



FROM THE  
GROUND  
UP

THE VISION

TO BEAR FRESH FRUIT,  
WE MUST PUT DOWN  
**DEEP ROOTS.**

---

201 Hill Ave. Endicott, NY  
607-785-8579



[www.NewLifeFM.com](http://www.NewLifeFM.com)  
[info@newlifefm.com](mailto:info@newlifefm.com)

# CONTENTS

FROM VISION TO FRUITION

02

A Message From Our Lead Pastor  
Pastor Joe Wickman

03

All About New Life  
Mission & Vision • History • Timeline

05

New Life Now  
Current Statistics • Testimonies

07

In Our Community & In the Future  
Involvement & Goals for Community Engagement

09

From the Ground Up  
The Initiative • The Project Details

12

How You Can Get Involved  
Pathway to Generosity • Commitment Card

13

Closing Letter  
Pastor Joe Wickman



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEAD PASTOR

## DEAR NEW LIFE FAMILY,

A few years ago I asked the Lord a direct question, “If you see fit for me to lead this church someday, what should be the first words out of my mouth when I am given the chance?”

Sometimes you ask the Lord a specific question, and you get a specific answer. Mark 1:15 instantly came to mind. Jesus began his ministry with these words, “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

These are the words that have been ringing in my ears since then. This Good News of Jesus drives everything I do as a pastor, everything we do as a church, and all that we’re about to do.

When I stepped into the Lead Pastor role in June of 2019, none of us could have imagined the disruption that COVID would introduce just nine months later. But I am happy to report that New Lifers have shown themselves to be Kingdom people through each month of this crisis. I have been encouraged by your faith and your faithfulness. Your willingness to serve others, especially those in need, and your persistent generosity tell me where your priorities are. Thank you.

God has commissioned us to raise up leaders so that we can reach out to our neighborhood, community, and region. It’s time for us to step up to our calling and step into the Jesus mission, inviting our friends, family, and neighbors into a walk with Jesus. As they come, our ministries must be ready to restore lives by the power of Jesus Christ.

The time has come for us here at New Life to put down roots in the neighborhood He has planted us in. That’s what “From The Ground Up” is all about: us being ready to meet, greet, and grow from seeds to saplings, to a community of believers who are “rooted and built up in him” (Colossians 2:7). We must have a building that is ready to be used for those purposes.

If we come together in faith, God will use us to change lives and eternities like never before.

*Joe Wickman*





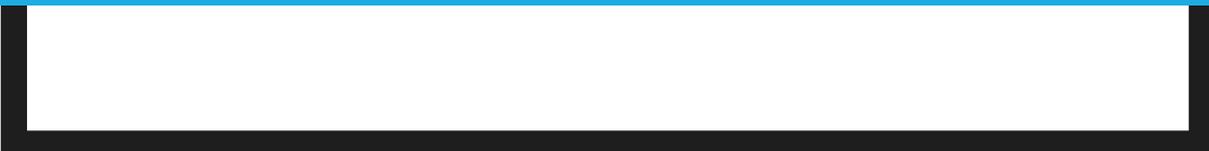
# WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

---

## OUR MISSION

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus himself directed us to **love God** with all we have and **love our neighbors** as ourselves. (Matthew 22:36-40). He instructed us to carry the Good News to all people, inviting them to become His **disciples**. We are to baptize them into the faith and teach them to obey Jesus. (Matthew 28:18-20)



## OUR VISION

RAISE UP, REACH OUT, RESTORE LIVES

The Vision goes hand-in-hand with the Mission of New Life. We **raise up** leaders so we can **reach out** to our community and **restore lives** by Christ's power.

# CORE VALUES

## 1 We Invite Everyone

Everyone we meet is loved by Jesus and called to a relationship with Him.

## 2 Come As You Are

No matter where you're starting from, God loves you just the way you are.

## 3 God's Love Changes Us

The more we experience God's love, the more we want to be like Jesus.

## 4 We All Have a Next Step

God is constantly growing our faith one next step at a time.

## 5 We Worship Big

We use every bit of creativity we can to lead people into the presence of God.

## 6 We Live God's Word

We present God's truth found in Scripture in a way that's easy to understand and apply. We teach towards application and transformation, not just information.

