

Good News From New Life

January 1, 2026



Calendar of Coming Events

Jan 4 Christmas 2, Charlyn Bridges preaching

Jan 4 Epiphany Lessons & Carols, St. Timothy's Massillon 4 pm

Jan 6 Tuesday Evening group, location TBD

Jan 7 Wednesday Morning group

**Jan 11 Baptism of Jesus:
Bishop Anne's Visitation**

Jan 18 Epiphany 2

Jan 25 Epiphany 3, Annual Meeting and Chili Cookoff

**Feb. 1 The Presentation,
Troy Dunn preaching**

Feb 8 Epiphany 5

**Feb 15 Last Epiphany.
Scott Bridges preaching**

**Feb 18 Ash Wednesday. 12 noon
Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes**

**Feb 22 First Sunday in Lent.
The Great Litany**

March 1 Lent 2

**March 8 Lent 3
7 pm Taize resumes**

March 15 St Patrick observance

March 23 Lent 5

March 2 Palm Sunday

April 2 Maundy Thursday

April 3 Good Friday

April 5 Easter Sunday

Bishop Anne's visitation to New Life on January 11

The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly will make her official Episcopal visit to New Life on Sunday, January 11.

This is her first visit to us, and we are pleased to welcome her. With 79 parishes in the Diocese of Ohio, and no assisting bishops, Bishop Anne will only visit individual parishes once every three years.

We will provide a coffee hour after the service, when Bishop Anne will make a short presentation. Afterwards, and the vestry (old and new) will meet with the bishop in the library. The bishop will be celebrant and preacher at the service.

Loose offerings (undesignated) will go to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, for support of clergy, congregations, and non-budgeted ministries.

No Taize in January or February

Our regular Second Sunday Taize service will not take place in January or February because of weather challenges and darkness. The regular services will resume on March 8 at 7 pm.

Send in Annual Reports!

Episcopal Minute: Holy Name

New Year's Day is also liturgically significant, as The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Formerly entitled The Circumcision, it comes eight days after Christmas. Eight days is the normal day for the circumcision of a Jewish male child and has significance for all observant Jews. At such a ceremony, the child is officially named, and hence our observance, now named Holy Name, is just a title change for the holy day.

Food in January

Our usual schedule for coffee hour (first Sundays) will change in January because of the visitation of Bishop Anne Jolly on **January 11**. Coffee hour will move to that date, overseen by Team 4 but with assistance from others. A sign-up sheet for food offerings is in the parlor.

Next, our Annual Meeting is always accompanied by the Chili Cookoff, an enduring tradition at New Life. The meeting and Cookoff will be held on **January 25**, overseen by Team One. A signup sheet for chili and other treats will be available in mid-January. **The Chili Cookoff will take the place of February's coffee hour, with contributions welcome from everyone.**

March 15 is the closest Sunday to St. Patrick's Day (March 17) and we have always shown a fondness for the observance, so the March coffee hour will have an Irish theme on March 15, overseen by Team Two.

The Bookshelf: Tidelands

The prolific novelist Philippa Gregory is in the midst of a new series, based on 17th century English history, with the first two novels available on our Bookshelf. She is best known for historical novels detailing English royalty (especially the Tudors). In this series, she highlights common folk with a lot of grit.

Tidelands (2019) tells of a poor family that lives on the coast of England, where the tides render the land either wet or dry, in rotation. The family is used to this daily fluctuation, which is also a metaphor for their lives. The author gives us careful character studies of this family, with the historical background accurately portrayed: The 1640s, the English Civil War, with Oliver Cromwell in charge and the King of England Charles I under duress (and eventually executed, 1649). The second novel, Dark Tides (2020) picks up the family story in 1670, after the Restoration of the monarchy with Charles II. The second novel has a fascinating sequence in Venice, continuing the theme of living on the water. The author is a skillful writer with plot twists galore, keeping the reader captivated. Good reading!

Coffee Hour Teams

Team 1: Darlene, Bo, Connie

Team 2: Rita, Terri, Charlyn

Team 3: Marianne, Kathy, Julie

Team 4: Gladys, Laura, Judy R 1/11

FISH Items for 2026

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

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.

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.

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Server Schedule

Altar Guild

1/03 - 1/09 Terri
1/10 - 1/16 Marianne
1/17 - 1/23 Rita
1/24 - 1/30 Terri
1/31 - 2/06 Marianne

Readers

Jan 4 Amy

Jan 11 Troy

Jan 18 Bo

Jan 25 Charlyn

Counters

Jan 4 Darlene & Judy

Jan 11 Andrea & Julie

Jan 18 Kathy & Julie

Jan 25 Susan & Darlene

Vestry In Charge

Jan 4 Larry

Jan 11 Julie

Jan 18 Pete

Jan 25 Scott

Healers

Jan 4 Julie

Jan 11 Bo

Jan 18 Charlyn

Jan 25 Amy

Acolyte

Jan 4 Andrea

Jan 11 Scott

Jan 18 Kathy

Jan 25 Andrea

Send newsletter items to Rev Barbara by Tuesday

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

RevBLBond@msn.com

Send in Annual Reports!

Deacon's Dismissal

By Rev Josh Butler

Ahead of me in the cashier lane, a woman with a small basket of groceries fished in her old handbag. She stuck her card in the pay slot but all she got was the "card declined" sound. Groans came from the line ... the woman looked at the floor ... she mumbled to the cashier ... tried another card ... still, no go. The line shuffled ... eyes rolled ... except for one woman who strode straight away to the front of the line ... said not a word ... put her own card in the slot ... said, "Merry Christmas!" ... and was gone as quickly as she came.

Christmas Eve 2025

