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*New Life Presbyterian Church*

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December 23, 2018

10:30 a.m.



*Hope*

*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:	Joyce Harrison
Ushers:	Francis Booth, Jodie Horan and Don Soule

Service for the Lord's Day  
Fourth 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!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
"Alleluia" to our King:  
"Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born."*

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Lighting the Advent Candle

God of Advent Hope,  
We open ourselves to hear your call today—  
the call to keep hope alive no matter the troubles we face.  
Help us to never lose hope and to offer hope to all around us—  
making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world  
a brighter place.

*Fill us with your hope 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 hope of God fill our hearts,

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

May God's hope be with you!

*Hope is never lost.*

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

\*SONG OF PRAISE

#121     *O Little Town of Bethlehem*     (verse 4)

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

THE WORD INTERPRETED FOR CHILDREN

ANTHEM     *Almost There*

NLPC Choir

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 9:1-7

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible OT p. 600

Pew Bible NT p. 1

This is the Word of the LORD;

*Thanks be to God.*

SERMON SERIES

CALM & BRIGHT

SERMON

*Audacious Hope*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*HYMN # 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness (vs 1,2&5)*

### 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      *Hope Was Born This Night*      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 #129      *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

### \*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.*

## Many Thanks from the Mission Committee

### Christmas Food Baskets



Thank you to those who helped support the mission baskets and giving tree projects this year. With your help we were able to provide mission food baskets for 16 families which included general food items along with a holiday meal and Christmas gifts for their children. A special thank you goes out to those who helped to assemble and deliver those baskets last Sunday. Thank you for taking the opportunity to share god's love with the less fortunate in our community. Your generosity truly brightens the season!



### 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 support.

### 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.

### Holiday Church Office Hours



Monday & Tuesday  
Wednesday – Friday

OFFICE CLOSED  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



### Looking Forward to Christmas Eve!

Celebrate the beauty of Jesus' birth at our Christmas Eve service, which will be held at 5:00 PM. Please feel free to invite friends and family to worship with us this Christmas season.



### 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!



There are still a few boxes of 2019 Giving Envelopes in the Narthex. Please check to see if you have a box waiting for you! 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.

Each week the image has 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 recent passing  
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 24, 2018**

**Church Office Closed**

8:00 PM AA

### **TUESDAY, December 25, 2018**

**Church Office Closed**

8:00 PM AA, Alanon,  
Alateen



### **THURSDAY, December 27, 2018**

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

### **SUNDAY, December 30, 2018**

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

### **WEDNESDAY, December 26, 2018**

6:45 PM Tone Chimes Practice