## 7 We Grow in Groups

Real relationships are essential to our ongoing growth in Christ.

## 8 We Serve Selflessly

We're not just consumers, we're contributors. We gladly give God our time and effort, building up His church and serving in our community with excellence.

## 9 We Give Generously

We trust God with more than words. We trust Him with what He's entrusted to us.

## 10 We Invest in the Next Generation

Our ministries for kids and teens are a foundational part of who we are and who we're becoming.

We have been a church in this community for

# OVER 150 YEARS



FMC Church was established in Endicott.

Endicott FMC relocated to Vestal.

Outgrew Vestal, sold building & rented the Boys & Girls Club.

Purchased 201 Hill Ave. from Endicott Schools.

God is calling us to **Raise up leaders, Reach out, and Restore lives** like never before!

# NEW LIFE NOW



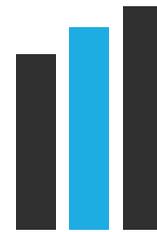
2.8K LIKES ON  
FACEBOOK



**500**  
AVG. IN-PERSON  
ATTENDANCE  
more returning weekly



**100**  
AVG. ONLINE  
ATTENDANCE

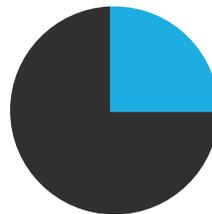


**8.5%**  
ANNUAL  
INCREASE  
IN GIVING  
SINCE 2019

**\$153K**

given towards Outreach  
Ministries & Programs  
since 2019

**67%** GROWTH  
IN GROUP LIFE  
SINCE 2018



New Group  
Members for  
2021  
23%

**380 PEOPLE  
IN 65 GROUPS**

NL   
**84%** ATTENDANCE  
GROWTH



**150**  
VOLUNTEERS  
SERVING



**250+**  
PODCAST SUBSCRIBERS

SINCE 2018  
THERE HAVE BEEN

**61** BAPTISMS

**88** SALVATIONS



# "PROUD TO CALL NEW LIFE HOME."

- Brittany Crane

## I feel the Holy Spirit every time I walk in.

Whether you've been a believer for a long time, you're new to knowing Jesus, or you don't know Him at all, this place is super welcoming.

Thank you for all that you do, I'm grateful to worship at New Life!

The first time we went to New Life, as we entered the parking lot, I told my husband I don't even like this place, even a little, because I am not driving one hour every Sunday to come to church. Here we are 18 years later loving everything about our church. There is so much love shared here. Give a try and see if you can stay away.

- Jocelyn Tubbs



- Mandy Webb

Thirteen years ago, from my very first visit to New Life on I was welcomed with open arms. I made friends who have walked beside me and mentored me in my faith, and I found a family and an incredible opportunity to serve the Lord with my gifts in the Dramatic Arts.

- Mitch Vestel



"...I have known New Life to be a family... a church filled with people from pastors to parishioners who will go above and beyond in Christ Jesus to be there! When [you need] an ear to listen or advice from those of wisdom and understanding...

## NEW LIFE IS "AT THE READY" WITH PRECIOUS SMILES AND KIND WORDS OF COMPASSION, WITH PRAYER AND ABUNDANT LOVE,

willing and waiting for all those who are ready to listen and receive the holy word and teachings of Almighty God."



# IN OUR COMMUNITY

NEW LIFE MINISTRIES partners with

## LAUNDRY LOVE™

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
with love, dignity, and detergent



## COVID19 CARE PACKAGES



## COFFEE SHOP PROCEEDS

ALL proceeds from our volunteer-run Coffee Shop go to our Outreach Ministry. Your donations help fuel our efforts in our local community to **restore lives** through programs and ministries like NLCR, Compassion Fund, and assisting with the Impact Project.



## SUPPORT FOR LOCAL NON-PROFITS

We are not meant to further the Mission alone. If we truly want to reach out to more people, we need to raise up other non-profits as well!

## FREE SHOWS, EVENTS, & WORSHIP



## PARTNERING WITH THE IMPACT PROJECT



# AND IN THE FUTURE

The neighborhood right around our church is filled with people who need Jesus; Endicott, Vestal, Owego, Binghamton, and beyond are homes to hearts in need of Christ. The Southern Tier, one of the nation's least "churched" areas, is brimming with souls who've not yet met their Savior.

