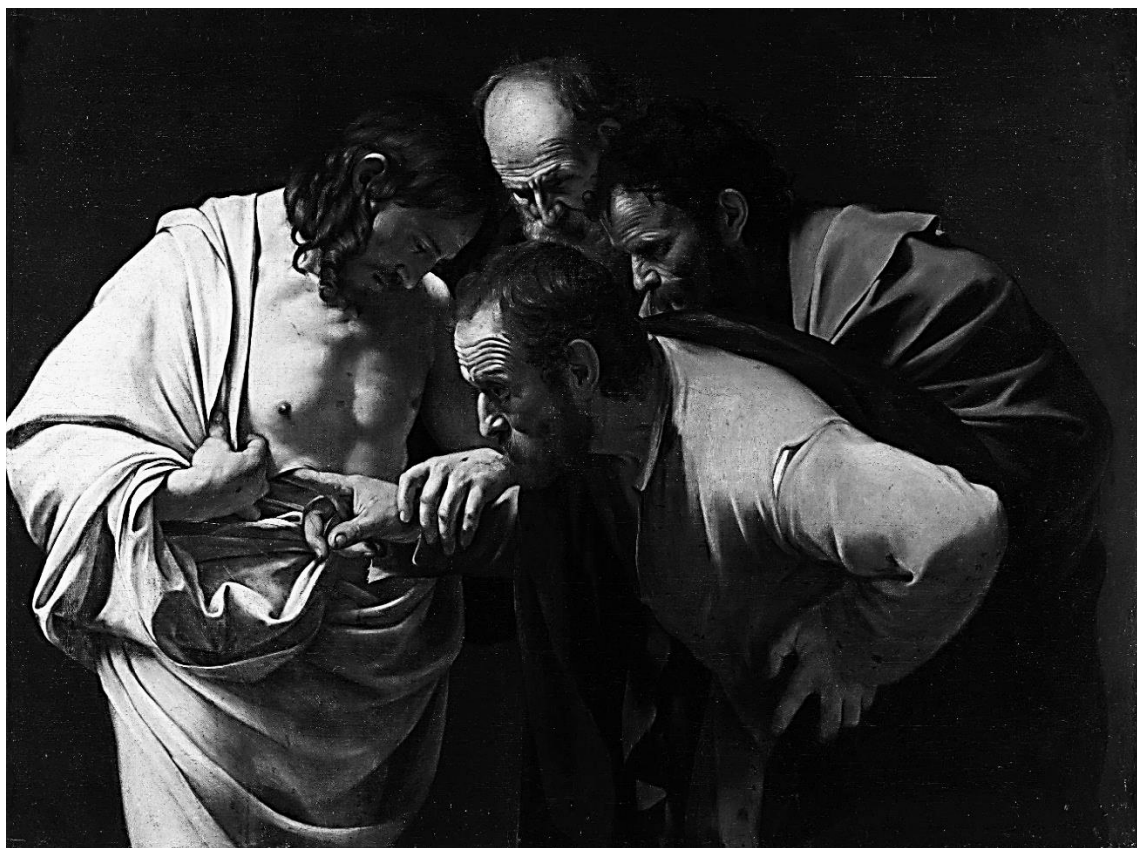


NEW LIFE



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 11, 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:
The Incredulity of Thomas, Caravaggio, 1601*

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

And the Lord who could have risen again without any vestige of a wound, kept the scars, that they might be touched by the doubting Apostle, and the wounds of his heart be healed.

-St. Augustine, 5th c.

For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love.

-Carl Sagan

It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us. In fact, if one considers the possible constants and laws that could have emerged, the odds against a universe that has produced life like ours are immense. Why did the universe start out with so nearly the critical rate of expansion that separates models that recollapse from those that go on expanding forever, that even now, 10 thousand million years later, it is still expanding at nearly the critical rate? If the rate of expansion one second after the Big Bang had been smaller by even one part in 100 thousand million million, the universe would have collapsed before it ever reached its present size.

-Stephen Hawking

We're an impossibility in an impossible universe.

-Ray Bradbury

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

-King David of Israel, 10th c. BC

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

Easter is the greatest festival season of the Christian year. It begins with the feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) and lasts for 50 days. After the long preparation of Lent, and the cold dreary winter months that accompany it, and the somber preparation of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Easter Sunday erupts into our hearts and souls as a joyous celebration filled with expectation of Christ's work among us. For 50 days we feast and celebrate Our Lord and his great victory. Easter themes are new life, joy, exuberance, resurrection, hope and love. The liturgical colors for Easter are white and gold.

THE WORSHIP OF ALMIGHTY GOD

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us pray.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;

**from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob
his people, Israel his inheritance.**

With upright heart he shepherded them

and guided them with his skillful hand.

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever;

from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

- John 10:14, 15b; Psalm 78:70–72; 79:13

THINE BE THE GLORY

1. Thine be the glo - ry ris-en con-qu'ring Son; end-less is the vic-t'ry

7
Thou o'er death hast won; an - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,

13 *Refrain*
kept the fold-ed grave-clothes where Thy bo - dy lay. Thine be the glo - ry

19
ris - en con-qu'ring Son; end-less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

2. Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness,
hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting.

