

Good News From New Life

December 4, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent
Saint Nicholas's Feast Day
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12
Joe Bridges preaching

Calendar of Coming Events

Dec 7 Advent II St Nicholas
Joe Bridges preaching
Dec 9 Tuesday Evening Group
6:30 parlor, "Family"
Dec 10 Wednesday Group resumes
10:30 am Parlor
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

Saint Andrew was presented with Scottish flare! See the last page for photos from the Nov. 30 service, featuring Brian McElhinney on bagpipes.



Advent continues!

The beautiful season of Advent began last Sunday Scottish flare. 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 Dunn as guest preacher, bringing us to the door of Christmas.

Tuesday Evening Group

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

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.** If you are in charge of a ministry at New Life, **please submit a report** to the office for our Annual Report by the end of the year. The assembled report will be presented at our Annual Meeting.

Episcopal Minute: The Saints of Advent

We love Advent for all its traditional flourishes, from the Advent wreath with four candles, to the building of the Nativity creche. Several favorite saints are also observed in this season, beginning with St Andrew on Nov. 30.

Dec. 4 was the traditional feast day for Saint Barbara who, alas, was dismissed from the saints' calendar by the Roman Catholics in about 1969, when the Second Vatican Council did some housecleaning, declaring that Barbara (and even Christopher!) had probably never lived. What a shame! Their stories are so wonderful! So, recently, the Episcopal Church added Barbara back into the calendar, now on Nov. 24, with two companions of doubtful historicity: Catherine of Alexandria and Margaret of Antioch. The three have been restored to our observance, not because their stories are literally true, but because they represent the early church's effort to recall the trauma of the early martyrs and admire their braveness and endurance.

Fortunately Saint Nicholas made the cut. His feast day of Dec. 6 has been established from the time he actually lived in the fourth century, although the legends told about him are probably not literally true. Never mind. They are all wonderful, even the ones we tell today in movies such as "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) and "The Christmas Chronicles (2018). We look forward to Joe Bridges' sermon this Sunday, Dec. 7, about Saint Nicholas.

Wednesday Book Group

The Wednesday Morning Book Group began discussing their new book Dec. 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

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.

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

Server Schedule

Altar Guild

Dec 6-12 Rita
Dec 13-19 Terri
Dec 20-26 Marianne
Dec 27-Jan 2 Rita

Readers

Dec 7 Amy
Dec 14 Charlyn
Dec 21 Pete

Dec 24 Bo

Dec 28 Bo

Counters

Dec 7 Kathy & Julie
Dec 14 Darlene & Judy
Dec 21 Andrea & Darlene
Dec 28 Julie & Susan

Vestry In Charge

Dec 7 Larry
Dec 14 Julie
Dec 21 Pete
Dec 28 TBD

Healers

Dec 7 Julie
Dec 14 Bo
Dec 21 Charlyn
Dec 28 Amy

Acolyte

Dec 7 Andrea
Dec 14 Kathy
Dec 21 Andrea

Dec 24 TBD

Dec 28 Kathy

Deacon's Dismissal

The Rev Josh Butler

Thirty years ago I became a volunteer CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) tasked to look in on abused and neglected children and to represent the children's interests in a court of law. CASA is a national organization, well respected, open to most any adult who has the interest, drive and desire to

make a real difference in a child's life and future. It requires training ... time with children and their family ... court appearances in the children's behalf ... and the desire to make their lives better and safer. This work isn't for everyone ... though for some among us it surely is.

Brian McElhinney played bagpipes for the Saint Andrew's service on Nov. 30.



Valerie Thorson, Brian McElhinney, and Rev Barbara dressed with Scottish flare (as did most of the congregation!)

