



NEW LIFE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Embrace God's Beauty; Extend God's Love

February 22, 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 be with their children who need to wiggle while still being able to watch the livestream.

Please be aware that we livestream our services.

Worshiping God

February 22, 2026

Reflection

You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord. - Leviticus 19:16

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 63:1-4

*Leader: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

**All: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

*Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.*

**All: So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.**

Prayer of Praise

All Creatures of Our God and King

Verse 1

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam

Chorus

O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Verse 2

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along
O praise Him alleluia
Thou rising morn in praise rejoice
Ye lights of evening find a voice

Verse 3

Thou flowing water pure and clear
Make music for thy Lord to hear
Alleluia alleluia
Thou fire so masterful and bright
Thou givest man both warmth and light

Verse 4

And all ye men of tender heart
Forgiving others take your part
O sing ye alleluia
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear
Praise God and on Him cast your care

Verse 5

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him alleluia
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit Three in One

CCLI Song # 1503

St. Francis of Assisi | William Henry Draper

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Immortal Invisible God Only Wise

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^{SUS})(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.

Affirmation of Faith – Romans 8:38-39

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Scripture Reading – Proverbs 10:18-21

Bryan McGahan

Minister: This is the word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

You tell us that you are light and that there is no darkness in you. You call us to walk in the light, as you are in the light. In obedience to you, then, we walk in the light by confessing our sins. In this last week, we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have loved ourselves rather than loving our neighbor as ourselves. Have mercy upon us, for we trust in Jesus. Thank you for the blood of Jesus, which cleanses us from sin. Thank you for the light of your love. Thank you that you have brought us into fellowship with you and with one another. We ask that you would strengthen us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we would obey our Lord's command to let our light shine before others. Help us to walk in obedience and love. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen!

Assurance of Forgiveness – Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loves us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Thy Mercy My God

Verse 1

Thy mercy my God is the theme of my song
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast

Verse 2

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here
Sin would reduce me to utter despair
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive

Verse 3

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart
Dissolved by Thy goodness I fall to the ground
And weep for the praise of the mercy I found

Verse 4

Great Father of mercies Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine

“Thy Mercy My God” words and music by John Stocker, Sandra McCracken

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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 4:11-12

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹²There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

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

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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Benediction – Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 platform. ****

This Week at New Life

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sun. 2/22 | 9:00 am | Sunday School for All Ages | Classrooms |
| Sun. 2/22 | 10:00 am | Corporate Worship | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 2/22 | 6:00 pm | Young Adult Gathering | Swanson Home |
| M. 2/23 | 7:00 pm | Finance Team Meeting | Aquarium |
| W. 2/25 | 9:00 am | Moms + | Classroom 2 |
| W. 2/25 | 9:00 am | Wednesday Morning Bible Study | Classroom 1 |
| W. 2/25 | 7:00 pm | Prayer Meeting | Classroom 3 |
| W. 2/25 | 7:00 pm | Music Team Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 3/1 | 9:00 am | Sunday School for All Ages | Classrooms |
| Sun. 3/1 | 10:00 am | Corporate Worship | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 3/1 | 11:30 am | Giant Cards for Sale | Foyer |
| Sun. 3/1 | 11:45 am | Children's Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Sun. 3/1 | 6:00 pm | Community Groups | Members' Homes |

Church Financial Summary

| Category | Budget | Actual |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Year to Date 2026 | \$61,250.00 | \$51,979.30 |
| Week of 2/15/26 | \$8,750.00 | \$3,841.20 |

Announcements

- ❖ **Women's Bible Study:** Our spring study of the book of *James* starts March 10. Please join us for in-depth study, sharing insights, lively discussion, and opportunities to share how to apply God's wisdom. We will be using the guide by Lydia Brownback, *James: Walking in Wisdom*. All women of the church are invited, and your friends! **When: Tuesdays March 10 through May 12**, mornings 9:30-11am at the church, or evenings 7-8:15pm on Zoom. For more information or to sign up, please contact Marlene Spark or the office. If we have more than 10 ladies, we will pre-order the book at a reduced price so please sign up by **today Sun. Feb. 22**. The price will be no more than \$9. Scholarships are available if price is a concern.
- ❖ **Palm Sunday Children's Choir:** Rehearsals for this year's Palm Sunday children's choir will be held on Sundays about 15 minutes after worship, **beginning next Sun. March 1**. Children ages 4 through 8th grade are welcome to participate. They will be learning a few songs to help lead worship on **Palm Sunday, March 29**. Questions? Please contact Ellen Metzger, Elissa Ryan, or Jenn Ryan.
- ❖ **Baby Bottle Campaign:** Thank you to all who are participating in Human Life Service's baby bottle campaign. Please note deadline for returning them is **next Sun. March 1**.
- ❖ **Mark Your Calendars Now:** On **Sat. March 7** from 3-5pm, New Life will be going to the York County Astronomical Society Planetarium (located in the York Learning Center, 301 East 6th Ave, York). We will view two filmed shows (Cosmic Castaways and Chasing the Ghost Particle) and have a live presentation of what can be seen in the March night skies. This event is for ages 12 years old and upwards. We will have 60 seats available – sign up on the sheet in the foyer. For more information contact Mark Deckard or the office.
- ❖ **New Adult Sunday School Class:** Starting **Sun. March 8** there will be a Sunday school class in classroom 2 called: "We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry."
- ❖ **Winter Women's Book Club Potluck:** Join us on **Sun. March 8** at 5:30pm for a potluck and discussion of Ken Isaacs' book *Running to the Fire: Helping in Jesus' Name*. We will meet at the home of Connie Kay. Please RSVP to Connie or the office.
- ❖ **Easter Flowers:** If you'd like a daffodil or tulip to take home after the Easter service, please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. They are both 6 inches and \$12 each. Last day to sign up is **Sun. March 15**. Please mark your money and give to Steve Harman or Kelly Steenstra.

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: All women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend a 10-week study, *James: Walking in Wisdom*, by Lydia Brownback, beginning **Tues. March 10**. Group meetings occur in the church Aquarium Room on Tuesdays 9:30–11am, or on Zoom in the evenings from 7– 8:15pm. Please contact Marlene Spark or the office 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 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 classroom 3. Sherry Rishel or the office is the point of contact.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Contact Elder Will Pope or the office 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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