We have been **called** and **commissioned** to **reach out** to our neighbors right here in Endicott, as well as our whole region.

As we do, we are definitely going to outgrow this facility someday - what a great problem to have!

And we've got a plan for that. Picture the ministry we get to do at 201 Hill Ave as the **trunk of a tree** that God wants to grow.

In the future, we will need to **branch out** to reach more people. Through multi-sites and church plants, our goal is to **reach new people** and minister to 1% of our regional population; that's 2,000 people!

But that's not our first step. The first step is to maximize the use of what God's given us here. We all know that a tree cannot **grow** taller and branch out wider than its **roots** go down.



**IN ORDER TO BEAR FRESH FRUIT,  
WE MUST PUT DOWN DEEP ROOTS.**

Church, it's time for us to put down deep roots into Jesus Christ both personally and in our community.



FROM THE  
GROUND  
UP

INTRODUCING OUR GIVING INITIATIVE

# FROM THE GROUND UP

"...JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD,  
CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM, **ROOTED AND  
BUILT UP** IN HIM, **STRENGTHENED** IN THE FAITH..."

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7



# WHAT IS "FROM THE GROUND UP" ALL ABOUT?

New Life has passionately worked to **Love God, Love People, and Make Disciples** since our founding in 1868. Now, 153 years later in 2021, we are planning to passionately invest in our Endicott facility, allowing us to further our influence and extend the reach of that mission in our community and region.

"From the Ground Up" is all about anchoring our roots to support fruitful ministry. God is calling us to branch out and bear fruit! But before we do, we must build up a strong foundation right here in Endicott and throughout the Southern Tier.

Fulfilling this vision will take **all of us**.



## WHAT DOES THE PROJECT INVOLVE?

"From the Ground Up" is a 2-year generosity initiative.

We are asking each person to pray intentionally about their participation in this initiative and what financial commitment they are called to make. The funding garnered during the campaign will go towards multiple renovations and additions to our Endicott facility.

### + CREATING COMMUNITY IDENTITY

One of our top priorities with "From the Ground Up" will be investing in a permanent solution for the deteriorating condition of our building's exterior. We'll also take this as an opportunity to become visually recognizable as a credible and distinguished church in our community. This is more than a patch-job, this will be built to last.

The building renderings you see above and on the opposite page are some of the many possibilities. We plan to re-face our building- some sections being completely replaced- with new materials made to stand the test of time.

### + RE-DESIGNED FOR ACCESSIBILITY & COMPASSION

Access to all three of our floors should not be a struggle for anyone. An elevator will allow all people, regardless of physical ability, ease of access and support. An elevator will be added adjacent to the stairwell next to the Worship Center. Our Main Entrance will shift to pair with the elevator and will open into a completely re-designed main lobby (renderings on the next page). The lower level and third level will also receive lobbies, all serving as new spaces for connection.

Congestion in our main hallway has been a long-term problem in our building, and the re-designation of our main entrance is going to alleviate and elevate our spaces! This large and open area will be conducive for better foot traffic flow between our environments, as well as a warm and inviting first impression for all church guests.

+ MORE >>>

**+ REBUILT TO LAST & GROW**

Upstreet's Power Up room will be getting an upgrade! Power Up is a theatrical stage used during our K-5th Grade Sunday services. The goal is to re-design Power Up as a "multi-space." This means that on Sunday, our children will get a high-energy space fit for flourishing faith; and on every other day of the week, adult groups can use this multi-space as a warm and inviting area, suitable for groups, classes, and smaller worship gatherings.

In our largest space, the Worship Center will receive custom acoustical treatment to work for the specific needs of our Creative Ministries. The addition of sound clouds and panels will help control reverberation and echoes to create clean, controlled sound for our Sunday worship set, dramatic arts productions, and all our events in-between!



