

# **NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## **CHURCH PROFILE**

### **Our History**

In August of 1958, six families who attended Redwood Valley Community Church left and began meeting in their homes for prayer and Bible study. On December 11, 1958 the group voted to affiliate with the Evangelical Free Church of America and adopted a simple congregational form of government. The group rented space from a church in Ukiah and began holding regular services. In July of 1959 the church purchased a small building at the corner of Bush and Henry Streets and in October called their first full time pastor. The church consisted of 31 charter members from 11 families.

In 1960, the church purchased a church building, located on Jones Street, and occupied the church in January of 1961. The church was able to sell their old church and purchase a residence next to the Jones Street church to be used as a parsonage. The church met at the Jones Street location and grew in membership over the next fifteen years. On June 22, 2003, the congregation voted to rename the church from Evangelical Free Church of Ukiah, to New Life Community Church, while remaining in the EFCA denomination.

### **Current Campus**

In 1977, the church had the opportunity to buy the property (10.5 acres) at the location where the church is currently located. The building plans were drafted by the members. The construction of Fellowship Hall (5300 sq. feet) was built by the members. Shortly after the project began, plans were put into place for the construction of a sanctuary. Building of the sanctuary by the members began while the Fellowship Hall was being completed. The congregation began holding services in the Fellowship Hall in December of 1978. The sanctuary was finished in March of 1979, then the weekly services were held there. In 1995 we finished a 2500 square foot children's building with six classrooms. Three modulars were added in the year of 2000 with a total 2360 square feet with two meeting rooms.

### **Congregation**

From the 1970's through the 1980's the congregational attendance grew to ~300. After the lead pastor retired in the early nineties, the church employed four successive pastors, with Sunday attendance varying from a high of 250, to a low of 70 to 80. When the last pastor retired in June 2018 the Sunday service attendance was 70-80 attendees. Currently our Interim Pastor, Mike Moran, has been serving the body since July 2018. Most attendees are older and of western European descent.

## **Missions & Ministry**

The church has always been noted as willing to share the use of their facilities with other churches in the Ukiah area. For many years, Deep Valley Christian School used the church for several of their annual events. The local college used our facility for their choir and orchestra programs. A local Jewish group used our facilities for some of the special events they held. In recent years, the church has developed a relationship with Oak Manor Elementary School and has been available to provide people to help them with various school events. The church provides an AWANA program for the youth of the community on Tuesday evenings during the school year. Vacation Bible School is a strong and effective outreach effort for our church.

La Esperanza Mission has been a very important ministry for New Life over the past twenty years. It has been a yearly mission trip to eastern Tijuana, Mexico, to serve at a men's and woman's church-based rehabilitation facilities. Resources and funds are raised during the year for this annual trip, which occurs during the Easter break. The youth and adult volunteers who participate at La Esperanza, work on different building projects; installing roofs, interior walls, etc. There is full participation of the volunteers in their church and Easter program. There is also bible school put on by the youth for the children living around La Esperanza. A strong bond has developed over the years with this ministry.

At New Life we currently hold one worship service on Sunday mid-morning, with a children's/youth bible study in the children's building. An adult bible study often takes place following the service. Men's and women's groups meet at various times on campus during the week. There are a few small groups meeting in private homes. Prayer is becoming a more visible and obvious focus in recent months.

New Life supports the following outreach efforts both locally and beyond:

- The Center for Life Choices
- Nor Cal Christian Ministries (NCCM)
- Josh & Kelly Otto – Serving with CRU in Puerto Rico
- Jena Glasscock – Serving with CRU in Boston
- Jerry Burney – Local Jail Ministries
- Keith & Lorie Beyer – Serving with CRU in Hungary (Central Europe & Eastern Russia)
- Gideons International
- EFCA District
- EFCA National

## **Distinctives**

New Life is known in the community as a loving, genuinely hospitable congregation. Many who visit New Life for the first time and continue to become members indicate that this characteristic is the reason for them joining our mission. The church has a long term and well-deserved reputation as a “community” church, supporting and being active in other forms of outreach city wide. Everyone is welcome at New Life.

The teaching at New Life historically has been biblically based with an emphasis on application.

The church campus is well kept and conducive for many different ministries to take place on campus simultaneously; children’s building with six rooms, rooms for both adult and youth ministries, Fellowship Hall able to be divided into four additional classrooms. New Life also can prepare meals in the kitchen and serve meals in the Fellowship Hall.

The wise stewardship of finances over the years has enabled the church to remain debt free and operating within the budget we’ve been given.

## **Our Future**

We are anticipating the Lord, by His Spirit, to direct our efforts in expanding His kingdom here in Ukiah, our region and through the world in the days, months and years to come! Our community is in desperate need for a Savior, and a church that offers help for the One who can meet our deepest needs and restore us to our Creator. We look forward to following our next Lead Pastor in kingdom expanding efforts, to all ages, for the glory of God!