

# Good News From New Life

January 29, 2026

## Calendar of Coming Events

**Feb. 1 The Presentation of Our Lord**

Troy Dunn preaching,  
Annual Meeting,  
Soup & Chili Cookoff

**Feb 8 Epiphany 5; no Taize**

**Feb 15 Last Epiphany.**

Scott Bridges preaching  
Ioles' 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**

## 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.



## Annual Meeting THIS Sunday

Because of severe weather on January 25, our Annual Meeting and Soup & Chili Cookoff has been postponed until this Sunday, Feb. 1.

The January 25 service did not take place. Rev Barbara annual report as the sermon was distributed by email.

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.

Rev Barbara will present Tributes to departing vestry members, and will also announce the winner of this year's Michael Award, which she awards annually to a parishioner who has shown outstanding service in the previous year.

## 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: The Presentation of our Lord**

February 2 is the feast day of The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple. February 2 is exactly forty days after Christmas, and the Presentation commemorates when the 40-day-old infant Jesus was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem, according to St. Luke. It is a lovely feast day, one of my favorites. It comes on Monday this year, but I have chosen to move it to Sunday, February 1, so we don't miss it. February 2 is also the secular observance of Groundhog's Day, when the groundhog supposedly emerges from his underground burrow to see if the sun is shining. If he sees his shadow, he returns to his hole and we get another six weeks of winter. Given that we have all been huddling in our own nests this week, we would rather he didn't see his shadow.

This play of light and shadow has some echoes in the church. The Presentation is sometimes called Candlemas, a day to bless candles which will be used in the church for the coming year. Do you have a special candle you would like to have blessed? Bring it to church Sunday and we will do that! I will bring a purple candle that I plan to use for my home Lenten observance.

## **Wednesday Book Group**

The Wednesday Book Group is now reading: 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: Henry VIII**

I am currently reading The King's Curse by Philippa Gregory, who is a prolific writer of historical fiction. Her specialty is the Tudor dynasty. In this engaging novel, she offers an interesting variation on Henry VIII's paranoia about wanting a male heir. Modern medical assessment has looked at all the dead male babies born to Henry's first wife, Katherine of Aragon. She lost four babies at the time of their births or shortly thereafter. (Anne Boleyn lost three babies). Of those two wives, only two daughters survived, Mary and Elizabeth. Ms. Gregory writes in her author's notes that Henry may have had the rare Kell positive blood type, which can cause miscarriages, stillbirths, and infant deaths when the mother has the more common Kell negative blood type.

The author mentions that Kell positive males can also exhibit symptoms of McLeod syndrome after age forty: physical degeneration and personality changes resulting in paranoia, depression, and irrational behavior. This explains a lot!

The novel also explains in great detail that the Tudors were actually usurpers of the English throne. (Henry VII grabbed the crown from Richard III, a Plantagenet, before he killed him in 1485). The heroine of the novel, Margaret Pole, was likewise a Plantagenet, a very prolific family. Lots of Plantagenets, and only five Tudors, which is why the Tudors (especially Henry VIII) were so anxious to establish the dynasty with male heirs. Well, who knew?

## **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**

1/31 - 2/06 Marianne

Feb 7-14 Rita

Feb 14-20 Terri

Feb 21-27 Marianne

Feb 28-Mar 6 Rita

### **Readers**

### **Counters**

Feb 1 Darlene and Judy

Feb 8 Andrea and Julie

Febr 15 Kathy and Darlene

Feb 22 Susan and Julie

### **Vestry In Charge**

### **Healers**

Feb 1 Julie

Feb 8 Bo

Feb 15 Charlyn

Feb 22 Amy

### **Acolyte**

## **Deacon's Dismissal**

### **By Rev Josh Butler**

When I was a boy, we traveled the Caribbean on a freighter that offloaded freight at islands then took on fruit and sugar for the mainland. The Captain said to my mother, "You are an artist. Please, draw in my book." That evening, the Captain's book open before her, India ink spilled across the blank page. My mother wept and from my bunk I shared her misery. When morning came, I saw in the book the perfect image of the freighter, sailing at night through black water, yellow stars piercing the midnight sky. The India ink had done its work.

1-28-26 (Reprise from ten years ago)