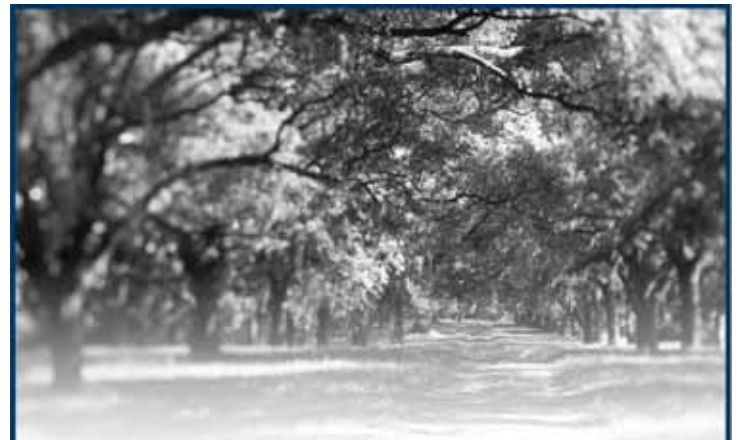


[www.discovernewlife.com](http://www.discovernewlife.com)  
3120 Norcrest Street  
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419.423.8465

# Where you belong.

## A NEWCOMER'S GUIDE





## **We're so glad you are here!**


No matter your past, no matter your present, our church is a place where you can discover and walk the pathway of new life in Jesus.

The Bible makes it very clear that Jesus is the Way, The Truth, and the Light; no one can come to the Father except through His Son. In other words, God sent His Son Jesus to create the pathway for us, and we must each decide whether or not we will follow it.

We'd like to be a place where you can make up your mind. It's our prayer that you'll discover Jesus to be real and true.

We also know that God never intended for any of us to walk the pathway of new life by ourselves. We need one another. New Life is a place where you can find friends to walk with you. A place where you can belong.

The Bible says that you will become a new person as you pursue Jesus. We welcome you to discover the power of God's transforming love in your life here with us—at New Life. God bless you!



**Pastor Dutch VanderVlucht**



*Pastor Dutch and  
Cindy VanderVlucht*

# Sundays Services and Activities

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## Worship services

9 am & 11 am

## Nurseries for your baby and/or young child

On Sundays, we offer nursery and preschool care during the entire service so you can worship without distraction.

- Infant nursery: up to age 1
- Toddler nursery: ages 1 through 2
- Preschool: kids ages 3 through 5

If you attend our Wednesday night prayer and devotional service, we will provide nursery care for your children up to age 3.

## Sunday School for your older children

Once the singing portion of Sunday service is over, you can opt to send your older children to classes where they'll learn about God and Jesus in fun ways tailored to their age and interests:

- 3's class
- Preschool: kids ages 4 and 5
- Kindergarten and 1st grade
- 2nd and 3rd grades
- 4th and 5th grades

## To register your child

You must register your child (through grade 5) for nursery care, preschool, and Sunday School classes. Registration is part of a system designed to keep children safe at New Life. Ask any greeter for directions to the Children's Registration Center.

## Quarry Student Ministries for children in grades 6 through 12

QSM meets at 6 pm Sundays from late September through May. Tweens and teens take part in praise and worship, learn about the Bible, build relationships, and have plenty of fun.



## Wednesday Services and Activities

*September through May*

**Prayer and devotional service for adults**  
7 pm in the sanctuary

**Nursery care for children up to age 3**  
For parents attending the Wednesday service

### Groups for girls and boys

During the school year, kids from 3 through 18 take part in group activities that help them better understand God and one another. They also benefit from the mentoring of trained leaders who work with each group:

- Girls ages 3 through 18 (and boys ages 3 and 4) belong to National Girls Ministries.
- Boys ages 5 through 18 belong to Royal Rangers.

## Additional Groups/Activities

### For women: **Linked Up! Ladies**

The second Tuesday of each month from September through May, Linked Up! Ladies meet to talk about the challenges and issues they're facing, to pray for one another—and have fun!

Linked-Up  
**Ladies**

### For men: **Man to Man**

This group meets the first Monday of each month to help men grow into healthy, active, mature Christians who serve their families and the church.

Man to  
**MAN**

### Small groups and ministries

We have many small groups of people who meet together to pursue common interests. We also have nearly 20 ministry groups: some reach out to people within our church and our community, while others promote spiritual growth or take responsibility for the tasks required to keep New Life up and running.



