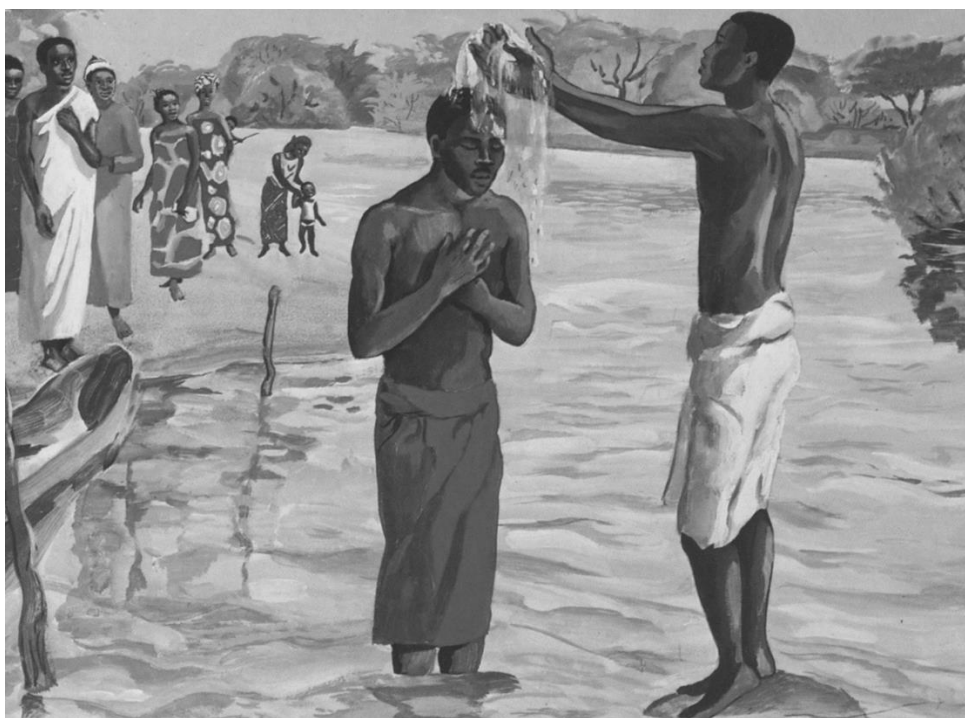


NEW LIFE



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 12, 2025

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Thank you for joining us for worship today. We welcome you into our fellowship as together we gather in the presence of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

If you are a visitor, please take a moment to scan the QR code below and fill out the form.

We want to acknowledge your presence today with a note of thanks. Please let us know if there is a way we may be of help or encouragement to you today.

If you have any prayer requests or concerns, questions about your faith or the Christian life, if you have updates to your contact information, or if there is anything you need to communicate, please note those remarks on the form.



WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

But why in the fashion of a dove? He is reminding us of an ancient history. For so, when once a common shipwreck had overtaken the whole world, and our race was in danger of perishing, this creature appeared, and indicated the deliverance from the tempest, and bearing an olive branch, published the good tidings of the common calm of the whole world; all which was a type of the things to come. To prevent thy despairing, therefore, He reminds thee of that history. Because then also, when things were desperate, there was a sort of deliverance and reformation; but then by punishment, now, on the contrary, by grace and an unspeakable gift. Therefore the dove also appears, not bearing an olive branch, but pointing out to us our Deliverer from all evils, and suggesting the gracious hopes. For not from out of an ark doth she lead one man only, but the whole world she leads up into heaven at her appearing, and instead of a branch of peace from an olive, she conveys the adoption to all the world's offspring in common.

-St. John Chrysostom, 4th c.

And as our Lord was presently to enter on this way with all humility, so was He willing to be baptized with the baptism of a servant. So He submitted Himself to the gift of John which He Himself had given, that all might understand what sacrilegious arrogance they would show in despising the baptism which they ought each of them to receive from the Lord.

-St. Augustine, 5th c.

In Noah's time by means of wood and of water there came salvation to themselves, and the beginning of a new generation, and the dove returned to him towards evening with an olive branch; thus, the spiritual dove therefore, came down at the upon the true Noah, that He might shew that it is He who by the wood of the Cross saves them who believe, He who at eventide should grant salvation through His death.

-St. Irenaeus, 3rd c.

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS + EPIPHANY + LENT + EASTER + PENTECOST + TRINITY

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek word that means "to reveal." Thus, the season of Epiphany is about the revealing of Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the World. Historically three main events from Jesus' life are commemorated during Epiphany season: the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the Transfiguration of Jesus. All three of these events in their own way reveal something about the glory and worship of Christ. We continue to use white and gold as our primary colors during Epiphany to emphasize the shining glory of the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world.

THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD

GREETING

Blessed be God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us go to his dwelling place;

let us worship at his footstool!

-Ps. 132:7

Let us pray.

COLLECT

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron

and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;

be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear,

and rejoice with trembling,

for his wrath is quickly kindled.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen, in whom my soul delights.

-Psalm 2:7-11, 12c; antiphon: Isaiah 42:1a

TO JORDAN'S RIVER CAME OUR LORD

1. To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The
 2. The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized, The

4
 Christ, whom heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
 Son of God in flesh dis - guised, To stand be - neath the

7
 Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry pow'r and might.
 Fa - ther's will And all His righ - teous - ness ful - fill.

3. As Jesus in the Jordan stood
 And John baptized the Lamb of God,
 The Holy Spirit heav'nly dove,
 Descended on Him from above.

5. The Father's word, the Spirit's flight
 Anointed Christ in glorious sight
 As God's own choice, from Adam's fall
 To save the world and free us all.

4. Then from God's throne
 with thund'rous sound
 Came God's own voice
 with words profound:
 "This is My Son," was His decree,
 "The one I love, who pleases Me."

6. Now rise, faint hearts,
 be resolute;
 This man in Christ,
 our substitute!
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
 Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Words: James P. Tiefel, 20th c.
Music: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, 17th c.
Arranged by: William H. Monk, 19th c.
 ©1993 James P. Tiefel

READING

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

-Genesis 1:1-5

HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED

1. Hail to the Lord's A - nointed, great Dav - id's greater Son! Hail, in the time ap -
point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun! He comes to break op - pres - ion, to
se the captives free, To take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in e - qui - ty

2 He comes with comfort speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.

3 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.

4 O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blessed;
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever—
that name to us is Love.

*Words: James Montgomery (1821)
Music: Samuel S. Wesley (1864)*

CONFESSING OUR SINS

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." -John 8:12

A new commandment I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. -1 John 2:8-11

Let us then confess our sins unto God, our Maker:

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. -Eph. 5:14

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. -1 John 2:12

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to His people on earth.

COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

1. Come, thou fount of evry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of
mer - cy, never ceas - ing call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me
some me - lodious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the
mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - changing love.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God:
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander – Lord, I feel it –
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.

Words: Robert Robinson (1758)
Music: Asabel Nettleton (1825)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord Jesus, we thank you that your baptism in the Jordan River shows us that you are God's beloved Son. Help us to believe that you also love us very much as your baptized sons and daughters. Help us to follow your Son wherever he leads us. Amen.

PRAISES AND PETITIONS

Please see page 22 for the prayers this week.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT AND DISMISSAL

All children may come forward for a brief lesson and prayer by Pastor Tim. Then children up to fifth grade are dismissed for an age-appropriate lesson.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

While the children are being dismissed, we will have a brief time of welcome and greeting. You are welcome to "pass the peace of Christ" to one another.

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are visiting, or have a contact update, please scan the QR code below and fill out the form. Please see announcements on page 23.



THE LORD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: ROMANS 6:1–11

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know

that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 29; ANTIPHON: V. 3

**Antiphon: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.**

¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

**³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.**

⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.**

⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸ The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

**The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 3:15-22

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: **The Problem of Evil**
Sermon Text: Luke 3:15-22
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

We will say the Nicene Creed during Christmas and Epiphany

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE OFFERING

New Life is supported by the generous gifts of our church members and friends. If you are visiting, you are not expected to give, but if the Lord has blessed you today and you would like to support our ministry, it would be most appreciated. If you don't have cash or check, you can also give on-line at www.newlifeithaca.org/giving/

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

-- 2 Cor. 9:6-7

THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

EUCCHARIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is proper and right to do so.

Truly it is proper, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we do praise You that You did send unto us Your only-begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a man, You did manifest the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the Church on earth, we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER

THE ACCLAMATION

For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of Faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor prays a further prayer for the Holy Spirit to bless our communion meal.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven:
Hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

THE INVITATION

New Life Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who trust in Jesus Christ to receive Holy Communion with us.

