



Pathway to PARTNERSHIP

EST. 1868

201 HILL AVE. ENDICOTT
NEWLIFEFM.COM

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A Word from Pastor Joe

The Great Adventure



Dear Church,

Being a Christian is the greatest adventure anyone could ever step into. Being a Christian means that we are adopted into God's forever family, the Church (Romans 8:15). God has called us into a saving relationship with Himself through Christ and has provided the Church to nurture us, protect us, challenge and correct us. Together we become who He intends us to become.

The Church is God's "Plan A" for saving the world through the proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no "Plan B." God, in His Wisdom, has chosen you and me to partner with Him in this "ministry of reconciliation." (1 Corinthians 5:18)

Therefore, deciding which local church you will call "home" is of great significance. For that reason, I am so pleased that you've decided to explore Partnership at New Life.

Before we discuss what it means to be a partner (member) at New Life, I want you to hear and understand my heart behind why we have this process. There is of course the required, legal aspect of establishing and maintaining church membership in accordance with the structure of our denomination and the laws of the land. All of this is necessary and good. (Romans 13:1)

But the heart of the matter, in my opinion, is that God's design for our good includes us being active partners with Him in ministry. God's goodness flows into us from Himself. And the means by which He works are located within the members of His body, the Church.

This is what I want for you:

- To experience the rich and satisfying life that Jesus promises. (John 10:10)
- To discover and fulfill the purpose God designed you for. (Ephesians 2:10)
- To have the joy of helping others discover life in Christ. (2 Cor. 3:4-6)

In short, I want you to experience all that God has made possible for you in Jesus Christ. Together we can become who we are called to become and do what He has called us to do. As we do, we will be transformed into His image, and the world we live in will too.

Blessings in Christ,

Lead Pastor

SESSION 01

What is a *New Life Partner*?

We choose to use the word “partner” rather than “member” because partners actively contribute.

At the end of our time together, you will choose to **partner**, **prepare**, or **participate**.

Choosing to Participate

You’re going to take more time getting to know New Life and God.

Choosing to Prepare

You’re not ready to become a partner just yet, but you’re on your way.

Choosing to Partner

You’re ready to commit to actively advancing the church's mission and vision.

Partnership is not essential, *but it is highly beneficial.*

Partnership is beneficial to both the partner and the church!

Becoming a partner at New Life is more than a formality. It helps the believer understand what it means to be committed to Christ and to His Church.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP:

1. Reminds us that we are already partners in the “Big C” Church.
2. Stands against a culture that dismisses and dishonors commitment.
3. Allows the leaders of the local church to know who can be counted on.
4. Encourages personal accountability that moves us toward spiritual growth.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME *as a Partner?*

Partnership means you understand and support the unique mission and vision God has given to New Life, and you commit to actively participating in it.

Near the conclusion of this course we'll go over the expectations outline in the Partnership Pledge (page 23), but for now, let's focus on the three main aspects of Partnership.



PARTNERSHIP MEANS:

Sharing in the responsibility for the health of New Life.

- Praying for its growth (1 Thessalonians 1:2)
- Inviting the unchurched to attend (Luke 14:23)
- Welcoming our guests warmly (Romans 15:7)

Working for the unity of New Life.

- Acting in love toward others (1 Peter 1:22)
- Refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29)
- Willingness to follow pastoral leadership (Hebrews 13:7)

Supporting the ministry of New Life.

- Attending services regularly (Hebrews 10:25)
- Growing with others in a group (Acts 2:42-47)
- Serving in a ministry (1 Peter 4:10)
- Giving regularly (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- Living a godly life (Philippians 1:27)

How can you tell if you're ready for
Partnership at New Life?

PARTNERSHIP BEGINS WITH

Answering Yes

to the following seven questions:

1. Do you have **assurance** of the Holy Spirit that your sins are forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ?
 2. Do you **experience** the fullness of the Holy Spirit with His cleansing of heart and empowerment for service? If not, will you seek His fullness through study, counsel, and prayer?
 3. Do you **believe** the Holy Scriptures to be the revealed will of God containing all things necessary to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?
 4. Do you **accept** the Articles of Religion*, the partnership Covenant, and the Organization and Government of the Free Methodist Church, and will you endeavor to live in harmony with them?
 5. Do you intend to **serve** God by the full use of the abilities He has given you? If not, will you?
 6. Will you, in fellowship with your pastor and fellow partners, **participate** in the means of grace, such as public worship of God, the ministry of the Word, the Lord's Supper, family and private prayer, and the searching of the Scriptures?
 7. Will you practice the principles of Christian stewardship, **giving** freely of your time, talents, and treasures to Christ and His church?
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Our desire

is that you will commit yourself **to Christ** and to New Life Ministries.

