the  
 wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might; Thy jus - tice like moun - tains, high  
 liv - est, the true life of all; We blos - som and flour - ish as  
 -dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight; All praise we would ren - der: O

11 Am F/A C (C<sup>sus</sup>)(C) F B $\flat$  Gm C Dm F/C C F

An - cient of Days, al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
 soar - ing a - bove, Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 leaves on the tree, and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.  
 help us to see 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee.

**Benediction – Romans 16:25, 27**

*Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to the gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

**The Sending**

*Minister: Go in peace, to love and serve the LORD.*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

## This Week at New Life

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sun. 9/21	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 9/21	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 9/21	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
Tues. 9/23	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study	Aquarium
Tues. 9/23	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
W. 9/24	8:30 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
W. 9/24	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 9/24	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
W. 9/24	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sat. 9/27	6:30 pm	Movie Night	New Life Lawn
Sun. 9/28	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 9/28	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 9/28	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

## Church Financial Summary

<b>Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Year to Date 2025</b>	\$305,961.51	\$320,128.48
<b>Week of 9/14/25</b>	\$8,269.23	\$8,946.00

## Announcements

- ❖ **Moms+:** This fall, the women in Moms+ are studying Habakkuk. The younger children are studying the names of God in John, while the older ones are studying Acts. There is a nursery for the youngest, although babies are welcome to stay with mom as well. Please join us at the church on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10:30.
- ❖ **Stay Connected:** Do you know all the ways to keep up with New Life? We have a facebook page that you can like, a facebook group you can join, congregational emails from Pastor Erik and the office, and a weekly e-newsletter. Email [admin@newlifeyorkpca.com](mailto:admin@newlifeyorkpca.com) if you'd like to be added to any of these.
- ❖ **Prayer Ministry Time Changes:** NLPC has two ongoing opportunities dedicated to prayer, and both of them have updated dates/times. In the midday, prayer will meet on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays** from 11am-12pm in classroom 1. In the evenings, prayer will meet on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** from 7-8pm in classroom 3. Sherry Rishel is the point of contact.
- ❖ **Movie Night!** Invite your family and friends to our movie night **this Sat. Sept. 27**. We will be viewing [\*The Wild Robot\*](#) on the New Life lawn. Doors open at 6:30pm and movie will begin at 7. Snacks and drinks will be provided, but don't forget your lawn chair or blanket to sit on.
- ❖ **Movie Night Help Requested:** We need people to help with setup/cleanup and to help with snacks and yard games. If you are willing to help please contact Mark Deckard or use the sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- ❖ **Save the Dates!**
  - + **Women**, please mark your calendars for the "Women in the Word" workshop in Philadelphia, **Fri. Oct. 17 – Sat. Oct. 18**. For more information, visit [womeninthewordworkshop.org/workshop-2025/](http://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:** 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 2 Corinthians and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other an Inquirers' Class and meeting in Classroom 2.

**Women's Bible Study:** The fall session began **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+:** Women, please join us at the church on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10:30. Childcare and Bible classes for your kids are also provided.

**Men's Breakfast** is in transition. Stay tuned for details.

**Youth Group:** Please contact the church office for information.

**Prayer Small Group:** NLPC has two ongoing opportunities dedicated to prayer. In the midday, prayer meets on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays** from 11am-12pm in classroom 1. In the evenings, prayer meets on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** from 7-8pm in the classroom 3. Sherry Rishel is the point of contact.

**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 **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>

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