3. No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
thro' thy deathless love;
bring us safe thro' Jordan
to thy home above. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Thine be the glory,
risen conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou oer death hast won.

Words: Edmond L. Budry, 1884
Translator: R. Birch Hoyle, 1923
Music: George Frederick Handel, 1747

THE PSALM: PSALM 23; ANTIPHON: V. 4

**Antiphon: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

**⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

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.

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

LET US LOVE AND SING AND WONDER

1. Let us love and sing and wonder
Let us praise the Savior's name
He has hushed the law's loud thunder
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has brought us nigh to God

2. Let us love the Lord Who bought us
Pitied us when enemies
Called us by His grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He has washed us with His blood
He presents our souls to God

3. Let us sing though fierce temptation
Threatens hard to bear us down
For the Lord, our strong salvation,
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown
He, Who washed us with His blood,

He, Who washed us with His blood,
He, Who washed us with His blood,
Soon will bring us home to God

4. Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more
He Who washed us with His blood
He Who washed us with His blood
He Who washed us with His blood
Has secured our way to God

5. Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high
Here they trusted Him before us
Now their praises fill the sky
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou hast washed us with Thy blood
Thou art worthy Lamb of God

*Words: John Newton, 1774
Music: Laura Taylor, 20th c.*

CONFESSING OUR SINS

Alleluia! Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us,

Therefore let us keep the feast,

not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia!

-1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Continue your confession of sins in silent prayer

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

-1 Corinthians 15:21-22

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to his people on earth!

KING OF KINGS

1. In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father

Praise the Son

Praise the Spirit three in one

God of Glory

Majesty

Praise forever to the King of kings

2. To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died
[Chorus]

3. And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored
[Chorus]

4. And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me
[Chorus]

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear Jesus, you were so kind to Thomas when he struggled to believe in you. Help us to also believe when our doubts are strong. Give us faith to trust you even though we can't see you. Thank you so much for your kindness to 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

EPISTLE READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

¹⁶Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various

trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19–31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: “Reach Out and Touch the Stars”
Sermon Text: John 20:19–31
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

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

OFFERTORY

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. But chiefly we are bound to praise You for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ; for He is the very Paschal Lamb that was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world; who by His death has destroyed death and by His rising to life again has restored us to everlasting life. 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! LORD, GOD OF HOSTS.

5
Hea-ven and earth are full of Your glo-ry! Ho - san-na in the high - est!!

11
Bles-sed is He who comes in the NAME of the LORD.

15
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

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 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

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 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.*

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
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one.
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: Thomas Ken

Music: Geistliche Kirchengesang Cologne, 1623

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 new believers in Uganda** who have put their faith in Christ and **left behind their Muslim religion**. **Pray for strength** as they experience **social exile** and that they would be able to **connect with other Christian** believers for discipleship and encouragement in their faith.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, Rock Tavern

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Christ Chapel: Steve Felker**, pastor; **Ben Hutton**, assistant pastor

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

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

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Chesterton House**: Center for Christian Studies at Cornell. Director: **Vivek Mathew**

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- **Ithaca Mayor Robert Cantelmo**; the **Common Council** and the **Administration Committee**; **City Manager Deb Mohlenhoff**; and local governments in **Tompkins County** and **surrounding villages and townships**

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Steve & Sheryl Froehlich**: **Pray** that their son **Christopher's** participation in a **burn pit study** would lead to **meaningful change** in the armed forces. **Pray** for their **grandson Eli** and for **wisdom for Eli's parents**. **Pray** for **Steve's work** as **interim pastor** at **Westminster Presbyterian** in **Rock Tavern**.
- **David Williamson**: **Pray** for **Isaac**, a **Pakistani** man David met on his recent flight, and for his **ministry in Pakistan**.
- **Anne Williamson**: **Pray** for **Abigail** as she prepares for her **recital on June 1**.
- **Toni Marcheua**: **Pray** for her **brother's new baby**, who is **not growing** as quickly as he should.
- **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**.
- **Pray** for our church's **financial footing** has **as giving has been down for the last two months**.

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

Ladies’ Bible Study – This Wednesday

Our next session will be this Wednesday, May 14 at 11:30am, at Liz Thomforde’s (159 Pleasant Grove Rd.). Please join us for fellowship, prayer, and a study of the book of Acts.

Our next Bible study session will be:

- Saturday, May 31st, at 2:30pm, at Ann Williamson’s (135 Lexington Drive.)

Even if you haven’t been able to attend before, or read the material ahead of time, you are more than welcome!

Youth Group – No Youth Group This Month

We will resume in June.

Pentecostal Pulled Pork Potluck – June 8th

We will celebrate the feast of Pentecost with some of Pastor Tim’s pulled pork. Look for a sign up for appetizers, sides, and desserts.

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.

April Financial Report

	Actual	Budgeted	Net
Income	\$23,510	\$20,000	\$3,510
Expense	\$16,590	\$20,000	\$3,410

Year to date

	Actual	Budgeted	Net
Income	\$83,964	\$80,000	\$3,964
Expense	\$81,807	\$80,000	\$1,807

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: _____