-If this does not describe you, you are invited to come forward, crossing your arms in front of your chest when you reach the front, to receive a blessing from the pastor.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation will come forward row-by-row, forming two lines in the center aisle. Cup your hands together to receive the bread, then proceed outwardly to the wine tray. There is juice in the very center and wine on the outside. Then use the outside aisle to return to your seat and wait until we eat and drink together.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*We partake together of the most holy body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
After the communion the pastor prays a prayer of blessing.*

Prayers for Those Not Communing

New Life Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who trust in Jesus to receive Holy Communion with us. If you are not able to receive Communion, please use the time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I recognize that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

For Those Struggling with Sin

If you are a baptized believer in Christ who is struggling with sin, you should still come forward for communion. As it says in our Larger Catechism 172:

One who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation to the sacrament of the Lord's supper, may have true interest in Christ, though he be not yet assured thereof; and in God's account hath it, if he be duly affected with the apprehension of the want of it, and unfeignedly desires to be found in Christ, and to depart from iniquity: in which case (because promises are made, and this sacrament is appointed, *for the relief even of weak and doubting Christians*) he is to bewail his unbelief, and labour to have his doubts resolved; and, so doing, he may and *ought to come to the Lord's supper, that he may be further strengthened.*

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD



The Lord's my Shep-herd I'll not want, He makes me down to lie,

9



In pas - tures green, He lead - eth me, The qui - et wat - ers by.

2. My soul he doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.

3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear none ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

4. My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

5. Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me:
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.

*Words: Scottish Psalter, 1650
Music: Jessie Seymore Irvine, 1871*

BENEDICTION

The Pastor pronounces a blessing upon the congregation from Scripture.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: Louis Bourgeois, 16th c..*

DECLARATION OF PEACE

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Go in peace.

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The English Standard Version

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

- Pray for **pastors and churches** in **Nigeria** who have been **under attack by Boko Haram** and other militant groups targeting Christians. Pray for the **Spirit's comfort** over **families of Christian martyrs**, that these **churches will stand firm** in the gospel, and their **attackers will come to repentance and faith.**

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Church of the Redeemer**, Cortland: **Jared Hoyt**, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Bread of Life Anglican Church**, **David Smith**, Rector; **Ryan O'Dowd**, Assisting Priest

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Karl Johnson**, Consortium of Christian Study Centers, executive director

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Ithaca Pregnancy Center**: **Lynn Merchant**, director

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- New York State Governor, **Kathy Hochul**; Lieutenant Governor, **Antonio Delgado**; the members of the **Legislature** and the **Judiciary**

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Angela Brodie**: Pray for her as she runs a **Bible translation workshop** from January 10-20. Pray for **safe travels for students**, and encouraging **time of fellowship, discipleship, and learning** with her persecuted brothers and sisters.
- **Abigail Williamson**: Pray for her **return to her work in Glasgow.**
- **Jason Burnham**: Pray for Jason as he **recovers from surgery**, and for **Hannah and Reagan** as they care for him and for their farm. **Praise** that the **surgery was successful.**
- **Angela Brodie**: Pray for her **translation team** as they work on wrapping up their **Psalms translation.**
- **Praise** that our church's **financial footing** has **improved**, and that **people would continue to give.**

If you do not wish to have praises and requests shared during the worship service printed in the bulletin for the next three weeks, please inform Angela Brodie in an email (angelabrodie@gmail.com).

life @ new life

Church Potluck – January 26

On Sunday the 26th, please stick around after the service for a potluck lunch. A sign-up sheet will be coming soon.

Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting to present the budget, discuss finances, and set the tone for the coming year will be on Sunday, February 9th, convening 15 minutes after the end of the service.

Youth Group – January hiatus

Youth group will resume on Friday, February 14. Remember to memorize the first 10 catechism questions!

Morning Prayer & Pastor Tim’s “Office Hours” – Tuesdays

Join us on Tuesdays at 7:45AM for a short time of prayer. We will be using the traditional form for the Daily Office, which has confession of sin, psalms, scripture readings, and intercessory prayer; and our time together should last about 20 minutes. Immediately following Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, Pastor Tim will be available at the church for consultation or conversation. Please feel free to stop by.

contact us

Senior Pastor:

The Reverend Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy
tim@newlifeithaca.org

Elder:

David Williamson – david@newlifeithaca.org

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New Life Presbyterian is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Please let us know you worshiped with us today!

We would like to acknowledge your presence with us today. You will not be added to any mailing lists without your permission and we will not share your information with anyone. Please fill this out and place it in the offering when it comes by.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Mobile Number: _____

Prayer Requests: _____

-
- I am an out-of-town visitor.
 - I reside locally and I am visiting New Life Church today.
 - I would like more information about New Life. Please have someone contact me.
 - Please send me more information about: _____
 - I would like to meet the pastor for coffee.

Other comments: _____