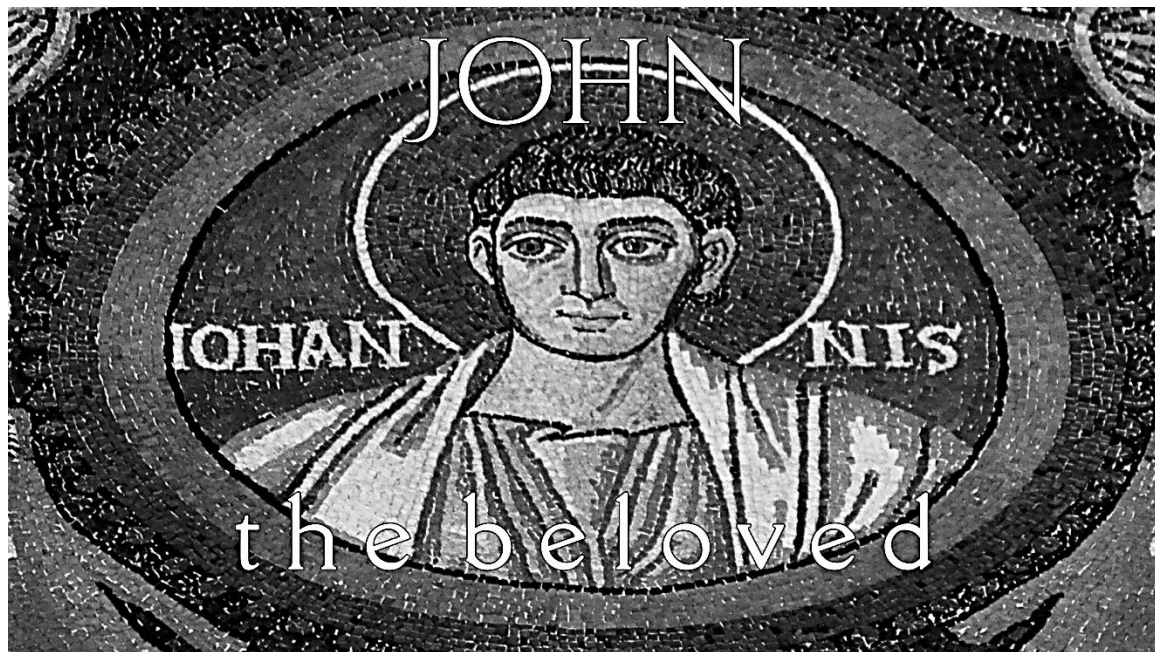


NEW LIFE



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 9, 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.



*On the front cover: St. John the Apostle, the Basilica of St. Apollinaris, Ravenna, Italy
The letters IOHAN-NIS spell John in Latin.*

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. If we have not all three together, we have nothing.

-Peter Chrysologus, 5th c.

When the stomach is full, it is easy to talk of fasting.

-St. Jerome, 4th c.

The fruit of adoption always appears in the life.

-John Calvin, 16th c.

Hatred of the human race seizes us.

-Seneca, 1st c.

I witnessed Americans dying. Even though I don't know their language, I saw them crying and holding each other. When one was killed the others stuck together. They carried away the body, and they wept. I witnessed such scenes and thought, Americans, like us Vietnamese, also have a profound sense of humanity. They cared about each other. It made me think a lot.

-Le Cong Huan, Viet Cong

Love, and sin is undone.

-St. Augustine, 5th c.

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

Lent is a 40 day season of confession and repentance in preparation for Easter. Christians have been keeping the season of Lent since the 2nd century. During this season Christians typically fast on certain days and abstain from certain things in order shape our hearts and souls towards repentance. The 40 day fast of Lent symbolizes several events in salvation history: Jesus' 40 fast in the wilderness, Israel's 40 year wandering in the desert, the 40 days of rain cleansing the earth during the flood of Noah, among others. The liturgical colors for Lent are purple and black, symbolizing mourning and repentance.

THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

COLLECT

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him

and show him my salvation.

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—

the Most High, who is my refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to befall you,

no plague come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you

to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,

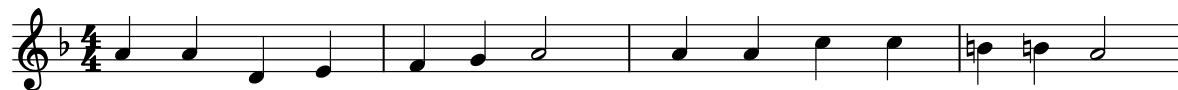
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder;

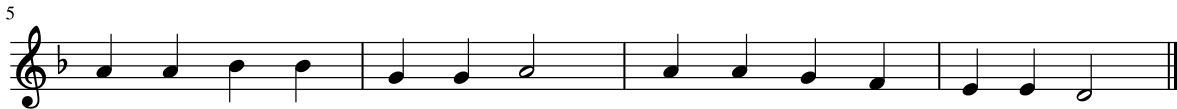
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

- Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS



1. For-ty days and for - ty nights, Thou wast fast - ing in the wild;



For - ty days and for - ty nights, temp - ted and yet un - de - filed

2. Shall not we Thy sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with Thee to suffer pain?

3. Then if Satan on us press,
Flesh or spirit to assail,
Victor in the wilderness,
Grant we may not faint nor fail!

4. So shall we have peace divine:
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.

5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
Ever constant by Thy side;
That with thee we may appear
At th'eternal Eastertide.

Words: George Hunt Smytton, 1856
Music: Martin Herbst, 1676

THE DECALOGUE

And God spoke all these words, saying,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

-- *Exodus 20:1-17*

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Rend your hearts and not your garments.

Return to the LORD your God,

for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;

and he relents over disaster.

-- Joel 2:13

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

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.



1. Lord, have mer - cy on me! Lord, have mer - cy on me!
2. Christ, have mer - cy on me! Christ, have mer - cy on me!
3. Lord, have mer - cy on me! Lord, have mer - cy on me!

5



O Lord, have mer - cy! Oh, Lord, have mer - cy!

Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to His people on earth.

Words and Music: Sandra McCracken and Thad Cockrell, 2015

Adapted by: Timothy R. LeCroy

Used with permission of the artist

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD

1. What can wash a - way my sin? Nothing but the blood of Je - sus.

5
What can make me whole a - gain? Nothing but the blood of Je - sus.

9 Chorus
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow; no oth - er

14
fount I know, no - thing but the blood of Je - sus.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line (measures 1-4) corresponds to the first verse. The second line (measures 5-8) corresponds to the second verse. The third line (measures 9-13) is the chorus. The fourth line (measures 14-17) is the final line of the chorus. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

2. For my cleansing this I see
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
for my pardon this my plea
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:

**O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.**

3. Nothing can for sin atone
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
naught of good that I have done
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

4. This is all my hope and peace
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
this is all my righteousness
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

5. Now by this I'll overcome
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
now by this I'll reach my home
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
[Refrain]

Words and Music: Robert Lowry, 1876

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear Jesus, you didn't eat or drink for 40 days. Satan tried to trick you into sinning three different times, but you weren't fooled. We thank you that you are strong for us! Help us to say "No" to what we want and to be strong when Satan tries to trick us. We thank you that even when we can't do this, you love us and forgive 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: 1 JOHN 3:10-24

By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

¹¹ For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹² We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives

for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

¹⁹ By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; ²⁰ for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 38:12-22; ANTIPHON: 1 JOHN 3:13

Antiphon: Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

¹² Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek my hurt speak of ruin
and meditate treachery all day long.

¹³ But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear,
like a mute man who does not open his mouth.

