

Jesus,  
Our guiding Light

## Cortland Christian Church

153 Grove Drive  
Cortland, Ohio

officeatccc@gmail.com  
CortlandChristiaChurch.com

Pastor Curtis Miller

Cell- 330-717-4552

Home--330-652-3625

Office-330-637-4611

Jonathan Gallo  
Organist

Joyce Hall  
Administrative  
Assistant

August 2017

# The Church Bell



"Follow  
The Bells"

## Pastors Pen

Hi,

*My name is Curtis Miller. I have been selected to serve as your Interim Pastor until the search committee picks the right Pastor as your full time Pastor.*

*My wife Carol and I have been married for over 48 years. We have two daughters, Heather and Heidi. Heather is married to Shawn, they have 2 sons, Nathan and Cameron. Heidi and Heather both work in education.*

*Carol and I live at 851 Bowman St. Niles, Ohio*

*Carol is a retired school teacher and I retired from W.C.I Steel about 10 years ago after working there for 30 years. I have been a United Methodist Pastor for 18 years. And now God has called me here to Cortland Christian Church.*

*I look forward to meeting each of you during my time here. If I can be of any assistance to you in any way. Please call the church or my home phone number is 330-652-3625 or my cell phone 330-717-4552. I'm here for you any time. Please call me!.*

*My God Bless Us as we work together to bring the Word of God and the Love of His Son Jesus Christ into the community of Cortland.*

*Be Blest Every Day,*

*Pastor Curt*

## Our Worship Assistants

### Elders:

August 6

Jon Kloboves and Linda Swauger

August 13

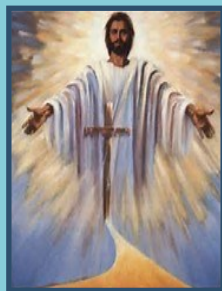
Amy Seger and Curtis Bell

August 20

Joyce Lewis and Carol Robinson

August 27

John Molnar and Bob Johnson



### Deacons:

Captain: Judene Ainsley 330-637-9938

Brenda Byler, Chuck Corbett, Bob Bradford, Joyce Hall,  
Betty Evans, Ron Miller. Celina Oriti

### Deaconess:

Diana Martin

August 2017

Coffee Hour  
Hostesses



August 6 Judy Kuhmr and  
Bob and Betty Evans

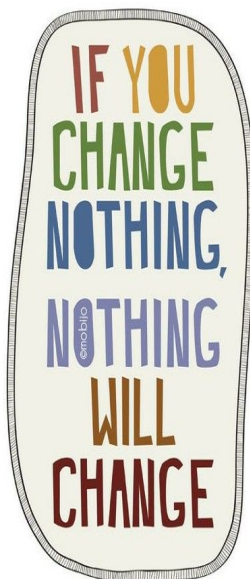
August 13 Sharon Hopkins and  
Linda Rogers

August 20 Priscilla Wodzinski  
and Roger McCafferty

August 27 Any Volunteers????



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag"



*The Church Office*

*is open on*

*Monday-Thursday*

*8:00am.-Noon*

*Phone: 330-637-4611*

*Feel free to call or stop in  
If you have  
a question or need help.*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE OF CHURCH OPERATING FUNDS

Fund	JULY 2017			Year-to-Date		
	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net
General	8,537	4,551	3,986	55,733	57,918	-2,185
Building (Mortgage)	2,812	2,048	265	14,091	14,334	-243
Total>>	10,859	6,599	4,260	69,824	72,252	-2,428

