

December 2021

"Follow the Bells"



The Church Bell

A Message From Pastor Casey



Cortland Christian Church

153 Grove Drive
Cortland, Ohio

officeatccc@gmail.com

CortlandChristian
Church.Com

Phone: 330-637-4611

Pastor Casey Chapman

pastor@cortland
@gmail.com

Jonathan Gallo
Organist

Joyce Hall
Administrative
Assistant

"Holiday Elements" Pastor Casey

Are you ready? Soon the Carol of the Bells will be heard around Cortland ushering in Christmas. As we enter full swing into the holiday season the celebration of Advent begins in churches across this nation. Advent is a special time in the church when Christians expectantly wait and prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ, and the future hope of His Second Coming. This year, Advent begins on November 28th, and for the next four Sundays hope, faith, joy, and love become key meditative elements along the journey to Christmas. Each week consider these four elements in your daily devotions.

Consider hope, for God gave you a personal and special promise that a Savior would come. For many years, God's people waited and hoped. In Bethlehem, long ago, Christ came in fulfillment of God's promise. Be reminded that our Lord keeps His Word. Take hope and encouragement in His promises made to you in the Bible.

Consider faith, for Christ was born just as God had promised. God's people put their faith in the hopeful promise of the birth of a Savior. Today, put your hope in the fulfilled promise of the Savior coming into this world, and know that He will come again. The element of faith reminds us that we can trust God to keep His Word.

Consider joy, for this is a joyous season. Advent and Christmas are celebrations of the Savior being born! This is good news of great joy. No longer is the world condemned because of sin, but God sent His Son to reconcile us to Him when we accept the gift His Son brought us. The gift of eternal life to all who believe.

Consider love, for Christ, God's only Son, was given to us as the ultimate gift and sacrifice. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. You can be assured that God loves you! Remember His love and sacrifice for you so that one day you will enter into His presence.

Consider these elements of Advent as you prepare for this holiday season with much hope, faith, joy, and love.

Pastor Casey





Worship Leaders

December 5 Jeff Byler and Linda Swauger

December 12 Carol Robinson and
Sharon Hopkins

December 19 Ron Miller and
Spencer Chapman

December 26 John Molnar and Amy Popichak

Pastor Casey

814 -573-8148

Office:

330-637-4611

Office Hours:

Mon– Thurs.

8am-Noon

Coffee Fellowship

December 5 Roy and Marsha Nichols
and Brad and Brenda Bevan

December 12 Gail Peura and
Amy Popichak

December 19 Cindy Miller and
Ron Miller

December 26 Darlene Ball and
Diana Martin



May the message of Christmas fill your
life with joy and peace. Best wishes to you
and your family during this holiday season

*Merry
Christmas*



DesiComments.com

Deacons for De- cember

Captain: Chuck
Chagnot–
330-307-3405

Linda Rogers, Sharon
Polakoff, Linda Chagnot,
Greg Liberatore

Deaconess:
Katie Molnar

Organist:
Jonathan Gallo

November 2021— Financial Report

Our Budget for 2021 of \$13,000 explains the monthly amount needed to maintain our church.

NOV. 1, 2021 to NOV. 31, 2021

Offering Received \$ 13,072.00

Expenses \$ 12,772.00

Balance \$ 300.00

Mortgage Payment \$1,883.24

Loan Balance \$50,121.35



Happy Birthday

December 4 Nola Miller
December 5 Dorothy Moss
December 6 Phyllis Hake
December 9 Joyce Lewis
December 14 Kay Moore
December 10 Pat Taylor
December 16 Joyce Hall
December 21 Bob Evans
December 27 Bud Culp

No
Anniversaries

L.O.A.F. Meeting

Next meeting on
December 2

Important Church Meetings

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### Executive Board

Tuesday, December 7  
6:30pm

### Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 7  
7pm

## Christmas Eve Service



7pm  
December 24  
at C.C.C.

*Church Elders*  
*meet*

*Sunday Morning 8am*  
*when one is called*

L.O.A.F.

