



# new life news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
NEW LIFE CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MARCH 2020

**Matthew 28:5-8** – *The angel told the women, “Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.’ Listen, I have told you.” So, departing quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, they ran to tell his disciples the news. (CSB)*

**“Don’t be afraid!”** Those were the words that Jesus had told the disciples on many occasions during His ministry. Don’t be afraid - you will be fishers of men; don’t be afraid - of the waves of the sea; don’t be afraid - of your upcoming ministry; don’t be afraid - it is Jesus walking on the water; and don’t be afraid - on the mountain of transfiguration. So it shouldn’t come as a surprise when the angel appeared to the women on Sunday morning to announce the resurrection of Jesus that they would be told those familiar words, **“DON’T BE AFRAID.”** But after they were told the amazing truth that He was not there but had risen, notice they were afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell. **They were still afraid of what they had seen.** I am sure that they were trying to process everything in their minds. Was this real? Could Jesus really be alive? Was that really an angel who had delivered this news? **But while there was fear, there was also great joy.** Hope had returned! So they went to tell this wonderful thing that they had experienced.

Today, we are still being told, **“Don’t be afraid!”** We are approaching a time of the year that, with its joy, also brings opportunity for fear. Every Sunday, we celebrate the wonderful truth that is the foundation of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus. But **during the Easter season, we have a special opportunity to worship the Lamb of God who was dead, but now lives.** I hope and pray that we will not be filled with fear, but with joy! This is a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, and just anyone to come and experience what Easter is all about. The opportunity is there since many people are willing to go to church on special occasions. Rather than being critical of people who have this belief, look at this as a great opportunity! If we invite them and they do come, isn’t it possible that some seeds could be planted which might grow in the future? It might take a long time and it might take some more seeding, but we need to begin now. **We have three major opportunities to worship on Resurrection Weekend April 10 – 12<sup>th</sup>:** (Good Friday Prayer Walk at 3:00, Good Friday service at 6:00, and Easter morning breakfast at 9:00, followed by worship at 10:30). We are asking that we be filled with joy rather than fear, and we encourage those around us to attend at least one of these services. **We know that God can move the hearts of people in a mighty way, but first we must be available so that He can work through us.** Let’s pray for each other to be filled with the joy and strength of the Lord!

## March Events

- **Mar 8 – Daylight Savings Time**
- **March 8, 15, 22 & 29**  
**Sonshine Singers Practices @ 4:00p**
- **March 4 & 18**  
**Comfort & Joy Sewing @ 9:00a & 5:30p**
- **Mar 5, 12, 19, & 26**  
**Community Basketball @ 5:30p**
- **Mar 22 – Mission Trip**  
**Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser @ 11:30am**

Of course, I hope you are planning on being a part of Resurrection Weekend as well! Let’s make this one of the best Easters ever, as we worship the risen Lord!!!

Hello! My name is Eric Ellis and my wife is Linda. We have been married for 46 years and have three children: Jon, Daniel and Brittany Dudgeon. We have six grandchildren: Ethan and Olivia Dudgeon, Cadence, Bremmen, Norah and Rhys.

I was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. I attended the Evangelical & Reformed Church of mainline Protestant denomination. At Milligan College in Tennessee I learned about the biblical plan of salvation. I followed it, and became a Christian in 1973. I am being sanctified by the indwelling Holy Spirit, which continues to this day and beyond. My memory verse is John 8:31-32 "If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed. You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.

My involvement here at New Life is that I am an elder, a member of the Missions Committee, a Discipleship Group Leader and a Sunday school teacher.

I am working in the areas above to influence brothers and sisters at New Life. I am influencing people outside the church by offering encouragement, by teaching servant leadership (mostly through one on one and small group teaching), and by teaching about the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Hello! I am Linda Ellis and have been married for 46 years to Eric. I was blessed to have Christian parents who raised my brother Gary and me in a family with love, Christian teaching, prayer, reading the Bible, plus sharing the gospel. As a family, we always put our Christian faith and our Lord and Savior first by attending Webber Street Church of Christ every Sunday for worship, Sunday school, youth group, and by serving others whenever needed.

Another memory I will always cherish is attending church camp in the summer, both as a camper and as a helper. I was baptized at our church in 1957 at 10 years old. Growing up with other Christians was always a blessing and encouragement for me.

I moved to Ft. Myers, Florida to become a church secretary at First Christian Church. Meeting many new friends and co-workers was such a wonderful experience. Another special time was attending the weekly college age Bible Study and meeting Eric Ellis. We were married two years later.

Moving to Ohio three years later, we arrived in Mansfield with Eric starting a new job for United Telephone.

Finding a new church home in Bellville and raising our children here has been wonderful. Growing in our faith, having friendships that will always last, sharing the gospel with others, and seeing them accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will always be a beautiful memory.

My involvement at New Life includes teaching Sunday school for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, participating in a D-group on Thursday nights at the church, as member of the Missions Committee, helping and praying for those going on the trips, and also serve as a member of the Senior Moments Committee.

I am influencing others by teaching the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and encouraging them to learn memory verses by reading them out of the Bible during our class. I also give them suggestions for Christian books to read, encourage them to read their Bible every day, and encourage them to invite others to come to church.

Some memory verses to learn:

Psalms 121:2; Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:27; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:13-14; and Philippians 4:13.

## Meet the Ellis'





Children's Ministry  
Team Member for the  
Month of March:  
Jessica Dawson

Jessica is married to Bryan and has three children: Lilly, Brody and Myla. She is a stay-at-home, homeschooling mom.

She has served in children's ministry for around 14 years. She serves in the nursery, the toddler room, the preschool room, and the kindergarten - 1<sup>st</sup> grade room.

"My favorite memory working in the Children's ministry is when Bryan started coming to church with me when we were 19 years old, and we taught the kindergarten - 1<sup>st</sup> grade class. Those kids are now older than we were when we were teaching them! It's been a joy to watch them grow up.

I feel that kids are so important to the church because they decide what they are going to believe when they are young. Most of the time, it's too late to change someone's mind after they are an adult. Kids are the future.

What does Jesus mean to me? Jesus is my Lord and Savior. He is mighty God and brother and friend to all, all at the same time. He is full of compassion, mercy, and sacrificial love that is beyond our understanding."

# March Birthdays

- 1 - Brennan South
- 2 - Bryce Fletcher
- 3 - Ashley Twedt
- 5 - Cody Mann, Ava Williams
- 6 - Laurie Fox
- 7 - Marj Snelson
- 9 - Obed Snelson
- 10 - Bonnie Fry
- 14 - Deb Cromer
- 15 - Ron Landis
- 18 - Lori Northington
- 19 - Jonah Beveridge, Marsha Frontz
- 20 - Myles Sharp
- 21 - Abi Hickerson
- 22 - Betty Lou Woodward
- 25 - Emily Hart
- 26 - Cayden Sharp
- 27 - Michelle Sharp
- 28 - Jessica Dawson
- 29 - Clint Shaffer
- 30 - Drew Kistler
- 31 - Luke Roseberry