Mortgage Balance

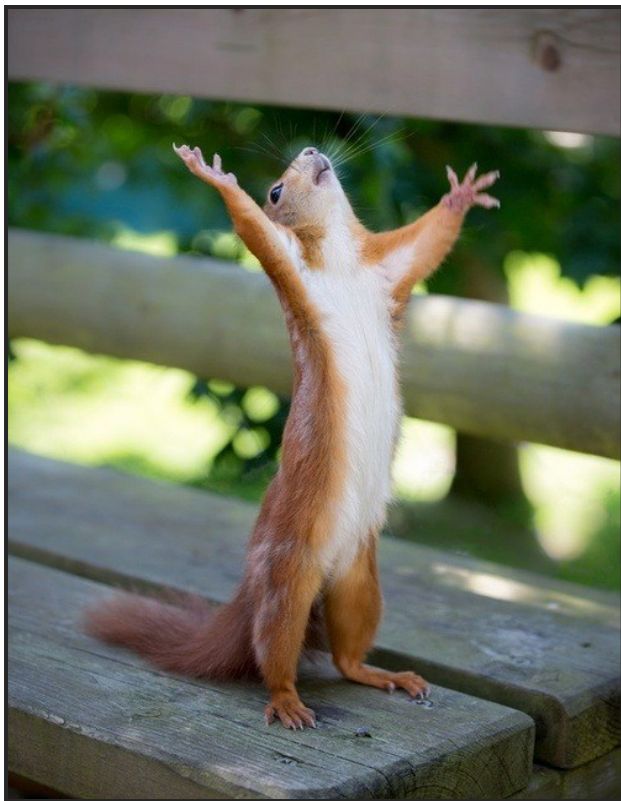
\$100,232.13

## Happy Birthday To You

August 2 Charlie Beer  
August 7 Linda Swauger  
August 11 Betty Evans  
August 14 Preston Polakoff  
August 16 Carol Peterson  
August 17 Patti Oriti  
August 21 John Molnar  
August 20 Pastor Curt Miller  
August 21 Eileen Niemi  
August 22 Abbie Lawrence  
August 31 Florence King



August 5 Terry and Linda Swauger  
August 13 Toma and Jamie Leveto  
August 25 Bob and Mary Jo Johnson



"The hills are alive with the  
"Sound of Music"

**If your birthday or anniversary does not show up here, please call the office 330-637-4611.**

One day a school teacher wrote on the board the following:

$$9 \times 1 = 7$$

$$9 \times 2 = 18$$

$$9 \times 3 = 27$$

$$9 \times 4 = 36$$

$$9 \times 5 = 45$$

$$9 \times 6 = 54$$

$$9 \times 7 = 63$$

$$9 \times 8 = 72$$

$$9 \times 9 = 81$$

$$9 \times 10 = 90$$



When he was done, he looked to the students and they were all laughing at him, because of the first equation which was wrong, and then the teacher said the following,

"I wrote that first one wrong on purpose, because I wanted you to learn something important. This was for you to know how the world out there will treat you. You can see that I wrote RIGHT 9 times, but none of you congratulated me for it; you all laughed and criticized me because of one wrong thing I did. So this is the lesson...:

'The world will never appreciate the good you do a million times, but will criticize the one wrong thing you do... But don't get discouraged, ALWAYS RISE ABOVE ALL THE LAUGHTER AND CRITICISM. STAY STRONG.'



August 2017

Hi,

Wow, summer is flying by fast! It seems like there is always something to do or places to be. It took me a week of vacation and complete solitude at our mountain cabin for me to realize, Amy you need to slow down a little. To take time to breathe and wake up every day and be appreciative of the beauty God has created and not so consumed by busyness. I work a full time job and a part time job plus I am a 4H leader and a member of the 4H Advisory Committee, plus many roles here at Cortland Christian Church. I am always on the go. I am not complaining mind you, I like to be busy but one thing I am realizing is that in order to accomplish a goal and to do it well, you need continuous help and support to make it a success.

I am reminded that Jesus, although powerful and compelling, did not do everything on his own. He recruited 12 Disciples to assist him and help spread the word of God. They were not trained as Disciples or teachers, they were fishermen, tax collectors, zealots and tradesmen.

We all have God given talents to utilize here at Cortland Christian Church. It is apparent by Sunday Worship or a church related event that there is abundant love and support felt here at our church. When a call goes out such as the window painting and replacement, everyone stepped up, above and beyond the call, to get things accomplished.

Could I entice you to help with other roles as well? We need assistance with our Children's worship program, Soup and Sandwich preparers and workers, work around the church (yearly maintenance and landscaping refreshing), WOW events and meetings, etc... I am not asking that one person step up and take on the whole task but to help in any form would be greatly appreciated. Remember everyone has their own talents to contribute and if everyone participates in some aspect (even just a little), it will make the overall outcome easier and so much more pleasant for everyone to enjoy.

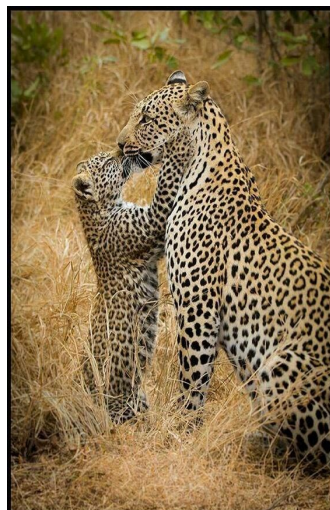
It is best said in Matthew 9:37-38, Then He said to His disciples, **"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."**

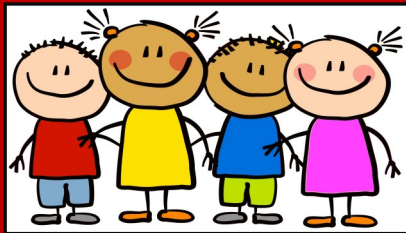
There are many jobs of the church. Won't you take it upon your heart to do what you can - many hands, make light work! The future of CCC is strong. Help us to grow in our church, our community and the many blessings of our faith!

