

2019 - New Life Bible Fellowship Church Profile



1. Who We Are

At New Life Bible Fellowship Church, our mission is to glorify God, introduce people to new life in Christ, and grow together toward maturity in Him. By God's grace, this mission is being lived out in a variety of ways through the members of our church. When you come through the doors of New Life BFC, whether it is for a church service, mid-week children's program, men's or women's ministry, or an outreach program, you will see a wonderful diversity of ages, educational levels, occupations and incomes. However, we are all united in our pursuit of growing in Christ and sharing the gospel with the lost - all for God's glory. Many of our ministry programs reach un-churched families from surrounding communities, sharing the hope and life available to them by accepting God's free gift of grace through faith in Christ's finished work on the cross. Our thriving Sunday School ministry offers opportunities for continued Biblical instruction and discipleship for all ages. Relationships and accountability are fostered and developed through our hospitable Life Group ministry. Sunday morning services at New Life engage the congregation in Christ-centered worship with a contemporary-style worship team, while dynamic, expository preaching gives opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding of God's Word. Church members are encouraged and equipped to be active participants in ministry as we continually strive to be disciples who make disciples for the Glory of God and the furtherance of His Kingdom.

2. Introduction and History

New Life Bible Fellowship Church is located in the midst of the farming community of Oley, Pennsylvania. This community is known for its scenic setting with a valley surrounded by rolling hills. The church is located only a few miles from the Village of Oley, with a cluster of homes surrounding the church.

New Life was founded in 1977 by a handful of members from the Fleetwood Bible Fellowship Church. Oley was identified as an ideal location for a church plant, land was acquired, and numerous steps of faith were taken to establish the church. The almost immediate bold step to construct a facility was seen in the day as a big mistake, but as God would have it, the church grew in number. With continued steady growth an educational wing with a multi-purpose room, classrooms, and kitchen were added in 1979.

As New Life continued to grow in the 1980's, the need for a larger sanctuary and gym for activities became apparent. Both were accomplished with dedication of the gym on October 14, 1988 and the sanctuary on November 20, 1988.

The addition of an Educational Wing in 2007 provided space for the flourishing adult and youth ministries. Additionally, the gym was renovated and the existing pavilion was re-built and enlarged.

Pastors who have served at New Life BFC:

-Pastor Henry Shell, 1977-1983

-Pastor Art Simpson, 2000-2014

-Pastor Ken Barber, 1986-1998

-Pastor Jason Blair, 2015-2018

From New Life's beginning, it has been known for its dedication to pursuing the Lord's leading and venturing into unique ministries in an effort to reach people for Christ. While located in a rural area of Berks County, PA, New Life impacts many communities in the Greater Reading area. Attendance over the past 40+ years has been steady with growth. Average attendance for 2018 was 505.

3. Worship & Music

Worship services are held Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Our services consist of worship through congregational singing led by a worship team, giving of tithes and offerings, elder-led prayer, special music, and expository preaching/teaching of God's word with relevant application to believers. Altar calls are a part of our worship services, as the Spirit leads, but not an every Sunday expectation. We also observe The Lord's Table monthly and have regularly scheduled baptisms.

Musically, New Life is a church which has transitioned from strictly traditional music to a mixture of current worship songs and hymns, all with doctrinally sound lyrics. Selected weekly music is led by a contemporary-style worship team. The recent addition of a full-time Director of Worship Arts has moved the

church to a new level of coordinated worship elements with the introduction of new music and updated audio-visual technology.

As a church with a wide range of musical talent, special music is a long-standing tradition valued here at New Life. A church orchestra, brass ensemble, choir, and various soloists assist in providing special music for our services.

4. Sunday School

Our Sunday School program is seen as a critical component of Biblical training and instruction and has a high rate of attendance. It consists of childcare for infants and toddlers, children's ministry classes for school-age kids, youth group classes for middle and high school students, a young adult class for college-age individuals, as well as multiple adult classes.

5. Children's Ministry

Under the direction of our full-time Children's Ministry Director, we have a thriving children's ministry program that reaches a large number of un-churched families. New Life Kids consists of nursery/toddler care, Sunday School, Children's Church through grade 4, mid-week programs for pre-K through grade 6, and Vacation Bible School. Our VBS is a summer highlight that has a large community impact.

6. Youth Ministry

New Life Youth exists to TEACH and GROW believers in their faith, help them become DEDICATED servants through a daily personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and equip them to reach the lost. Youth group meetings take place on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Special events for our teens include Harvey Cedars and WinterBlast camps. The youth ministry has a strong core of adult leadership. Our youth ministry is directed by our full-time Youth Pastor. In the past year we have seen over 143 new students in attendance.

