



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

January 4, 2026

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

January 4, 2026

Reflection

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.

– Ephesians 1:3-4

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 105:1-6

Elder Wayne Blanding

*Minister: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!*

**People: Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!**

*Minister: Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!*

**People: Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

*Minister: Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,*

**All: O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

Prayer of Praise

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of
 2. Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; Hith - er by Thy help I'm come; And I
 3. O, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be! Let Thy

5

D A D G D A7 D D F#m G

mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise: Teach me some me - lo - dious
 hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home: Je - sus sought me when a
 grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I

10

G/D D D F#m G D A7 D A D

son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of
 stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter -
 feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it; Seal it

15

G D A7 D

Thy re - - deem - - ing love.
 posed His pre - - cious blood.
 for Thy courts a - - bove.

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

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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Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* “Catholic” means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples

Scripture Reading – Jeremiah 9:23-24

Bryan McGahan

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love,

We confess that we have been unfaithful

To our covenant with you and with one another.

We have worshipped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience.

We have served our own self-interest

Instead of serving only you and your people.

We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded,

Nor have we rightly loved ourselves.

Forgive us, gracious God,

And bring us back into the fullness

Of our covenant with you and one another.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness – Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Hymn of Heaven

Verse 1

How I long to breathe the air of Heaven
Where pain is gone
and mercy fills the streets
To look upon
the one who bled to save me
And walk with Him for all eternity

Chorus 1

There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord

Verse 2

And ev'ry prayer we prayed
in desperation
The songs of faith
We sang through doubt and fear
In the end we'll see that it was worth it
When He returns to wipe away our tears

Chorus 1

There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord

Verse 3

And on that day we join the resurrection
And stand beside the heroes of the faith
With one voice a thousand generations
Sing worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Forever He shall reign

Chorus 1

There will be a day
When all will bow before Him
There will be a day
When death will be no more
Standing face to face
With He who died and rose again
Holy holy is the Lord

Chorus 2

So let it be today
We shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the Saints
We raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God
Who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord
Holy holy is the Lord

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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 – James 1:9-18

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

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

By Faith

Verse 1

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those
who prove His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 2

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the pow'r of His promise
in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him
our soul's reward
Till the race is finished
and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 3

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah
would appear
With the pow'r to break
the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

Verse 4

By faith the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives
and to preach good news
In ev'ry corner of the earth

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him
our soul's reward
Till the race is finished
and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight

Verse 5

By faith the mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ
all things are possible
For all who call upon His name

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him
our soul's reward
Till the race is finished
and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight
(REPEAT)

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Benediction – 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The Sending

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

**** Would you like to pray with someone today about a need? Following the service a PRAYER TEAM member is available to pray with you. Find them up front to the right of the stage.****

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 1/4	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 1/4	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 1/4	11:30 am	Giant cards for sale	Foyer
Sun. 1/4	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
Tu. 1/6	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
W. 1/7	9:00 am	Moms +	Classroom 2
W. 1/7	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 1/7	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
W. 1/7	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Sun. 1/11	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 1/11	10:00 am	Corporate Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. 1/11	11:30 am	2 nd Sunday Lunch	Fellowship Hall

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2025	\$421,730.06	\$430,285.04
Week of 12/21/25	\$8,269.23	\$11,111.06

Announcements

- ❖ **New Adult Sunday School classes at 9am:**
 - + A study on **Ezra and Nehemiah** meets in the aquarium classroom.
 - + A study on the book ***A Praying Church*** by Paul Miller meets in classroom 2.
- ❖ Our **annual congregational meeting** will be held on **Sun. Jan. 18** following the worship service. Please join us to reflect on 2025, look ahead in 2026, discuss the 2026 budget, and deliberate/vote on a proposed change to the senior pastor's compensation in the pastor's terms of call.
- ❖ **Men's Retreat:** Held at Camp Hebron **Fri. Jan. 23 through Sun. Jan. 25, 2026.**
- ❖ **Winter Women's Book Club:** This winter, read at your own pace and then join us for a dinner and discussion in **late February or early March**. We will be discussing the book *Running to the Fire: Helping in Jesus' Name* by Ken Isaacs.
- ❖ **Short-Term Mission Opportunity:** New Life is partnering with Servants and Baptist on Mission for a short-term trip to assist with hurricane recovery efforts in western North Carolina from **Sun. Apr. 12 through Sat. Apr. 18**. See Nathan Raine for more information.

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 *Ezra* and *Nehemiah* and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other studying *A Praying Church* and meeting in Classroom 2.

Women's Bible Study: Stay tuned for details on the spring study. Contact Marlene Spark with questions.

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 9-11am. 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>

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