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*New Life Presbyterian Church*

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December 16, 2018

10:30 a.m.



*Love*

*Calm & Bright*

Welcome to this Lord's Day Worship. We rejoice that you are here!

NLPC Mission Statement (June 2016)

Assured of the new life we have received in Christ, we will live out our faith together through worship, prayer, education, fellowship, and mission.

Being called to love all people, we will use our gifts to serve God in an imperfect world.

Equipped with our faith and filled with the Spirit, we will:

- \*reach out in acceptance to a diverse community;
- \*embrace the marginalized and show love to all;
- \*feed the hungry and care for the sick;
- \*search for peace and work for justice.

Child Care is available during our worship service.  
Ask an usher for the location of the Childcare Room.

Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals, and Bibles are available.

**Participating in Worship**

Worship Leader:	Rev. Mary Bahr-Jones, Pastor
Music Director:	Edyta Jaros
Liturgist:	Valerie Robbins
Ushers:	Francis Booth, Jodie Horan and Don Soule

Service for the Lord's Day  
Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD

... by speaking the words of the third verse together:

*Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light,  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth*

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Lighting the Advent Candle

God of Advent Love,  
We open ourselves to hear your call today  
to recognize your love all around us,  
and also see the potential to add to the love all around us—  
making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world  
a brighter place.

*Fill us with your love and light,  
make the world so calm and bright.*

\*HYMN #104     *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

CALL TO CONFESSION

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...And let all God's people say:

*Amen!*

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

As we focus today on letting  
the gracious love of God fill our hearts,

Let us greet one another with a sign of joy, saying:

May God's love be with you!

*More love to you.*

*Please share God's love with those worshipping around you.*

\*SONG OF PRAISE

#121     *O Little Town of Bethlehem*     (verse 3)

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

THE WORD INTERPRETED FOR CHILDREN

ANTHEM

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

NLPC Choir

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### THE WORD OF GOD

John 1:1-5, 14, 16-17

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Pew Bible NT p. 86

Pew Bible OT p. 826

This is the Word of the LORD;

*Thanks be to God.*

SERMON SERIES

CALM & BRIGHT

SERMON

*Gracious Love*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN # 99

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...And now hear us as we pray together as Jesus taught us :

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

## SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

OFFERTORY      *Love Never Fails*

NLPC Band

### \*SONG OF DEDICATION

#606 *Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SENDING OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN #145      *What Child Is This*

### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

### CHORAL BENEDICTION

*We Need a Silent Night*

NLPC Band

### POSTLUDE

*\*Those that are able may stand.*

# New Life Opportunities & Announcements



**Coffee Time-** Please join your fellow NLPC members and guests in a time of fellowship following the service this morning. Everyone is welcome!



**Liturgists Needed!** Check out the liturgist sign up sheet posted across from Pastor Mary's office with many opportunities for willing liturgists. No experience is necessary! If you can serve at one of our worship services, we would love to have your help so sign up today! We look forward to hearing many voices from our congregation lead us in praise each Sunday!

Notes and reflections on this week's sermon:

*Today's liturgy was inspired/adapted from the following resources: written by Dr. Marcia McFee @woshipdesignstudio.com.*

*Words and music for "We Need a Silent Night" by Marsha Jean Moors-Charles and arranged by Chuck Bell. Used with permission.*

## Holiday Baskets

NLPC will be providing holiday gift/food baskets to 15 families in our community. These families are also in need of gifts for their children as their resources are quite limited. Tags are hanging from the tree at the back of the sanctuary. Please take a tag with the person's name and need on it. Make sure you wrap the gift and attach the tag to it upon return.

We will also need non perishables (see today's insert for list) and monetary donations for the holiday baskets. Place a separate check, payable to New Life Presbyterian Church in your offering with the note of Food Baskets. Cash donations can be given to Bruce Short after the Worship Service. Baskets will be assembled and delivered on Saturday, December 22nd. Food shoppers and drivers are needed, with food shopping planned for Friday, December 21st.