The youth ministry draws many students from 7 different school districts as well as several private schools and homeschool families.

7. Life Groups

Community based small groups exist for fellowship, prayer, Bible study, discipleship, accountability, and a place to "do life together". We believe that authentic relationships are built within smaller settings and Life Groups are a deliberate approach to facilitate those relationships. Life Groups are held in homes and facilitated by trained leaders. Our Life Groups follow the "KLASIC" model. Our New Life Men's ministry, Flourish women's ministry, and Impact young adult ministry hold similar objectives to that of our traditional Life Groups, but meet at various times and locations.

8. Outreach

New Life seeks to introduce people to Christ through a variety of outreach opportunities including:

- Vacation Bible School
- Forever Young (55+ ministry with significant community impact)
- The Oley Fair
- Oley Valley Pot Pie dinner
- Annual Sportsman's banquet
- "The Tent" outreach to bikers participating in Reading Motorcycle Club annual event
- Various service opportunities at local ministries like Hannah's Hope and Hope Rescue Mission
- New Life Sports ministry
- Angel Tree Christmas (prison ministry)

9. Global Partnerships/Missions

Realizing the importance of obeying The Great Commission and striving to reach the lost with the Gospel, New Life is intentional in supporting and participating in outreach, both here and abroad. In addition to providing short-term missions opportunities for church members, we provide support to global partners, both domestically and internationally. We have an active Global Partnerships Committee that oversees budgets and giving, as well as the needs and progress of our global partners. The committee also seeks to educate the congregation on global trends (as it affects global outreach) and the ministries of our various global partners. We host two Global Partnership emphasis Sundays per year as well as feature occasional "Missions Moments" reports during our Sunday morning services.

10. Physical Facility

Our building is located on over 8 acres and accommodates parking for 168 vehicles including 6 ADA spaces. Our interior space contains 12 classrooms and a conference room for our various Sunday School and mid-week programs. We have a spacious, well-stocked nursery for infant care. Our gymnasium serves multiple purposes and contains a commercial kitchen. A smaller kitchen is located near our offices. We also have a welcoming fellowship chapel adjacent to our sanctuary which seats 340.

11. Bible Fellowship Conference Affiliation

New Life is one of about 70 Bible Fellowship Churches, mostly in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York. Congregations are also found in Maryland, Florida, New Mexico, and Mexico. In total, there are about 10,000 BFC worshippers worldwide each Sunday morning. The Bible Fellowship Church denomination is *An Expanding Fellowship of Churches United to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ*.

12. Berks County and Oley Valley

Berks County is located in the Southeastern section of the state of Pennsylvania and is surrounded by Lancaster, Lehigh, Schuylkill and Chester counties. Reading city is the county seat of government and is located approximately 55 miles from Philadelphia. Berks County is one of many counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania considered the heartland of the Pennsylvania Dutch people group.

Oley Valley is located 10 miles northeast of Reading, Pennsylvania in the county of Berks. The valley covers almost all of Oley, Pike, Ruscombmanor and Alsace townships and all of these townships make up the Oley Valley School District. The Village of Oley has a strong historical heritage. In March 1983, the entire Township of Oley was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Part of the valley's rich history begins when French and German Huguenots settled in the valley in pursuit of religious freedoms. Moravians were also part of the early settlers. Today, farms continue to make up the majority of the valley with a mixture of dairy, poultry, equestrian, and horticulture enterprises.

13. Leadership Structure

Our leadership structure consists of an Elder board, Deacon board, and Deaconess board which are congregationally nominated and selected by lot to serve 3-year terms. Currently serving in leadership are 7-Elders, 11-Deacons and 15-Deaconesses.

Elders have general oversight of the life and work of the church including worship, preaching, ordinances, evangelism, visitation, discipline, finances, and maintenance of the property.

Deacons & Deaconesses have the general responsibility of being sympathetic and benevolent in service to the church, providing physical and material care as needed.

14. Staff & Administration

Senior Pastor (FT)

Executive Pastor (FT)

Youth Pastor (FT)

Director of Children's Ministry (FT)

Director of Worship Arts (FT)

Church Secretary (PT)

Church Bookkeeper (PT)

Director of Building & Maintenance (FT)

Custodian (PT)

Custodian (PT)

15. Finances and Budget

New Life is a financially healthy church that prioritizes wise stewardship of the resources that God has given us. We own our building and have healthy cash reserves, allowing us to invest in ministry over servicing debt.

2019 Budget

Income	\$976,053.21
Expenses	\$963,473.00

2019 Global Partnerships Budget

Income	\$204,694.00
Expenses	\$207,921.00