"So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!"
- 2 Cor 5:17 (CEB)

Christmas 2018

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Greetings from Pastor Mary

The angel said to them,
“Do not be afraid;
For see
—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people—
To you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior,
Who is the Messiah, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you:
You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

[Gospel of Luke 2:10-12]

This year is the 200th anniversary of “Silent Night.” The classic hymn first made its debut on Christmas Eve in 1818 at the Nt. Nicholas Chapel in Austria. Today the words to the original text written by Joseph Mohr have been translated into 140 languages and the melody written by Franz Gruber is instantly recognizable throughout the world. For many, the singing of this hymn on Christmas Eve has become a beloved worship experience. Indeed, there is something mystical about lighting a candle and singing those words of hope: “all is calm, all is bright.”

Today our communities, our nation and our world are torn and divided over many issues. Today our churches are stressed and distressed by declining membership and dwindling participation. Today we, ourselves, are feeling burdened by the frenzy of the “holiday season.” In this time of division, distress, and burden we can sometimes feel that peace, joy, hope and love are missing from our lives. It is time now to take a deep breath and re-focus on the Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Only in through bright light of Christ’s love do we find the promise of peace that brings us a true calm.

In the face of today’s challenges, let each of us remember the words of Joseph Mohr ... “all is calm, all is bright” again and again, until we experience the peace and light of Jesus as our new reality. May you find peace, joy, hope and love this Advent Season!

Blessings,

Pastor Mary
Sunday School

We have programs for adults and children that begin at 12:00 noon. We hope you can join us!

**Children's Program**—our Spark House All Kids program continues with studies from the Old Testament.

**Adult Program**—**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. Instead, Christian was a label used by outsiders to define Jesus' followers. Have you ever wondered why people love Jesus but don't care for his followers? 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? Would the non-believing world put aside its definition of 'Christian' and instead recognize the true Jesus in us? This DVD based study will push us all to become better followers of Christ.

Faith Lessons Video Series

**Faith Lessons - Walk as Jesus Walked**

Mondays: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

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.

Thursday Prayer/Study Group

**Thursday Prayer/Study Group**

**Thursdays: 11:00 am – NOON**

“But you will receive power, when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; And you be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

[Acts 1:8]

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!
New Life Eco Challenge

As a follow up to Pastor Mary’s Caring for Creation sermon series, we are inviting all members and friends to challenge one another to participate in activities that can make a difference to our environment.

Holiday Baskets and Giving Tree

We have adopted 15 families this Christmas to provide a holiday gift/food basket. These families are also in need of gifts for their children as their resources are quite limited. Tags will hang 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. It is important that if you take an ornament that you return the gift as someone is depending on that gift for Christmas. Please be sure to follow the directions (found in the December Church bulletins) regarding the gifts and tags for all giving tree items. If you have any questions or problems please contact Sue Gough at: 586-566-7531.

We will also need non perishables (list is available in the worship bulletins) 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 also be given to Bruce Short after 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. Questions or concerns may be directed to the church office. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

New Life Christmas Concert/Pageant

New Life Presbyterian Church will hold its Christmas Concert and Children’s Pageant on Sunday, December 9th at 4:00 PM. Come and enjoy an entertaining and enriching program presented by our talented members and friends. Please plan to attend this festive evening filled with beautiful seasonal music.

New Life Christmas Concert

We are taking orders for the gorgeous Poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary this holiday season. Think about ordering one or more in memory or in honor of someone special in your life. Order forms are available on the bulletin board for your convenience. Orders may also be placed through the church office. Orders and payment are due by December 9th.

New Life Eco Challenge

Check out the Eco Challenge bulletin board to see how you can participate!
December Fellowship Gatherings

Dorcas Circle / New Life Presbyterian Women

The Dorcas Circle and the Presbyterian Women will join together for our annual Christmas Gathering on Tuesday, December 11th at 6:30 pm in the Church Library. We will have a potluck supper and each of us should bring a quartered sandwich to share, either a salad or a dessert, a devotional reading and $5.00 to give to the Giving Tree.

All the women of our congregation are invited to join us for a time of sharing the holiday spirit.

Rachel Circle

The ladies of Rachel Circle will meet on Thursday, December 13th at 12:30 pm at Lakeside Family Restaurant. It is on Schoenherr just S. of Lakeside mall across from the Kroger Store and behind their Gas Station. All are invited to join us for lively conversation and a tasty meal. Please let Lynn Booth (586-781-6753) know if you will attend.

New Members!

On November 18th New Life Presbyterian Church welcomed three new members to our church family:

Jim Haralson,
Danielle Hurst and
Laura Mac Kool.

