



The Church Bell



A Message From Pastor Casey

"The Pine Tree"

This past weekend the trees came out at the church and in my house. Each decorated and topped. Every year people spend countless hours detailing pine trees to transform them into beautiful Christmas Trees for the Christmas Season. Why do we entertain such a strange tradition? Who in their right mind thought of shoving a huge evergreen through a small doorway and to prop it up in the corner of a room, squeezing it between the floor and the ceiling?

The decorating of a pine tree has been done for thousands of years. Many claim that this Christmas tradition was not original to Christianity and that it was the pagans who first brought the Christmas tree into their homes. This simply is not true. No one actually knows the true origin of the Christmas tree, but what is true is that both Christians and pagans used the Christmas tree around the same time for their own purposes. No one can claim that the beloved tradition we celebrate today was created by their group of people. For the purposes of this article, let us focus on the Christian use of the tree.

The pine tree... more appropriate of the Christian, the evergreen tree. A representation of life eternal. A reminder of the Tree of Life found in the Holy Bible. To us a Child is born, a Savior has come. He has brought everlasting life to all who believe in Him. For this the Christian Tradition begins. Pope John Paul, in 2004, called this evergreen tree a symbol for Christ. He said that the ancient custom of the Christmas Tree exalts the value of life as in winter what is evergreen becomes a sign of undying life.

The Old Testament book of Hosea gives a unique view of a pine tree. Hosea 14:8b says, "[God is] like a flourishing pine tree; your fruit comes from me." (HCSB). What a good picture for us of the pine tree. In my mind I picture each glittering bulb, every twinkling light as heavenly fruit from God for us realized and represented in this Christmas Tree. Trent Butler wrote the Homan Christian Commentary notes for the book of Hosea.

Continued on next page

Cortland Christian Church

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Church.Com

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Pastor Casey Chapman

pastoratcortland
@gmail.com

Jonathan Gallo
Organist

Joyce Hall
Administrative
Assistant



Worship Leaders

December 6	Amy Popichak and Sharon Hopkins
December 13	Linda Swauger and Carol Robinson
December 20	Curtis Bell and Amy Seger
December 27	Ron Miller and Justin Klamut

Pastor Casey

814 -573-8148

Office: 330-637-
4611

Office Hours:

Mon– Thurs.

8am-Noon

330-637-4611

Coffee Fellowship



December 6 - Effie Welch and
Carol Glancy

December 13 - Kerry Culp,
Kelly Culp and Pat Culp

December 20 - Ruth Young

December 27 - Diana Martin and
Darlene Ball

Continued from Front Page:

In his commentary he said, "God's description of himself surprises us. He is a pine tree in whom Israel's fruitfulness is found. The pine tree symbolized divinity, kingship and fertility in Israel's world. God set Himself up as the only true reality behind such symbolism. The Christmas tree is a great reminder of God in our livesin our homes. As you put your tree up this year, I would like to encourage you as you string the lights and hang the bulbs to think of all the blessings of God in your life. Name one off for every bulb you hang.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.



"MERRY CHRISTMAS "

AND

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"



October— Financial Report

Our monthly Budget for 2020 of \$13,000 explains
the amount needed to maintain our church.

November 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020

Offering Received	\$ 7,698.00
Expenses	\$ 9,689.00
Balance	\$ -1,990.00

Mortgage Payment \$1,883.24

Loan Balance \$ 74,741.96



“Happy Birthday”

<i>December 4</i>	<i>Nola Miller</i>
<i>December 5</i>	<i>Dorothy Moss</i>
<i>December 9</i>	<i>Joyce Lewis</i>
<i>December 10</i>	<i>Pat Taylor</i>
<i>December 12</i>	<i>David Miller</i>
<i>December 14</i>	<i>Kay Moore</i>
<i>December 16</i>	<i>Joyce Hall</i>
<i>December 21</i>	<i>Bob Evans</i>
<i>December 27</i>	<i>Bud Culp</i>

No Anniversaries



Church Elders
meet
Third Sunday in the
month

— 8 am —
Board Room

Church Meetings

L.O.A.F.

(Virtual)

December 3

10am

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**Board and Finance**

**Meetings**

**have been cancelled**

**Merry**  
**Christmas**

## ***SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS***



1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.  
Remember Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find  
and impossible to replace.