**You can read the entirety of the Articles of Religion here:*



SESSION 02

What is *New Life's Story*?

New Life Ministries is a part of the much larger body of Christ worldwide. That means we're part of God's greater story of salvation that reaches far beyond our own personal history.

New Life Ministries - A Brief History

You might think New Life is about 20 years old because that's when we made a "big splash" in our community. Did you know we have been a church in this community for **over 150 years**?



In 1868, a Free Methodist church was established in Endicott (8 years after FMC was born).

In 1957 the Endicott FMC sold their property to IBM and relocated to Vestal, became Vestal FMC.

The church was a great neighborhood church, loving the Lord and preaching the Word. But...

In the 1990s, we embraced a new approach to reach people far from Christ—changing everything except the Gospel. Our style, music, and ministry methods evolved, but our commitment to Jesus Christ remained unchanged.

In 2000 the church outgrew the Vestal facility, sold the building, rented the Boys & Girls Club.

In 2001 we purchased 201 Hill Ave from Endicott Schools, invested heavily in remodeling.

God grew us from a neighborhood church to a church with a community-wide reach.

Now God is calling us to Raise up leaders, Reach out, and Restore lives like never before.

God's story at New Life is still being written. Our best chapters are ahead of us.

*Will you be a part of it? What part might He be calling you to play?
Partnership at New Life could be a Next Step for you.*

New Life's Heritage

It's important that you know where we came from.

- Jesus Christ – Born A.D. 3-5
- Pentecost – The “birthday” of the Church in A.D. 35
- The Roman Catholic Church splits from what becomes the "Orthodox Church" – 1054
- The Protestant Reformation – Martin Luther posts 95 Theses in 1517
- Church of England – Begins around 1534
- Methodist Church – Begins in 1740 from John Wesley's ministry
- Methodist Episcopal Church – Begins in 1784
- Free Methodist Church – Begins in 1860 after failed attempts to reform Methodist Church



Key People

John Wesley (1703-1791)

- 1728 – Ordained as an Anglican priest in the Church of England
- 1729 – Started “Methodist” Holy Clubs at Oxford
- 1735 – Became a missionary to Georgia in New England
- 1738 – Returned to England defeated and depressed
- 1738 – Aldersgate Experience, when his heart was "strangely warmed" brought assurance of salvation, empowerment for ministry
- 1739 – Class Meetings; Field Preaching; Lay Preachers; “Method” begins
- 1784 – Methodist Episcopal Church formed

John Wesley adamantly believed in the power of God to completely transform the lives of believers. His followers were called “methodists” because they methodically committed themselves to discipleship.

B.T. (Benjamin Titus) Roberts (1823-1893)

- 1852 – Ordained as Elder in the Methodist Episcopal Church
- 1853 – Attempted to reform the Methodist Episcopal Church
- 1858 – Formally stripped of ordination
- 1860 – Meets with 15 preachers and 45 laymen in Pekin, NY
- 1860 – Elected first Bishop of Free Methodist Church
- 1910 – Methodist Church restores Roberts' credentials

New Life is part of the

Free Methodist Church USA (FMCUSA)

The Free Methodist Church gets the "free" in its name from the following:

Free people. We believe all people should be free from slavery.

Freedom from sin. We believe that Jesus Christ has freed us from any obligation to sin.

Free seats. We do not charge for seating in church (*Seriously, that used to be a thing*).

Free movement of the Holy Spirit during worship (*We are not bound to the lectionary*).

Freedom for women to pursue pastoral ministry.

Our denomination is distinct from the United Methodist & other Methodist denominations. The mission statement of the FMCUSA is: *"To make known to all people God's call to wholeness through forgiveness and holiness and to invite into membership all who respond in faith."*

The FMCUSA is led by three regional bishops who oversee conference superintendents.

Our Conference & Governance

The Genesis Conference

New Life is part of the Genesis Conference of the Free Methodist Church USA, a network of churches committed to supporting one another, making disciples, and advancing God's mission together.

