



**Editor's Note:** This is the first edition of the Enewsletter to update the congregation on the Church Refresh(See before and after photos above. The last photo is a rendering, not actual finished work). We are excited to have our first update written by one of our staff, Special Projects Life Development (Youth 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade)officer, W. Kay Wilson. Please see future updates in enewsletter, website and our social media platforms.

# The New Salem Baptist Church Sanctuary Refresh Project

By W. Kay Wilson

At New Salem Baptist Church, there's a spirit of renewal and faith that is not just a part of the congregation, but also embedded in the very walls of the church itself. The ongoing sanctuary refresh project isn't just about giving the physical space a facelift—it's about creating a welcoming, vibrant place for worship that reflects the growth and grace of the Lord. This is a journey of rebuilding, not just the building, but a connection with God and community that continues to deepen.

Under the direction of our pastor, Dr. Keith A. Troy, New Salem Baptist Church is embarking on a transformative renovation of its sanctuary and surrounding areas. The first tier of this project is focused on critical upgrades to the restrooms and public spaces. The church is reimagining the restroom facilities in the foyer and lower levels to meet accessibility standards while maintaining the space's spiritual warmth. These changes include creating ADA-compliant stalls, adding family-friendly features, and refreshing the layout to accommodate growing needs.

Once plans for the restrooms are finalized, work will begin in earnest to overhaul the sanctuary itself. The pews, carpet, and flooring will be replaced with modern flooring and fresh carpet, providing a clean, comfortable environment for congregational gatherings. The church's pulpit and choir loft will also receive new upholstery and padding. As the renovation continues, the sanctuary will also undergo painting and ceiling tile replacement to ensure a bright, welcoming space for all who come to worship.

One of the standout features of this renovation is the church's commitment to hiring minority contractors for the project. As part of their vision for building God's Kingdom, New Salem Baptist Church sought out skilled local contractors who could bring their own expertise and dedication to the project. Through this partnership, the church is supporting the growth of businesses within the community while ensuring the highest standards of craftsmanship.

Sessley Building Services (SBS) <https://sessleybuilding.com/>, a local contracting firm, has played a key role in making this project a reality. Michael Bloom, the Project Superintendent for SBS, shared his experience working with New Salem Baptist Church: "This is the first church project that I have led, and I have found working with the church staff has been very positive," he said. This collaboration has been instrumental in bringing together diverse contractors whose combined skills have elevated the project to new heights.

The contractors have truly complimented each other's expertise, coming together in a shared mission to deliver the best possible outcome for the New Salem community. Whether it's precision in the restroom designs, careful attention to detail in the sanctuary's renovation, or the collaborative spirit that defines every stage of the work, these teams are not just building a church—they're investing in the future of God's kingdom.

The sanctuary refresh isn't just for the current generation—it's about preparing a space that will welcome and inspire future generations. As the church updates its physical space, it is also sowing seeds for spiritual growth and connection. The decision to make these changes reflects a heart for the future of the congregation and the ministry they carry out in the community.

This project serves as a reminder that New Salem isn't just a building; but a place of belonging. A space where lives are transformed, prayers are lifted, and hearts are united in worship. New Salem Baptist Church is committed to creating a sanctuary that reflects the love and grace of God, and they are doing so in a way that supports their broader

mission of inclusivity and community investment.

As the renovation moves forward, the congregation of New Salem Baptist Church invites the community to join in this exciting project. Every prayer, every gift, and every act of service is a step toward building God's Kingdom, not just within the walls of the church but in the hearts of those who walk through its doors.

The work being done today is more than just construction—it's a testament to the ongoing work of God in the lives of the New Salem family. With every brushstroke of paint, every tile placed, and every piece of carpet laid, the church is building a stronger foundation for the future, one that will continue to impact generations to come.

As New Salem Baptist Church embarks on this renovation, the journey is far from over. It's just the beginning of something much greater: a community connected in purpose, faith, and the mission to build God's Kingdom here on earth.

Join us in this exciting journey—because together, we are building more than a sanctuary; we're building a legacy of faith and service. See future updates at [www.newsalemcares.com](http://www.newsalemcares.com).



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## Leadership Linden application extended January 31<sup>st</sup>

Calling all Connectors! We are pleased to announce the application window for our Leadership Linden Cohort 2025 has been extended until **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Leadership Linden is a neighborhood-focused leadership enrichment program for current and emerging leaders throughout Columbus. We are targeting government, banking and private sector executives. For more information, please contact Adam Troy at [atroy@newsalemcares.com](mailto:atroy@newsalemcares.com).



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## Membership Update

Members of New Salem, it is time to review your information. If you've changed names, addresses, phone numbers, marital status, your children changed grades, you have a new email address, etc., please scan the QR code to update your information. We want to stay connected with you!

Update Your Information



Click image to enlarge it and view in more detail.

## Food Pantry Delivery - Volunteers Needed

Our next monthly Food Pantry delivery is scheduled for **Monday, February 10th at 8:00 am**. As you may know many of our Linden area families depend heavily on our resources. Our team needs **15** of your heart and hands to join us in community service as we continue putting feet on prayers. Parking is available on the church main lot. We appreciate the consideration and hope to see you serving with us soon. For more information, please contact Adam Troy at [atroy@newsalemcare.com](mailto:atroy@newsalemcare.com).

[Register Here](#)



## **Understanding Glaucoma: Protecting Our Vision**

*By Dr. Christopher Brown, MD, MPH*

Glaucoma is a serious eye condition that can cause vision loss or even blindness if not treated. It damages the optic nerve, which connects your eyes to your brain. This disease is often called the "silent thief of sight" because it usually has no early symptoms. By the time vision changes are noticed, the damage may already be severe.

For African Americans, glaucoma is a particularly important issue. Studies show that African Americans are 6 to 8 times more likely to develop glaucoma than other groups. It is also a leading cause of blindness in our community, often affecting us earlier and more severely.

Symptoms of glaucoma may include blurred vision, seeing halos around lights, or a gradual loss of peripheral vision. However, many people with glaucoma experience no symptoms until it's too late. That's why regular eye exams are critical. Eye doctors can detect glaucoma early with special tests, even before symptoms appear.

The good news is that glaucoma can be managed with treatment. Eye drops, medications, laser therapy, or surgery can help protect your vision. The key is catching it early.

I encourage everyone, especially those over 40 or with a family history of glaucoma, to schedule a regular eye exam. Don't wait for symptoms—early detection can save your sight.

Let's take care of the gift of vision. Talk to your healthcare provider or eye doctor today about getting screened for glaucoma. Together, we can protect our sight and our future!

Disclaimer: The articles written by Dr. Brown are intended for informational purposes only and should not be considered a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Readers are advised to consult their own doctor or healthcare provider for any personal medical concerns. The information provided is based on Dr. Brown's expertise and research but may not apply to every individual's unique circumstances. These articles do not represent the views or endorsement of Dr. Brown's employer or any other affiliated organizations.



**New Salem Hospitalization  
& Bereavement Line**

To report a hospitalization or death in the family,  
contact the church, at **614 554-6417** or email us at  
**[crt@newsalemcares.com](mailto:crt@newsalemcares.com)**



Click image to enlarge it and view in more detail.

This is an important reminder to all New Salem Members. If you need to report a hospitalization or death to the church, please call **614 554-6417** or email **[crt@newsalemcares.com](mailto:crt@newsalemcares.com)**.

**Call**

**Email**

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## Worship Recap

**January 26, 2025 | 10 AM**



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eNewsletter Editor/Designer Dr. Monica J. Lowe and Kara Brooks

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