

Welcome to New Song 101!



New Song Church
7450 Colt's Neck Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
804.559.6064 (Church Office)

Welcome

We're glad you've chosen to find out more about New Song! This class is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have people from many different church backgrounds in our congregation, this class was designed to explain what New Song Church is all about.

Two Key Truths:

1. The church is a family
2. God wants you to be a member of a church family

*"...You are a member of God's very own family...
and you belong in God's household
with every other Christian."
Ephesians 2:19*



NEW SONG CHURCH

It is our hope that at the conclusion of this class you will decide to become an official member of our church family!

Our Name, Mission, Vision and Calling

The name of our church was inspired by this Scripture:

*“He has given me a **NEW SONG** to sing,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see what He has done and be astounded.
They will put their trust in the Lord.”
Psalm 40:3 (NLT)*

Our Mission:

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision Statement:

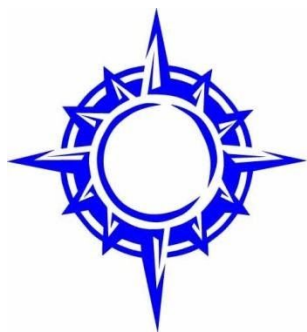
Our hearts and hands are focused on reflecting Christ’s love by reaching out, inviting in, and serving others.

Our Calling:

Love God, Love People, Serve All!

We want to share the Good News of Christ in our community so that many will see what God has done and be astounded. We yearn to see the lives of many transformed as they put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Former Logo



The logo we chose was a nautical compass. Unlike a map, which can be inaccurate or out-dated, a compass always points “true north.” As people look for guidance and direction in their lives, we are called to help point them to the One who will never mislead. The truth and wisdom revealed in God’s Word, the Bible, is the guide for what we teach.

A Brief History

In 1995, under the leadership of the Rev. Jim Chandler, a small group of 15 people asked the leaders of the Ashland District of the United Methodist Church to grant permission to plant a new church in Mechanicsville.

The “big idea” was not that there was a shortage of churches in Mechanicsville; instead, it was the recognition that there were many people not being reached by existing churches and models of ministry. A passion to reach the unreached is what drove the vision for New Song Church from day one.

The Ashland District and the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church gave their blessing, and New Song held its first public worship service on September 14, 1997 in the auditorium of a local high school. The church would continue to worship at the high school for the next five years.

In 2001, we purchased 20 acres of land on Colt’s Neck Road, and a master plan for development was created. We moved into our phase-one facility in September of 2002.

In August of 2008, Pastor Jim went to a new church start in New Jersey, and in November of the same year, Rev. Chad Herndon arrived to serve as our new Lead Pastor. Other staff changes have certainly occurred, and we are blessed by a team full of talent to cover everything from children’s and youth ministries to small groups, worship, mission, and even counseling. New Song is now part of the Richmond District of the Virginia Conference, and we have the pleasure of continuing to go and grow as God has called.

Much has changed over the few years we have served our community, region and world. We have made many new friends and seen the power of God at work in the changed lives of many. For that promise of hope, we are grateful for all God continues to call us to accomplish!

Our Growth

As of today’s date:

- We have baptized _____ people
- _____ persons are official members of our church
- _____% of them have joined on profession or reaffirmation of faith
- Our average attendance for Sunday worship so far this year is _____

We are often asked how large we think New Song will grow to be. The short answer is we don't know; only God does. Nevertheless, we are sure about a couple of things:

- *Our goal is not to be a small church*
 - This is not because we want to be able to 'brag' about the size of our church. It is simply because we are convinced that there are thousands of people who are well within the reach of our church who do not have a vital relationship with God through Christ. So... we are not ever intending to "finish growing" – God will always have more for us to do this side of Heaven.
- *Our growth philosophy is simple*
 - *As long as there is one person within the reach of our church who does not know Christ, our goal is to grow by at least one!*

New Song is:

Mission-Minded

New Song is for people who are willing to personally embrace the overall mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As mission-oriented people, we are not interested in establishing and maintaining an institution. We are committed to accomplishing something in the lives of individuals. We are not enamored with the idea of just building a facility; we are consumed by the notion of building people. After all, that is what we have been commissioned by Jesus Christ to do.

Hands-On

New Song is for people who are concerned about doing ministry, not just being "ministered" to.

Everyone who serves at New Song is crucial to our mission and vision: they don't just help watch the children in the nursery; they show Christ's love to children and provide an opportunity for parents to worship and learn. They are not just operating sound and video equipment; they are working to insure that people can see and hear the Gospel proclaimed. They don't just smile and hand out worship programs; they communicate to our guests that everyone who walks in and out of our service is important to God and to us.