As a Free Methodist church, New Life is governed according to the Book of Discipline while led by our local pastors, board, and ministry leaders.

As a Partner, you'll have the opportunity to vote on important church matters and help shape the future of New Life.



To learn more, visit genesisfmc.com
or freemethodistchurch.org.



*Superintendant Pam Braman
Genesis Conference*

Leadership & Governance

New Life is a staff-led church. Our Lead Pastor provides vision and direction, and the staff team leads ministries, makes day-to-day decisions, and equips volunteers to carry out our mission.

Team Leads



Lead Pastor *Joe Wickman*

Provides spiritual leadership and vision for New Life, shepherding the congregation and leading the staff and church toward fulfilling our mission and calling.



Worship Pastor *Sam Tichenor*

Leads the congregation in the spiritual practice of worship and oversees all aspects of worship and technology. Mentors the Connections Leader.



Group Life Pastor *Jordan Dunlap*

Leads the church's small group ministry, helping people build meaningful relationships, grow in their faith, and live out their faith together. Mentors Group Life leaders.



Next Generation Pastor *Jamie Tichenor*

Provides spiritual leadership and oversight for ministries serving children and students, equipping leaders and families to help the next generation know, love, and follow Jesus.



Creative Director *Heather Vestel*

Leads the church's creative direction and communications, shaping the visual identity and messaging of New Life across all platforms and environments.

The Board

We are governed by a Board of Administration made up of the Lead Pastor and four to six Partners who provide oversight and accountability in areas such as direction, budget, and policy. Board members serve three-year terms and are affirmed at our Annual Partner Meeting.

Our Board Members:

Lead Pastor - Joe Wickman

Kevin Webb - Board Chair

Mike Blachek - Financial Lead

Cristina Flores-Meyer - Person of Prayer

Chris Marvin - Treasurer

How New Life Works

Our “House Rules”



*As a partner at New Life we count on you to help us establish
and maintain the health of this house.*

Methods Change, Mission Doesn't

The Church is not just an organization, but a living, breathing organism sustained by God Himself. Our structure has changed as we have grown, and it will continue to.

Growth may bring change, but our foundation remains the same.

These things will never change:

- The Church is a fellowship (Acts 2:42). Our structure should promote unity and peace (Ephesians 4:3).
- The Church is a body (Romans 12:4-6). Our structure should help every person function in his or her own unique ministry (1 Cor. 12:7).
- The Church is a flock (Acts 20:28). This means our structure should allow shepherds to lead (1 Peter 5:1-2).
- The Church is a family (1 Peter 3:8). Our structure should emphasize relationships over rules (1 Timothy 5:1-2).

Financial Transparency

New Life is supported entirely by the faithful generosity of those who call this church home; we receive no outside funding. We'll go over our budget and giving more in Session 4.

We are committed to financial transparency and maintain an open-book policy. Church Partners are welcome to review financial reports and Board proceedings upon request.

Volunteers Make Ministry Possible

Ministry at New Life is powered by hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Our staff's role is to recruit, train, and support these volunteers as we work together to fulfill God's mission for our church and community.



Find Your *Place*

Everyone has a part to play.

New Life has over 50 volunteer roles. Explore all the ways you can serve at New Life and discover God's opportunities for you to grow.



Find Your *Fit*

Discover your Spiritual Gifts.

Scan the QR code to complete a Spiritual Gifts Assessment. See what roles are common fits for different giftings at the back of the Volunteer Catalog, linked above.

SESSION 03

What does *New Life* believe?

We want God's Word to be the standard and authority for all we do.

While Christians may differ in their interpretation of Scripture, we seek to approach these differences with grace and humility: In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity (love). (Ephesians 4:4-6; Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 13:2)

Free Methodists are first and foremost a Kingdom people. Yet throughout church history, God has raised up distinct movements like ours to enrich the larger body of Christ. Our identity is shaped by values that are both *historical* and *aspirational*. Of the many values we hold dear, these five lie at the heart of our movement. We view them as a whole, each one bringing necessary balance to the others. In a time of rising polarization in our nation, we resist the pull toward both fundamentalism and theological liberalism — not out of a spirit of compromise, but from a radical commitment to what Wesley called “the middle way.” It is a path that takes the whole gospel seriously and continually calls us to “both/and” convictions in an “either/or” world. We call it The Free Methodist Way.