# Cortland Community Band Concert

Presenting our local community band in **"Holiday Concert"**  
December 6 7pm

**Refreshments follow in the Cafeteria**



## *The Touch of the Master's Hand*

"Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer  
Thought it scarcely worth his while  
To waste much time on the old violin,  
But held it up with a smile.

"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,  
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"

"A dollar, a dollar, Ten two! Only two?  
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;  
Going for three.." But no,  
from the room, far back, a grey haired man  
Came forward and picked up the bow'  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,  
and tightening the loosened strings,  
He played a melody pure and sweet.  
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said:" What am I bid for the old violin?"  
And he held it up with the bow.

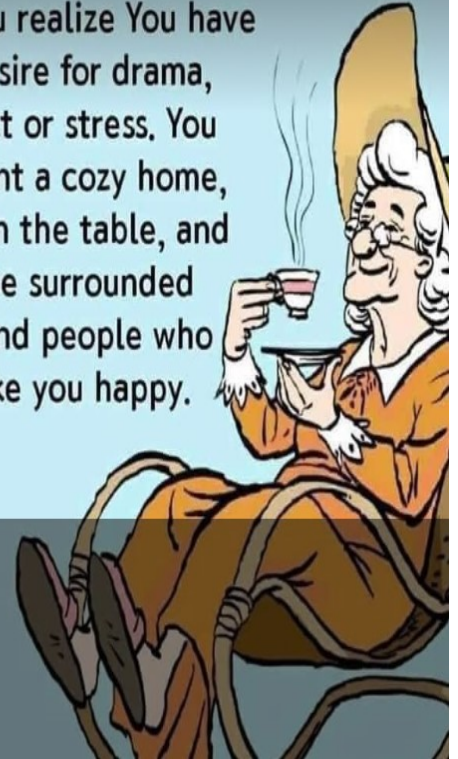
" A thousand! And who 'll make it three?  
Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice,  
and going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,  
"We do not quite understand.  
What changed it's worth?' Swift came the reply:

" The touch of the Master's hand"  
And many a man with life out of tune  
And battered and scarred with sin'  
is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd  
Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage" a glass of wine,  
A game—and he travels on,  
He is "going once, and going twice",  
He's go "going" and almost "gone."  
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd  
Never can quite understand  
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought  
By the touch of the Master's hand.

The older you get the  
more you realize You have  
no desire for drama,  
conflict or stress. You  
just want a cozy home,  
food on the table, and  
to be surrounded  
by kind people who  
make you happy.



K others



### "Thanksgiving Baskets"

are delivered ..

So now we work on the  
"Christmas Baskets"  
for 3 different families.

This is always a great way to give .  
Thank you for Linda Chagnot for or-  
ganizing and delivering this Project.  
Thanks also to Chuck Chagnot and  
Jeff Byler for delivering them.

# Operation Christmas Child

## Shoe Box Mission 2021



This year we have 47 boxes to send to children who have never received a Christmas Gift and those who do not know Jesus.

The boxes are filled with **something fun, something hygiene, School supplies, something fun, something to love, and something to wear**, and any other interesting thing they might enjoy.

**We do not send liquid items**, in transport, they may leak all over everything, and ruin a child's fun.

**No toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.**

**No food items** for similar reasons, and that they may attract critters.

**No seeds; candy, gum, crackers, food of any sort. No medications or vitamins; breakable items, or aerosol cans.**

But luckily we are given a list of what we can put in the boxes and the list is long. So we have many choices.

These boxes generally go to areas where the weather and temperature is hot, and many items could melt.

Last year we sent 54 boxes out and most were delivered to Honduras, in South America or Beluvie near the China Sea. Many go to the islands in the Pacific.



**Thank you all for making all this happen for these children.**

Millions of boxes are shipped out each year. This gives the missionaries a chance to introduce Jesus to these children to give them hope and many children become true believers and they in turn are helping to inform the adults ..

Trumbull and Ashtabula counties have donated over 9101 boxes so far this year, their goal was 9000.

**I hope this Mission continues to be a big part of our minds, our hearts and our church.**





## Veterans Day

### Cortland Christian Church

Dave Moore gave an interesting talk about his time in the military. He had a table set for a lost Veteran, each item told the story of what the item meant in memory.