New Song is for people who are looking to do something that will make a difference for all eternity!

Contemporary in Practice; Traditional in Belief

Our challenge is to communicate the Gospel to a lost world in a relevant way, while always maintaining the integrity of the message of Christ. The one constant in our church will be change, because we will always be looking for better ways to help achieve God's mission set for New Song. We will always strive to be innovative and creative, willing to make critical changes in practices, while never compromising our values.

New Song is for people who understand that Hanover County, and the greater-Richmond area, is a mission field. We ultimately measure our success in terms of changed lives. We operate from the premise that the problems in our society are rooted in the hearts of men and women. (And the good news is: we have an inside track with the finest Heart Specialist in the Universe!) So for all people, near and far, we have a message very much worth sharing, and we see where YOU are part of the momentum!

Being a member of our church requires flexibility and sacrifice, but in light of what we read in the New Testament, that should come as no surprise. When you're on a mission—and we are—each day is different from the day before. Therefore, there is always an element of surprise, sacrifice, excitement, risk and celebration.

If you are looking for an opportunity to join hands with a team of people who have embraced these values, and work shoulder to shoulder with great energy and passion for Christ, well then New Song is the church for you and yours.

Our Salvation

“For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we are all the same — we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 3:26-28

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing *WHY*. They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or what God's purpose is for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, *“What is the meaning of life?”*

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ...Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- ...Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige & power.**

Real happiness comes from understanding my purpose, but what is it?

Why am I here?

- **God made me to LOVE me!**
 - God says, *“I have loved you with an everlasting love!”* Jeremiah 31:3

- *“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ **because of His love**. God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children — this was God’s pleasure and purpose.”* Ephesians 1:4-5 (GN)

- **We were created to ENJOY a personal relationship with God!**

- Jesus said, *“I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!”* John 10:10

- **When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives.**

Clear Conscience

Romans 8:1

Life & Peace

Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness

Romans 8:26

Purpose

Romans 8:28

Confidence

Romans 8:31

Security

Romans 8:39

Power & Strength

Phil. 4:13

Fulfillment

Phil. 4:19

Freedom

John 8:32,36

What is the problem?

People have a natural desire to be the boss and to ignore God’s principles for living.

- *“Look out for #1. Do your own thing.”*
- *“If it feels good, do it - regardless of what God says about it.”*
- *“It’s my life and I’ll do what I please!”*

The Bible calls this attitude: **SIN**.

“All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way.” Isaiah 53:6

“If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth.” 1 John 1:8

Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside of His will.

“The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.” Isaiah 59:2 (LB)

“All have sinned and fall short of God’s glorious ideal.” Romans 3:23

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes problems in every area of our lives — marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc. **When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping before turning to God.**

“There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death.” Proverbs 16:25

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him:

- “My mother was a Christian so...”
- “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”
- “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
- “I’ll work real hard and earn it.”
- “I’ll be religious and go to church.”

What is the solution?

Jesus Christ said, *“I AM THE WAY, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!”*
John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!!

“The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

“God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8

“God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.” 1 Timothy 2:5

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

How do I become a Christian?

- 1. Admit that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.**

*“If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.”*
1 John 1:9

- 2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose from the dead, and is alive today.**

*“If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you **believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Romans 10:9

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

3. Accept God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

*"For it is by grace you are saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God** — not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on what Jesus already did for us!

4. Invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director ("Lord") of your life.

*"To all who **receive** Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who **believe** this are reborn! — not a physical rebirth...but from the will of God!" John 1:12-13*

*"Jesus says, 'Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...'"
Revelation 3:30*

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I'm sorry for my sin. I'm willing to turn from my sin, and follow You instead, but I need Your help. I believe Jesus died and rose again to pay the penalty for my sin. I receive Christ now into my heart by faith. Fill me with your Holy Spirit so I can follow You. I want You to be the leader, the Lord of my life, from this moment on. In Jesus' name. Amen."

"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

Our Core Values

In response to God's love and grace, New Song Church strives for excellence and embraces the following Core Values:

1. **People Matter (be authentic and caring):** We are answering God's call to be in an authentic and caring relationship with everyone we encounter.
2. **Discipleship Matters (grow in faith and relationship with Jesus):** We are helping all persons grow spiritually to have an empowered faith in Jesus Christ.
3. **Impact Matters (make an impact everywhere we go):** We are making a difference in missional ministries across the street and around the world.

