

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

[Pastor Gene Henderson with edits by Pastor Pier]

Why do we believe in what – or who – we cannot prove? **Scientifically, it makes no sense.** But we read books and watch movies with fictitious characters. And we get so absorbed that we wait for the next book or the next movie. Sometimes the scene is science fiction and we're carried away to the world of imagination. Sometimes the scene is normal life and we wait to see how the characters react to what happens in their lives. Sometimes the scenes are historic and we let the author play us through his or her view of how it all happened. That's why we loved Ruth and Naomi, Esther and Ahasuerus, or David and Jonathan, or Abraham and Sarah.

**Humans love moving from the real to the imaginative.** And sometimes the imaginative is compellingly real. But entertainment, as compelling as it is, **is not belief.** And when we go to church and worship with our friends, we cross a line. **We're not just entertaining our souls; we're reaffirming our faith in the invisible.** That which we cannot see has captured our hearts and minds. We're here to offer Him our praise and to be reminded that nothing is more important to us than His work in us and in our world.

But that is only part. We're reminding ourselves that when we pass from this life, we will be reunited with those who have gone before us. And that whatever God has planned for the next life will be incredible. Do we dare think about that? Why not? **Do we believe in what we cannot prove?** Hebrews 11:1; 1 John 3:2:

Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things, [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Beloved, we are [even here and] now God's children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God's children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is.

# Welcome!

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025



*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way."*

### SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity in Prayer: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; Kid's Club

Prayer ½ hour before services

**DON'T WRITE ME OFF, COUNT ME IN! Part 4**

**TEXT:** Ruth 1:16-21

- 1. CIRCUMSTANCES MUST NEVER DETERMINE IDENTITY**
- 2. CIRCUMSTANCES MUST NEVER DETERMINE OUR CONCEPT OF GOD** Ruth 1:20-21
- 3. CIRCUMSTANCES MUST NEVER DETERMINE POTENTIAL**
- 4. CIRCUMSTANCES MUST NEVER DETERMINE DESTINY**

God is not finished with me yet. Ruth 4:13-17; 2:2, 5-14; 3:3-6

God connects Naomi's destiny with Ruth.

Don't let him look up and see anyone else.

The story doesn't end until God has made provision for your redemption Mark 10:47; Isaiah 59:19; Psalm 150:6

A woman who by her own admission was dead, by her own estimation had nothing to offer, was connected to a coming Christ who would be born in a manger in Bethlehem.

God is waking up a remnant that will not be satisfied with things the way they are.

Nothing will matter – Matthew 16:18, **my destiny is the church.**

Nothing will matter – Joel 2:25-29 **my destiny is the Holy Ghost.**

Nothing will matter – Acts 1:6-8 **my destiny is as a witness.**

Nothing will matter – Mark 16:15-20 **my destiny is miracles.**

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*



**Wednesday Bible Study** – we continue our study of the Rapture of the church.

**Prayer** – every Sunday evening from 6 to 7. We join together to pray in an informal way, come as you are and pray as you wish. God honors the church that prays together.

**Flagging Practice** has begun again on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM. For more information, please see Debbie DeVries.

**Free Music CDs & DVDs** – in the foyer, on the pulpit there are numerous CDs and DVDs which are free. Please take a look and see what you might want.

**Capital Section Spring Event – Ladies** – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 2 PM. Location: Capital Church, 1222 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Niskayuna, NY. Cost is \$25 per person and must be in by April 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information see Caroline Zeyak.

Rev. Bill Pier Jr., Campus Pastor

Rev. Arthur Henderson – Pastor

Pastor's cell phone: 518.567.9788

Location & Mail: 292 Hays Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Office Telephone: 518.479.3439

Email: [pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org](mailto:pastorpier@newlifeaogeg.org)

Webpage: <http://www.newlifeaogeg.org>

Guest Wi-Fi: NewLifeGuest – password: NewLife292