

Good News From New Life

November 27, 2025

First Sunday of Advent
Saint Andrew's Feast Day
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalms 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Calendar of Coming Events

Nov 30 Advent I St Andrew
Bagpipes, coffee hour
Dec 3 Wednesday Group resumes
10:30 am Parlor
Dec 7 Advent II St Nicholas
Joe Bridges preaching
Dec 9 Tuesday Evening Group
6:30 parlor, "Family"
Dec 14 Advent III St Lucia
St Lucia procession with Bea
Coffee hour, Cookie Exchange
Taize 7 pm
Dec 15 Vestry 6:30 pm
Dec 21 Advent IV
Troy Dunn preaching
Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7 pm
Taize Eucharist
Dec 25 Christmas Day 10 am
Casual service with story
Dec 28 Lessons and Carols

Lay Preaching Schedule

Dec 7 Joe Bridges
Dec 21 Troy Dunn



Wear plaid on Sunday!

Advent arrives!

The beautiful season of Advent begins this Sunday with considerable fanfare. November 1 is also the Feast Day of Saint Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, so we will celebrate both the first Sunday of Advent and St. Andrew with Scottish flair. Bagpipes, lots of plaid, and a Scottish coffee hour will usher in the season.

Liturgical changes for Advent include a new Gospel emphasis, as we begin the new year concentrating on the Gospel of Matthew (last year was for St. Luke). Our Advent service music changes to the familiar and melodic works of Franz Schubert for Kyrie, Sanctus and Fraction.

The first three Sundays of Advent will observe saints on (or near) their feast days. St Andrew is first on Nov. 1, Dec. 7 observes St Nicholas (with Joe Bridges preaching); and Dec. 14 we will celebrate St Lucia with Scandinavian flair, including a Santa Lucia procession (Bea Dale, age 5, is studying for her starring role) and a Coffee Hour and Cookie Exchange after the service. The fourth Sunday, Dec. 21, we will hear Troy Dunne as guest preacher, bringing us to the door of Christmas.

Episcopal Minute: Thanksgiving

Various religions have long celebrated agricultural festivals. In America, the observance of a harvest festival of thanksgiving was begun in New England by colonists in Massachusetts and Virginia and extended throughout the United States by an act of the Continental Congress. The celebration was intermittent in the 19th century until 1863, when President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation that Thanksgiving Day would be on the last Thursday of November. In 1941, following an act of Congress, President Franklin Roosevelt designated Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November.

I always heard this change was at the request of merchants who wanted to start Christmas shopping a little earlier. What would they have thought of Black Friday!

I'm sure you know that Thanksgiving Day has nothing to do with Christmas shopping. Here's a good reminder, the prayer from BCP, for Thanksgiving Day:

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Tuesday Evening Group

The Tuesday Evening Group will meet Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 pm in the church parlor. The topic is Family. Please note the date and time changes. Our time together lasts about an hour and all are welcome to join.

Plea for Pledges

Vestry is finalizing budget numbers for next year. If you have not yet sent in your pledge for 2026, please do so.

Vestry Candidates for 2026

Candidates for vestry positions beginning in 2026 are Kathy Jernigan and Darlene Giffin. Retiring vestry members are Julie Martin and Jeff Maurer. The Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 25, 2026.

Wednesday Book Group

The Wednesday Morning Book Group has chosen a new book to read and discuss together beginning December 3, *The Frozen River*, a novel by Ariel Lawhon. The group assembles at 10:30 am in the parlor for a worship service presented by Rev Barbara, and discussion begins at 11 am.

NCD Prayer

Holy and living God, who nurtures our faith: Help us to be so rooted in your love that we may encourage New Life in others.

Christmas Outreach

By Terri Mackey

Every year we support a family or families for Christmas. This year we are going to continue to support the SAM (Support Area Military) by helping the veterans and their families by purchasing Christmas gifts for their children. We will choose a suggested gift item that will be on a tag on our Christmas tree that will be located in the parlor. No names will be needed for the gift. All items should be new and unwrapped.

I will deliver the gift items to the SAM program in Massillon, so please have the items to the church by December 8. Parents will participate in a shopping experience from the donated gifts that are brought in and will also receive wrapping materials for the gifts they choose. This makes a more personal experience for the parents and their children. As usual, I will be glad to shop for anyone.