Foundational Scripture and Calling

To undergird our process of discernment and pair with Scripture, we turned our attention to **Matthew 22:36-40** where we are commanded to:

"Love God, Love People, Serve All!"

Our United Methodist Beliefs

What we know now as The United Methodist Church began as a movement in the 1700's in England by John Wesley and other students at Oxford University, originally called "The Holy Club". Members agreed to attend their own church regularly (they were from a variety of groups, Roman Catholic as well as Protestant, although most were Anglican or the Church of England), pray and read their Bibles daily, do good deeds for others daily, and attend their Holy Club group (or "class") weekly.

Other students made fun of "Holy Club" members, considering them religious fanatics. Among the jabs they made up was a term "Methodist", because the Holy Club insisted on being so *methodical* in scheduling daily prayer and Scripture study. Well, the name stuck.

John Wesley and the early Methodists did not set out to create a separate church. Their vision was to encourage all Christians to "grow in holiness"—to grow spiritually and to put that spiritual growth to practical use in making a better world. To this day, Methodists do not think we are part of the only or best church; we believe that all Christians are part of one family of God.

Our basic beliefs are shared by most Christians:

- There is one God, revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God, both human and divine, and He is the one Savior of the world.
- The Bible is the inspired Word of God, and it contains all things necessary for salvation.
- We believe that becoming a Christian is not a matter of simply going through a ceremony or believing a certain set of doctrines; rather we enter a relationship through faith with God in Christ, and then begin a lifelong process of growth in that relationship.

We believe in "the trained mind and the warmed heart"—that is, education is important, but it must be coupled with a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. An uneducated commitment can become bigotry and fanaticism; an uncommitted education can breed arrogant immorality.

"In the essentials, unity; in the non-essentials, diversity; in all things, love." -- John Wesley

What We Believe and Teach

About the Scriptures

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine. Through Scripture the living Christ meets us in the experience of redeeming grace.

About God

We believe in one God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity (the Son of God) who became flesh to reveal God to humanity and to become the Savior of the lost world.

About Humanity

We believe that men and women were created in the image of God to have fellowship with Him, but we became alienated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, we are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through our own effort alone.

About Salvation

We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin. Therefore, salvation occurs when people place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin.

About the Christian Life

We believe that Christians should live for Christ and not for themselves. By obedience to the Word of God and daily yielding to the Spirit of God, every believer should mature and be conformed to the image of Christ.

About the Church

We believe that the church is the body of Christ, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by loving Him and by making Him known to the world.

Baptism

1. Baptism is a celebration of God's grace and love in your life.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."
Ephesians 2:8*

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead." Colossians 2:12

2. Baptism is a public acknowledgement of your personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus: "If anyone acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will openly acknowledge that person before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32

3. Baptism illustrates your new life as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians. 5:17

"By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!" Romans 6:4

Baptism doesn't make you a Christian, only your faith in Christ does that.

Baptism is like a wedding ring — it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

We practice baptism in three modes: sprinkling, pouring, and total immersion, leaving it to the person to decide which mode he or she wishes and would find most meaningful. Baptism by immersion was clearly the custom in the Bible and in the first church, yet we believe that all three modes of baptism are equally valid.

If you wish to be baptized by sprinkling or pouring, this will usually be done during one of our Sunday morning worship services. The date can be scheduled in consultation with one of the Pastors.

Our immersion baptism services are celebrated at least once a year, often outdoors at a beach or river. We generally borrow the facilities of a neighboring church in order to be able to perform baptisms for those wishing to be immersed if weather is a concern.

Since baptism is the public profession of one's faith in Christ, during the baptism service someone close to the person being baptized will read aloud a testimony that has been written ahead of time. The reading of the testimonies is always a very meaningful part of the baptism services as believers are given encouragement and cause for celebration, and seekers who are present are inspired and challenged by the spiritual journey of others.

As a United Methodist Church, we honor the practice of infant baptism. The baptizing of a person, whether as an infant or an adult, is a sign of God's grace regardless of age. The difference between the baptism of adults and that of infants is that the Christian faith is consciously being professed by an adult who is baptized. A baptized infant comes to profess her or his faith later in life, after having been nurtured and taught by parents or other responsible adults and the community of faith. Whereas in adult baptism the believer makes a covenant with God and with the church, in infant baptism the covenant is made between the parents or guardians and the church on the child's behalf. Infant baptism assumes that the child will be nurtured and formed in the faith at home and at church so that the child can come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. If parents or guardians do not agree to nurture their child's faith, baptism should be delayed until the parents are ready or until the child can profess their faith for themselves.