Jeff Byler read a poem and led us in a prayer for our Veterans.

**These are two true and proud Veterans.**  
Then all veterans were asked to stand.

**A very touching moment.**






**We Love and appreciate our Veterans**



2021

# DECEMBER

| Sunday                                                                | Monday                                                                                              | Tuesday                                                                                                     | Wednesday                                        | Thursday                                                                                     | Friday                                                                                                                   | Saturday                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                       |                    |                                                                                                             | 1.<br>Bible Study<br>6pm<br>Fellowship Hall      | 2. L.O.A.F<br>10am<br>Methodist<br><br>Aerobics                                              | 3.                                                                                                                       | 4.<br><br>Aerobics<br>       |
| 5. Sunday Service<br>10am<br><br>2nd Sunday in<br>Advent              | 6.<br><br>Aerobics                                                                                  | 7.<br>                     | 8.<br><br>Bible Study<br>6pm<br>Fellowship Hall  | 9.<br><br>Aerobics                                                                           | 10.<br>                               | 11.<br><br>Aerobics                                                                                             |
| 12. Sunday<br>Service at 10am<br><br>3rd Sunday in<br>Advent          | 13<br><br>Aerobics | 14.<br>                  | 15.<br><br>Bible Study<br>6pm<br>Fellowship Hall | 16.<br><br>Aerobics                                                                          | 17.                                                                                                                      | 18..<br><br>Aerobics                                                                                            |
| 19. Sunday<br>Service at 10am<br><br>4th Sunday in<br>Advent          | 20.<br><br>Aerobics                                                                                 | 21.<br>Winter begins<br> | 22.<br><br>No Bible Study                        | 23.                                                                                          | <br>7 pm                            | 25.<br><br>Merry Christmas |
| 26. Sunday Service<br>at 10am<br><br>Adult<br>Sunday School<br>8:55am | 27.<br><br>Aerobics                                                                                 | 38.                                                                                                         | 29.<br><br>No Bible Study                        | 30.<br> | 31<br>New Years Eve<br> | .                                                                                                               |

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

Room 114  
2567 Niles Vienna Road.  
Niles, Ohio 44446

Edwin and Eileen Niemi  
Lake Vista Apt. 207  
303 Mecca Street,  
Cortland, Ohio

Pat Taylor

Room 212  
4100 North River Rd.  
Warren Ohio

Lauralee Lawrence  
124 Willow Street  
Cortland, Ohio  
44410





## Operation Christmas Child

### Shoe Box Mission

2021

This year we have 47 boxes to send to children who have never received a Christmas Gift and those who do not know Jesus.

The boxes are filled with the

**5 most requested items,**  
**something fun,**  
**something hygiene,**  
**School supplies,**  
**something to love,**  
**and something to wear,**

and any other interesting thing they might enjoy.

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I hope this Mission continues to be a big part of our minds, our hearts and our church.



**Thank you all for making this happen  
 for these children.**





# Hanging of the Greens



Here we are decorating the church and having fun doing it. Everyone working together to make our church beautiful for the Christmas Holiday. It is truly amazing what you can accomplish in such a short time. When you are having fun with friends.

Thank you all for coming out to help...

Then we all had pizza and goodies to reward our good deed.. :))



## Advent

Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity, and is part of the wider Christmas and holiday season.





# Why Atheists Need Faith

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP

By Michael Guillen

Atheism's central conceit is that it is a worldview grounded in logic and scientific evidence. That it has nothing to do with faith, which it associates with weakness. In reality, faith is central to atheism, logic and even science.

I became an atheist early in life and long believed that my fellow nonbelievers were an enlightened bunch. I relished citing studies appearing to show that atheists have higher IQs than believers. But when I was studying for my doctorate in physics, math and astronomy, I began questioning my secular worldview.

Like one of Hermann Hesse's tormented intellectuals, I set off to explore alternatives—beginning with Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism. This turned into a decades-long intellectual-spiritual journey. Ultimately I became a Christian, but along the way I discovered fascinating differences and similarities among humanity's many religions and philosophies. I learned that all views of the world differ in three essential ways.