Prayerfully yours,

Amy

A Mothers Love.....





## The Outreach Committee ( Kids Closet)

handed out school clothes for out less fortunate children on July 22.

There was also clothing for other children in the families too.

Thank you to all who helped  
on this project.

### —Elders Meeting—

Second Sunday in the Month

September 10 at 8:15am

In the Baldwin room

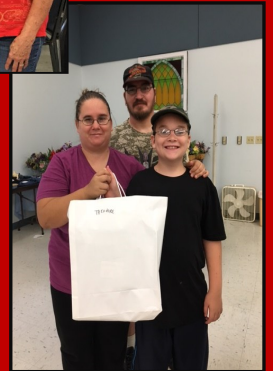
Please plan to attend these meetings  
as they are more important than ever  
right now.

Linda Chagnot,  
Sharon Hopkins,  
Barb Bradford,  
Phyllis Hake,  
Karen Miller,  
Joyce Hall,  
Gail Peura,  
Diana Martin,  
Chuck Corbet.



Linda, Chuck,  
Karen, Barb,  
and Sharon.

One of many families who  
participated in this project.  
The boy seems really happy  
with his school supplies  
and clothes



## That's Not Jesus

I often hear people talk about a Jesus who isn't the Jesus of the Bible.

The Jesus they refer to is usually popular with unsaved folks, which is the first sign that he isn't the real Jesus ([John 15:18](#)). He doesn't talk about sin, judgment, or hell like the real Jesus does ([Matthew 18](#)). He doesn't say he is the only way of salvation like the real Jesus does ([John 14:6](#)). He doesn't say what the real Jesus says about obedience and love ([John 14:21-24](#)).

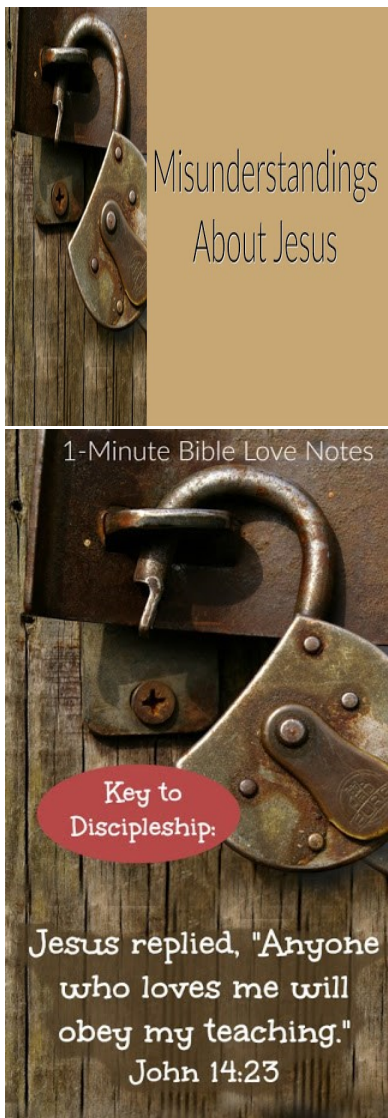
Unfortunately, many Christians also have an incorrect view of Jesus. They believe He's pleased with them no matter how casual their faith is.

But Jesus is clear:

*"If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine... All who love me will do what I say."* [Matthew 10:38](#);  
[John 14:23](#) NLT

Let's read our Bibles and make sure we know the real Jesus! He loves us too much to be satisfied with a watered-down faith.

Copyright Gail Burton Purath, 2011



## The Pastoral Research Committee

Our eager Research Committee has been busy interviewing possible Interim Ministers for us. The Ministers that they have chosen to deliver a message for us have been kind, compassionate, interesting, and informative. All of the messages have been good, to the point with some added humor, and all were thought provoking.

This committee has brought about the selection of an Interim Minister. Pastor Curtis Miller has been here twice for us delivering the message. He has been a Minister in Niles, Ohio and is just recently retired. He seems eager to start his ministry here at Cortland Christian Church.

Curtis and his wife Carol reside in Niles, Ohio.