Each year we offer a Confirmation Class targeted to our upper elementary and middle school students that explains the basics of the Christian faith, and that provides each young person with the opportunity to make their own personal decision for Christ and become members of the church.

If you have been baptized in another Christian church or denomination, we do not ask you to be re-baptized in order to join New Song Church.

For more information on Baptism, please feel free to ask for a copy of *New Song's Information on Baptism* booklet.

Holy Communion

We practice open Communion—you need not be a United Methodist or a member of New Song Church to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion with us. Our Communion table is “open” because we believe the sacrament is a means of God’s grace that is offered to all persons who love God and are working on this relationship each and every day.

We typically celebrate Holy Communion as part of our Sunday worship services about 10-12 times a year, often the first Sunday of the month and on Good Friday and at our second Christmas Eve service at 5:30pm.

We encourage believers to receive Holy Communion regularly as a “means of God’s grace” and as a reminder of God’s love for each of us.

We do not have a minimum age for receiving Holy Communion, and we respect parent’s decisions about their child’s participation in the Sacrament. In serving younger children, our servers are taught to say expressions of God’s love that are less “scary” for children to hear... often the words, “The Blood of Christ shed for you” can be confusing to certain age groups. We, instead, might offer, “Jesus loves you so much” or something similar.

Holy Communion for those with certain allergies is available; please alert one of our staff members or ministry leaders if this is a concern for you or one in your family (gluten intolerance, etc.).

A Short History of the United Methodist Church **--Alvin J. Horton**

“From its very beginnings in England, United Methodism has captured the commitment of people who have been drawn to the call of God on their lives. Across the years, “Here am I, send me!” has become a refrain of United Methodists and their predecessors. In 1729, brothers John and Charles Wesley organized what detractors called the “Holy Club” at Oxford University and were ridiculed as “Methodists” by the way they studiously followed the Scriptures in their habits and discipline. Later, as priests in the Church of England they became restless with a church that seemed indifferent to the needs of the poor. In an effort to reform the church, they began societies that held members accountable to a life of “holiness” and service. They visited prisons, preached in coalfields, and established health care facilities and a factory for the poor.

Following almost simultaneous life-changing religious experiences in May of 1738, the two brothers, John the organizer and Charles the writer of hymns, set their world on fire with a spiritual revival that swept across Europe and transformed even the budding colonies across the Atlantic. In America, Methodism grew with the nation, primarily as a lay movement, led by Robert Strawbridge, an immigrant farmer who organized societies in 1760 in Maryland and Virginia; Philip Embury and Barbara Heck, who worked in New York; and Captain Thomas Webb, who labored in Philadelphia in 1767. As the decade drew to a close, John Wesley, the aging father of the movement, sent lay preachers Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore to America; and later Richard Wright and Francis Asbury to help. “Spread scriptural holiness through the land,” he charged his young circuit riders. In 1773, the first conference of Methodist preachers was held in Philadelphia.

The American Revolution caused Wesley to recognize the need for greater autonomy in American Methodism. Ordained clergy were also in short supply, so he took the bold step of ordaining three lay preachers, Richard Whatcoat, Thomas Vasey, and Thomas Coke, and sent them to the former British colonies. His actions effectively set in motion the beginning of an independent church. During the historic Christmas Conference of December 24, 1784, held at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Francis Asbury was ordained by Coke and consecrated the first bishop of the brand new Methodist Episcopal Church in America. The next year, the church published its first *Discipline*, calling for the church's first quadrennial General Conference, held in 1792. A constitution and publishing house followed in short order, and the new denomination was quickly on its way spreading "scriptural holiness throughout the land" with itinerating preachers, camp meetings, and revivals.

Francis Asbury traveled more than 275,000 miles on foot and by horseback during his 45 years of ministry. When he began his work there was only one Methodist for every 2,050 Americans; when he died in 1816 there was one for every 39. This persistent presence of Methodist circuit riders became so legendary that a common response to stormy weather was, "There's nothing out today but crows and Methodist preachers."

One of the men who laid hands on Asbury during his ordination was a German Reformed pastor named Philip William Otterbein. His work in Pennsylvania crossed paths with that of a German-speaking Mennonite named Martin Boehm. At their first meeting during a revival in Maryland, Otterbein greeted his new friend with, "We are brothers". The words carried across the years and were reflected in the name of the denomination they would found in 1800, the United Brethren in Christ.