First, foundation. All worldviews are built on core beliefs that cannot be proved. Axioms from which everything else

about a person's perception of reality is derived. They must be accepted on faith.

Even reason itself—the vaunted foundation of atheism—depends on faith. Every logical argument begins with premises that are assumed to be true. Euclid's geometry, the epitome of logical reasoning, is based on no fewer than 33 axiomatic, unprovable articles of faith.

Second, size. Every worldview—that is, every person's bubble of reality—has a certain diameter. That of atheism is relatively small, because it encompasses only physical reality. It has no room for other realities. Even humanity's unique spirituality and creativity—all our emotions, including love—are reduced to mere chemistry.

Third, deity. Without exception, every worldview is ruled over by a god or gods. It's the who or what that occupies its center stage. Everything in a person's life revolves around this.

When I was an atheist, a scientific monk sleeping three hours a day and spending the rest of my time immersed in studying the universe, my worldview rested on the core axiom that seeing is believing. When I learned that 95% of the cosmos is invisible, consisting of "dark matter" and "dark energy," names for

things we don't understand, that core assumption became untenable. As a scientist, I had to believe in a universe I mostly could not see. My core axiom became "believing is seeing." Because what we hold to be true dictates how we understand everything—ourselves, others and our mostly invisible universe, including its origin. Faith precedes knowledge, not the other way around.

## Science is becoming more mystical as we learn more about the universe.

Atheism demands a small cosmos, so that is all secularist-materialists see. They bend over backward to interpret every pixel of evidence solely in terms of space, time, matter and energy. For them, that's all there is. It's a religious conviction they cannot prove but take on faith.

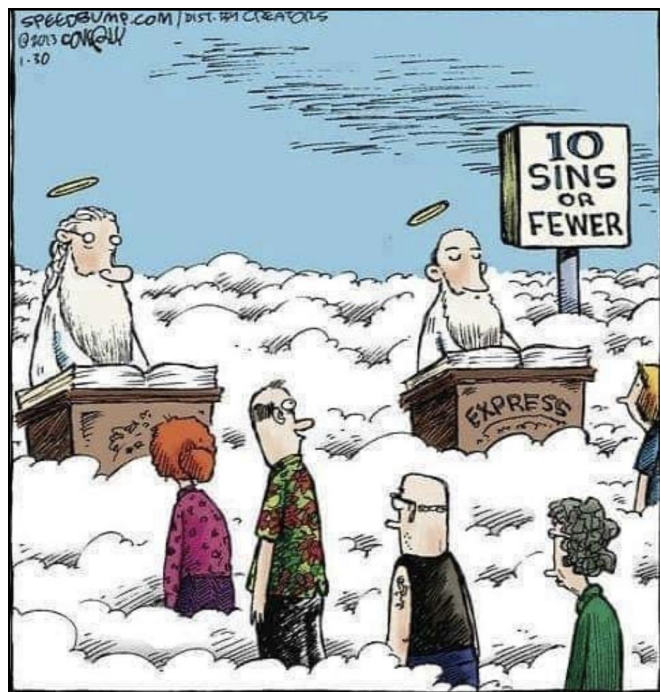
Atheists commonly believe that science will ultimately demystify everything. But science's worldview is becoming more mystical, not less. Witness supernatural-like concepts such as virtual particles, imaginary time and quantum

entanglement. Even atheist Sam Harris admits: "I don't know if our universe is, as JBS Haldane said, 'not only stranger than we suppose, but stranger than we can suppose.' But I am sure that it is stranger than we, as 'atheists,' tend to represent while advocating atheism."

The overwhelming evidence, I've discovered, makes it crystal clear: Faith is the foundation of the entire human experience—the basis of both science and religion. Our faith in physical reality drives us to seek treatments for deadly diseases like Covid-19, to explore the depths of the sea, to invent the perfect source of energy. Our faith in spiritual reality drives us to create breathtaking works of art, music, and architecture; to see life as a divine creation, not an accident of nature; to be curious about things that are not of this world.