# New Life Q&A

If you've never been to church—or you've attended a different church—you probably have questions about New Life. Here are answers to some of the questions visitors ask most.

## Question 1.

Why do you sing so long at the beginning of your service?

Variations: Why do you sing so loudly? What's with the whistling, clapping, shouting, and flags? Why do you raise your hands when you sing? Was that woman actually dancing up there in front of the congregation?

## Answer 1.

If you didn't grow up in a church like ours, it's natural to have questions about the praise and worship portion of our service. Perhaps the most often-asked is this:

*Are you people crazy, or what?*

We're not crazy—or at least no crazier than the rest of the population. Our singing—and clapping, whistling, shouting, flag-waving, and even dancing—is an outpouring of our gratitude and love for God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Expressing ourselves this way also gets our minds off the problems and details of everyday life so we can focus on the Lord and the message we'll hear later in the service. You can find examples of this kind of worship in the Bible.

You can also find similar behavior in sports stadiums and arenas where fans clap, whistle, shake banners, do the wave, and sing fight songs in a natural outpouring of affection for the team they love. If a sports team can inspire such behavior—which may be goofy but certainly isn't a sign of mental illness—it doesn't seem crazy to us to outwardly express our love for the God Who created us and gave His Son to die for our sins.

## Question 2.

I'd never be comfortable raising my hands or shouting or doing any of that stuff you do when you sing. Do I have to?

## Answer 2.

No. In fact, if you look around during praise and worship, you'll find that some people are standing quietly and praising God silently. How you express your love to God is between the two of you.

## Question 3.

What role do women play at New Life? Do you exclude women from ministry?

## Answer 3.

The Assemblies of God, the denomination we're affiliated with, has always allowed women to be ministers and hold leadership positions in the church. Women are respected as co-equals in Christ (that means we're all the same in Christ's eyes) and play an important role at New Life.

## Question 4.

Everybody at New Life seems so perfect and happy. But my life is a mess and I've done some terrible things in the past. Is there a chance I could be accepted here?

## Answer 4.

You will be accepted here, and do you know why? Because we've all done some terrible things in the past, and we've all been forgiven by God and given new life in His Son, Jesus. In addition, the Bible tells us that God considers one sin just as bad as another; that's a hard concept for us to grasp, but it means that no matter what you've done, you're no worse a sinner than anyone else.

If you think we're perfect, it's only because you don't know us very well yet. In fact, as you get to know people at New Life and they share how they were born again, you may be surprised to learn that people you figured were near-perfect since birth once lived lives that make yours look like a Sunday School picnic.

That's why we're all so happy, or, as we'd say, joyful. We're thrilled that God has delivered us from sin and its ultimate consequence—eternal separation from Him—through His Son Jesus.

### Question 5.

What do I have to do to belong to New Life? What will I have to give up? Will I still be allowed to have fun?

### Answer 5.

To belong to New Life, you must make a decision to follow Jesus. We'll also urge you to take a series of classes that will help you understand your role as part of a church family.

We encourage everyone who belongs to New Life to pray, read the Bible regularly in order to live according to its principles, and develop a Christ-like love for other people.

What you choose to give up as you follow Jesus is between you and the Lord. And no one's going to tell you that you can't have fun; however, your idea of fun may change as your relationship with the Lord develops.

As you continue to follow Jesus, you're sure to find that there are certain things you've done in the past that conflict with your new relationship with Him. Although we don't know what those things are, we encourage you do what's necessary to follow Christ.

### Question 6

That Bible the pastor quotes from doesn't have any "thee's" or "thou's" in it. How can that be the Bible?

