



SEPTEMBER 2024

New Life Dresher Presbyterian Church

MINISTRY PLAN 2024-29

TO KNOW JESUS &
MAKE HIM KNOWN



Pastoral Overview

The past twelve months have been a season of growth in the Gospel and community engagement at New Life. This ministry year focused on **listening** to God in prayer, and our commitment to that prayer has been a cornerstone of this fruitful year. Up to one hundred individuals gathered monthly for dedicated prayer every third Monday, including a day of fasting and intercession. Our elders led weekly prayer during the 10 o'clock Sunday School hour, church members participated in prayer walks at local schools, and our Saturday morning women's prayer group continued to pray faithfully. This concerted focus on prayer has yielded Gospel fruit.

We have known Jesus as our Sunday morning gatherings have deepened our relationship with Him through worship, the preached and taught Word, and prayer. We have been blessed with an abundance of musical talent and leadership as we anticipate the hiring of a new Worship Director. Our Special Needs Ministry continues to flourish, providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for those with learning differences and their families.

The Women's and Men's Ministries have experienced growth both in numbers and depth. Approximately two hundred women participated in a weekly Bible study on Romans, while the Men's Ministry expanded its small group structure and emphasized intentional discipleship. The church has also invested in leadership development, with eleven new officers elected after a comprehensive training program.

We have made Jesus known as several young people made professions of faith. We have welcomed new members who have come

to faith via the ministry of Elders who have walked alongside them. We have new regular attendees from diverse backgrounds and parts of the world, and we continue to minister to an Afghan refugee family. Mission teams have served in Brazil, London, and Easton, and nearly three hundred children and families participated in our Kids and Cubs in Motion camps. Additionally, we supported and sent Tommy Leahy to work among unreached people groups in South Hall, London.

As a community, we have demonstrated compassion and generosity. Our support for external ministries such as Whosoever Gospel Mission, Cradle of Hope, Grounds for Restoration, Harvest USA, North Hills Collective, Kianga Kids, and GROW reflects our commitment to serving those in need in the name of Christ. Within our congregation, many of you have come alongside members facing financial hardship, food insecurity, and health crises in profound ways.

This past year has been marked by answered prayer and spiritual renewal.

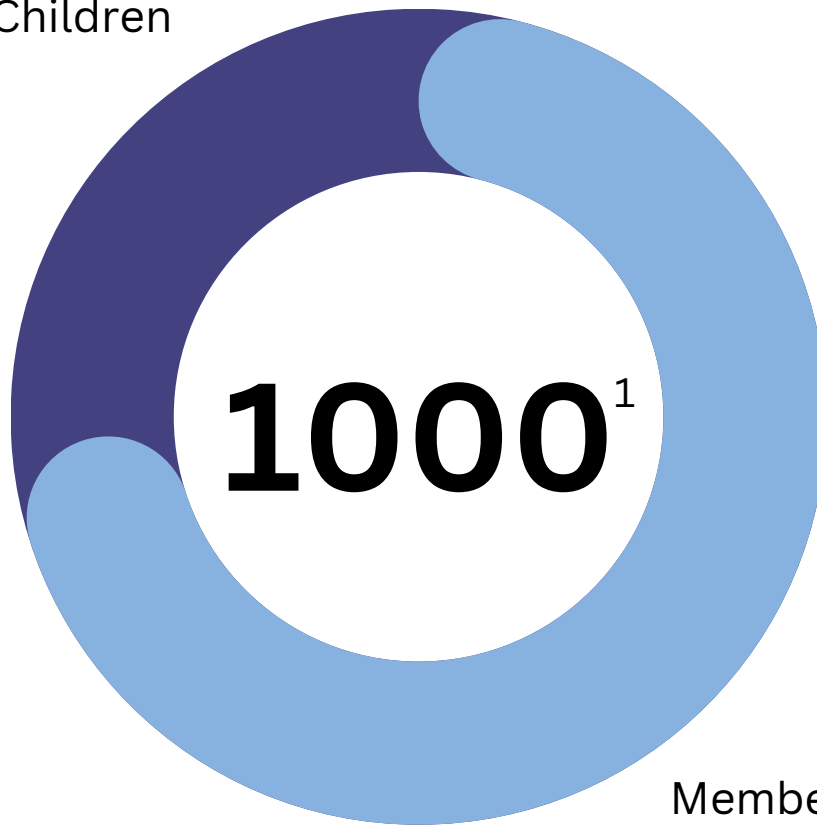
Our journey of **listening** deepened through the voices of nearly 300 participants in the all-church survey. These insights have helped ignite a vision for our congregation. While we celebrate the many strengths revealed, we also discern clear opportunities to glorify God, know Jesus, and make Him known in profound ways over this next year and years to come. Imagine a year ahead marked by intentional discipleship, courageous witness, and organizational health. We will trust the Lord with these strategic priorities as we look to this next year and beyond.