Three years later, followers of an American-born Revolutionary soldier and Lutheran farmer named Jacob Albright gathered to name him the leader of the church that would eventually be called the Evangelical Association. Methodism spread across the frontier as the United Brethren and Evangelicals increased in numbers as well. In the early years of the 19th century the Sunday school movement flourished, too, becoming a major entry point for members into the new denominations.

But the early years were not without their problems. Richard Allen, an emancipated slave and Methodist preacher, left the denomination because of mistreatment and began the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816. For similar reasons the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church was founded in 1821. Nine years later the Methodist Protestant Church broke away over issues of lay representation and election of presiding elders (district superintendents). In 1844, the issue of slavery finally tore the Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church in half, creating a separate Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The African-American membership of this southern church declined during and after the Civil War, so in 1870 the M.E. Church, South, voted to transfer its black members to a new denomination called the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (later named Christian Methodist Episcopal Church).

It would be 69 years before the Methodist Protestant, M.E., and M.E., South, churches would reunite to form the Methodist Church in 1939. The reunion set the stage for the 1946 uniting of the United Brethren and Evangelical Association to create the Evangelical United Brethren Church, which in turn joined with the Methodist Church in 1968 to form what we now know as the United Methodist Church."

Facts and Figures about the United Methodist Church

- There are approximately 16.5 million lay members and 43,621 local churches in 132 organized Conferences around the world.
- The UMC supports over 300 mission personnel in more than 60 countries around the globe.
- The UMC sends out into places of service over 125,000 United Methodist Volunteers in Missions.
- The UMC operates numerous children's, youth and family services ministries around the world, along with community service ministries, hospitals and health-care systems, hundreds of older adult ministries; and ministries for persons with disabilities.
- The UMC supports more than 1,200 United Methodist-related institutions, schools, colleges, and universities, and 13 theological international seminaries from around the world.
- United Methodists gave over \$135 million to support the various ministries of the denomination.

(All figures are adapted from 2020 from www.umc.org and www.umcsgiving.org/yourimpact.)

New Song is a part of the Richmond District of the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Our Strategy

(Paul): "I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all of this for the sake of the Gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Our Mission: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

- **How do we approach this calling?**
 - We reach out to and accept people where they are with the love and grace of God. We endeavor to provide a safe environment where the unchurched can come and hear the **life-changing truth** that Jesus Christ loves them and died for their sins.
 - We show people the relevancy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Biblical teaching that is intensely practical and relevant, not just a brief part of the world's historical story.
 - We help people experience community and build authentic relationships with believers who can mentor and point seekers to Christ, along with emphasizing Small Groups and Bible Studies.
 - We encourage and lovingly challenge the seeker to commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

Our Four Vital Pursuits:

1. Intimacy with God

*A maturing follower continually pursues an intimate relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, through **regular participation in corporate & private worship and the regular practice of personal devotional habits.***

2. Community with believers

God doesn't call us to be "solo" or "silo" Christians; instead, He wants us to participate in community in order to grow in Christ-likeness, to express and receive love, and to carry out the

ministry of the church. For this reason, we put a high value on **being connected relationally to a small group** of believers in a Community Group and on a ministry team for the purpose of mutual encouragement, support, and accountability. We believe the small group is the best place for sustained life change to occur. In a small group, people study God's Word together and are in a small enough environment to discuss the issues and challenges of life. It's also where they pray, care for one another, and are missed if they don't show up. Practically speaking, there will never be a way for the pastor and staff to personally minister to everyone who attends our church. That's why we place such a high premium on group life. It's how we will effectively minister as we continue to grow as a church.

3. Strategic Stewardship and Service

Every Christian is called to **be active in ministry**. The church is composed of interdependent members, each uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of building up the body and furthering the ministry of the church. Devoted followers of Jesus earnestly seek to **discover, develop, and deploy their God-given gifts through the ministry of the church**.

As Christ's followers we have been bought with the price of Christ's blood, and everything we are and have belongs to Him. In light of this, we desire to be responsible caretakers of the material resources God has entrusted to us. In response to Christ's abundant giving, **devoted followers of Jesus increasingly submit their time, talents, and treasures to His Lordship** and display a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness in supporting the ministry of the church.

We call it **strategic stewardship & service** because devoted followers of Jesus understand that their role is vital to the ministry of the church. They understand that **every hour and dollar invested is helping us live up to our core value of excellence and create environments that will help others come to know Christ** as their personal Lord and Savior.