DOCTRINE & THEOLOGY

The Free Methodist Way



Life-Giving Holiness

God's call to holiness is not a burden, but a gift that frees us to experience life as He intended. Through the finished work of Jesus, we are made right with God and invited to experience the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit. As we surrender every area of our lives to God, He shapes us to become more like Jesus, empowering us to love and serve God and others with joyful obedience.

A Note on Holiness, Sexuality, and LGBTQ+ Inclusion

Because we believe God's call to holiness applies to every area of our lives, you may have questions about how that relates to sexuality and LGBTQ+ identity. Here at New Life, everyone is welcome. We want all people to encounter Jesus, experience genuine community, and take steps toward Him. God's invitation is to every person, not a standard reserved for some. We hold a traditional view of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman, and we believe God's design for sexual intimacy is within that covenant, not outside of it. We recognize that this conviction may be difficult or deeply personal for some, and we seek to hold it with humility, compassion, and grace.

Whatever our story, struggles, or questions, we are all called to surrender our lives to Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us. We want to walk alongside every person as they pursue Jesus, grow in faith, and discover the fullness of life He offers.

Love-Driven Justice

Love is the way we demonstrate God's heart for justice. Because every person bears the image of God, we are called to value one another, care for the vulnerable, resist oppression, and steward God's creation. Following the example of our founders, who stood against slavery, poverty, the marginalization of women, and the abuse of power, we seek to live out God's holy love for the unborn, the vulnerable, the oppressed, the marginalized, and people of every race and ethnicity.

Our desire is not simply to create a better society, but to see people reconciled to God and to one another in ways that reflect His just and loving character.

Christ-Compelled *Multiplication*

Jesus launched a redemptive movement by investing deeply in a few and empowering them to carry His mission forward. His goal was not simply to share information, but to transform lives and equip His followers to do “even greater things” than He had been doing.

His mission is now our mission. We believe every believer is called to participate in this movement of multiplication: the found reaching the lost, disciples making disciples, leaders developing leaders, churches planting churches, and movements birthing movements. We long to see God's Kingdom expand as ordinary people are empowered by God to do extraordinary things.

Cross-Cultural *Collaboration*

From the beginning, God's intent has been for people from every nation, culture, and ethnicity to be united in Christ and participate in His work in the world.

We celebrate the beauty of a multicultural and multiethnic church, both locally and globally. As we share our gifts and resources with one another, we are also enriched by the faith, wisdom, and unique perspectives of our brothers and sisters around the world. We believe we are better together.

The Free Methodist Way calls us to move beyond colonialism and toward genuine partnership in God's global work, looking forward to the day when people from every nation, tribe, and language will worship together before God's throne.

God-Given *Revelation*

We hold unwaveringly to our conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. Drawing from our Wesleyan heritage, we engage Scripture through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience while keeping Scripture primary.

As culture changes, we seek to communicate and apply God's timeless truth with wisdom and sensitivity without allowing cultural norms or social trends to redefine it. We build our lives and our movement on the unshakable foundation of God's Word.

DOCTRINE & THEOLOGY

The Gospel & Salvation

No doctrine is more important than what we believe about the Gospel and salvation. The Gospel is at the very heart of what we believe and the message that unites us as followers of Jesus.

- 1. God created us to have a relationship with Him.** (Ephesians 1:4-5)
- 2. Our sin separates us from God** and results in eternal separation from Him in hell. (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)
- 3. Jesus saves us from our sin.** Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross to pay the price for our sin and rose from the dead, defeating sin and death. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 2:24)
- 4. Salvation is God's gift to everyone.** We cannot earn salvation through our own efforts. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- 5. We must personally respond to Jesus.** Each of us must choose to believe in Jesus and receive the gift of salvation He offers. (Romans 10:9)

