



# new life news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW LIFE CHURCH OF CHRIST | AUGUST 2019

*BEST YEAR EVER!*

## Milestone Sunday is September 8th

For the past several years we have had one Sunday during the summer when we **celebrated the milestones** and accomplishments of the people in our congregation.

This year we will be celebrating on **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. The day will be a full day of worship and celebration and food and fun! So make your plans now to be there.

As in years past we will **be putting out a survey** to collect information from you all. Some of the things we will be celebrating are births, starting school (Kindergarten), certain wedding anniversaries, retirements, and other accomplishments.

The day will begin with **a morning of worship and celebration followed by a pitch in meal**, and games and tournaments in the afternoon. **And, YES, the Freemans will have an ice cream truck here as well!**

This is always a wonderful day of Worship and Fellowship and so I **encourage** you to plan on spending it together with us at New Life!

~Steve

## August Events

July 28<sup>th</sup> – August 2

Youth Mission Trip

August 5<sup>th</sup> – August 16<sup>th</sup>

Safety Town

August 8<sup>th</sup>

Senior Moments Bus Trip

August 15<sup>th</sup>

Thumbs Up Event @

6:00p

August 21<sup>st</sup>

Comfort & Joy Sewing @

5:30p

“Greetings in Christ!” from the worship ministry here at New Life! This month I want to take this opportunity to **share a little bit about worship, as well as our ministry team**. As we all grow in our relationship and understanding of the mighty God we serve, we should strive for worship that reflects our growing devotion. **Our first concern should not be about us or how we feel about it, but rather, it should be about how God would feel about it.** Any good that we might feel or experience should be an overflow of being in the presence of God and the unity we have with fellow worshippers, not because we “liked it.” That is the worship ministry’s mindset and goal when corporate worship services for Sundays are being planned. There is a lot of work and prayer that goes into planning and accomplishing the goal of worshipping the Lord in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23-24).

**Each month, a group meets together to plan out worship services.** We begin the meeting with prayer asking the Lord to guide us to bring songs that will lift Him up, while at the same time encouraging the worshippers. Typically, we know what Steve and the creativity team have come up with concerning sermon series and the themes that will be dealt with in those series. The team, then, looks for songs that will ideally go along with those themes. **We strive to choose songs that are familiar enough for the congregation to sing, but desire to add new songs that will eventually become familiar.** One way we have accomplished this is through a theme song for the sermon series that will be sung each Sunday to build familiarity, as well as bring unity in the series. We work very hard to make sure we do not overload a service with new song selections. **Our desire is that worship services are participation events, not something in which only the few on stage are active.** The challenge we face is that every single person who is part of worship on Sunday has different songs which are familiar and minister to their heart. That brings obstacles into planning (an understatement if I have ever heard one!). The main goal in having the group choose songs is to attain more variety of thought. We are looking for additional ways to bring more variety, while keeping with the idea that we never want worship to be about us.

**Planning music is a great and exciting challenge** because we all have an opinion of what moves our heart. This goes beyond even the simplistic categories of “traditional” and “contemporary.” **Our team hopes and prays that the congregation sees the effort to have Sunday morning worship times full of variety, but familiar enough to participate; full of praise to the Lord but encouraging to the worshipper.** I use two metrics in determining if we are moving in that direction: I receive comments from older and younger Christians that they appreciate selections. I have also noticed a marked improvement in participation on Sunday mornings, i.e. I can hear people singing. Praise God! **If you have questions, suggestions, or concerns**, please talk to someone that helps lead worship on stage or contact me by phone/text (330-401-3708) or email [chris.newlifecc@gmail.com](mailto:chris.newlifecc@gmail.com). I can’t promise that the change you want to see will happen, but know that we will listen and prayerfully consider how your idea could fit into the big picture. I want to again thank everyone who uses their talents on the worship team, as well as everyone who joins our worship gatherings. **Remember... “We don’t deserve praise! The LORD alone deserves all of the praise, because of his love and faithfulness” (Psalm 115:1 CE v)** ~Chris

I can't believe I'm saying this, but it August....which means.... **BACK TO SCHOOL**. So first and foremost I ask that we as a church **pray for our kiddos** as they embark on new grade levels, different teachers, and learning new things. **Pray for the teachers and parents** as they teach our kiddos and they (teachers and parents) need encouragement because it's a long year. This also means it's time for **Promotion Sunday** here at New Life. We will be having that **August 18th** this year so I thought it would be best to recap our age and grade range for the classes we offer here at the Church: **Nursery (newborn-18 months), Toddler (19 months- 3 years old), pre-school (4-5 years old)**. We have **k-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-5th. 6th and up** is with Kyle's group. **Jr. Church is for k-3rd grade**. So, if you have any questions, feel free to ask me. This is also a great time to **jump into volunteering** to help in this amazing ministry. I also plan on putting more of an **emphasis on the check-in** as we begin the new school year, so we **really need volunteers** for that. Please see me with questions regarding that as well. Have a blessed month!