4. Influence with unbelievers

Our evangelism strategy is pretty simple... **the job of believers is to:**

Invest & Invite: to **invest in authentic relationships** with unbelievers in their families, neighborhoods and in the marketplace, and to **invite them to the church**. The job of the church is to ensure that we are creating environments where our invited guests will feel welcome, where they will be taught about God's Word and His love, and where they will be encouraged to receive the gift of God's grace and salvation.

A devoted follower of Christ has **an ever-growing passion to see lives changed** through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Our Structure

"For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way."

1 Corinthians 14:33, 40

Worship is hearing God's message, receiving His love and showing our adoration (Worship Leader & Lead Pastor)

- Weekly Worship services
- Special services
 - Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, etc.
- Connections
- Prayer

Ministries are the work God has called us to do (Staff & Ministry Leaders)

Children's	Family
Youth	Adult
Small Groups	Senior Adult

- NOTE: Each ministry has the expectation to plan and deliver/perform two outreach events and two mission service projects.
 - Outreach is intent-driven events/service activities to welcome visitors that may lead to potential new members
 - Missions is service for the Kingdom without the expectation for new members

Resources are people or places offered to those needing assistance (Executive Director & Church Staff)

- Church Resources (Director of Connections)

<i>Care Team</i>	<i>Art to Honor Team</i>
<i>Meal Team</i>	<i>Volunteer Team</i>
<i>Hospitality Team</i>	
- Community Resources – Agencies, Events & Collections (Director of Outreach Ministries)

<i>Counseling</i>	<i>Blood Drive</i>
<i>MCEF</i>	<i>Financial Assistance</i>
<i>Hearts and Hands</i>	
- Other Resources Served by Ministries

<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	<i>FeedMore</i>
<i>CARITAS</i>	<i>Weekend Backpack Ministries</i>
<i>UMCOR Kits</i>	<i>Mission Trip(s) Domestic and International</i>
<i>Community Festivals</i>	<i>Shepherd's Way Relief Center</i>

Communications (Director of Communications, Administrative Assistant, Lead Pastor)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| • Newsletter | • Social Media |
| • Website maintenance | • Church App |

Sponsorship is providing support for a group/activity that the church backs via the Executive Ministry Team:

- Scouts: Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts
- Missionary Partners: Whit and Sydni Jackson, Cru in Orlando (*go to: give.cru.org/0619369*)

New Song Church Staff & Ministry Leaders

Lead Pastor

- Rev. Chad Hernon
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: chadherndon@newsongumc.org

Executive Director

- Katie Payne
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: katiepayne@newsongumc.org

Worship Leader

- Juan Pineda
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: juanpineda@newsongumc.org

Director of Connections

- Sherry Wright
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: sherrywright@newsongumc.org

Resource Leader and Christian Counselor

- Heather Shaheen
Office: 804-909-1334

Email: heathershaheen@newsongumc.org

Director of Youth Ministries (Grades 6-12)

- Lesa Berlinghoff
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: lesaberlinghoff@newsongumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries (Nursery- Grade 5)

- Amy Leonard
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: amyleonard@newsongumc.org

Director of Communications

- J.T. Hosack
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: jthosack@newsongumc.org

Technical Coordinator

- Drew Shaner
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: drewshaner@newsongumc.org

Church Administrator

- Ann Farmer
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: annfarmer@newsongumc.org

Administrative Assistant

- Jill Henderson
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: jillhenderson@newsongumc.org

Custodial Services

- Janice Lowry
Office: 804-559-6064

Email: churchoffice@newsongumc.org

New Song Resource Coordinators

Connection Center/Greeters

Dianne Moore 804-559-6064

Prayer

Jennifer & Kenny Elkins 804-559-6064

Care

Julie Beasley 804-559-6064

Meal Train

Peggy Meek 804-559-6064

Hospitality

Susie Cason 804-559-6064

Art-to-Honor

Becca Randolph 804-559-6064

Special Needs

Christine Walters
Heather Shaheen 804-559-6064

MCEF

Sherry & Kenny Trainum 804-559-6064

Hearts & Hands

Heather Shaheen 804-559-6064

Blood Drive

Peggy Meek 804-559-6064

Weekend Backpack Ministries

Alan Fearnow 804-559-6064

CARITAS

Barbara Washington 804-559-6064

Additional information for Resources (including Operation Christmas Child, Community Festivals, UMCOR Health Kits, FeedMore, and mission trips) may be obtained from the Church Office at: info@newsongumc.org or 804-559-6064.