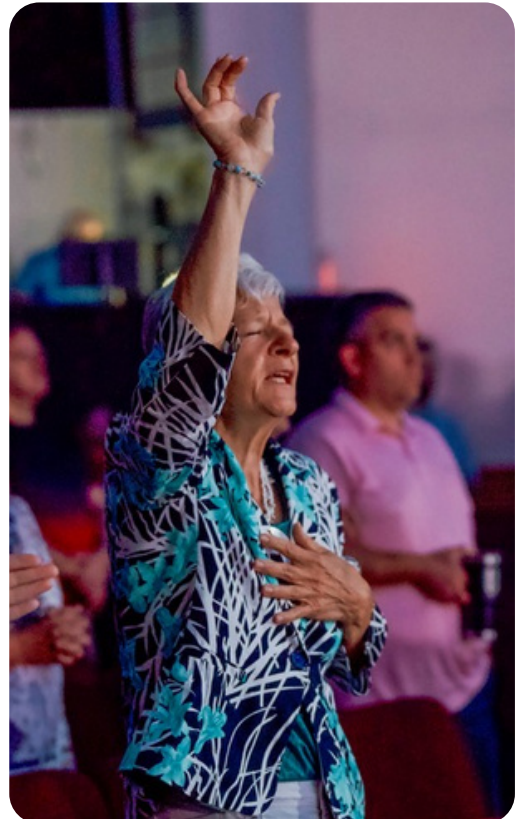
Have You Put Your Faith in Jesus?

Jesus invites us to respond to this good news today: **"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"** (Mark 1:15)

If you have never placed your faith in Jesus, you can respond to Him today. There is no perfect prayer or formula—simply turn to Jesus in faith, confess your need for Him, and receive His gift of salvation.

You can simply pray:

"Jesus, I recognize my need for You. I turn from my sin and place my trust in You. Thank You for dying for me and rising again. Forgive me, make me new, and help me follow You. Amen."



DOCTRINE & THEOLOGY

The Sacraments

Sacraments are holy practices that Jesus told us to do as His followers.

At New Life, we observe two sacraments: baptism and communion.

Baptism

Christ Himself was baptized and He commands us to baptize others. Baptism tells the world we are truly His followers (*Matthew 3:13-15, Matthew 28:19-20, Matthew 10:32*).

Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it is the "outward sign of the inward change."

God's Word is clear that the act of baptism isn't what saves you; salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone (*Ephesians 2:8-9*). Rather, baptism is a step of obedience and a public declaration of our faith. It is an outward sign of the inward change that takes place when we put our trust in Christ.

Baptism identifies us with Jesus Christ.

Going into and out of the water illustrates Christ's going into and out of the grave. It also makes a bold statement to others that the old life of sin is done and a new life in Christ has begun (*Romans 6:4*).

The method isn't as important as the motive.

At New Life, we typically baptize by immersion because that's what we see in Scripture (*Acts 8:38-39*) and because the Greek word for baptism – baptizo – means "to immerse under water." But we also baptize via sprinkling or pouring when appropriate. The method of baptism is secondary to a heart that genuinely desires to follow Christ and let the world know about it.

Baptism is a prerequisite for Partnership.

Baptism is a vital step of obedience and a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ. It's also an avenue through which the Holy Spirit works in the person baptized. By requiring baptism before partnership, we're not saying baptism saves a person, but we are affirming its importance and its role as a defining mark of a committed follower of Jesus.

Child & Infant Baptism

Younger children are most often dedicated to the Lord but can be baptized.

In a dedication ceremony, parents commit to raising their child in the faith and guiding them toward a personal relationship with Jesus (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). The church family joins them by committing to pray for, support, and care for the child.

We baptize young children who are developmentally able to understand and explain the symbolism of baptism and the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Free Methodist churches also baptize infants, though the reason why is different from some other Christian traditions. Baptism is not salvation, and infants are not saved through baptism. Infants are baptized because baptism is understood as a sign of God's grace and inclusion in the covenant community, not *only* as a personal declaration of faith made by someone old enough to understand it. We believe in *prevenient grace*—that God's grace is at work in our lives before we are able to consciously choose to follow Christ—and we view infant baptism as a celebration of God's grace and initiative. As the child grows, they will still need to personally respond to Christ and choose to follow Him.



Communion

John Wesley called Communion “the grand channel whereby the grace of His Spirit was conveyed to the souls of all the children of God.”

Jesus didn’t ask His disciples to remember His birth, but He did ask them (and us) to remember His death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Communion is a simple but profound act of obedience that reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf. We practice open communion.

Come with a heart of self-examination.

Scripture warns us against taking Communion in an "unworthy manner" (1 Corinthians 11:27). Before receiving Communion, we encourage believers to examine their hearts, confess their sins, and seek to restore broken relationships (1 John 1:9; Matthew 5:23-24).

We celebrate Communion together regularly.

We observe Communion as a church family at least quarterly and encourage believers to share Communion in their Small Groups and homes. While any Partner may administer Communion, we entrust this responsibility to those who demonstrate a life of faith and spiritual maturity.



