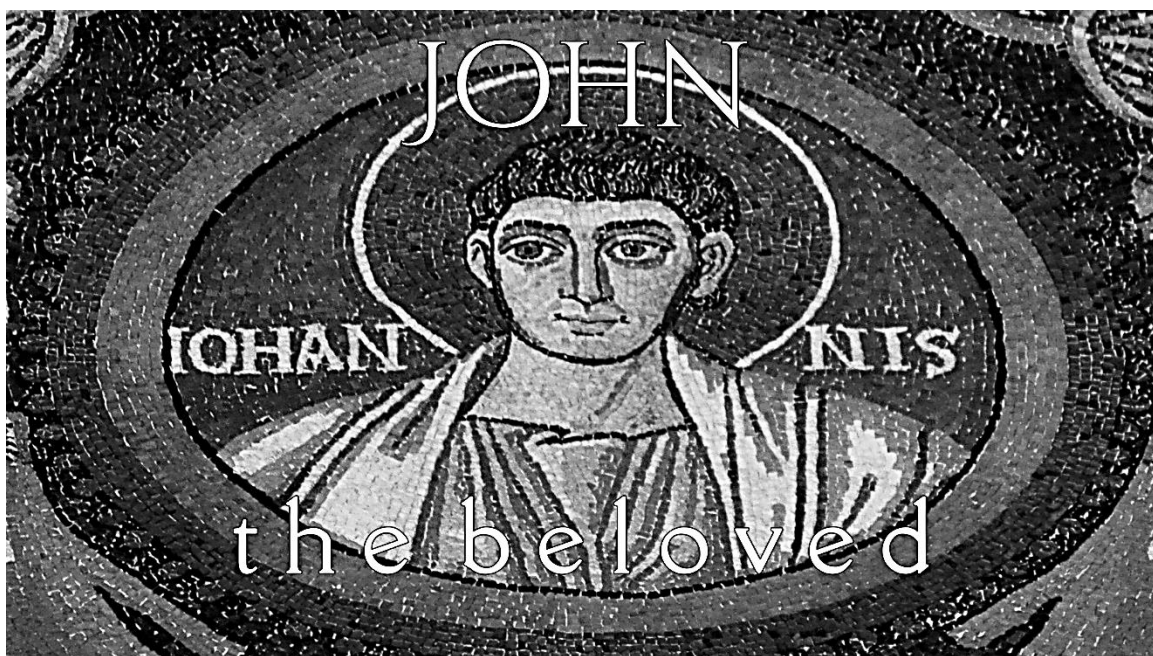


NEW LIFE



THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT
FEBRUARY 16, 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

WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

All are adversaries of the Lord and antichrists, who are known to have departed from charity and from the unity of the Catholic Church.

-St. Cyprian of Carthage, 3rd c.

Antichrist means contrary to Christ. Now who is contrary to Christ you already perceive from the apostle's own exposition, and understand that none can go out but antichrists; whereas those who are not contrary to Christ, can in no wise go out. For he that is not contrary to Christ holds fast in His body, and is counted therewith as a member. The members are never contrary one to another. The entire body consists of all the members.

-St. Augustine, 5th c.

Having been counted worthy of this Holy Chrism, you are called Christians, verifying the name also by your new birth. For before you were deemed worthy of this grace, you had properly no right to this title, but were advancing on your way towards being Christians.

-St. Cyril of Jerusalem, 4th c.

Where the calling of God is effectual, perseverance is certain.

-John Calvin, 16th c.

Love does not mean getting along with everyone regardless of what they believe in an exercise of tolerance that ignores truth. Love does not trump truth, but insists that there is a truth apart from which people will perish.

-Karen Jobes

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

In years when Easter is later, resulting in a longer time from Epiphany to Lent, there may be a few Pre-Lenten Sundays. The Pre-Lenten season begins after the Feast of Presentation and extends through Transfiguration Sunday. Pre-Lent is a time to recognize that the season of Lent is approaching and to begin to make preparations for that penitential season. During Pre-Lent, the Christmas paraments are removed and the color shifts to green, though the Christ candle stays lit. This is except for the first Sunday before Lent, when White returns in memorial of the Transfiguration of Christ.

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

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

I will praise you with an upright heart,

when I learn your just and righteous decrees.

Blessèd are those whose way is blameless,

who walk in the law of the Lord!

Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies,

who seek him with their whole heart.

You have commanded your precepts

to be kept diligently.

Oh that my ways may be steadfast

in keeping your statutes!

- Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5; antiphon: v. 7

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

1. The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word:
from heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4. The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish,
is with her to the end;
though there be those that hate her,
and false sons in her pale,
against or foe or traitor
she ever shall prevail.

5. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

6. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel J. Stone
Music: Samuel S. Wesley

READING

Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.
Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.
Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

- 2 John 8-9

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

- 1 John 2:28

ABIDE WITH ME

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers, fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, abide with me.

2. Thou on my head, in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious, and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, though I oft left Thee,
On to the close Lord, abide with me.

3. I need Thy presence, every passing hour.
What but Thy grace, can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, abide with me.

