

New Life Presbyterian Church

January 23, 2011



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Celebrating Spirituals and Codes of the Underground Railroad

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† Please stand if you are able  
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Gathering

The chimes call us to the tables for worship.

† Gathering Hymn “Follow the Drinking Gourd”
*This served as a map and as a timetable for the Underground Railroad
telling the slaves to follow the Big Dipper in the sky.
It pointed to the North and to freedom.*



North Star

*Announcements and Introductions
Welcome and Introduction of Guests*

† Coded Call to Worship “Let Us Break Bread Together”
*A signal song calling slaves to secret meetings.
It is not about communion, a morning ritual requiring one to face east,
nor does it require a person to kneel.*

The chimes signal a time of silence in order to center ourselves for worship.

We kindle the first light.
*It is our custom at New Life to light the votive candles on the Communion table
as we sing hymns, pass the peace of Christ, and offer prayers of the people.
Please come forward at any of these times.*

Call to Worship

One: Today we gather together to worship.

All: We rejoice that we can gather without being summoned by a secret code.

One: We celebrate our freedom to gather openly and not need to meet surreptitiously in the woods.

All: We delight in our liberty to worship at a regular time.

One: We rejoice that we have the freedom to move about the country as we see fit.

All: We remember those who struggled to overcome oppression.

One: Keep us mindful of the places where people struggle still and guide our actions.

Hearing the Word

New Life Choral Ensemble

Matalie Wham, Director

“Deep River” by Roy Ringwald

In this song, the people are longing for a change.

Deep river – my home is over Jordan.

Deep river, Lord. I want to cross over into campgroun’.

*Oh, don’t you want to go to that gospel feast,
that promised land where all is peace?*

Deep river, Lord. I want to cross over into campgroun’.

Scripture: Daniel 6

† Hymn of Hope

“Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel?”

A song of hope and empowerment.

If God could deliver Daniel from the lions, couldn’t he also deliver us from slavery?



Monkey Wrench

Interpretation for the Children

Sharing of the Peace of God
Youth leave for Sunday Circle



Wagon Wheel

Prayer of Confession:

**Oh God, Sometimes we fail in our attempts to walk with you
and to do your calling.**

We are left feeling disappointed, guilty, and alone.

Help us remember that you are always there ready to help.

We just need to get up, dust ourselves off, call on you and try again.

Help us keep our “eye on the prize” and “hold on” until we get there. Amen.

† Hymn of Lamentation “Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray”

An escape attempt has failed. The people are trying to regroup emotionally and spiritually. There is a sense of being alone and a feeling that there is no help from anyone. This may be a loss of family or friends or a crossing over to freedom, perhaps in the North (Canaan).

The Chimes Signal the Prayers of the People

*As we offer our prayers of petition and of thanks, the people respond,
“God, you hear our prayers,” or “God, we thank you.”*

The Prayer of Jesus

*We pray this prayer inviting each of you to pray it in the version closest to your heart.
Even as we pray, we listen to the rich diversity here.*

† Hymn of Hope and Inspiration “Oh, Freedom”

A celebration of what it will be like when we get to the North.

Dismissal

*Our service is done. Our hearts have been touched. Go out and look for deeper meanings.
Be a part of God at work in the world. Amen.*



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This morning’s service was prepared by Lynn Coburn and the Worship Committee.  
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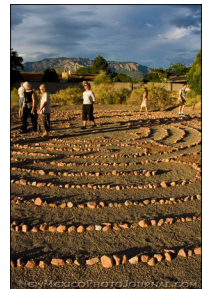
Welcome to New Life Community Presbyterian Church, a welcoming family of believers and seekers from diverse spiritual backgrounds, striving to be a cooperative and mutually respectful community in which to pursue our individual and community relationship with God.

We carry out God's mission for New Life as a joyful, sensitive faith community modeled on the inclusive and healing love of Jesus Christ. We reflect Christ's love to all who come through our doors, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, race or economic status. We extend this ethic to our pastor, elders and deacons.

- We are open to freedom of interpretation of Scripture, believing that truth is also found in our experiences of God in our individual and communal lives.
- We practice freedom of expression in worship, inviting participation from the whole congregation.
- We worship at round tables to signify inclusivity, connection and equality.
- As part of our ministry to explore and deepen our individual and collective spirituality, we host an ancient form of walking meditation called the labyrinth.
- We reach out to the community at large through our ongoing participation with Project Share, Habitat for Humanity, the Martineztown House of Neighborly Services, and other projects.

NEW LIFE is home to two labyrinths, tools for walking prayer and meditation, that date back to the 12th century pattern found in Chartres Cathedral in France. Our indoor canvas labyrinth is used for meditative services throughout the year. The outdoor labyrinth is open from dawn to dusk daily year-round.

Every Sunday evening, a contemplative Taizé service from 6:30 - 7:15 is held at New Life. On the last Sunday evening of each month we hold a shorter Taizé service with a labyrinth walk following. The Labyrinth walks will be held outside, weather permitting. In 'uncooperative' weather and on special occasions, we will have the walk on the indoor labyrinth.



New Life Presbyterian Church
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MINISTERS - ALL THE MEMBERS OF NEW LIFE
PASTOR - THE REV. DR. BOBBIE G. MCGAREY: 918-0240
Bobbie's Office Hours: Monday 10-2, Tuesday 2-5, Wednesday 1-6
Please call Bobbie if these times are not convenient for you.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND PIANIST - MATALIE WHAM: 266-2857
SECRETARY & WEB WEAVER - DIDI ACOSTA: wireless 450-2127

Two Important Dates:
January 30, 2011 ~ Labyrinth Walk ~ "Transformation and Recovery"
FEBRUARY 6, 2011, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER CHURCH