DOCTERINE & THEOLOGY

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Scripture shows that the Spirit-filled life is normative for Christians.

New Life firmly believes in the gifts of the Spirit and wants every believer to know and use his or her gifts regularly. God's Word tells us that the Holy Spirit guides us (John 16:13), convicts us (John 16:8), and intercedes for us (Romans 8:26). He also empowers us for ministry (1 Corinthians 12:7).

Jesus promises to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Before ascending to the Father, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His followers (John 14:16-17). The early church received this promise through prayer and the laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-17).

The Holy Spirit gives each believer spiritual gifts to serve others.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to build up the Church and demonstrate God's love. Scripture describes many spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12), and we believe all of them have a place within the guidelines of Scripture and Godly wisdom.

All spiritual gifts should be used in a manner consistent with God's Word.

Scripture encourages us to eagerly pursue the work of the Holy Spirit while also testing everything and holding on to what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). This is a unique balance that can be difficult to maintain. At New Life, we welcome the exercise of all spiritual gifts, including the more charismatic gifts (*e.g., tongues, interpretation, prophecy, healing, word of knowledge*), and believe Small Groups provide the best setting for this. This environment affords time to test everything and is a solid framework of relationship and trust for the gifts to be practiced with wisdom, accountability, and love.

SESSION 04

What is *New Life* about?

Our Mission & Vision for this community, our church, and The Church.

Every healthy church is called to love God, love people, proclaim the Gospel, and make disciples. While we share this common mission with churches everywhere, God also gives each local church a unique calling. We believe New Life has been called by God to make a distinct impact for His Kingdom.

Our Mission

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

When asked, “What is the greatest commandment? Jesus answered that we’re supposed to love God with all we have and love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40).

He also said we are to carry the Good News to all people, inviting them to become His disciples. Then we are to baptize them, initiating them into the faith, and teach them to obey Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

These purpose-defining passages are what we call the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.



Our Vision

Raise Up. Reach Out. Restore Lives.

Our vision “puts legs” on our mission and helps us to carry it out.

*We **raise up** leaders who are filled with the love of Christ so we can **reach out** to our community, pour out that love, and **restore lives** by Christ’s power.*

God’s vision for New Life is to reach out to 1% of our local population and provide an opportunity for them to worship weekly. Broome County is home to nearly 200,000 people, and according to a recent study, that includes 95,000 who do not claim an affiliation with a faith group. We see this not as a challenge to fear, but as an opportunity to share the hope of Jesus and make disciples who make disciples.



New Life's Core Values

This is some of the stuff we really care about when it comes to who we are as a ministry.

We Invite Everyone

Everyone we meet is loved by Jesus and called to a relationship with Him. Jesus asked all kinds of people to come follow Him. So do we.

Come As You Are

No matter where you're starting from, God loves you just the way you are. When you come to New Life, we will show you the love of Jesus Christ.

God's Love Changes Us

The more we experience God's love, the more we want to be like Jesus. Jesus died, rose, and sent the Holy Spirit so we could live transformed lives.

We All Have a Next Step

God is constantly growing our faith one next step at a time. No matter how long you've been a Christian, God has a Next Step for you to take.

We Worship Big

When we worship together, we experience God's presence in powerful ways. We use every bit of creativity we can to lead people into the presence of God.

We Live God's Word

We present God's truth found in Scripture in a way that's easy to understand and apply. We teach towards application and transformation, not just information.

We Grow in Groups

Real relationships are essential to our ongoing growth in Christ. Life change happens best when we're gathered in circles, rather than rows.

We Serve Selflessly

We're not just consumers, we're contributors. We gladly give God our time and effort, building up His church and serving in our community with excellence.

We Give Generously

We trust God with more than words. We trust Him with what He's entrusted to us. We give God our first and best, and we trust Him to help us use the rest.

We Invest in the Next Generation

Our ministries for kids and teens are a huge part of who we are and who we're becoming. We want the next generation to drag their parents to church!

New Life's *Budget & Giving*

How Our Budget Works

Our annual budget is a faith-filled projection of what we believe it will take to carry out the ministry God has entrusted to us; our staff carefully calculate projected costs and present a plan to our Board, who provide insight and guidance to help us reach an approved budget.

Our actual ministry income comes only through the faithful generosity of our church family. Without the faithful and generous giving of our New Life family, ministries would not be funded. As giving increases or decreases, we prayerfully adjust our spending and priorities accordingly.