4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight, tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death? Where grave thy
victory?
I triumph still, abide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing
eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the
skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee;
In life, in death, Lord, abide with me.

*Words: Henry Francis Lyte, 19th c.
Music: Justin Smith, 2007*

CONFESSING OUR SINS

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,

and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins

and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say we have not sinned,

we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

-1 John 1:8-10

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

Most merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Continue to confess your sins silently before the Lord.

RECEIVING ASSURANCE OF PARDON

After the words of absolution are spoken, all say:

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to His people on earth.

WE ARE NOT OVERCOME



1. Flesh will fail and bones will break; Theives will steal, the earth will shake.



Night will fall, the light will fade; The LORD will give and take away:

9 CHORUS



Because of His great Love, we are not o-vercome! Because of



His great Love, we are not o - ver - come!

2. Put no trust in the earth
In the sod you stand upon
Flowers fade into dust
The Lord will make a place for us

3. Have no fear for your life
Turn your cheek, turn your cheek
Bear the yoke love and death
The Lord will give all life and breath

Chorus

**Because of His great Love
we are not overcome
Because of His great Love
we are not overcome**

Words and Music: Isaac Wardell, Robert Heiskell

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dear God, you are very great and powerful, and you protect and provide for your children. Help us always to worship you in right ways and to hate what is evil. We are so happy that you are our God and we say "Thank you!" 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 2:18-29

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. ²⁰But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ²¹I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. ²²Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from

the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

²⁶I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

²⁸And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

THE PSALM: PSALM 119:9-16; ANTIPHON: JOHN 15:5

Antiphon: I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- ⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.
¹² Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- ¹³ With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.
¹⁴ In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.
¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

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.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 15:1-17

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As 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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Glory to you, O Lord!

HEARING THE WORD PREACHED

Sermon Title: **“Little Christs”**
Sermon Text: 1 John 2:18-29
Sermon Series: *The Beloved: Exposition of the Letters of John, V*
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Timothy R. LeCroy

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

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.*

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms,
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven—
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

*Words: Martin Rinckart
Translation: Catharine Winkworth
Music: Johann Crüger*

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 **Democratic Republic of Congo**, in the midst of **dangerous riots by rebel groups** especially in **Kinshasa and Goma**. Pray for those **bound to their homes**, for the **restoration of travel and goods**, and lasting **peace**.

PCA CHURCHES AND PASTORS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRESBYTERY

- **Affirmation Presbyterian Church, Somers; Bill Spanjer**, pastor

SISTER CHURCHES IN ITHACA

- **Covenant Love Community Church, Freeville**

NEW LIFE ALUMS IN VOCATIONAL MINISTRY

- **Gary Villa**, "interim teacher" at **Refuge Church, Albuquerque, NM**

OUTREACH IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Community Faith Partners**, an agency that seeks to **unite Christians to meet the needs of the Ithaca community**, particularly in seeking **racial justice** and pursuing **jail ministry**.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

- **President Donald Trump** and **Vice-President J.D. Vance**; the **members of Congress** and the **Judiciary**

NEW LIFE CHURCH

- **Cindy Kao and Bo-Jhang Ho: Praise** for the **birth** of their baby, **Kira**, on Saturday, February 8.
- **Heewon Park: Praise** for his **engagement** to **Sunjae Lee**. Pray for her as **she moves here** in the fall, and that her **transition here** would be smooth.
- 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**.
- Pray for New Life Alums Samwise and Temi Parkinson. Prayers for Samwise as he starts a new job tomorrow and for their family as they continue to adjust to a new city and church.
- Pray for New Life Alum Sarah Beebout whose research team at the USDA has been drastically affected by recent Federal job cuts.

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 Next Sunday

Our Spring New Life U class skips this week, and returns the next Sunday, Feb. 23. We will be taking a survey of the entire Bible. Remaining meeting dates are Feb. 23, March 9, 16, and 23.

Rotating Dinner Groups

Those who have signed up to participate in the dinner groups were assigned this week. If you haven't heard from your host, or haven't signed up yet (and still want to), speak to Rachel LeCroy.

March Taco Potluck – March 2nd

Thanks to everyone who participated in the potluck lunch last Sunday! We'll have another opportunity for food and fellowship after the worship service on March 2nd. This will be a **taco potluck**: The church will provide the taco shells, tortillas, cheese, sour cream, and salsa. Attendees should bring the meats, lettuce, tomatoes, other veggie toppings, and desserts. A signup sheet will be going out soon.

Ash Wednesday Service – March 5, 6:30PM

Join us to mark the Lenten season with prayer and repentance.

Morning Prayer & Pastor Tim's "Office Hours" – Tuesdays - NO PRAYER THIS WEEK

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.

January Financial Update

	Actual	Budgeted	Net
Income	\$34,748.43	\$20,000	\$14,748.43
Expense	\$16,737.05	\$20,000	\$3,262.95

Giving Breakdown

Congregation	\$6,143.52	\$8,333.33	-\$2,189.81
External	\$28,604.91	\$11,666.67	\$16,938.24

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: _____