TERM: 06/07/2020 - 12/31/2021

Executive Ministry Team

Term ending 12/31/21	Term ending 12/31/2022	Term ending 12/31/2023
Sherry Trainum <i>(At-Large Member)</i>	Amy Talley <i>(At-Large Member)</i>	Mary Eaton <i>(EMT, Chair)</i>
Laddie Sykes <i>(At-Large Member)</i>	Dianne Moore <i>(Co-Vice Chairperson)</i>	Ben Branson <i>(At-Large Member)</i>
Andy Wright <i>(At-Large Member)</i>	Linda Perry <i>(At-Large Member)</i>	Kathy Emond <i>(Co-Lay Leader/Ann. Conf. Del.)</i>
RB Lane <i>(Co-Vice Chairperson)</i>	Alan Fearnow <i>(At-Large Member)</i>	Young Adult Rep. <i>(TBD, Elected at Fall Charge Conf.)</i>
	Young Adult Rep. <i>(TBD, Elected at Fall Charge Conf.)</i>	

Also on the Executive Ministry Team (ex-officio):

- Lead Pastor; Executive Director

Facilities Maintenance Team

Term ending 12/31/2020	Term ending 12/31/2020	Term ending 12/31/2021
Ryan Johnson, Vice-Chairperson	Jim Pearson	Randy Hardy
Alan Fearnow	Joey McDonald	Bill Redden, Chairperson
Ben Branson	Van Fletcher	

Also on the Facilities Maintenance Team (ex-officio):

- Lead Pastor; Executive Director; Annual Conference Lay Delegate; Lay Leaders (Andy Wright & Kathy Emond)

Lay Ministries Team

Term ending 12/31/2020	Term ending 12/31/2021	Term ending 12/31/2022
Mary France	Cliff Dunaway	Julie Beasley

Also on the Lay Ministries Team (ex-officio):

- Lead Pastor; Executive Director; Annual Conference Lay Delegate; Lay Leaders (Andy Wright & Kathy Emond)

Ministries Resource Team

Chad Herndon <i>(Lead Pastor)</i>	Ann Farmer <i>(Church Administrator)</i>	Lesa Berlinghoff <i>(Youth Director)</i>
Juan Pineda <i>(Worship Leader)</i>	Heather Shaheen <i>(Counselor/Outreach Resources)</i>	Amy Leonard <i>(Children's Director)</i>
Sherry Wright <i>(Director of Connections)</i>	Jill Henderson <i>(Administrative Assistant)</i>	J.T. Hosack <i>(Communications Director)</i>
Katie Payne <i>(Executive Director)</i>	Drew Shaner <i>(Technical Director)</i>	Kimberly Williams <i>(Counselor)</i>

Giving

Giving is one of the central themes in the Bible.

Jesus talked more about this subject than heaven, hell or prayer. To understand what it means to be a Christ-follower, we must also understand what it means to be a giver.

First Things First

It is critically important to understand that the money we have is not our own. It is God's money, and He has entrusted it to us to manage.

The word *tithe* means tenth and refers to the first ten percent of all our income. The Bible tells us that the tithe belongs to God, is to be immediately set aside for Him (Leviticus 27:30), and is to be brought to the storehouse (Malachi 3:10). Today, that storehouse is the local church, and God wants our tithes to go to the local church for the same reason He wanted them to go to the temple's storehouse, "that there may be food in my house". The church's job is to meet the needs of people. You can think of the local church as being a hospital for spiritually sick people where Jesus Christ is the doctor. But just as a hospital cannot heal the physically sick without funds, the church cannot heal the spiritually sick without funds. When we tithe, we give to others through the church.

We worship God with our mouths when we pray, tell others of His love, or sing to Him. We worship God with our money when we give. By giving God the first ten percent of our income, we are showing Him that He is more important than the cable company, the mortgage company...even the IRS. We are saying that we believe Him when He promises to provide for us (Genesis 22:14) and that He will bless our lives through our giving (Malachi 3:10, Proverbs 3:9-10). As faithful Christians, tithing should be as natural as bowing our heads during prayer.

Know Giving, Know Life

Have you ever wondered why God would have us give our stuff away?

Greed and materialism run rampant in today's culture as they have in just about any culture across the globe and throughout history. God hates greed and materialism because they rob us of the abundant life He wants us to have. Hoarding money will not buy us freedom in life; it actually buys us slavery to possessions. Generosity is the only way to experience life as God intended us to.