What Your Giving Fuels

All of your generosity goes to our General Budget, which is then used across all our ministries to fuel:

- Sunday worship and ministry
- Kids and youth ministry
- Discipleship and small groups
- Local outreach and compassion
- Missions and global partnerships
- Facility and ministry spaces
- Staff and ministry leaders



Congregants do have the option to give specifically towards our mortgage principal to help pay down our only debt. If you'd like to learn more about the impact this makes and how to participate, let me know!

Your Giving at work in Latin America

From our neighborhoods in the Southern Tier to "the ends of the earth," we want to be a church that participates in what God is doing both locally and globally.

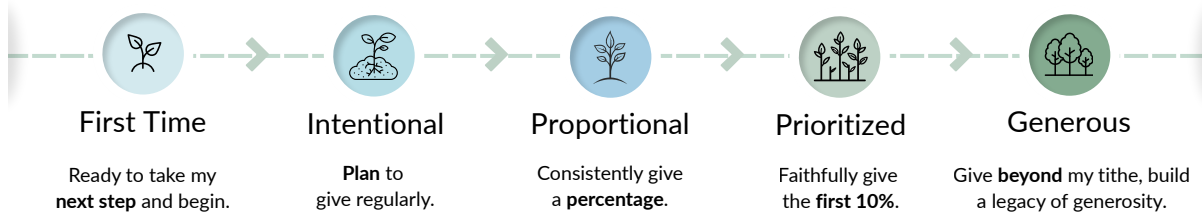
New Life contributes monthly towards our Free Methodist Missionaries in Latin America, Esteban and Cris Flores. Like New Life, they are passionate about developing leaders, multiplying ministry, and reaching people with the hope of Jesus. To learn more about our missionaries, visit newlifefm.com/give#latin-america.

The Compassion Fund

This fund exists to help meet practical needs in our community and provide assistance when people face unexpected hardship; we like to say it funds Groceries, Gas, & Bridging the Gap. The Compassion Fund is fueled with our General Budget as well as proceeds from the Coffee Shop. Every coffee, snack, and t-shirt sale helps build up our funds available each week.

Pathway of *Generosity*

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?



God's plan for generosity is a journey of trusting Him with all that we are, and all that we have. The Bible encourages us to grow in every aspect of our walk with Christ, including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).

As you consider your next step, we encourage you to:

Listen To God *Matthew 7:7-8*

Prayerfully seek God's guidance as you consider your next step.

Evaluate *Matthew 25:14-30*

Consider that all the resources God has blessed you with ultimately belong to Him.

Get Specific *2 Corinthians 9:78*

Determine specifically how your resources can be used by God to further His kingdom.

Walk By Faith *Malachi 3:10*

Choose your next step, and trust God to grow your faith as you do so.



Pathway of *Discipleship*

God has shown us who we are, where we are going, and how we can get there. He has called us to make disciples by helping people take their next steps in following Jesus. Our Pathway of Discipleship—**Plant, Root, Grow, Bear Fruit, and Multiply**—helps us understand that journey and stay focused on our mission. Wherever you are on the path, there is always a next step. This is how we make disciples at New Life.



PLANT *Meet Jesus*

Begin your journey with Jesus & step into community.

- Attend a Sunday service
- Explore faith and ask questions
- Put your faith in Jesus



ROOT *Grow in Jesus*

Establish your faith and build strong spiritual foundations.

- Become baptized
- Read the Bible regularly
- Attend Partnership classes
- Develop a consistent prayer life
- Join a small group/ participate in Rooted



GROW *Become like Jesus*

Develop in spiritual maturity through learning and application.

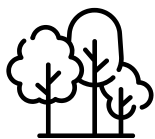
- Practice spiritual disciplines
- Seek a mentor
- Grow in generosity
- Pursue deep healing and freedom from spiritual bondage
- Serve on a ministry team



BEAR FRUIT *Live like Jesus*

Live out your faith by serving, giving, and leading.

- Use your spiritual gifts
- Disciple someone else
- Mentor another believer
- Pray for and invite a neighbor
- Give generously



MULTIPLY *Help others follow Jesus*

Reproduce your faith by helping others become multiplying disciples.

- Disciple someone who is discipling another person
- Develop new leaders in small groups and ministry teams
- Help plant or launch new ministries
- Invite others into the pathway

AN INVITATION TO TAKE *Your Next Step*

Where is God calling you to participate in
His ministry here at New Life?