Food shopping and driver sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to the church office.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Christmas  
Food Baskets



### Choose Meijer for Your Holiday Shopping! (here's why)

The Meijer store on Hall Road at Hayes has once again partnered with NLPC on our Food Basket Program by donating \$500 to help fund the food purchases for our Christmas Food Baskets. You may recall that they also donated toward our Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets last fall. Meijer's contribution enables NLPC to grow our Food Basket Program and help more families. Let's thank Meijer at Hall and Hayes by shopping there for supplies for our own holiday meals as well as holiday gifts for our family and friends.

What a great way to show our appreciation for their commitment to our community!

**meijer**

### Stewardship Thanks!



Thank you to all who have turned in promise cards of support for NLPC in 2019. If you have not yet submitted your card, please do so as soon as possible. Additional promise cards are available in the sanctuary. The session is thankful for your generosity which will help them to prepare the 2019 church budget.



## Lighting the Advent Candles

Pastor Mary is inviting all interested parties to participate in the lighting of the advent candles during service each Sunday in advent. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to be a part of this tradition.



## 2018 Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate leadership – past, present and future – through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we honor church leaders by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related ethnic schools and colleges. New Life will receive the offering throughout the advent season. Offering envelopes are conveniently located in the pews and at the back of the sanctuary. Please prayerfully consider your generous



The 2019 Giving Envelopes are here! They are available for pick up in the narthex. Please take yours home today! Any questions can be directed to the church office.



## The Minister's Memo – Calm & Bright

In celebration of its 200th Anniversary, we are focusing on the hymn – Silent Night – in worship during this Season of Advent. Consequently, our worship services – our music, our prayer, our message, and even our worship space – will be shaped by the words and images evoked by this beloved hymn. We began with the vision of the star-lit night of Jesus' birth only dimly.

Last week the image intensified, and with each successive Sunday the vision of Christ's birth will become more concrete for each of us. As we move through the mists of our lives toward the clarity of God's light remembered at Christmas, let us experience the calming peace and bright light of truth that God offers to us through the birth of His Son.



## **DISCIPLESHIP GROWTH**

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Please join us at 11:45AM in Agape Hall for light refreshments.  
12:00 PM Sunday School  
Childcare is available from 10:00AM-1:00PM.

### **Sunday School- Kids**

Our Spark House All Kids program continues with studies from the Old Testament.

### **Adult Sunday School**

**CHRISTIAN: It's Not What You Think**

Have you ever stopped to wonder, what it means to be Christian? Curiously, the term is never used in Scripture. Through eight engaging and enlightening sessions, Andy Stanley – a pastor and bestselling author – will examine the characteristics Jesus used to define those who followed him. The qualities, which Jesus prescribed for his followers, made them unique in the ancient world. What if believers today embodied these traits? This DVD based study will push us all to become better followers of Christ. We still have room for more- join us this week!

### **Prayer Group**

Thursdays: 11:00 am - NOON

Have you ever thought of Christian faith as something that is contagious? Rather like a disease that you catch? What would it take for your faith to become contagious, so that other people actually wanted to be caught by God? On Thursdays our Prayer Group continues to study what it means to be Contagious Christians. Come join with us and find out!

### **Faith Lessons Video Series-Walk as Jesus Walked**

Mondays: 10:30 am - 11:45 am in Agape Hall

Becoming a disciple of Jesus demands more than merely a deep commitment to the text and complete devotion to Christian community. The Messiah is king, and believers are called to pick up their crosses in daily pursuit after becoming like Him. Come join us for another insightful series by Ray Vander Laan – a noted historian and teacher – and rediscover the fierce passion of the apostle Paul and our early Christian brothers and sisters as the rabbi leads you through cities such as Aphrodisias, Antioch Pisidia, Lystra, and Cappadocia in ancient Asia Minor.