Our newest members professed their faith and affirmed their desire to share in our worship and ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ here at NLPC. Please be sure to welcome them warmly the next time you see them.

Family Christmas Potluck

New Life Honey-Doers are hosting the New Life Family Christmas Potluck on Sunday, December 2, immediately after worship service that day.

We will be making ornaments for Agape Hall Christmas trees, decorating trees and caroling in the sanctuary.

In an effort to help to those in our community, the Sock Fund will be available that day to accept donations. Grocery or gas gift cards or cash donations are preferred. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office to say you will attend and what dish you will share.

MILITARY PRAYERS

- SrA Shawn Konikson- US Air Force
- Mike Stroud- US Air Force (Shirley Coar’s grandson)
- Jason Barr - Booth’s Cousin
NEW LIFE NEWSLETTER

Listening for God’s Whisper

In our effort to listen for God’s guidance at this pivotal moment in the life of our church, the Session has posted a book on the bulletin board in the hall. This book—entitled Old and New—is for ideas. The church leadership would like to hear about your ideas of things the church family might do to be more hospitable to both friends and strangers. These could be things that the church has done in the past, which we could do again, or they could be things that the church has never tried. Please, share your thoughts with your church leaders ... you never know when God is whispering to us through you!

Thanksgiving Basket Thanks!

On Saturday November 17, NLPC successfully assembled and delivered food baskets to 12 families in Macomb County, easing their food insecurity and helping them enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday. These 12 families included 77 people of which 40 were children. Our baskets contained enough food to prepare over 1,600 meals.

Thank you to all who donated food and/or money to this very worthwhile and much appreciated food outreach program.

Also, thank you to the Thanksgiving Food Basket Teams:
1) Shopping Team of Bob Hitchcock, Cheryl Konikson, and Grace Rodgers, and 2) Assembly and Delivery Team of Lou Angyal, Sue and Chuck Gough, Bob Hitchcock, Jodie Horan, Danielle and Matthew Hurst, Margie Hurst, Cheryl and Dave Konikson, Laura MacKool and her son Tommy, Don Soule, Karen and Randy Tuck, and Marilyn Wright.

NLPC’s next food basket delivery, which includes Christmas presents for the children, will be Saturday, December 22nd, with shopping on Friday, December 21st.

Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who attended our Consecration Sunday Service and Potluck and to all who have since turned in promise cards of support for NLPC in 2019. If you have not yet returned your promise card, please bring or mail it to the church office as soon as possible. Additional promise cards are available in the sanctuary. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generosity.
Blood Drive Results

NLPC hosted our 4th Blood Drive of 2018 on November 15, collecting 37 units and saving 111 lives. 27 neighbors donated Whole Blood, 5 donated Double-Red, and 5 were deferred for minor medical reasons. Thank-you to all NLPC blood donors, and to all members of NLPC’s Life Saving Teams: 1) Baking Team of Julie Angyal, Lynn Booth, Laura MacKool, Eleanor Pawlitz, and Margaret North, 2) Canteen Hosting Team of Lou Angyal, Lynn and Francis Booth, Laura MacKool, and Randy Tuck, 3) Signs by Bob Hitchcock, and 4) Scheduling and Facilitation by Shelley Claeys. NLPC delivered another banner Blood Drive year to our community. In 2018, a total of 160 units were collected, saving 480 lives. A BIG thank you to everyone who contributed to our blood drives in 2018.

December Birthdays

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shirley Honor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lisa Ekpo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Amy Shoults</td>
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<td>Judith Dittman</td>
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<td>Karen Miracola</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Nicolae Rusnack</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Karen Hempton</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Stanley Iobst</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Steven Smith</td>
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<td>Judith Rusnack</td>
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NLPC October Finance Report

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<td>($11,870.00)</td>
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New Life Presbyterian Church Staff

**STAFF**

Reverend Mary Bahr-Jones, Interim Pastor
Wendy Mueller—Secretary
Shelley Claeys—Secretary
Edyta Jaros—Music Director
Sana Mansour—Child Care Supervisor

**BOARD OF SESSION**

Moderator: Rev. Mary Bahr-Jones
Clerk: Valerie Robbins
Phil Cunningham, Dorothy Harrington, Marge Kunz, Lori Haralson, Matthew Hurst, Bill Bowman, Sharon Gire, Charles Gough, Calli Bowman-Tomlinson (Youth Elder)

**BOARD OF DEACONS**

Moderator: Joan Lockard
Secretary: Shayla Hansen
Bruce Duff, Bernice Rutherford, Randy Tuck, Judy Doverspike, Jodie Horan, Margie Hurst, Cheryl Konikson, Bob Hitchcock