Please! Come out any and every Sunday to meet Pastor Curt and Carol,  
hear one of his messages.  
You won't be sorry.



**Saturday,  
November 25, 2017**

**We need volunteers  
and ideas.**

Let Amy Popichak know if you can help.

Advertise, chair the bake Sale, or help find vendors.

if you would like to have a table, maybe you or someone you know would like to show off a special talent or craft.

We have a tables for any crafters, vendors etc.

This craft show will be part of the Gingerbread Walk that incorporates many area businesses and crafters.

**Please volunteer to help.**  
It is so much more fun and profitable when we all come together on our projects.

**Thursday,  
October 26,  
6:30-8pm**



*We need new ideas to  
make this fun for the kids and to introduce our church  
to those who are unchurched.*

**Plan to share a decorated table, dress up, (even a  
mask or crazy hat, whiskers on your face, etc.) Any-**



***Women Of Worship (all women)***

***Will meet***

***Saturday — August 12, 2017 — 10am***

***Panera on Elm Road***

***A lot of fun projects and activities are being discussed and we need your input.***

***Try to come. We need help! And ideas!***

**Mission Trip**



**Cancelled  
for this  
Year**

BUT A few new ideas  
are being planned to  
make this trip more  
fun for next year



**"Mission Trip  
2018?"**



## Handy Household Hints

1. If you get a water mark on a wooden table, rub the stain with Petroleum Jelly and let sit for 24 hours. Then wipe off the excess and polish as usual.
2. Cornstarch will untangle all kinds of knots. Rub some into the knot in shoelaces, chains, string etc. and watch as it comes apart.
3. When painting, wrap a rubber band around the can over the opening. Then you can dip in the brush and wipe the excess paint off onto the rubber band, rather than the edge of the can.
4. Keep the stove top clean by applying a thin layer of car wax, then wipe it off. It keeps food from sticking. Anything that sticks easily wipes away with a magic eraser!
5. Chalk will remove grease stains from clothes. Simply rub the stain with chalk, then toss in the wash as normal.
6. Add some Velcro to a dish towel to keep it secure on the handle of the oven.
7. Soak old paint brushes in HOT vinegar for 30 minutes and then wash. The old paint will come out and they will be as good as new.
8. Did you know that strawberries can be hulled using a regular drinking straw.
9. To keep cords from looking like a pile of spaghetti around and behind your end tables. Braid them together.
10. Use Rain-X on your shower doors to keep away water spots. The water just runs down the door.
11. From [instructables.com](http://instructables.com), aspirin can not only prevent heart attacks but also remove sweat stains, take the green out of blonde hair in the summer, treat pimples and get rid of dandruff. To remove sweat stains crush up enough pills to make a paste with water to cover the stain. Let set and then wash as usual. To remove the green from the pool from your hair, dissolve 6-8 tabs in water and let soak onto hair for 10 minutes. For problem acne, make a paste and apply directly to the pimple. For Dandruff- crush two aspirins and mix it into your normal amount of shampoo (regular shampoo, not the dandruff kind!) you use in the shower. Let sit on hair for a few minutes and rinse away the flakes!



### Why COMPLICATE Life ?

Missing somebody? ..... Call

Wanna meet up?.....Invite

Wanna be understood?.....Explain

Have questions?.....Ask

Don't like something?.....Say it

Like something?.....State it

Want something?.....Ask for it

Love someone ?.....Tell it

# American History Erased

*"History is not history, unless it is the truth." -- Abraham Lincoln*

Immediately after creating the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress voted to purchase and import 20,000 copies of Scripture for the people of this nation. Patrick Henry, who is called the firebrand of the American Revolution, is still remembered for his words, "Give me liberty or give me death" - but in current textbooks, the context of these words is omitted.

Here is what he actually said: "An appeal to arms and the God of hosts is all that is left us. But we shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God that presides over the destinies of nations. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone. Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it Almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death."

These sentences have been erased from our textbooks. Was Patrick Henry a Christian? The following year, 1776, he wrote this: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great Nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For that reason alone, people of other faiths have been afforded freedom of worship here."

Consider these words that Thomas Jefferson wrote in the front of his well-worn Bible: "I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus. I have little doubt that our whole country will soon be rallied to the unity of our creator." He was also the chairman of the American Bible Society, which he considered his highest and most important role.

On July 4, 1821, President Adams said, "The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: "It connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

Calvin Coolidge, our 30th President of the United States reaffirmed this truth when he wrote, "The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."

In 1782, the United States Congress voted this resolution: "The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all schools."