**WHAT IS IT  
GOING TO TAKE  
TO COMPLETE  
THIS VISION?**



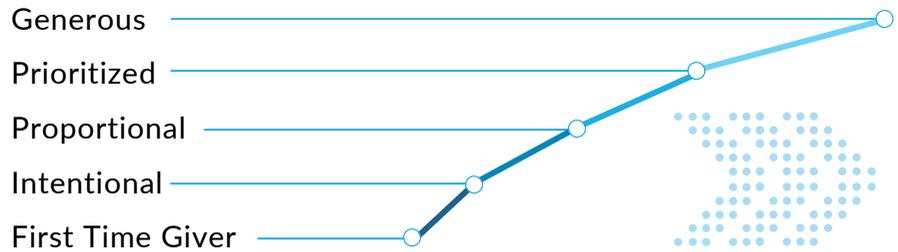
# THE VISION TAKES ALL OF US

## OUR 2-YEAR GOAL: \$1,855,000

COMMITMENT SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Our two-year goal of \$1.8 million is too much for any one of us to bear, but it's not too much for all of us together. God is leading each of us; pray for discernment and obedience to His will between now and November 14, 2021, when the call to commitment will be made. If you haven't seen one already, you will be receiving a Commitment Card, exemplar below. We ask that you pray over your card, and ask God what your Next Step on your generosity journey is.

**PATHWAY TO  
GENEROSITY**  
What's your Next Step?



### THE PATHWAY TO GENEROSITY

God's plan for generosity is a journey of trusting Him with all that we are and all that we have. The Bible encourages us to grow in every aspect of our walk with Christ including the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7). "From the Ground Up" commitments are part of that journey, and we encourage you on your walk to **Listen to God** through prayer, **Evaluate Your Resources** and consider that everything God has blessed you with ultimately belongs to Him, **Get Specific** with how your resources can be used by God to further His kingdom, and **Walk by Faith**, trusting God to grow your faith as you do so.

### MY COMMITMENT

BY **FAITH**, I AM/WE ARE SUPPORTING **GOD'S VISION**  
FOR NEW LIFE MINISTRIES BY **COMMITTING TO**:

Monthly Commitment  
**x12**  
 = 1-Year Total  
  
**x2**  
 =2-Year Total  
 + Gifts from stored resources  
 (cash, stock, real estate, etc.)  
 = **2-Year Total  
Commitment**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR 2-YEAR GOAL: \$1,855,000

GIFTS NEEDED	COMMITMENT AMOUNT
1	\$150,000
2	\$100,000
3	\$75,000
4	\$50,000
4	\$35,000
10	\$25,000
14	\$20,000
18	\$10,000
20	\$7,500
30	\$5,000
40	\$3,500
Many	\$2,500



It's going to take the **whole church** coming together to grow the ministry From the Ground Up. So I am calling every New Lifer to commit to giving sacrificially over a two-year time period. Our goal is 100% participation in this initiative.

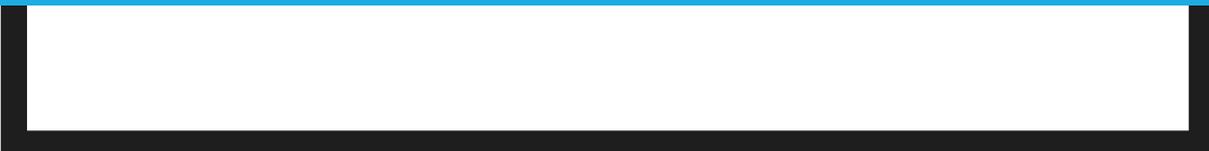
It's been 20 years since we've made a significant investment in our facility; and if we're going to **put down roots and branch out**, we need to equip this building to serve well.

In the past, we had to borrow to do renovations and make needed repairs to the building, but right now, more debt is not going to help us fulfill God's vision for New Life. I truly believe we can complete these projects with as little debt as possible.

Years ago we thought the future of New Life might involve us changing our location. For a year we tried to purchase property, but after our best attempts, God shut that door. That was not a wasted effort; we learned some very important things that have weighed heavily on the decision to invest in our current location. First, we learned that building a new facility would have cost 10-12 million dollars. And since then, I've become convinced that God wants us here where He's placed us.

God has called us to **raise up** leaders, **reach out** to our community, and **restore lives** by the power of Jesus Christ. He's going to use you and me to build His Church, starting right here in Endicott, **From the Ground Up**.

*Joe Wickman*



So then, just as you  
received Christ Jesus as  
Lord, continue to live  
your lives in him

**ROOTED AND BUILT UP**

in Him,

**STRENGTHENED**

in the faith as you were  
taught, and overflowing  
with thankfulness.

**COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 NIV**

