

Good News From New Life

December 11, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent
Santa Lucia Feast Day
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:4-9
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Calendar of Coming Events

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 17 Wednesday Group
10:30 am Parlor
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
Jan 4 Christmas 2
Jan 4 Epiphany Lessons & Carols,
St. Timothy's Massillon 4 pm
Jan 11 Baptism of Jesus:
Bishop Anne's Visitation
Jan 25 Annual Meeting



Advent continues!

The beautiful season of Advent continues. 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 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.

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.

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.

Episcopal Minute: Light

Light in the darkness: the season of Advent offers this powerful symbol in many ways.

Our Advent wreath offers cumulative light: every week we add to its aura with the addition of another candle, this week three of them. By Christmas Eve, the light of Christ will be fully blazing with four candles plus the Christ candle in the center.

And what is this wreath anyway? I always see it as a symbol of the world, a circle of unending light (an illusion to the poem *The World*, by 17th century metaphysical poet Henry Vaughan):

**I saw Eternity the other night.
Like a great ring of pure and endless light,
All calm, as it was bright,
And round beneath it, Time in hours,
days, years
Driv'n by the spheres.**

One of the most meaningful elements of our Taize services is the use of candles, softly lighting our sacred space. During the meditation time, we are invited to light candles, each representing our prayers, and these prayer candles too have a cumulative effect, ever brighter as more prayers help grow the light.

I hope you have some version of an Advent wreath in your homes, for your private prayer times. It needn't be anything fancy. This year, Norm and I have four pillar candles which we light to usher in each morning. We wait in the darkness as the gentle light invites us to prayer.

Tuesday Group on Family

by Arthur Scott Bridges

The spirituality group met Tuesday in the Parlor. with several in attendance. The topic was Sharing Family Stories. There was discussion about Family Reunions, growing up in large vs small families, and the scattering of recent generations. There were questions about starting conversations during holiday gatherings, how to engage younger generations, and dealing with messy family relationships.

Details about 5 family story types were presented and why they matter. The Love Story, or how you met your partner, (Parents, Grandparents); The Resilience Story, or how the family overcame hardship; Values, What beliefs and traditions have guided your family; Your Origin Story, where are you from, what culture or tradition, what events, shaped your families journey; and Identity, what choices shaped you and is there someone who has influenced your personal journey.

Additional discussion guides are in the parlor for any interested, including suggested activities for family gatherings during this holiday season.

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.

Christmas Outreach

Terri Mackey delivered gift items to the SAM program in Massillon on Friday, Dec. 5. See photos on last page.

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

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)

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

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!*

Server Schedule

Altar Guild

Dec 13-19 Terri

Dec 20-26 Marianne

Dec 27-Jan 2 Rita

Readers

Dec 14 Charlyn

Dec 21 Pete

Dec 24 Bo

Dec 28 Bo

Counters

Dec 14 Darlene & Judy

Dec 21 Andrea & Darlene

Dec 28 Julie & Susan

Vestry In Charge

Dec 14 Julie

Dec 21 Pete

Dec 28 TBD

Healers

Dec 14 Bo

Dec 21 Charlyn

Dec 28 Amy

Acolyte

Dec 14 Kathy

Dec 21 Andrea

Dec 24 Andrea

Dec 28 Kathy

Deacon's Dismissal

The Rev Josh Butler

Bess was an old-timer in ministry. She started decades ago passing out newspapers and cigarettes to veterans in a hospital ... she still spends time there ... now minus the cigarettes.

When I came of age, I looked about for something useful I might do. I was told, "See Bess." She was still going strong. I asked Bess about her ministry and she told me things. I listened and carried her good counsel with me over the years ... especially this: As I go about my ministry, joy will be found by being part of the well-being and happiness of others.



Our contributions helped the effort to provide gifts for the families of Veterans.



Joe Bridges was our lay preacher on December 7.

MEMORIALS FOR CHRISTMAS

PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES

Given by

In memory of: (please print names)

In honor of: (please print names)

Donation to the Flower account:

_____ **\$10**

_____ **\$20**

_____ **Other amount**

**Deadline is DEC 21. All memorials
will appear in the Christmas Eve
bulletin.**

**Please turn in this form and a check
made out to New Life Episcopal
Church in the desired amount.**

**You may mail your check to 13118
Church Ave NW, Uniontown OH
44685.**

**Make a notation on your check "FOR
CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL" on the
memo line**