### Answer 6.

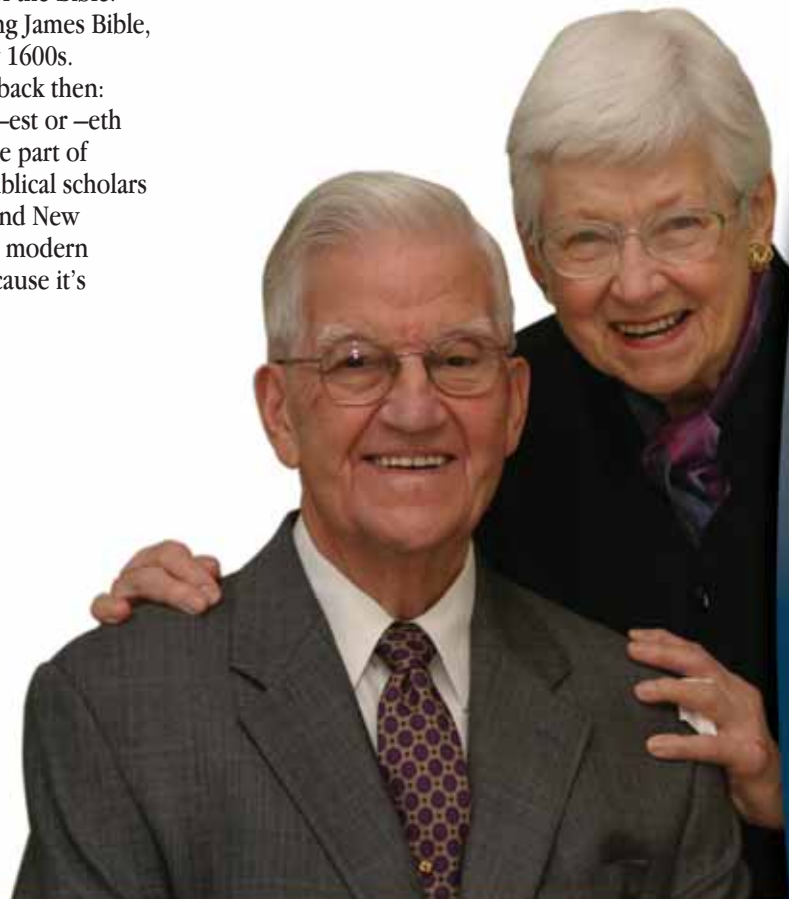
There are many, many different translations of the Bible. For many years, the most popular was the King James Bible, which was translated into English in the early 1600s. The way it's written is the way people talked back then: "thou," "thee," and all those verbs ending in -est or -eth (e.g. Wouldest thou passeth me the salt?) were part of everyday English. More recently, however, Biblical scholars have translated the oldest copies of the Old and New Testaments from their original languages into modern English. We use one of those translations because it's easier for people to understand.

### Question 7.

How can you say that the only way to God is through Jesus?

### Answer 7.

This isn't something we came up with on our own. We say it because Jesus Himself said it: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Light; no man comes to the Father except through me. He didn't say it because He wanted to exclude anyone; He said it so people would know how they could have a personal relationship with God.



# Basic Church-Speak

Every group has its own jargon, and New Life is no exception. Here's a guide to a few terms you may not be familiar with.

**Born again, or saved.** We are born again, or saved, when we admit the sin in our lives and accept God's free gift of forgiveness made possible by the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus. Jesus talked about this in the Bible; it's called "born again" because we were already born once when our moms gave birth and we entered this life. When we put our faith in Jesus, we're born again into a new—and much better—life. It's also our guarantee that we will live eternally with God and Jesus after our physical death.

**Communion.** This is a special meal that Jesus gave to His 12 closest followers (called apostles or disciples) the night before He died, and told His followers to continue to eat in His memory. The little cracker we eat and the grape juice we drink remind us that Jesus gave His Body and Blood to pay the penalty for our sins. If you want to take part, you can; if you don't want to, that's okay, too.

**Praise and worship.** This is the part of the service in which we sing and express our love for God. (See Question/Answer 1 for more information.) You can also praise and worship God on your own or with others outside of church.

**Quiet time.** Everyone who joins New Life promises to spend time praying, reading the Bible, and meditating (thinking about) what they've read. This time is often referred to as quiet time, time before the Lord, or devotions.

**Testimony.** Your testimony is the story of how you came to follow Jesus and the changes it's made in your life.

**Tithes and offerings.** This is the money we give to the Lord by giving to the church. It supports the work we do to help people and tell them about Jesus. The Bible talks about giving our tithe—10 percent of our income—to the Lord, so most of us do. Technically speaking, an offering is money given above and beyond our tithe. What you give is between you and God.

**The Word.** This is another term for the Bible. We refer to it as the Word because we believe it is the Word of God, written by men who were divinely inspired to record it exactly the way God wanted it.



# Notes

# Notes