William Holmes McGuffey is the author of the McGuffey Reader, which was used for over 100 years in our public schools, with over 125 million copies sold, until it was stopped in 1963. President Lincoln called him the "Schoolmaster of the Nation." Listen to these words of Mr. McGuffey: "The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our nation, on the character of God, on the great moral Governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free Institutions. From no source has the author drawn more conspicuously than from the sacred Scriptures. For all these extracts from the Bible, I make no apology."

Of the first 108 universities founded in America, 106 were distinctly Christian, including the first, Harvard University, chartered in 1636. In the original Harvard Student Handbook, rule number 1 was that students seeking entrance must know Latin and Greek so that they could study the Scriptures: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies, is, to know God and Jesus Christ, which is eternal life, John 17:3; and therefore to lay Jesus Christ as the only foundation for our children to follow the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

James Madison, the primary author of the Constitution of the United States, said this: "We have staked the whole future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments."

Most of what you read in this article has been erased from our textbooks. Revisionists have rewritten history to remove the truth about our country's Christian roots. You are encouraged to share this with others, so that the truth of our nation's history will be told.



This recipe was requested by several people after our New Members Luncheon and Joyce Eckard was willing to share it.

Thank you Joyce, it will be a favorite recipe in my collection.

### **Tuna Pasta Salad**

**1 Box Pasta (your choice, Cooked according to directions and drained well.)**

**Add: 8 boiled eggs (chopped)**

**1 can tuna (Water Packed), drained well**

**Stir in 1 pint Marzetti (original) slaw dressing**



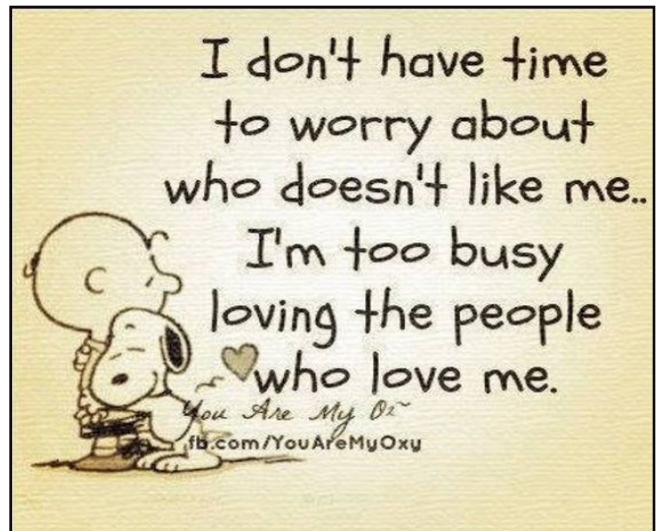
**Add any of the following to your families liking:**

**Chopped diced onion, Celery diced, black olives, Red or Green peppers**

**Salt and Pepper to taste**

**If mixture seems dry, add a little Mayonnaise**

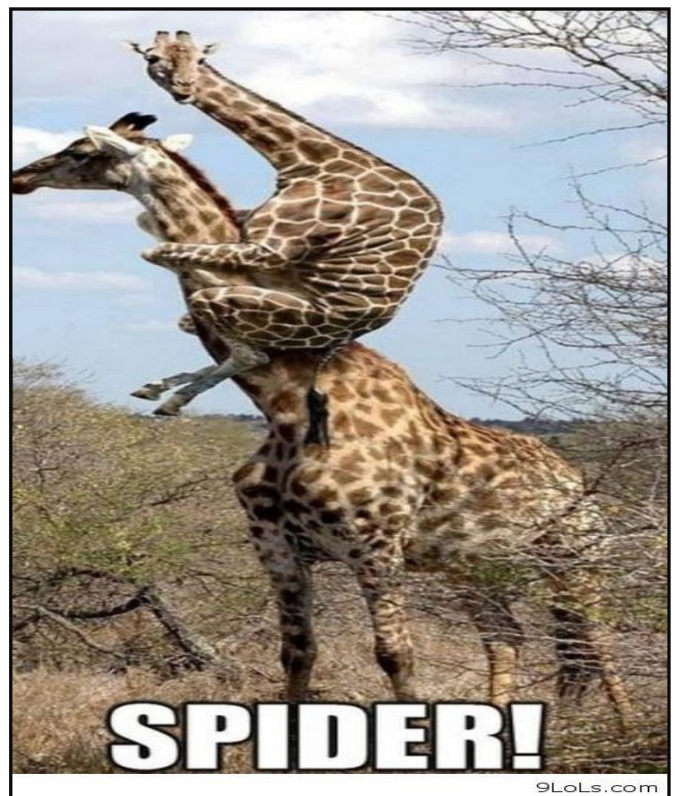
**Enjoy, Joyce Eckard**



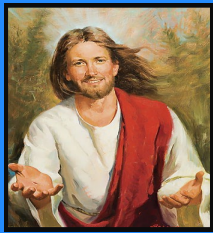
**THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER**



**Mothers love their babies.**







### The Widow's Offering

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

<sup>2</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.

<sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

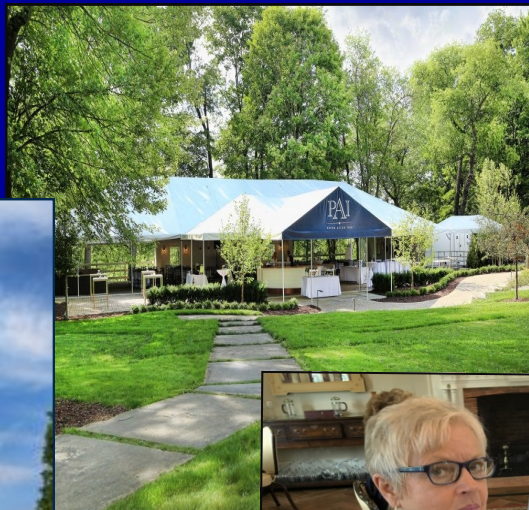
# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1.	2.  Joyful Noise	3. Aerobics	4.	5.
6. Sunday Service 10:00 am p	7. Aerobics	8.	9. Joyful Noise	10. Aerobics	11.	12. 
13. Sunday Service 10:00 am	14.  Aerobics	15. First day of School	16. Joyful Noise	17.  Aerobics	18.	19.
20. Sunday Service 10:00 am	21. Aerobics	22.	23. Joyful Noise	24. Aerobics	25. 	26.
27. Sunday Service 10:00 am	28. Aerobics	29.	30.  Joyful	31 Aerobics		

## Women of Worship

enjoyed lunch at

*Peter Allen Inn  
8581 State Street  
Kinsman, Ohio*



This trip was much to the delight of the 15 women who attended. This is something we may do again. The newly renovated house and grounds are historic landmarks in Kinsman, Ohio.



Perfect for weddings, showers, birthday and anniversary parties , a weekend away or just a relaxing dinner, entertainment and tour.

Cold  
Soup with  
flowers?  
Yep!

Yummy!

Barb  
Bradford  
and Gail  
Peura .

## A Prayer to Open Our Hearts and Minds

Heavenly Father, help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

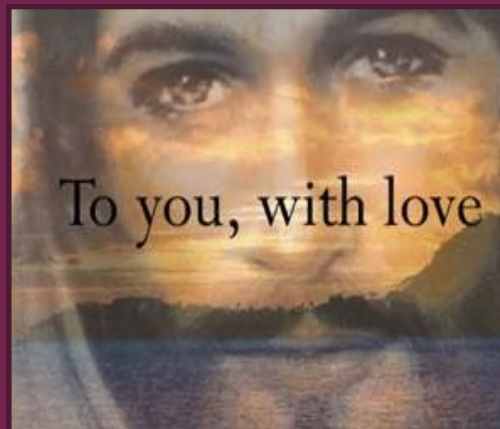
Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

-- Author Unknown



**Quit griping about your church; if it were perfect, you couldn't belong.** [Msgr. Joseph P. Dooley, Martins Creek, Pennsylvania]

**If a church wants a better pastor, it can get one by praying for the one it has.** [Rev. Robert E. Harris]

**A lot of church members who are singing "Standing On The Promises" are just sitting on the premises.** [Sr. Monique Rysavy]

## Hallelujah!

Our prayers at  
Cortland Christian Church have been answered

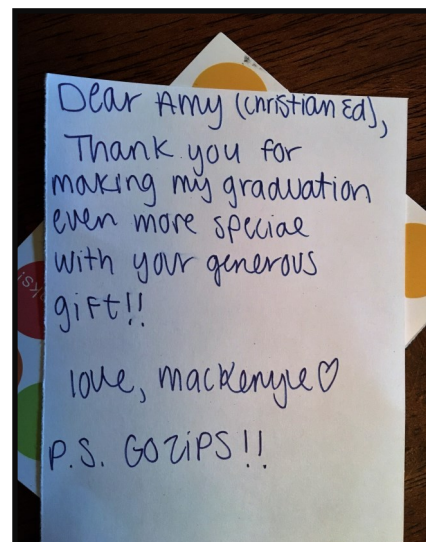
We needed to replace two windows in the Education wing of the church, and all the windows in this building needed scraped, sealed and painted. The fence needs painted and some of the trim around the main building needed scraped and painted, too.

