

January
2026

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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And the one who was sitting on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." — Revelation 21:5

Greetings Fellowship Members and Friends!

As we step into a new year, these words from Revelation ring with a particular kind of promise. They remind us that God's work of renewal is not confined to the turning of a calendar page, nor to the resolutions we make with the best of intentions. God's "newness" is deeper, quieter, and far more enduring. It is the steady, patient work of grace unfolding in our lives and in our world.

January often brings a mix of emotions. Some of us feel energized by fresh starts. Others carry the weight of unfinished stories, lingering griefs, or hopes deferred. Wherever you find yourself, the good news is this: God meets us right there. Not once we've improved ourselves, not once we've organized our closets or perfected our habits, but right in the beautiful, complicated middle of our real lives.

In this season, I invite you to look for the small signs of God's renewing work. It might be a conversation that softens your heart, a moment of unexpected generosity, or the courage to take one small step toward healing. Renewal rarely arrives with fireworks. More often, it comes like dawn—slowly, gently, faithfully.

As a congregation, we also have the opportunity to lean into God's newness together. In worship, in service, in learning, and in community, we get to practice being people shaped by hope. We get to remind one another that God is not finished with us, with our neighbors, or with this world we love.

My prayer for you this January is simple: that you would sense God's presence in the ordinary rhythms of your days, and that you would trust the One who is always making all things new—including you.

I also want to thank you for the Christmas cards, money, goodies, and thoughtful gifts. Your kindness and generosity mean so much to me and my family, and we are truly blessed to be part of this loving church community.

Blessings and peace to you in this new year. See you in church!

Pastor Robin



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SMOKY ROW FOOD PANTRY located at 7260 Smoky Row Rd., Columbus is in need of the following items for **January, February, and March:**



- Baby items (diapers - all sizes) and wipes
- Winter coats, hats and gloves (adult, child, and infant)
- Non-perishable food staples, such as beans, corn, rice, pasta
- Toiletries, such as shampoo/conditioner, soap, toilet paper, etc.
- Lightbulbs

Place donations in the containers located in the Narthex. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated by our neighbors in need. Thank you!

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Women's Dinner and Guys' Night Out The women will meet on Tuesday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m. at El Asadero Mexican Bar & Grill, 9762 Sawmill Parkway, Powell, OH 43065 (614) 932-9100. The next Guys' Night Out is on Tuesday, January 20th at El Vaquero, 3580 W. Dublin-Granville Rd., 43235 (614) 659-0279. All are welcome!



Sunday School Come join our Sunday School classes for youth and adults at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings! The adult class is studying Adam Hamilton's *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*. Pete Cardimen is teaching our youth. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser!

Worship Servers Needed If you are willing to serve as assisting minister, reader, greeter, or counter for our 10:00 a.m. service, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. We are especially in need of counters. We are also looking for fellowship hosts to serve light refreshments after Sunday worship once a month. Thanks!





Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with Vanco Mobile - If you would like to give to Fellowship with your smartphone, please download Vanco's smartphone app, **Vanco Mobile**. Vanco Mobile will enable anyone to donate at anytime to Fellowship. It makes it easy to give instantaneously for a regular or recurring gift, or a special occasion.

Holy Communion We celebrate Communion weekly. All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to join us in the celebration of Holy Communion. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing.



Thrivent Members - For those of you with choice dollars. don't forget that Fellowship can be a recipient of those dollars. Thank you to all who have donated this way in the past!



Pastoral Care Request If you have a pastoral care request (hospitalization, upcoming surgery, need for counseling, etc.), please call Pastor Robin at (937) 725-4930. If you would like a home visit by Pastor Robin, please let Pastor Robin know so it can be scheduled.

Fellowship has an Instagram Page thanks to Pete and Lilly Cardimen! Click on this link: https://www.instagram.com/fellowship_lutheran_church/#

Attendance Information (In-person & virtual)

November 2	28/32 views	December 3 (MW)	12
November 9	36/45 views	December 7	36/34 views
November 16	39/24 views	December 14	No Service
November 23	35/23 views	December 21 (Joint)	76/15 views
November 30	39/11 views	December 24	67/20 views
		December 28	16/16 views

Welcome to our Newest Member!
Julian Oliver McCormick, son of Sarah & Nate
McCormick, grandson of Sonya Thelin



