

Good News From New Life

February 5, 2026

Calendar of Coming Events

Feb 8 Epiphany 5; no Taize
Feb 11, 10:30 am Wednesday Group
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.



Lent is coming!

Lent comes early this year, because of the early Easter on April 5. We will celebrate the end of the Epiphany season on Sunday, February 15, with Scott Bridges preaching on the Transfiguration and the Ioles hosting their famous Mardi Gras breakfast.

Lent officially begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18, with Holy Eucharist service at 12 noon, including the Imposition of Ashes**

The first Sunday of Lent is February 22, when the 10 am service will begin with the Great Litany, chanted a cappella by Rev. Barbara. She is currently lining up lay preachers for the Sundays of Lent Feb. 22 through March 22. Palm Sunday comes on March 29, beginning with the palm procession and focusing on the reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew. **Valerie Thorson returns as our organist.**

Holy Week services include the traditional Maundy Thursday Agape Feast at 7 pm April 2, Good Friday services of Stations of the Cross at 11:30 am and the Good Friday liturgy at 12 noon.

Our Lenten Outreach Project

Lenten will be here soon, and we always do a project during this reflective time. Too many people are experiencing hunger especially with food cost going up. I would like our members to continue to support FISH by bringing food to the church, but we can also write checks to FISH and to the Akron Canton Food Bank. The purchasing power they have is amazing. I am waiting to see how we contribute online from each group, but I am also willing to deliver the checks personally because it isn't safe to mail checks anymore. We will support these groups through the Lenten season. I will update how to contribute online as soon I have the information.

Terri Mackey
Outreach Chairman

Food Events:

On **February 15**, the last Sunday before Lent, the loles 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

The Episcopal Minute:

Brigid of Kildare

During his sermon last Sunday, Troy Dunn mentioned that Sunday, February 1, was the feast day of Brigid of Kildare – that he had to mention that, because he was a loyal son of Ireland! True, true – Brigid is a patron saint of Ireland, and her feast day is February 1. I switched some liturgical observances so that we could have the Presentation (normally February 2) on Sunday, but we fans of Brigid knew it was her day too! Brigid was a fifth-sixth century Irish saint, constantly giving away her family's food and resources to help the poor as a child.

As a young woman, she gathered a group of women around her to guard an ancient sacred flame and founded a monastery in 470 at Kildare. Eventually the monastery also had a section for men too and produced many fine works of illuminated manuscripts. Brigid participated in many councils and synods of the Irish church. She died in 523 and her remains are said to be interred with those of St. Patrick.

O God, whose servant Brigid, kindled with the flame of your love, became a shining light in your church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the spirit of love and discipline, and walk before you as children of light. Amen

Michael Award: The Bridges

All of you serve the church loyally, all the time, but the standout servants this year are a family group, passionate about serving the church and giving exhaustively of their talents. The Michael Award goes to Charlyn, Joe and Scott Bridges.

Talk about dedication! When I arrived here in 2018, Charlyn was the Senior Warden, and she has never been far from the leadership. Joe took care of the music, ordering and downloading organ hymn accompaniments when a live organist was not available. Scott offered his expertise in the technical arena and served as treasurer one year. All three of them are avid lay preachers, bringing us their take on the scriptures for our enlightenment and inspiration.

As a threesome, they have participated in local choir groups, and enhanced the St Timothy's choir for their annual Lessons and Carols for Epiphany service on several occasions. And wow, do they cook! Scott makes a mean chili for our cookoff, and delicious soups on other occasions. Charlyn is the grand champion of Scottish shortbread and all manner of other goodies.

I was especially grateful for their participation in the Natural Church Development Action Team this past year. They made up one-half of the six-member team, analyzing our parish's current invisibility and offering concrete proposals for improvement. All three of them have full-time jobs, but somehow they always were able to show up for our monthly meetings on Thursday afternoons. They are all tireless

promoters of our parish. Scott is the author of the best description of New Life, namely, we are "small but mighty." His metaphor is the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree, a loving and loyal response to our challenges.

Last January they had just moved into their new home, and on New Year's Day I was honored to bless their home. They live in sacred space, at home and here. They are always concerned for our welfare, our stability, and our growth in God. I truly don't know how we could get along without them. Well done, good and faithful servants!

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

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 for worship and book discussion follows. Newcomers are always welcome.

Vestry 2026

Senior Warden: Larry Mackey

Junior Warden:

Treasurer: Amy Allen

Clerk:

Vestry members: Andrea Page, Scott Bridges, Larry Mackey, Kathy Jernigan, Darlene Giffin

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Barbara Bond

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

Feb 7-14 Rita

Feb 14-20 Terri

Feb 21-27 Marianne

Feb 28-Mar 6 Rita

Readers

Feb 8 Bo

Feb 15 Pete

Feb 22 Charlyn

Counters

Feb 1 Darlene and Judy

Feb 8 Andrea and Julie

Feb 15 Kathy and Darlene

Feb 22 Susan and Julie

Vestry in Charge

Feb 8 Julie

Feb 15 Pete

Feb 22 Scott

Healers

Feb 8 Bo

Feb 15 Charlyn

Feb 22 Amy

Acolyte

Feb 8 Andrea

Feb 15 Kathy

Feb 22 Andrea

New Acolyte

Diana Evans has volunteered to join our Server roster as acolyte on second Sundays. She will begin on March 8.

Deacon's Dismissal

By Rev Josh Butler

The past few years have been a time of change for me. The word "Retired" appeared after my name in the 2024 clergy list at Convention ... I'm not sure how or why that happened ... there's

little I can do but go along to get along. It's true ... I don't always welcome life's vicissitudes. And this historical note: In November, 2023 I closed my business after 40 years of locating missing and unknown heirs for banks and attorneys. I was twice featured on the "Unsolved Mysteries" TV program! It's been interesting ... all of it ... something will come up ... it always does!

The Michael Award Recipients:
Scott, Joe & Charlyn Bridges