Coffee Hour Teams

Team 1: Darlene, Bo, Connie

Team 2: Rita, Terri, Charlyn 11/30

Team 3: Marianne, Kathy, Julie 12/14

Team 4: Gladys, Laura, Judy R 1/4

Send newsletter items to Rev Barbara by Tuesday

Please send items by Tuesday evening to Rev Barbara by email:

RevBLBond@msn.com

FISH Items for 2025

Please bring items to church for the FISH food pantry.

January	Canned soup
February	Peanut butter
March	Toothpaste
April	Cleaning products, dish soap
May	Cereal
June	Canned fruit
July	Shampoo
August	Fruit juice
September	Cleaning products
October	Cereal
November	Pasta and pasta sauce
December	Instant potatoes

Vestry Officers 2025

Senior Warden: Larry Mackey

Junior Warden: Julie Martin

Treasurer: Amy Allen

Clerk: Pete Iole

Vestry members: Andrea Page, Scott Bridges, Jeff Maurer, Julie Martin, Larry Mackey.

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Barbara Bond

Vestry Goals for 2025

1. Improve visibility of the church
2. Adopt Natural Church Development process, focusing on Need-oriented Evangelism
3. Continue developing relationships within the larger community (FISH, Lake Library, other parishes, lay preachers, Taize services, Adults with Disabilities Events)

Cookie Exchange December 14

1. *Sign up ASAP for the exchange providing the type of cookie you are bringing to avoid duplicates.*
2. *Cookies should be homemade.*
3. *Each participant is to bring at least 4 dozen cookies (include a few extra to make a plate for our home bound).*
4. *Bring copies of your recipe to share with others.*
5. *Cookies should arrive on a platter or in a container and be labeled with the cookie name and your name. Please note if it contains nuts and/or is gluten free.*
6. *Bring a container to take your traded cookies home.*
7. *The exchange will be held during coffee hour on Sunday, Dec 14.*
8. *Once everyone has arrived, participants will be directed to start choosing their cookies. Limit choice of cookies to 3 of each kind.*
9. *At the end of the exchange, everyone should leave with an equal number of cookies. Enjoy!*

Letter from Santa

Susan Brennan invites New Life parishioners to order a personalized Letter from Santa. Forms are on the desk in the parlor. The Falls Chapter 245 of the Order of Eastern Star is sponsoring the project. The letters will be sent to children, personalized with the child's name and other information. Each letter may be ordered for \$6, by December 10 for delivery by Christmas.

Servers Schedule

Altar Guild

Nov 30-Dec 5 Marianne

Readers

Nov 30 Pete

Dec 24 Bo

Counters

Nov 30 Darlene and Susan

Dec. 7 Kathy and Julie

Dec. 14 Darlene and Judy

Dec. 21 Andrea and Darlene

Dec. 28 Julie and Susan

Vestry In Charge

Nov 30 Pete

Healers

Nov 30 Toni

Acolyte

Nov 30 Andrea

Sunday Night Prayer Telecon

Join your New Life family in prayer for about 15 minutes each Sunday night at 8 pm and start your week off prayerfully! A few minutes before 8 pm call 720-8432008. Enter the access code when prompted: 420030#. If you use a smart phone and would like a text reminder and texted prayers, contact MJ at 330606-9904. Or pick up a flier in the parlor with the prayers. Rotating telecon leaders are Julie Martin, MJ Maling, Bo Iole and Jo Schiffbauer. We pray for our church, our country, our world, and each other's concerns and thanksgivings

Deacon's Dismissal

The Rev Josh Butler

In a dusty cardboard box I found my father's old copy of Joseph Conrad's Lord Jim. The book, published in 1906, was held very dear by my father and he passed it on to me. I've read Lord Jim more than once over the years: Jim as a seaman cadet ... Jim's abject failure as first mate on the ship Patna ... then Jim's defeated withdrawal to the isolation of the Malaysian Archipelago. There, Jim hoped for sanctuary ... perhaps relief from his failure ... perhaps even to prove himself worthy. I do not pretend to entirely understand Jim ... though I do see in Jim something of myself.