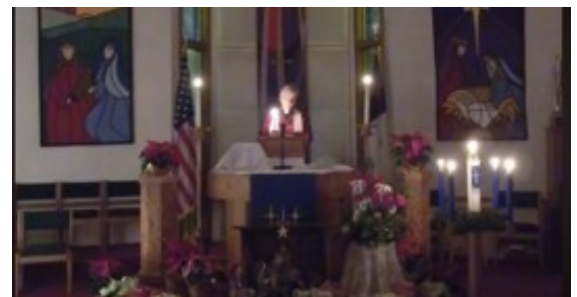
*Thank
you!*

Dear Friends at Fellowship Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for honoring me on my final Sunday as your organist. My career as a church musician began at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Newcomerstown, Ohio when I was a senior in high school. Through the years, "A Mighty Fortress" has been one of my favorite hymns. It was a delight to play it for the prelude on Reformation Sunday! I appreciate the kindness, prayers, gifts and many compliments that I received during my time with you.

Blessings!
Dixie Heck

Pictures of Advent & Christmas



Philippians 4:12-13 *"I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*
(NRSVue)

The music from the Christmas Eve service is still in my mind. What a beautiful service. Thank you to our pianists for their gifts of music and Pastor Robin for her message. The message of the angel to the shepherds resonates well with me. Do not be afraid. How many times this past year I found myself fearful of what may come next yet somehow things worked out. I found a measure of peace during worship that will stay with me for a long time.

What brings you peace? Is it being with family or friends, enjoying a good meal, a relaxing evening at home? What about peace at church? Good music, welcoming worship, seeing friends that you only see at church? What else can we do to keep the peace going and expand on it?

As we move into the new year, we have much to celebrate. There are a lot of activities already being planned for 2026. We will need your participation to help make them successful. Please watch your bulletins for details as the year unfolds.

This past fall we offered a seminar on retirement. What seminars would you like to see in this new year? Please let us know. We are not mind readers so please do tell us what you would like to do for activities or seminars.

We have a need for worship servers. There are many roles that need to be filled on a given Sunday. While we have some dedicated people, we could use a lot more. We will gladly help you take on a new role at church!

There is so much about Fellowship Lutheran Church and being a member of it that brings much peace and joy to me. There is a light that beckons to us to come and worship and be led by God in our lives. I hope that light and peace is there for you as well.

WHAT – What activities do you want to do?

CAN – Choose what we can do.

WE – Not just leadership, but all of us

DO – Let's get busy!

In Christ,
Ruth Albert



“And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.” Luke Ch. 2, vs.6-7

11/30 - The Fellowship congregation decorated our church, quickly and expertly. The children did their usual wonderful decoration of the tree, assisted and supervised by parents. Several ladies, assisted by fellows on ladders, placed wreaths where they belong after getting the bows to look just right. A team of 3 or 4, led by Andy Smith, was able to wrap our pine garland with new silver decor. Andy put it up in the narthex as we wrapped. Our Christmas decorating was accomplished fast and efficiently thanks to many generous members. As always, a big thanks goes to the Farel family for the large banners they get placed each year on the front wall.

12/3 - Advent Family Night was attended by 12 people. Those who came enjoyed an excellent potluck with wonderful conversations. Pastor gave us an inspiring devotion on waiting. She then helped us make a simple rock craft we were encouraged to keep close to us for inspiration. Lastly, we were able to exercise our voices in singing Christmas hymns we each chose. Piano accompaniment was provided by our new church musician, Susie McNutt.

12/7 - The Baptism of Julian Oliver McCormick was celebrated during our worship service. Julian is the son of Sarah and Nate, grandson of Sonya Thelin. Pastor Robin offered a Healing Service after worship.

12/14 - FLC was closed for the day by Church Council due to record-setting low temperatures and snow.

12/21 - A joint worship was held with the Korean Joeun Methodist Church. Pastors Jong Pai and Robin Wargowsky presided over communion and Pastor Robin delivered the sermon.

12/23 - Pastor, Tracy, and I put up the poles for the aisle candles. George Biemel put all the pole necessities in the library room for us.

12/24 - Christmas Eve candlelight worship with Communion was held at 7 pm with music starting at 6:30 pm. Beautiful poinsettias given by our members decorated the steps of the altar, and luminary bags made by the youth Sunday School class and the Cardimens lined our sidewalk and driveway. Dianna Roll and her grandchildren put out the luminaries.

12/28 - Ruth Albert will lead our congregation in a service of lessons and carols.

