



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

October 12, 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

October 12, 2025

Reflection

“Asked the really big question, What is the meaning of life?, J.R.R. Tolkien wrote this: ‘The chief purpose of life, for any one of us, is to increase according to our capacity our knowledge of God by all the means we have, and to be moved by it to praise and thanks. To do as we say in the gloria in Excelsis...We praise you, we call you holy, we worship you, we proclaim your glory, we thank you for the greatness of your splendor. And in moments of exaltation we may call on all created things to join in our chorus, speaking on their behalf...all mountains and hills, all orchards and forests, all things that creep and birds on the wing.’” (Richard John Neuhaus in *First Things*, March 2003 quoting from letter 310 of Tolkien’s correspondence)

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – from 1 Peter 1:3-6

Elder Will Pope

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

People: According to Your great mercy You have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Minister: To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for us,

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

All: In this we rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, we have been grieved by various trials.

Prayer of Praise

Holy Holy Holy

F D
Bm
A D
G
D
7

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

A
D
Bm
A
E7
A

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

D
Bm
A D
G
D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

F Bm
D
G D
G
A7
D 7

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pur - i - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Only a Holy God

Verse 1

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper
and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God

Verse 2

What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendor outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God

Chorus

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Verse 3

What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God

Chorus

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God
(REPEAT)

Verse 4

Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only a Holy God

Chorus

Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God
(REPEAT)

“Only A Holy God” words and music by Dustin Smith, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson
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Affirmation of Faith – adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:1-7

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened – not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 1:3-12

Denise Fitz

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Father, we thank you that you have blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places and for your promise repeatedly in your Word to bless us in daily life if we are living for you. We too often not only fail to live with you at the center of our lives, but we also take for granted the bountiful blessings you have given to us. Forgive us when we fail to see blessings from you, and help us in the times of difficulty we are experiencing to see that your hand of blessing is still present even as we struggle. Forgive us for our tendency to lose our reverent fear of you in suffering and bring us back to being able to see you as ever-present in all times of our lives. We thank you for your mercy and forgiveness given to us through the work of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Romans 5:8-10

God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Holy Forever

Verse 1

A thousand generations
falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Pre-Chorus

(Jesus) Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy
All creation cries Holy
You are lifted high Holy
Holy forever

Verse 2

If you've been forgiven
and if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom
and if you bear His name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen

Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy
All creation cries Holy
You are lifted high Holy
Holy forever

Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing Holy
To the King of Kings Holy
You will always be Holy
Holy forever

Pre-Chorus

Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all (REPEAT)

Chorus 1

And the angels cry Holy
All creation cries Holy
You are lifted high Holy
Holy forever

Chorus 2

Hear Your people sing Holy
To the King of Kings Holy
You will always be Holy
Holy forever

Tag

You will always be Holy
Holy forever

"Holy Forever" words and music by Brian Johnson, Chris Tomlin,
Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson, Phil Wickham
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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 128

- ¹ Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways!
- ² You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.
- ³ Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
- ⁴ Behold, thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.
- ⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion!
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life!
- ⁶ May you see your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!

Sermon: Everyday Blessings

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

How Great Thou Art

Verse 1

O Lord my God
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made
I see the stars
I hear the rolling thunder
Thy pow'r thru'out
The universe displayed

Chorus

Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

Verse 2

And when I think
That God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die
I scarce can take it in
That on the cross
My burden gladly bearing
He bled and died
To take away my sin

Chorus

Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

Verse 3

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home
What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim
My God how great Thou art

Chorus

Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art
Then sings my soul
My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art
How great Thou art

"How Great Thou Art" words and music by Stuart Wesley
Keene Hine
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Benediction – 2 Peter 3:17

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. 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. 10/12	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 10/12	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/12	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall
Tues. 10/14	9:30 am	Women's Bible Study	Aquarium
Tues. 10/14	7:00 pm	Women's Bible Study	Zoom
W. 10/15	8:30 am	Moms+	Classroom 2
W. 10/15	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 10/15	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
W. 10/15	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 10/15	7:00 pm	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 3
Sun. 10/19	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 10/19	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 10/19	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
Sun. 10/19 – M. 10/20		SILVERS Trip	Peddler's Village

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$330,769.20	\$343,478.41
Week of 10/5/25	\$8,269.23	\$14,826.93

Announcements

- ❖ **Hospitality Brainstorming Session:** Anyone interested in the hospitality ministry (contributing to/serving snacks after church), please mark your calendars for a feedback and brainstorming meeting on **Sun. Nov. 2** at 11:45am. We will meet in the aquarium classroom, off of the fellowship hall. The purpose of this meeting is to coordinate plans for moving forward, as the hospitality ministry has grown.
- ❖ **Directory Updates:** Please note the fall directory draft in the foyer. Please make any updates/corrections next to your entry. If you are a new addition to the directory, please write your info on the separate sheet provided. Charles Fox will be available on two upcoming Sundays (exact dates TBD) if you would like your picture taken. Alternatively, you may submit a photo to admin@newlifeyorkpca.com. You are also welcome to leave your picture as is, or go without.
- ❖ **Refreshments:** Thanks to all those who helped out with Sunday refreshments this quarter! You will find a new sheet for sign-ups in the foyer. Sign up with some friends to make it easier, and please keep it simple.
- ❖ **Operation Christmas Child:** Please consider filling a Christmas gift shoebox with appropriate gifts and toys for a child in another country. Beginning Oct. 19, take an empty shoebox from the foyer, fill it with gifts, pay online, and print out the label. Please also remember to secure your box with a rubber band. You can also build a box online if you prefer. Go to samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ for helpful suggestions and more information. The final collection date to bring your completed box back to New Life is **Sun. Nov. 16**.
- ❖ **Advent Children's Choir:** We are inviting all children aged 4 through 8th grade to be part of leading worship on **Sun. Dec. 21**. Rehearsals will be on Sundays, beginning about 15 minutes after the end of the worship service and lasting for 30 to 45 minutes. The first rehearsal will be on **Sun. Oct. 26**. Questions? Please contact Catherine Kloetzli, Ellen Metzger, Elissa Ryan, or Jenn Ryan. We hope to see your children there!
- ❖ **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/.
 - + **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 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 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 takes place Tuesdays 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 **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>

New Life Presbyterian Church, (717) 855-2360
970 Cape Horn Rd, York PA 17402
admin@newlifeyorkpca.com