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." 1 Timothy 6:18-19

God doesn't want us to give because we think He's going to zap us if we don't; He wants us to give because we truly want to. Greedy people sometimes give more money than anyone, but they experience less joy in life because they do it out of guilt; generous people give because they love God, they love those in need, and they want to be like Jesus. God is not interested in the simple action of giving; He is intensely interested in the faith that prompts the action of giving.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Treasure Test

There is one and only one place in the Bible where God invites us to test Him.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. . . . Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10

God knew that we would find ourselves in challenging financial situations. He knew that when He asked us to give the first ten percent of all our income we would reply, "I can't afford to give that much money, let alone pay you before the mortgage company." Well, the truth is that God not only promises to provide for us, but He takes it a step further by promising that He will flood our lives with all kinds of blessings, including financial blessings. All we have to do is trust Him enough to take action.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing..." Proverbs 3:9-10

As surely as a penny falls to the ground because of the Law of Gravity, giving will bless our lives spiritually and financially because of God's Law of Giving.

Jesus: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty." Proverbs 11:24

An Eternal Investment

The stock market goes up and down. We gain money, and we lose money. The poor man today may be rich tomorrow; and the rich man today may be poor tomorrow. There is only one safe place to store our treasure, and that is heaven.

Jesus: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21

God has called the Church to spread the good news of Jesus Christ, thus affecting the eternity of millions of people. The Church simply cannot do this without money, and God has decided that the Church is to be funded by those who follow Christ. We get so concerned about ourselves that we forget the consequences of not giving. Who knows how many people are suffering though this life or will spend eternity apart from God because of our disobedience? Who knows how many blessings - financially and spiritually, now and in eternity - we are missing out on when we fail to give? We need not fear running out of money, because God has promised to provide for our needs, even to provide more than we need. Don't feel guilty, and certainly don't give out of guilt. Be generous, and give because you love God, you love people, and you believe God will keep His promises.

New Song Church Membership

What it Means to be a Member

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: **COMMITMENT**.

At New Song we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for four reasons:

1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church

“...Christ loved the church, and He gave his life for it.” Ephesians 5:25

2. A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything—a job, a marriage, our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

4. A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

What are the requirements for membership at New Song?

1. A profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.
2. A commitment to support the church’s mission and ministries with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.
3. Although we do not teach that baptism is necessary for salvation, we strongly urge all believers to be baptized in the Christian faith. If you have not previously been baptized, we ask that you do so at the time you join the church.

What is expected of me as a member?

These two questions are asked of each person who joins our church:

“Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and have you asked Him to be the forgiver of your sin and the leader of your life?”

“As a member of this church family, will you be supportive of the ministries of the church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service?”

When you join, you commit to be supportive of the church with your:

PRAYERS – The importance and power of prayer cannot be overstated. Members are expected to pray regularly for the church family, the ministry staff, the leaders, our ministry teams and the unreached people in our community.

PRESENCE – Simply put, in order to grow as a member of the church family, you need to be present. Members are strongly encouraged to not only regularly attend worship services, but to participate in a Small Group. It is in these study, service and fellowship groups where lasting friendships are formed and where deeper spiritual growth can occur.

GIFTS – Stewardship of the financial resources God has entrusted to us is an important part of being a Christ-follower and member of the church. In response to Christ’s abundant giving, members are expected to be responsible caretakers of the material resources God has entrusted to them and to display a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness in supporting the work of the church.

SERVICE – The church is composed of interdependent members, each uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of furthering the ministry of the church. Members are expected to use the spiritual gifts, time and talents God has entrusted to them to help the church achieve its mission through service on ministry teams.

At New Song we will never ask our members to do more than what the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. This is the commitment each member signs upon joining:

“Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with New Song’s statements, strategy and structure, I now choose to unite with the New Song Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to live in God’s grace, grow as a believer, share in the life of the community, serve with my spiritual gifts, and be a good steward of the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to me.”

Our Next Membership Sunday: _____



New Song Church

Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Subdivision: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Other _____

Occupation: _____

E-mail address: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widowed

Birthday: _____ Anniversary: _____

Children at home (list names and dates of birth):

Have you been baptized? Yes No

If you are transferring from another church, please give the name and address of the church:

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT: "Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with New Song's statements, strategy and structure, I now choose to unite with the New Song Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to live in God's grace, grow as a believer, share in the life of the community, serve with my spiritual gifts, and be a good steward of the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to me."

Signature

Date