When we put out a call for help, our "giving" congregation came forward with donations to help pay the cost.

The work of painting is being done by Bill Kralik, the cost is about \$1600.00 and the replacement windows were \$280.00. The windows have been installed and painting is to start on Thursday August 3.

**Thank You all So Very Much**

"Thank You " notes from some of our Graduates. Mackenzie will go to Akron University for Nursing and Katie is leaving for Ohio Northern University for law. Good Luck in your careers.





## Why Worry?

There are only two things to worry about:

Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well, there's nothing to worry about.

But if you are sick,

There are only two things to worry about:

Either you get well, or you die.

If you get well, there's nothing to worry about.

But if you die, there are only two things to worry about:

Either you will go to heaven or hell.

If you go to heaven there's nothing to worry about.

But if you go to hell

You'll be so busy shaking hands with friends

You won't have time to worry.

—Still Smiling

Written in a Dear Abby column

Jan. 20, 1994

## New Members Luncheon

was held on July 16 to

Welcome these members into our church

Joyce Eckard

Jack Hanna

Jamie Leveto

Lucas Leveto

Keegan Bland

Sandra Romberger

Terri Smith

Josh Musson

A pot luck dinner was served with delicious desserts, as always. It was a good day for Cortland Christian Church

## Do you go to church?

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

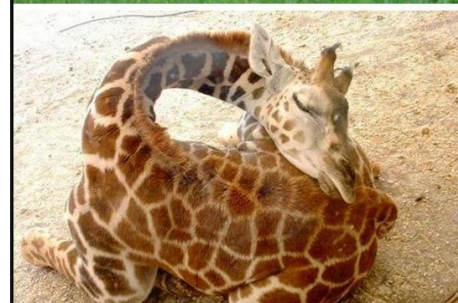
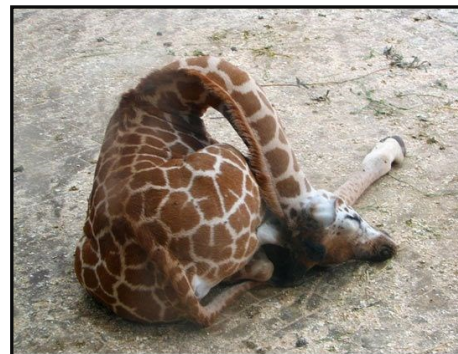
My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."



**Am I cute, I think I am!!**



**A Giraffe brings his pillow with him, or so it seems.**



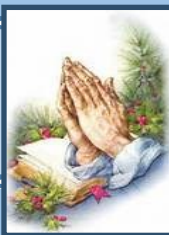
**They are playful, too.**

**Do you think it would be difficult to play this game?**





Pray for our "Shut-Ins"



Drop them a note  
of encouragement and  
let them know we care

Vera Kidd

*Community Skilled  
Nursing  
Room 221  
1320 Mahoning Ave.  
Warren, Ohio*

Phyllis Beer

*Lake Vista  
41 Heron Circle  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
330-637-1456*

Frank Zanin

*18170 N.91st Ave.  
Apt.1210  
Peoria, Az. 85382*

Maurice Brookes

*589 Cedar Street  
Cortland, Ohio 544410  
330-637-7726*

Alice Kalas

*Champion Estates  
Room211  
Windsor Place  
Warren, Ohio 44484  
330-307-7583*

Grace Wagner

*175 Wall Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
330-637-5957*

Raymond Kline

*502 Arcaro Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
234-244-4241*

## Round like a shot

GOING to bed the other night, I noticed people in my shed stealing things.

I phoned the police but was told no one was in the area to help. They said they would send someone over as soon as possible.

I hung up. A minute later I rang again. 'Hello,' I said, 'I called you a minute ago because there were people in my shed. You don't have to hurry now, because I've shot them.'

Within minutes there were half a dozen police cars in the area, plus helicopters and an armed response unit. They caught the burglars red-handed.

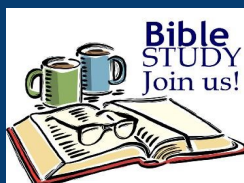
One of the officers said: 'I thought you said you'd shot them.'

To which I replied: 'I thought you said there was no one available.'

TONY GLADSTONE.

**THIS GUY**  
is a genius...

## Women's Bible Study



"Women who Say  
Yes to God"

By Lisa Terkhurst

Amy Popichak will be leading this study.