¹⁴ I have become like a man who does not hear,
and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

¹⁵ But for you, O Lord, do I wait;
it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

¹⁶ For I said, "Only let them not rejoice over me,
who boast against me when my foot slips!"

Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

¹⁷ For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever before me.

¹⁸ I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.

¹⁹ But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

²⁰ Those who render me evil for good
accuse me because I follow after good.

Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

²¹ Do not forsake me, O Lord!
O my God, be not far from me!

²² Make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation!

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.

Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 15:9-20

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you

and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

¹⁸“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: "The Assurance of God's Love"
Sermon Text: 1 John 3:10-24
Sermon Series: *The Beloved: Exposition of the Letters of John, VIII*
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

Sermon Outline:

- I. Two ways
- II. True Love
- III. Triune assurance

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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

EUCHARIST

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 singing:



Ho-ly! Ho-ly! Ho-ly is the Lord! Ho-ly! Ho-ly! Ho-ly is the



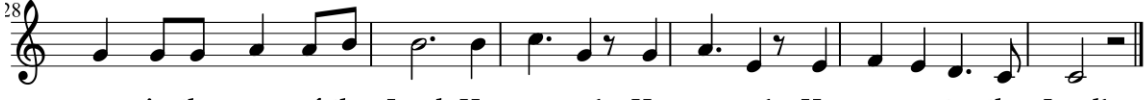
Lord! Heav'n and earth are full of Your Glo - ry! Ho-ly! Ho-ly!



Ho-ly is the Lord! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na to the Lord! Ho-



san-na! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na in the high-est! Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na! Ho-san-na to the Lord!

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.*

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE

1. We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit
We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity
May one day be restored

Chorus

**And they'll know we are Christians
By our love by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians
By our love**

2. We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand
And together well spread the news
That God is in our land
Chorus

3. We will work with each other
We will work side by side
We will work with each other
We will work side by side
And well guard each mans dignity
And save each mans pride
Chorus

4. All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus
His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one
Chorus

Words and Music: Peter Scholtes, 1966

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 the church in **Argentina**, especially the city of **Buenos Aires**, where churches are working to reach **500,000 slum occupants, homeless, and street children**. Pray for **Christians** to gain a passion for **sharing the gospel** across social, economic, and cultural boundaries.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Presbyterian Church of Wellsville; Tom Kristofferson**, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Tabernacle Baptist Church; Elijah Beltz**, pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Bruce Cain, Wycliffe Bible Translators** in **Southeast Asia**

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

- **Ann Williamson**: Pray for her sister **Karen**, who underwent **knee replacement surgery** this past week.
- Pray for **Allison Huang**, director of the **Christian Legal Society** at Cornell, who is currently **pregnant**.
- **Cindy Kao and Bo-Jhang Ho**: **Praise** for the **birth** of their baby, **Kira**, on Saturday, February 8.
- Pray for all **New Life alums** working for the federal government, that they would retain their jobs and funding during this time. Pray also for those working at Cornell who may be affected by the related hiring freezes and budget cuts.
- Pray for all the **victims of abuse** in the worldwide church, that they will **receive justice and healing**.
- **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

New Life University Meets Today

Our Spring New Life U class resumes this week, immediately following today's service. We will be taking a survey of the entire Bible. Remaining meeting dates are March 16 and 23.

Youth Group this Friday

Our youth group will be meeting here this Friday, March 14, at 6:30. Join us for food and fun, and bring your friends!

Ladies' Bible Study – Saturday, March 22

Our next session will be Saturday, March 22, at 2:30pm, at Ann Williamson's home: 135 Lexington Drive. Please join us for fellowship, prayer, and a study of the book of Acts.

Next Potluck Lunch – March 30

Plan on staying after the service on Sunday, March 30, to enjoy a potluck meal together! The theme of this potluck is Dips and Appetizers.

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

Church Contact:

950 Danby Road
Suite 195
Ithaca, New York 14850

607.277.8398 www.newlifeithaca.org

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: _____