~Jason

## August Birthdays

- 1 - David Crawford
- 2 - Becky Sharp
- 6 - Tristan Cromer
- 7 - Ryan Sharp
- 10 - Nathan Hickerson
- 11 - Barry Fluty, Gary Fry
- 12 - Pam Mowry
- 14 - MaKenzie Frontz, Lois Worner
- 16 - Irene Beal
- 17 - Marlee Cromer
- 19 - Jane Olson
- 23 - Sylvia Liming
- 24 - Ericka (Kistler)Brandau
- 25 - Deb Rockwell
- 26 - Josh Clark
- 29 - Warner Manning, Gavin Sharp
- 31 - Chris Cromer

The Bible is clear that we are involved in an **ongoing spiritual conflict**. As Christians we are members of Christ and are citizens of His heavenly Kingdom. We are in **constant struggle against the “rulers”, the “authorities”, the “powers”, and the “spiritual forces of evil”** that are in this world (Eph. 6:12). As exciting as it would be to spend time talking about the nature of this conflict and its relationship to Christ’s victory through His ministry, death, burial and resurrection, and its finally coming in power at His second coming, I want to talk about this battle as it relates to spiritual disciplines.

A lot of times when we talk about **“spiritual disciplines”** what we mean are certain pious practices that help us to focus more clearly on God and to experience deeper communion with Him. A handful of examples of these practices may be Scripture reading, prayer and fasting. When we practice these disciplines we do so with the intentions of setting apart time specifically for fellowship on God so that we can know Him better and be more open to His work in our lives.

And this is a large part of what makes these spiritual disciplines so valuable. But, what if we consider spiritual disciplines as also serving as practices that make us more effective in our spiritual warfare. We have several biblical passages that bring this point out, but I’d like to point out just a couple right now.

To start, we can stay in the **Ephesians 6** passage already mentioned above. Paul writes to the Ephesians and tells them that they are fighting a spiritual war and that they need to prepare themselves by being armed against the enemy. He then goes on to list several pieces of armor including **the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation**. But he ends with naming the only weapon used for attacking the enemy in the list: **“the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s word,”** (Eph. 6:17). To use God’s word against the enemy we need to know God’s word. We have God’s word preserved for us in the Scriptures, and **if we aren’t reading the Scriptures** then we aren’t preparing ourselves for the battles to come. The discipline of Scripture reading helps us to be prepared to drive the enemy back wherever we find him.

Another important passage is **Mark 9:14-29** where Jesus comes down off of a mountain after being transformed in His appearance in front of Peter, James and John. There was a man there with a demon-possessed son who had asked the other disciples to heal his son. But they couldn’t. Jesus expressed His frustration with the disciples’ lack of faith and then drove the demon out. The disciples wondered, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” And Jesus’ answer was, **“This kind only comes out by prayer.”** (Mark 9:29... Some translations add “and fasting”). Jesus’ point was that prayer rooted the disciples to God and helped their faith become more alive. It was a discipline that would allow them to see God more clearly and as a result would have made their spiritual warfare against the demon more effective. **The important thing to remember about spiritual disciplines, whether they involve Scripture reading or prayer or anything else, is that they don’t bring about a change in God, but they bring about a change in us.** What this means is that when we pray, fast, journal, sing or anything else, we aren’t doing things that make God love us more or make Him indebted to us. He already loves us. He owes us nothing but saves us by His grace. **Spiritual disciplines are a gift from God so that He can use them to transform us.** We are changed from the inside out. We learn to depend on Him more, we see Him more clearly and our faith is strengthened. There are a lot of benefits to this. But my prayer is that **we grasp how important** and useful spiritual disciplines are to preparing us for **battle with the enemy.**

~Kyle