# December

2020

| Sunday                                                                   | Monday                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                          | Thursday                                                                                                               | Friday                                                                                      | Saturday                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Advent begins<br>Sunday the 6th                                          |  | 1.                                                                                         | 2.                                                                                 | 3. L.O.A.F.<br>Methodist<br>Church 10am<br>12pm<br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                     | 4.                                                                                          | 5. <b>Aerobics</b>         |
| 6. <b>Sunday Service</b><br>10am<br><br>Adult<br>Sunday School<br>8:55am | 7.<br><br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                         | 8.<br><br><u>Meetings</u><br>Finance 6:15pm<br>Board 7 pm                                  | 9.<br><br>Veterans Day                                                             | 10.<br><br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                                                             | 11.<br>  | 12.. <b>Aerobics</b>       |
| 13. <b>Service at</b><br>10am<br>Adult<br>Sunday School<br>8:55am        | 14.<br><br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                        | 15.                                                                                        |  | 17.<br><br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                                                             | 18.<br> | 19.<br><br><b>Aerobics</b> |
| 20. <b>Service at</b><br>10am<br><br>Adult<br>Sunday School<br>8:55am    | 21.<br><br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                        | 22.<br> | 23..                                                                               | 24. Christmas<br>Eve<br><br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                                            | 26.                                                                                         |                            |
| 27. <b>Service at</b><br>10am<br>Adult<br>Sunday School<br>8:5am         | 28.<br><br><b>Aerobics</b>                                                        | 29.                                                                                        | 30.                                                                                | 31<br>"Happy "<br>New<br>Year<br> |                                                                                             | <b>Aerobics</b>            |

Pray for our "Shut-Ins" and "other friends". They would enjoy a Thinking of you card or a joke or story you found in a magazine. Maybe a phone call, just say "hello" to our friends.

  
*Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer*

Bob and Mary Jo Johnson

328 Orchard  
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Katie and John Molnar

2444 Williams Drive  
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Edwin and Eileen Niemi

Lake Vista Apt. 207  
Mecca Street,  
Cortland, Ohio

Kathie Bates

Room 105  
369 N. High Street  
Cortland, Ohio 44410

Pat Taylor

Room 212  
4100 North River Rd.  
Warren Ohio

Grace Wagner

Gillette Rehab  
Room 613  
3310 Elm Rd. N. E.  
Warren, Ohio 44483

Phyllis Beer

41 Heron Circle  
Cortland, Ohio 44410  
330-637-1456

Lauralee Lawrence

124 Willow Street  
Cortland, Ohio  
44410

# I Grew Up With Practical Parents

Submitted by Jack Hanna

I Grew up with a mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones.

Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dish-towel in the other.

It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more.

Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away...never to return..

So... While we have it..... it's best we love it.... And care for it.... And fix it when it's broken..... And heal it when it's sick. This is true. For marriage..... And old cars..... And children with bad report cards..... And dogs with bad hips..... And aging parents..... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it. Some things we keep.



**Phyllis Hargate Beer**

wife of Charlie Beer has passed away.

*Services will be at Shafer-Winans Funeral Home On Thursday, December 3. Visitation from 11am-Noon May God keep her in His loving arms.*

*(More in next issue)*

Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special..... And so, we keep them close!

I received this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper', So I am giving it to you as so I think of you the same way....

Now it's your turn tell those people that are "keepers" in your life.

Good friends are like stars....

You don't always see them,  
but you know they are always there.

Keep them close!

## Sweet and Saucy Pork Chops — — Delicious —

Easy to prepare. Great dinner choice with a salad and crusty bread.

1 inch bone in rib pork chops  
1 -1/2 tsp. sugar  
1 lg. shallot, chopped  
1/4 cup wine vinegar  
1 T. Dried capers

Kosher Salt  
2 T. olive oil, extra virgin  
4 cloves garlic, sliced thinly  
3 sprigs rosemary chopped



Season pork chops with salt and sprinkle evenly with ½ tsp. sugar. Heat 1 Tbsp. oil in a large skillet over medium-high. Cook chops, undisturbed, until well browned underneath, about 3 minutes. Turn and cook just until second side is lightly browned, about 1 minute. Transfer chops to a plate (they won't be fully cooked); reduce heat to medium. Pour remaining 1 Tbsp. oil into same skillet and add shallot and garlic. Cook, stirring often, until softened and just beginning to brown, about 3 minutes.

Add vinegar and remaining 1 tsp. sugar to skillet. Cook, swirling pan occasionally, until vinegar is nearly evaporated, about 2 minutes. Add rosemary, capers, and ½ cup water to skillet; season with salt. Reduce heat as needed to maintain a very low simmer. Add butter and swirl pan continuously (and vigorously) until sauce becomes smooth, glossy, and emulsified.