By His Grace,
Anthony Gammage

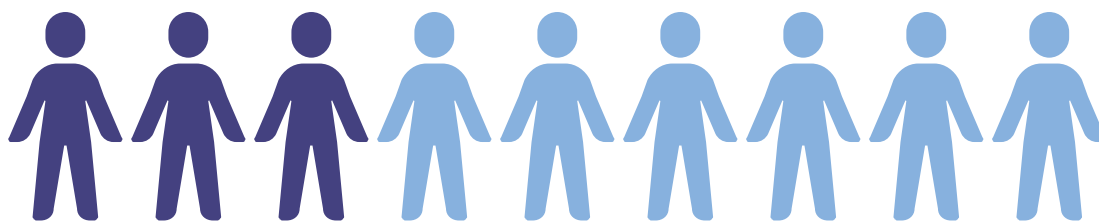
New Life 2023-24 at a glance



Attenders and Children
262



Members and Children
738



Members Gained
25

Members Lost
62²

1: Weekly attendance is between 550-600

2: The Session spent much time this year reaching out to members who haven't been around



Identity

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins...But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:1, 4-5

Why we exist:

To know Jesus and make Him known.

Core Values:



Focus on the Gospel:

We are a church focused on the good news of Jesus Christ, rejecting cultural pitfalls, and embracing the means of grace (1 Cor 15:3; Luke 24:27; 1 Cor 1:19-20).



Expect Transformation:

We embrace brokenness as an opportunity for God to create new life in us and others. (Eph 2:1-10, Rom 7, Phil 1:6; Phil 2:12-13; 2 Cor 5:17; Rev 21:5).



Live *in* Community:

We are saved into a worshiping community (1 Peter 2:10; 1 Cor 12:27; Heb 10:24-25) where we are both needy and needed (Eph. 4:12, 15-16; Gal. 6:1-2).



Live *on* Mission:

We have been called on mission to make disciples at home, work, or play (Matt 28; 1 Peter 3:15) through both word and deed (Acts 1:8; Gen. 12:1-3; Luke 4).

"Cheer up! You're a worse sinner than you ever dared imagine, and you're more loved than you ever dared hope."

~ Jack Miller

Strategic Priorities



As we embark on the 2024-2025 ministry year, New Life stands at a pivotal moment. Building upon the momentum of the past year, particularly around prayer, we are eager to deepen our walk with Jesus and expand our impact for His kingdom. We will continually display the marks of the church: preaching and teaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments, and practicing shepherding and church discipline. We also recognize the call to adapt in response to the evolving needs of our congregation and the world around us.

Guided by our vision to know Jesus and make Him known and our core values, the Session has identified three strategic priorities to guide our efforts. These priorities will shape our ministry and position us for continued Gospel growth and effectiveness.

- Disciple Intentionally
- Witness Courageously
- Organizational Health





Disciple Intentionally



The Lord has brought more than two hundred new members to New Life since the pandemic! This is a great blessing, yet this growth has also revealed gaps in our discipleship. We can no longer assume our “Gospel DNA” is simply caught or that one Gospel Living course offered on Monday nights is enough to meet our discipleship needs. Increasing cultural pressure and confusion surrounding race, gender, sexuality, and power has revealed

an opportunity to grow in Biblical knowledge and Gospel-centered application. Also, while we are grateful for the many leaders we have, we have an increasing need to have a formal process for a basic theological and leadership training course to help both equip and align current and future leaders. In light of this, we will take this next year and beyond to consider what it means for us to disciple intentionally.

Focus Area 1: Foundational faith formation

Strategy 1.1

Create a team to evaluate effective evangelistic curriculum models for implementation at New Life.

Strategy 1.2

Develop a comprehensive, year-long program focused on biblical literacy, theology, and practical Christianity.

Strategy 1.3

Engage the head, heart, and hands as we integrate cognitive, emotional, and experiential learning into all programs.

Focus Area 2: Developing the next generation of leadership

Strategy 2.1

Generate and maintain a list of the leadership positions that requires theological and philosophical compatibility.

Strategy 2.2

Create a leadership onboarding and development pathway emphasizing theological, character, and cultural alignment.

Strategy 2.3

Establish a systematic approach to identifying and developing future leaders that is a representation of our church membership



Disciple Intentionally

Focus Area 3: Optimizing existing small groups to better align with our ministry plan and core values and facilitate connectedness or community

Strategy 3.1

Define, measure, and Improve small group effectiveness.

Strategy 3.2

Unify and strengthen small group infrastructure.