If you are interested let her know, as she needs to order your book. There will be a slight charge for the books. This study will start the end of September. We will let you know the date later.

Open to church and community!

That moment when  
you miss one step on the  
stairs, and you think you're  
about to die.

makemestfu.com





# AS WE EMPTY OURSELVES FOR GOD, *He Will Fill Us*

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## As We Empty Ourselves for God, He Will Fill Us

### ***An Opportunity to Serve***

We recently had a chance to serve someone outside of our family.

Late one night, tragedy hit a dear friend of mine. I heard about it in the morning and packed the kiddos up as quickly as I could. We arrived at her apartment to sit with her. It was wonderful to be able to do that. The children were considerate and compassionate. My friend was the least-needy person on the face of the planet. I rubbed her back when she cried, we chatted, and we helped her run an errand. After noon, we headed home for the baby's naptime.

By the time we got in the door, our strength was sapped. We were practically gasping for air.

The kids fell apart instantly. Crying, fussing, fogginess . . . we all muddled around for lunch, ate, and *crashed*. My highly compassionate/emotionally tuned child was so drained, he took a very uncharacteristic nap. I couldn't get dinner on the table, and I didn't have any emotional availability for my husband when he came home from work.

To tell you the truth, we didn't really regain our footing for a couple of days. We gave everything we had. But it wasn't even that much.

### **When We Give So Little**

I felt crushed before the Lord. "Why don't I have more strength? I want to serve You, but the simplest things wear me out! I wish I had more emotional rebound, more energy. I wish I could keep going after serving someone."

That's when I remembered the widow of [Luke 21](#) or [Mark 12](#). The one Jesus "looked up and saw" the widow putting two small copper coins in the temple offering.

He said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" ([Luke 21:3-4](#)).

**She's the "good guy" to whom I can relate: the poor widow who gave all she had.**

I look at her and say, "Yes, I feel like her. I know I'm not nearly as generous as she, but I feel like I'm offering as much as I can. And I feel like it's only two mites worth."

Please continue on the next page

**Can you relate to her, too? Are you giving everything you've got and wondering why it seems so little?**

## **Lessons from the Widow**

I want to share a few sweet things I've gleaned from looking at this short story in the context of Scripture as a whole:

### **1. She went home empty, too.**

Just think, when that poor widow went home, she had no money left. She had to start over again, earning, saving, or begging. Though giving was a joy, she felt the loss.

When we give everything, we're going to feel like we have nothing left. It's like a law of nature, right? Though we may relish the joy of service, we're going to feel the emptiness, the lack, the exhaustion. And we will have to start over again, sleeping, eating, and praying.

### **2. Jesus looked up and saw her gift.**

It is sufficient for our Savior, who loves us, to see us in those moments when we just want to love Him back and lavish other people with His love. What an undeserved wonder to catch His eye!

Though perhaps like me, the poor widow felt disappointed in the smallness of her gift. Maybe, like the apostle Paul, she too considered her greatest act of service "rubbish" compared with Christ's righteousness given to us.

Until the other day, I never imagined that perhaps the poor widow was really thinking, *Oh, if only I had more to give Him . . .* Did she struggle, like me, to be grateful for those two mites?

### **3. Jesus gave her those two mites in the first place.**

The poor widow knew that God Himself had pressed those two mites into her hand so she could have the pleasure of returning them to Him. Like my children who hold out their palms during the offering at church, waiting for me to put a quarter in their hand so they can immediately plunk it in the offering plate, may we hold out our hands to our heavenly Father and immediately give His blessings back to Him. All of our blessings come from our God, and all things belong to Him.

### **4. Jesus will continue to take care of her.**

Just moments before this scene takes place, Jesus criticizes the scribes who misused the widows, taking everything they had for selfish purposes. Of course, the scribes would not provide for widows in return.

But God is different. He loves and provides for widows. When this widow gives all of her money to the temple, she is demonstrating that her hope is in the Lord. He can take all of her money, for He will care for her. What trust! She believed it wasn't the last time God would provide for her, so she could give generously.

Thankfully, our salvation is wrapped up in *His* generosity and never-ending supply of help. We give because He first gave to us. Believing in God's loving goodness opens our hands. But keep this in mind: When we give all we've got, we will feel empty. The unchanging law of the kingdom of heaven is that God will fill us back up again.

***What has God pressed into your hands today? Do you have something small you could give to the Lord? An extra hour or some resources to offer someone in need? A notecard to write an encouraging note to a sister? Or is today one of resting and waiting for Him to fill you up again?***