Dates to remember:

December 26-31 - Pastor Robin on vacation

January 4 - Undecorate the church after worship



Worship Servers Schedule for January 2026

	January 4	January 11
Asst. Minister	Cindy Frey	Paul Wargowsky
Lay Reader	Frey	Paul Wargowsky
Counter	George Biemel	
Greeter		
Fellowship Host		
Altar Guild	Darcy Dom & Karen Harris	Darcy Dom & Karen Harris

	January 18	January 25
Asst. Minister	George Biemel	Ruth Albert
Lay Reader	George Biemel	Ruth Albert
Counter		
Greeter		
Fellowship Host		
Altar Guild	Darcy Dom & Karen Harris	Darcy Dom & Karen Harris



Worship Servers Needed!

If you can fill any of our openings for assisting ministers, readers, counters, communion assistants, greeters or fellowship hosts or help out in future months, please call or email Pastor Robin or Tracy Farel. Thanks!

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Maria Anderson	Lillian Kachic
Carolyn Crispin	Ed Lathy
Major N Crispin	Frank LeMay
Byron Engen	Leena LeMay
Claire Haase	Pete Meighen
Cheryl Hamilton	John Votino
Jim Jaeger	Ray Ward
Don Johnson	

January Birthdays

River Roll	1/3
Gwen Cardimen	1/7
Carol Jaeger	1/9
Robert Burns	1/12
Hayden Laucher	1/12
Zachary Kidd	1/14
Andy Smith	1/20
Anna Oliver	1/22
Kim Johnston	1/23
Major N Crispin	1/25
Abigail Cardimen	1/30

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Mark Albert, Ruth Albert's brother
Larry Anderson, Votino's son-in-law
Cliff Hammeren, Mary Beth Hammeren's father-in-law
Dixie Haynie, Don Poland's friend
Ron Laucher, Chad Laucher's father
Evelyn Powers, Pastor Robin's colleague's daughter
Mike McKinley, David Fleisher's friend
Sylvia Votino, John Votino's mother



Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

DEATHS:

Linda Smith, Jim Jaeger's scouting friend's wife

January Anniversaries

Frank & Leena LeMay 1/28



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 - CJMC	29	30 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	31 New Year's Eve 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Iglesia 8:00 pm - 1:00 am - CJMC	1 New Year's 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	3 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00-12:00 - SJCO 5:30-8:30 pm - Iglesia 6-8 pm - CJMC Bible Study
4 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am - Worship 11:15 am - Take down Christmas decorations 11:30-4:00 - CJMC	5	6 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:00 pm - Women's Dinner	7 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Iglesia	8 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	9 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	10 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00-12:00 - SJCO 5:30-8:30 pm - Iglesia 6-8 pm - CJMC Bible Study
11 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am - Worship 11:15 am - Executive/ Council 11:30-4:00 - CJMC	12	13 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:30 pm - Worship (zoom)	14 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Iglesia	15 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	16 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	17 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00-12:00 - SJCO 5:30-8:30 pm - Iglesia 6-8 pm - CJMC Bible Study
18 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 - CJMC	19	20 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:00 pm - Guys' Night Out	21 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Iglesia	22 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	23 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	24 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00-12:00 - SJCO 5:30-8:30 pm - Iglesia 6-8 pm - CJMC Bible Study
25 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 - CJMC	26	27 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	28 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Iglesia	Pastor Robin at Ohio Roster Ministers Gathering		31 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00-12:00 - SJCO 5:30-8:30 pm - Iglesia 6-8 pm - CJMC Bible Study

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Wargowsky
Treasurer	Bill Farel
Secretary & Financial Secretary	Tracy Farel
Organist/Pianist	Suzanne McNutt
Sub. Pianist/Organist	Amy Wargowsky, David Fleisher, Ruth Albert
Band Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

Executive Committee

President	Ruth Albert
Vice-President	Mike Rankin
Secretary	Angela Kidd
	Pastor Robin

At-large Council Members

Andy Smith
Cathy Votino
Donna Williamson

Team Coordinators

Congregational Life	Vacant
Education & Youth	Dianna Roll
Outreach	Pete Cardimen
Property	John Votino
Stewardship	Vacant (Council)
Worship	Karen Harris

Thank you for your leadership!!!

Fellowship Lutheran Church

7350 Sawmill Road
Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Purpose: To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.

Our Vision: To be a diverse, thriving community of faith where all are welcome to celebrate God's love and grace.

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