Return pork chops to skillet, arranging darker side up. Simmer gently in sauce, swirling occasionally, until chops are cooked through, about 3 minutes (a thermometer inserted near the bones should register 135°). Transfer pork chops to plates and spoon sauce over. (When using thinner chops cook a little less time)



### Cranberry Cake



3 large eggs room temp  
2 C. sugar  
3/4 C. unsalted butter softened  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
1 tsp almond extract  
2 C. all-purpose flour  
12 oz fresh cranberries  
Powdered sugar for garnish

Prepare a 9x13 inch baking pan with nonstick baking spray. Beat the eggs and sugar together with an electric mixer until slightly thickened and light in color. This mixture should form peaks when you lift the beaters out of the bowl. Add the butter, almond and vanilla extract to the egg mixture and continue to mix. Mix for two minutes. Slowly add in the flour but just until combined.

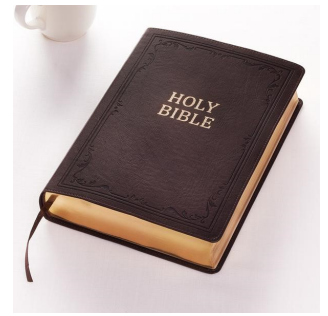
Add the fresh cranberries. Stir the cranberries to mix throughout. Bake at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes. Allow the cake to cool before cutting into 16 pieces. Then sprinkle with powdered sugar. Cut into 16 pieces to serve.

### Prayer for Christmas

*May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, be among you and remain  
with you always.*

*Amen.*

# Selling Bibles



A minister concluded that his church was getting into serious financial troubles. While checking the church storeroom, he discovered several cartons of new bibles that had never been opened and distributed.

So at his Sunday sermon, he asked for three volunteers from the congregation who would be willing to sell the bibles door-to-door for \$10 each to raise the desperately needed money for the church. Peter, Paul and Louie all raised their hands to volunteer for the task. The minister knew that Peter and Paul earned their living as salesmen and were likely capable of selling some bibles. But he had serious doubts about Louie who was a local farmer, who had always kept to himself because he was embarrassed by his speech impediment. Poor Louis stuttered badly. But, not wanting to discourage Louis, the minister decided to let him try anyway.

He sent the three of them away with the back seat of their cars stacked with bibles. He asked them to meet with him and report the results of their door-to-door selling efforts the following Sunday. Anxious to find out how successful they were, the minister immediately asked Peter, "Well, Peter, how did you make out selling our bibles last week?"

Proudly handing the reverend an envelope, Peter replied, "Using my sales prowess, I was able to sell 20 bibles, and here's the \$200 I collected on behalf of the church."

"Fine job, Peter!" The minister said, vigorously shaking his hand. "You are indeed a fine salesman and the Church is indebted to you."

Turning to Paul, "And Paul, how many bibles did you sell for the church last week?"

Paul, smiling and sticking out his chest, confidently replied, "I am a professional salesman. I sold 28 bibles on behalf of the church, and here's \$280 I collected."

The minister responded, "That's absolutely splendid, Paul. You are truly a professional salesman and the church is also indebted to you."

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, "And Louie, did you manage to sell any bibles last week?"

Louie silently offered the minister a large envelope. The reverend opened it and counted the contents.

"What is this?" the minister exclaimed. "Louie, there's \$3200 in here! Are you suggesting that you sold 320 bibles for the church, door to door, in just one week?"

Louie just nodded.

"That's impossible!" both Peter and Paul said in unison. "We are professional salesmen, yet you claim to have sold 10 times as many bibles as we could."

"Yes, this does seem unlikely," the minister agreed. "I think you'd better explain how you managed to accomplish this, Louie."

Louie shrugged. "I-I-I re-re-really do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-f-for sh-sh-sh-sure," he stammered.

Impatiently, Peter interrupted. "For crying out loud, Louie, just tell us what you said to them when they answered the door!"

"A-a-a-all I-I-I s-s-said wa-wa-was," Louis replied, "W-w-w-w-would y-y-y-you l-l-l-l-l-like t-t-to b-b-b-buy th-th-th-this b-b-b-b-bible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-b-bucks ---o-o-o-or--- wo-wo-would you j-j-j-just l-like m-m-me t-t-to st-st-stand h-h-here and r-r-r-r-r-read it t-to y-y-you?"