Thank you for choosing to be part of Pathway to Partnership. We hope that through this class, you've discovered that New Life can be a place you call home—a church where you can grow in your relationship with Jesus, find community, and live out your faith.

But partnership is about more than attending. It's an invitation to join us in pursuing our mission to **Love God, Love people, & Make Disciples**. We believe God has given New Life a big vision for what He wants to do through us:

- ❖ **Raise Up** leaders who will help win generations to Christ.
- ❖ **Reach Out** to people who don't yet know Him.
- ❖ **Restore Lives** through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

We cannot fulfill this mission or see this vision become reality on our own. It will take all of us—using our gifts, serving God and one another, giving generously, and inviting others to follow Jesus.

Now, we invite you to take your next step.

On the next page, you will find a self-evaluation. There is no pressure to choose a particular path. We simply ask you to prayerfully consider where you are and what your next step should be:

PARTNER

You are ready to make New Life your home church and commit to partnering with us in our mission and vision.

PREPARE

You want to become a Partner, but there are a few next steps you need to take first. You're not quite ready yet, but you're moving in that direction.

PARTICIPATE

You'd like more time to get to know New Life, grow in your relationship with Jesus, and explore what it means to be part of our church family.

Wherever you are, we're glad you're here. We're excited to walk with you as you take your next step.

Thank you for letting us be part of your journey, God Bless!



Pathway to Partnership *Your Next Step*

Your Contact Information

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Carrier _____

Marital Status ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed ☐ Divorced

If your spouse attends with you, please list his/her name and date of birth:

If you have children that attend with you, please list their names and dates of birth:

Comments | How was your experience, and would you recommend this class to others?

Self Evaluation

Carefully consider and honestly answer the following questions:

- Y N
1. Are you confident in your salvation through faith in Jesus, and have been baptized in the
☐ ☐ name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
 2. Do you have the Holy Spirit in you, transforming and empowering you to live for Him?
☐ ☐
 3. Do you believe what God says in Scripture about salvation and Christian living?
☐ ☐
 4. Can you in good conscience say that you are rejecting sin and living the Christian life?
☐ ☐
 5. Will you use the unique gifts God has given you by volunteering on a ministry team?
☐ ☐
 6. Will you participate in worship, connect with others in a group, and seek God privately?
☐ ☐
 7. Will you support the ministry by growing in generosity by giving of your finances?
☐ ☐

Your Results

If you can answer YES to all of these questions, then you are ready for Partnership!

If you were unsure or unable to answer "yes" to any of the questions, prayerfully consider "Prepare" or "Participate" as your Next Step.

Review and check one of the options below. God's going to do amazing things with your Next Step!



Partner

"I am ready and all in!" Continue to the Partnership Pledge on the back of this page.



Prepare

"I want to be ready, but need to take some Next Steps first." All set! Turn in this page - do not sign the pledge on the back.



Participate

"I want more time getting to know New Life, and God." All set! Turn in this page - do not sign the pledge on the back.



NEW LIFE
MINISTRIES

Partnership Pledge

I, _____ am confident that I am saved by placing
PRINTED FULL NAME
my faith in Jesus Christ, and have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. I have the Holy Spirit in me, transforming and empowering me to live for Him. I believe what God says in Scripture about salvation and Christian living. In good conscience, I can say that I am rejecting sin and living the Christian life. I will use the unique gifts God has given me by volunteering on a ministry team. I will participate in worship, connect with others in a group, and seek God privately. I will support the ministry by growing in generosity by giving of my finances.

By signing this pledge, I attest that I have carefully considered and agree with these statements and commit to becoming a Partner with New Life Ministries.

Signature _____

Date _____

Pastor's Signature _____

Congratulations & Welcome Home.

Thank you for your commitment to Christ and New Life.

Please keep this copy for your own records.

NEW LIFE MINISTRIES'
Partnership *Pledge*

I am confident that I am saved by placing my faith in Jesus Christ, and have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. I have the Holy Spirit in me, transforming and empowering me to live for Him. I believe what God says in Scripture about salvation and Christian living. In good conscience, I can say that I am rejecting sin and living the Christian life. I will use the unique gifts God has given me by volunteering on a ministry team. I will participate in worship, connect with others in a group, and seek God privately. I will support the ministry by growing in generosity by giving of my finances.

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