Strategy 3.3

Integrate Small Groups into Church-Wide Initiatives.

Focus Area 4: Discipling the next generation

Strategy 4.1

Research and analyze current trends in Gens Alpha and Z's relationship to Jesus and the church, and adapt our model towards increasing effectiveness.

Strategy 4.2

Define a process to evaluate and adapt our ministry model for increasing effectiveness proactively.

Strategy 4.3

Develop a comprehensive children and youth ministry program that empowers families and members to actively participate in discipleship.

Focus Area 5: Implementing senior-focused initiatives

Strategy 5.1

Create a committee of individuals aged 60 and above to assess the well-being and lifestyle of New Life's senior members and recommend accommodations for the sake of their discipleship.

Strategy 5.2

Develop a strategic plan to support the spiritual and physical well-being of single seniors as they navigate the challenges of aging.

Focus Area 6: Equipping the church for a complex culture

Strategy 6.1

Create or find adaptable teaching materials addressing biblical perspectives on relationships, gender, sexuality, and sexual brokenness.

Strategy 6.2

Develop or identify adaptable teaching materials addressing biblical perspectives on race and power (exclusive of one another?).

Strategy 6.3

Develop or identify comprehensive resources and expand support for gospel-centered marriages.

Strategy 6.4

Research NLD's current response to abuse and create a clear, communicable process for handling such cases. Regularly communicate this process with the congregation.



Witness Courageously



Our congregation yearns for the courage to share the Gospel in an increasingly complex and hostile world. Despite facing a culture that often opposes the gospel, we are a community deeply committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. By aligning our local and global outreach efforts, we envision a church that not only proclaims the Gospel boldly but also nurtures a multiplying movement of faith, culminating in new churches that will transform communities.

Focus Area 1: Equip to articulate the Gospel

Strategy 1.1

Develop a mechanism for members and attenders to develop their personal testimony with the aim of sharing it with a non-believer.

Strategy 1.2

Build an outreach component into all cultural engagement class material.

Strategy 1.3

Provide or identify practical, ongoing opportunities for members to share their faith in a supportive environment.

Focus Area 2: Pursue global Gospel impact through holistic ministry

Strategy 2.1

Build out our local and global outreach strategy to foster witness to the Gospel of Jesus while promoting human flourishing.

Strategy 2.2

Expand and deepen cross-cultural partnerships.

Strategy 2.3

Expand our engagement with missions and ministry organizations to identify, equip, and send missionaries and outreach workers.

Focus Area 3: Church Planting

Strategy 3.1

Foster a clear vision for church planting within NLD

Strategy 3.2

Establish an internal strategy for church planting

Strategy 3.3

Build and expand strategic partnerships for church planting

Strategy 3.4

Develop a comprehensive church planting pipeline: establish robust processes for identifying, training, and equipping potential church planters.

Organizational Health



As our church community has flourished and expanded, so too have the complexities of our internal systems and structures. The dynamics of a small, intimate congregation differ markedly from those of a larger, more multifaceted body. The challenges inherent in growth, such as maintaining effective communication, fostering a sense of belonging, and ensuring alignment of vision and resources, require strategic attention. To thrive in this new phase of our journey, we must intentionally design an organizational framework that not only accommodates our size, prepares us for continued growth, but also preserves the heart and soul of our community.

Focus Area 1: Organizational structure that empowers ministry goals and growth

Strategy 1.1

Hire an Executive Pastor/Executive Director to better serve and equip the staff along with the oversight of ministry priorities

Strategy 1.2

Conduct a holistic organizational assessment to ensure staffing needs are met and that staff are being utilized effectively

Strategy 1.3

Design and adopt a flexible and adaptive organizational structure

Strategy 1.4

Invest in staff development and training.

Focus Area 2: Healthy and consistent communication

Strategy 2.1

Implement a feedback system to enhance congregational engagement, ministry effectiveness, and overall church health.

Strategy 2.2

Establish clear expectations, roles, and processes for mutual accountability among pastors, staff, and elders to enhance leadership effectiveness and organizational performance.

Strategy 2.3

Establish clear, consistent, and multi-faceted communication channels to effectively engage the congregation, share information, and foster community.

Strategy 2.4

Create an inclusive environment where all members, regardless of their role, are valued, heard, and represented in leadership, decision-making, and ministry initiatives.

Focus Area 3: Updated facility

Strategy 3.1

Conduct a comprehensive space needs assessment to align our physical environment with our core values and ministry plan.

Strategy 3.2

Develop a comprehensive financial plan for building renovations or construction, exploring options including reallocation of mortgage funds and/or the implementation of a capital campaign.

Strategy 3.3

Develop and implement a facility master plan.