# The Magic Bank Account

THE AUTHOR IS NOT KNOWN.  
IT WAS FOUND IN THE BILLFOLD OF COACH PAUL BEAR BRYANT, ALABAMA, AFTER HE DIED IN 1982.-

## The Magic Bank Account

Imagine that you had won the Following PRIZE in a contest:

Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use.

However, this prize has Rules:

The set of Rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that Day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right?

You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

**ACTUALLY, This GAME is REAL. Shocked??? YES!**

Each of us is already a winner of this PRIZE. We just can't seem to see it.

## **The PRIZE is TIME**

1. Each morning we awaken to Receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of Life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dis solve your account at any time  
WITHOUT WARNING...

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars.

Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be Happy, love deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day.  
Start spending...

**"DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT GROWING OLD!"  
SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET THE PRIVILEGE!**

### **Lost and Found**

**Anyone know who this is?**







**A Little Poem About the  
Times in Our Life**

God's the reason for all things  
You want rainbows, you get rain,  
We'll all be forever changed

I'll sail my boat and fly my kite,  
Walk in the park, go out at night  
And hold my loved ones extra tight.

When everything is on the mend  
I'll even drink with my old friends,  
Sing and play mandolin.

We'll make it through this dark night  
And everything's gonna be alright,  
When life is Good again.

From a Song by Dolly Parton  
Submitted by Carol Glancy

**TIP Or JOKE, you tell me.**

If you don't have a panini  
press,  
just heat up your corduroys  
and  
sit on your sandwich.

Submitted by Linda Chagnot

**We've been told that only 6 people are  
allowed to meet for Christmas, but 30  
for a funeral. With this, I announce  
that we will be holding a funeral for  
our pet turkey that will pass away on  
December 24.**

**Refreshments provided.**

**In lieu of flowers please bring a side or  
dessert.**



U C A W Q W E B W L M J R Q E C O I V H D O U I G K G F H U  
Y P O S F V D N L I S H Y E N N Z U O B R P K R A Z U F L S  
T C R P J L K O Q N S W L M P U Q J A L E I K U Y T A T V A  
H K Z C N O C I H V N E O N U E G Z N A H W G P R S R Q S H  
C P J X Y P N Q A R L R M K U S E R A C P P D S Y L N Y O A  
M S E R M Y A Z E E H B T E M S E K S V E G B S G B M D A U  
L I X S D R M E G L M E Y T N B E G N J H W Z D R Z P R G D  
W B R X O C J N H F N O W F L B V K V N S D Z W T S N T A I  
P A E A M J A N G O G Y D R A L O Y R D I Q N X W K K S J H  
W I V H C C G P V C M H T V I Y I N A R Z L X G T S J I L C  
P K D R F L V I W S P N G Z P F I O Y L D Z J G M A N G E R  
L T Z U C I E C G L F P J K S I A I M R F K S S I H I E X K  
Q R Y K E T O S U P D X T I J E I Q M V K M Y R L B M N S T  
Y O T B Z S Z A A L T G U S H Q S Y V Q D R Y R N B K O H R  
F L I Y B K E J G T M L I V M E J J K C U R W A Q L D K E S  
O X V X T A C W R C U L J C T W I P D G P R N T N U N D E N  
N H I J Q C C O I J L B E X U L C I H Z T Z Y S M C E V P W  
I A T Q Z Q I G T W J H G N D D P F I Y I X P A M M A A P M  
K R A Q P U T Y I S Q Q O Q L R G H R X B N E C V S J M H H  
I Q N N L K D U J E S U S M Y R Z T X X L I T V M E K K E K  
O A Q P L K T V L M M X B Z C F V R B J S N L S F J Z G L L  
S L S U R T I M E M N A L J C V P H M M R K I R X L K C Z M  
P W Z U F U C W R M C A F Y L W B D I K F W X O I V J L F B  
J P G J M H Q F R D X F P Z V A F F I K T E A T P C D G D Z  
G N N A H C D H P S E C N U B U Y A H L W W C E F I K M D G  
T F R Q B Z T X P E U H L Y T V B T L F U D Q W K P S P N U  
X Y X F Y R Y O E P K Z W A Y E A Y E K N O D M A V N A V O  
F K H O I L J P I J A S Y T N L D B D L C Q G P D H D S X A  
H L N B B Q H K C Q F Y U V B P Q I P E W B M N T R Y I D I  
B E E Z A T J T Y R V V B E T H L E H E M L D V C G A K T C

Christ, the Saviour,  
is born!