# ***PRAYER CONCERNS***

## PRAY FOR HEALING

**George Steiger**  
**John Turner-** (Jeff Turner's brother)  
**Lori Haralson**  
**Bill Pitchford**  
**Dana and family** – (friend of Shelley)  
**Alyssa-** (Wendy Martin's granddaughter)  
**Baby Scarlett** (Sandy Day's great-granddaughter)  
**Mike Day-** (friend of Kevin Konikson)  
**Tara Sumners-** (friend of Joyce Harrison)  
**Bill Mundle-**(JoAnn DiPasquale's cousin)  
**Jeanne-** (friend of the Robbins family)  
**Steve Jones**  
**Marge Kunz**  
**Jodie Horan**  
**Patti Jones-** (Cliff Robbins' sister)  
**Shirley Honor**  
**Joan Mc Bride**

## STRENGTH AND HOPE

**Bill & Joyce Pitchford**  
**Josie**  
**Rilynn, Paul & Kelsey Gryelewski**  
**Marlene Kanthook**  
**Pete Wickens & Family--**(friend of Haralsons)  
**Brendan Bonkowski and family**  
**Carlene Kneebone**  
**Catherine Meeka-** --(friend of Shelley)  
**Ken Pawlitz**  
**Tom Dittman**  
**Marilyn Anderson**  
**Helen Goltz**

## COMFORT IN MOURNING

**Family of Ellen Plume** – after her passing this week  
**Family of May Shorthouse-** after her recent passing  
**Wendy & Ron Mueller and family-** after the recent passing of Ron's mother

## SERVING IN THE MILITARY

**Justin Wright-** (grandson of Marilyn Wright)  
**SrA Shawn Konikson-** US Air Force  
**Mike Stroud-** US Air Force (Shirley Coar's grandson)

## GENERAL/GLOBAL

All people dealing with hardship and loss from recent natural disasters, including evacuees and first responders  
Those struggling in personal and spiritual crisis  
Victims of unrest & injustice throughout the world  
Second Mile Center  
Those seeking work  
Missionaries serving worldwide  
Those experiencing homelessness  
An end to violence in our nation

Please inform the church office of updates or if you know of someone who is well enough to be removed from our prayer chain. Thank you.

# ***New Life Presbyterian Church***

*11300 Nineteen Mile Road Sterling Heights, MI 48314*

*www.newlifepresby.org*

*Find us on Facebook*

*Church Office 586-731-6133 fax 586-731-6629*

*Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00AM to 3:00 PM*

[office@newlifepresby.org](mailto:office@newlifepresby.org)

*Reverend Mary Bahr-Jones, Interim Pastor*

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Wendy Mueller, Secretary  
Shelley Claeys, Secretary

Edyta Jaros – Music Director  
Sana Mansour – Child Care Supervisor

## **SESSION**

Moderator: Rev. Mary Bahr-Jones

Clerk: Valerie Robbins

Phil Cunningham  
Dorothy Harrington  
Marge Kunz  
Calliandra Bowman-Tomlinson

Lori Haralson  
Matthew Hurst  
Valerie Robbins

Bill Bowman  
Sharon Gire  
Charles Gough

## **DEACONS**

Moderator: Joan Lockard

Secretary: Shayla Hansen

Bruce Duff  
Shayla Hansen  
Bernice Rutherford  
Randy Tuck

Judy Doverspike  
Jodie Horan  
Margie Hurst

Bob Hitchcock  
Cheryl Konikson  
Joan Lockard

## **NLPC Weekly Calendar**

### **MONDAY, December 17, 2018**

9:00 AM Honey-Doers  
10:30 AM Study Group  
7:00 PM Session Meeting  
8:00 PM AA

### **TUESDAY, December 18, 2018**

*CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED*  
7:00 PM Deacons Meeting  
8:00 PM AA, Alanon, Alateen

### **WEDNESDAY, December 19, 2018**

6:45 PM Tone Chimes Practice

### **THURSDAY, December 20, 2018**

11:00 AM Prayer/Study Group  
7:00 PM Band Practice



### **SATURDAY, December 22, 2018**

10:00 AM Christmas Mission Baskets  
Assembly and Delivery

### **SUNDAY, December 23, 2018**

8:45 AM Choir Practice  
10:00 AM Prayer Partners  
10:30 AM Worship  
12:00 PM Sunday School

**Church Office Closed  
December 24 and 25  
for the holiday**

