

Good News From New Life

January 22, 2026

Calendar of Coming Events

Jan 25 Epiphany 3

Jan 28 Wednesday book group 10:30

Feb. 1 The Presentation of Our Lord

Troy Dunn preaching,

CHANGE: Annual Meeting,

Soup & Chili Cookoff

Feb 8 Epiphany 5; no Taize

Feb 15 Last Epiphany.

Scott Bridges preaching

Iole's Mardi Gras Breakfast

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

and Irish Coffee Hour

March 22 Lent 5

March 29 Palm Sunday

April 2 Maundy Thursday

7 pm Agape meal and service

April 3 Good Friday

11:30 am Stations 12 noon liturgy

April 5 Easter Sunday



Annual Meeting postponed

Because of likely severe weather on January 25, our Annual Meeting and Soup & Chili Cookoff will be postponed until the following week, February. 1. The decision was made by those attending the January 18 service.

The January 25 service will take place, although light attendance is expected. Rev Barbara will present her annual report as the sermon, as planned, and it will be distributed by email as usual.

On February 1, we will observe the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple (transferred from February 2). Preacher will be Troy Dunn. The Annual Meeting and Soup & Chili Cookoff will follow.

Other food events:

On **February 15**, the last Sunday before Lent, the Ioles will treat us to their Mardi Gras breakfast.

On **March 15**, the closest Sunday to St. Patrick's Day (March 17), the March coffee hour will have an Irish theme overseen by Team Two.

Coffee Hour Teams

Team 1: Darlene, Bo, Connie 2/1

Team 2: Rita, Terri, Charlyn 3/15

Team 3: Marianne, Kathy, Julie

Team 4: Gladys, Laura, Judy R

Episcopal Minute: Cecilia

Saint Cecilia of Rome, martyred in 230 AD, has long been revered in our tradition. She now shares her feast day, Jan. 21, with Agnes, a 12-year-old innocent child martyred in 304 AD. Both young women are held in high esteem, Agnes because of her poignant story, and Cecilia because of her association with music. Cecilia is the patron saint of singers, organ builders, musicians and poets. Many music associations bear her name. I know musicians who have named their daughters Cecilia!

We cherish music in the church for many reasons, for the beauty of musical sound and participation in our services, for music's ability to enhance our worship experience, and for music's intrinsic power to carry emotion into our hearts. Our Taize services are notable for simple chanting, which is often sung in repetition and can induce an almost trance-like effect in worshipers. A worship service without music can feel dry and austere because we are so accustomed to music.

Wednesday Book Group

The Wednesday Book Group has chosen a new book for their reading discussions: Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall. The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the parlor. Rev Barbara leads a short worship service observing a saint, and the book discussion follows at 11 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome.

The Bookshelf: Ken Follett

Ken Follett, prolific novelist and best known for his Pillars of the Earth series, has taken another step backwards chronologically and presented us with his 39th novel, Circle of Days, based on the building of Stonehenge.

The book is 688 pages long, but it is a fast read. Follett's vivid imagination is at work describing pre-history (2500 BC) in the Salisbury area of England as tribal in nature, with distinct groups of herders, farmers and woodspeople, none of whom know how to count anything, much less days. These groups are kept in check by priestesses who gather quarterly at The Memorial, a monument of shady history even then, made of large stones and wooden pillars.

In the course of the story, a miner and incipient engineer named Seft facilitates the transformation of The Monument into the Stonehenge we know today, made of stones. How they moved the stones from the north has always been a modern mystery, but it is described believably. The priestesses hold sunrise services at The Monument on both solstices and equinoxes, marking the seasons ritually. The biggest observance is called Mid-summer, the summer solstice, when the sunrise is visible between the wooden standards. Only the priestesses can keep track of the number of days between events. Hence the title, Circle of Days, is quite apt.

So, maybe it is a little far-fetched, but I enjoyed the book.

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)

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, February 1, 2026.**

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

Collecting Books for FOL

We are again collecting books for donation to the Lake Friends of the Library, for their annual summer book sale. Rev Barbara will cull books from our Bookshelf and place them on the table at the rear of the parlor. Look them over and see if you would like to take one home. Cull your own books from home and add them to the collection. We will gather books until February 15, after which Julie Martin will take them to Lake Library.

Server Schedule

Altar Guild

1/24 - 1/30 Terri

1/31 - 2/06 Marianne

Feb 7-14 Rita

Feb 14-20 Terri

Feb 21-27 Marianne

Feb 28-Mar 6 Rita

Readers

Jan 25 Charlyn

Counters

Jan 25 Susan & Darlene

Feb 1 Darlene and Judy

Feb 8 Andrea and Julie

Febr 15 Kathy and Darlene

Feb 22 Susan and Julie

Vestry In Charge

Jan 25 Scott

Healers

Jan 25 Amy

Feb 1 Julie

Feb 8 Bo

Feb 15 Charlyn

Feb 22 Amy

Acolyte

Jan 25 Andrea

Deacon's Dismissal

By Rev Josh Butler

Ever-present God, as followers of your son Jesus Christ, we ask to see and understand the road that lies ahead of us ... to know the way that you would have us go ... to discern your will for us in this complicated world. Help us see how we might best serve you. And, as we go about your work in the world, we ask that we might clearly understand our own strengths and weaknesses, that we might remain always confident and cheerful in our service, use your gifts wisely, find joy in our labors, and rest at day's end. Amen.