ANGEL  
BABY  
BETHLEHEM  
BIRTH  
CAMEL  
DONKEY  
ZOOEEPER  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MANGER  
MARY  
MIRACLE  
NATIVITY  
SHEEP  
SHEPHERD  
STAR  
WISEMEN



Merry Christmas

DailyDishMagazine.com

In the song "Winter Wonderland," exactly how will you frolic and play?

In "O Little Town of Bethlehem," where do the silent stars go by?

In the song, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas",  
what is the prettiest sight to see?

Greensleeves" is another name for which Christmas song?

Which Christmas carol expresses jubilation to this orb?



Now sort them out Did you  
find yourself singing?  
Joy to the World  
"What Child is This?"  
The Eskimo way  
door,  
The holly that will be on your own front  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep



## 2020 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year?

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 day planner
2. I was so bored I called Jake from State Farm just to talk to someone.
3. He asked “me” what I was wearing.
4. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
5. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house. And their kids are yelling at them to say indoors!
6. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
7. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
8. This virus has done what no woman has been able to do. Cancel sports, shut down all bars and keep men at home.
9. This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I came into my house and told my cat.
10. I never thought the saying “I wouldn’t touch him with a six foot pole” would become a national policy, but here we are!
11. Appropriate analogy.” The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now” is like saying “ The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now.”

Shared by Ron Miller



## Cortland Christian Church

would like to **“thank all of our congregation”** for participating in this wonderful project.

This is our first year, “won’t be the last” to participate in this Interesting and fun endeavor. With smiles and conversation, we were able to overstuff 54 shoeboxes with clothes, toys, school supplies, hygiene items and something to “love” to be shipped to remote regions of our world to give less fortunate children hope and happiness.



Operation Shoebox is a ministry through “Samaritans Purse” and The Franklin Graham Foundation. He is the son of Billy Graham and helped with and eventually took over running the foundation for his father. This project is a wonderful way to introduce Jesus to these children who have never heard of our Savior.

Shall we do it again next year?

Missionaries bring stories and lessons of Jesus into these areas to the children and along with the filled donated shoeboxes, it brings lots of smiles to their faces.

Eventually parents get involved and soon a small church is built.

Millions of these boxes are delivered to children every year.



# Fun and Interesting Facts about Christmas



1. The **image of Santa Claus flying his sleigh** began in 1819 and was created by Washington Irving, the same author who dreamt up the Headless Horseman.
2. The Montgomery Ward department store created Rudolph the **Reindeer** as a marketing gimmick **to encourage children** to buy their Christmas coloring books.
3. The original Rudolph **did not have a red nose**. In that day and age, red noses were seen as an indicator of chronic alcoholism and Montgomery Ward didn't want him to look like a drunkard. To complete the original picture, he was almost named Reginald or Rollo.
4. Bicycle, the U.S. playing card company, manufactured cards to give all the POWs in Germany during World War II as Christmas presents. These **cards, when soaked in water, revealed an escape route for POWs**. The Nazis never knew.
5. The **Christmas wreath** was originally hung as a symbol of Jesus. The holly represents his crown of thorns and the red berries the blood he shed.
6. The **three traditional colors of most Christmas decorations** are red, green and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ, green symbolized life and rebirth, and gold represents light, royalty and wealth.
7. In Poland spiders are considered to be symbols of prosperity and goodness at Christmas. In fact, **spiders and spider webs are often used as Christmas tree decorations**. According to legend, a spider wove baby Jesus a blanket to keep him warm.
8. **Tinsel** was invented in 1610 in Germany and was once made of real silver.
9. **The old English custom of wassailing was to toast to someone's long life at Christmas-tide and was the forerunner for the tradition of Christmas caroling. In the 13th century St. Francis of Assisi began the custom of singing carols in church.**
10. **"White Christmas", Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", "Winter Wonderland", "The Christmas Song" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" plus the melody for "O Holy Night" were all written or co-written by Jews**
11. The **three traditional colors of most Christmas decorations** are red, green and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ, green symbolized life and rebirth, and gold represents light, royalty and wealth.
12. In Poland spiders are considered to be symbols of prosperity and goodness at Christmas. In fact, **spiders and spider webs are often used as Christmas tree decorations**. According to legend, a spider wove baby Jesus a blanket to keep him warm.
13. Nova Scotia is **the world's leading exporter of Christmas trees**.
14. Almost **28 sets of LEGO are sold every second** during the Christmas season.
15. **The Statue of Liberty** was gifted to the US by the French on Christmas day in 1886. It weighs 225 tons and thus you could consider it as **the biggest Christmas gift in the world**.

## A HANDY REFERENCE LIST OF EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

When in sorrow.....Call John 14  
 When men fail you .....Call Psalm 27  
 When you have sinned.....Call Psalm 51  
 When you worry.....Call Matthew 3:19-34  
 When you are in danger.....Call Psalm 91  
 When God seems so far away.....Call Psalm 139  
 When your faith needs stirring.....Call Hebrews 11  
 When you are lonely and fearful .....Call Psalm 23  
 When you grow bitter and critical.....Call 1 Corinthians 13  
 When you feel down and out.....Call Romans 8:31  
 When you want peace and rest.....Call Matthew 11:25-30  
 When the world seem bigger than God.....Call Psalm 90  
 When you want Christian assurance..... Call Romans 8:1-30  
 When you leave home for labor or travel..... Call Psalm 121  
 When your prayers grow narrow or selfish..... Call Psalm 67  
 When you want courage for a task.....Call Joshua 1  
 When you think of investments and returns.....Call Mark 10  
 If you are depressed.....Call Psalm 27  
 If your pocketbook is empty.....Call Psalm 37  
 If you are losing confidence in people.... Call 1 Corinthians 13  
 If people seem unkind.....Call John 15

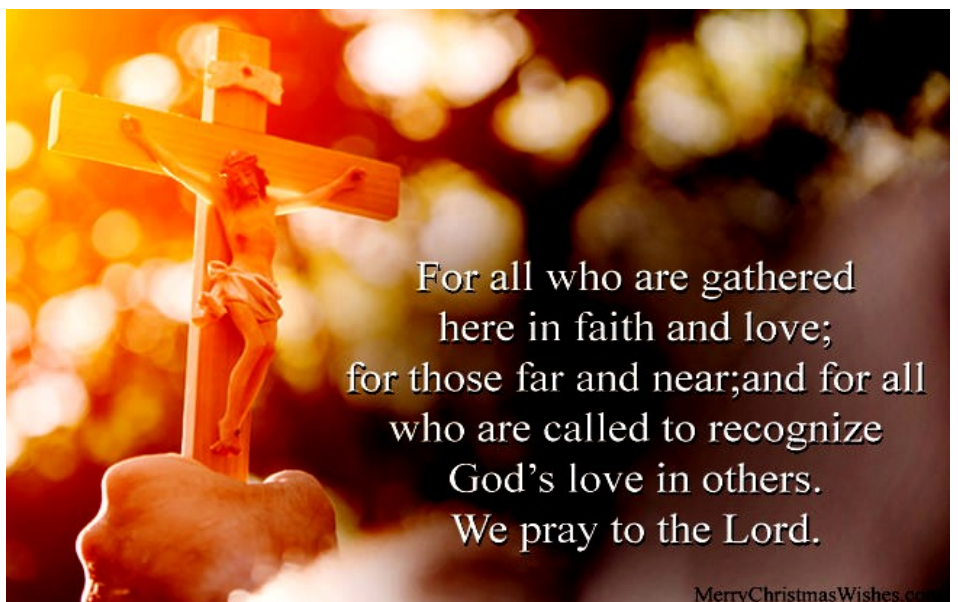


Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” ([Acts 2:17](#), [Hebrews 1:2](#)), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 And ransom captive Israel,  
 That mourns in lonely exile here,  
 Until the Son of God appears.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!***

***Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ’s first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.







Hi there,

This has been a rather interesting year, with Covid, cancellations of some of our most fun projects, and church closing, living in a masked society, but we got through it. I want to thank each and every one of you for hanging in with us this crazy and uncertain year. It has been a struggle to live a reasonably normal life but with blessings of our God and with our church friends all about, it has made life so much more tolerable. You are the “best”.

With your help for me in the office, to your involvement in our projects and for your generosity, CCC lives on and thrives. God is certainly with us all the way.

I love my office job, it is because of all of you and what you bring. I couldn't do it without all you. “Thank You So Very Much”. ( You seem to forgive my mistakes) (:

We are so fortunate to have Pastor Casey to help guide us through. He is our “rock”. His online sermons kept us going through the summer and fall and still is very helpful for many of our shut-ins. He is always there for us if we need advice or comforting. What a blessing he is! I am truly grateful for him. And I know you are, too.

With this note, I truly wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Peaceful, Healthy New Year, And of course another great year at CCC.

I love you all,

*Joyce*