For all those reasons and more, I've come to learn that atheists are greatly mistaken: Faith is anything but a weakness. It is the mightiest power in the universe.

Mr. Guillen is author of *"Believing is Seeing: A Physicist Explains How Science Shattered His Atheism and Revealed the Necessity of Faith,"* just out from Tyndale Refresh



Rylan Bland, Cheryl Elliot's dog, "Hamilton" and, and Rylan's friend Mia during Fellowship after church on Sunday November 28.



Photo by Sharon Polakoff



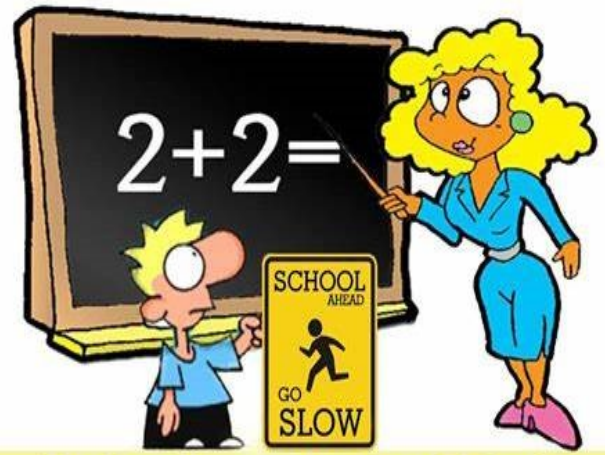


## Christmas Cheese Ball

1 8 oz. Pkg cream cheese, softened  
 1 (2.5 oz) pkg smoked beef, chopped  
 1 (2.25oz.) can pimento-stuffed green olives, chopped  
 1 small Vidalia or other sweet onion, minced  
 2 dashes Worcestershire sauce, to taste  
 1 c. chopped walnuts

Mix cream cheese, beef, olives, onion, and Worcestershire sauce together in a bowl until evenly blended. Keeping the mixture in the bowl, scrape it into a semi-ball shape. Cover and refrigerate until firm, at least 2 hours.

Roll ball in chopped walnuts until completely covered. transfer the ball to a serving plate or rewrap and refrigerate until needed. Enjoy!



Teacher: Why are you Late Today?  
 Student: Because of sign down the road.  
 Teacher: What does a sign have to do with your being late?  
 Student: The sign said, "School Ahead, Go Slow!"

Latest Pic SMS.com



A few Photos from the Craft Sale taken by Jeff Byler



**Some Photos of the Craft Show before it was open to the public.**

**You will see a few of us in these pictures.**



Set-up time





# Christmas Riddles

Printables 4 Less

Printables 4 Less

Printables 4 Less

Be The First To Match The Riddle To The Correct Answer.

1. \_\_\_\_ What do you get if you cross Santa with a Detective?
2. \_\_\_\_ What Christmas Carol is a favorite of parents?
3. \_\_\_\_ What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?
4. \_\_\_\_ What do monkeys sing at Christmas?
5. \_\_\_\_ What kind of people are afraid of Santa Claus?
6. \_\_\_\_ What did Santa change his name to after sliding down a chimney where the fire was still burning?
7. \_\_\_\_ What do you call Santa when he has no money?
8. \_\_\_\_ Why did the Christmas cookie go to the doctor?
9. \_\_\_\_ Where do Snow-Women like to dance?
10. \_\_\_\_ What is a snowman's favorite lunch?
11. \_\_\_\_ What did the Gingerbread Man put on his bed?
12. \_\_\_\_ How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico?
13. \_\_\_\_ What did the buck say to the doe on Xmas Day?
14. \_\_\_\_ Why was Santa's elf depressed?
15. \_\_\_\_ What goes Oh! Oh! Oh!
16. \_\_\_\_ What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
17. \_\_\_\_ What do elves learn in school?
18. \_\_\_\_ Who delivers Christmas presents to dogs?

- A. Claus-trophobics
- B. Santa Paws
- C. It was feeling crummy.
- D. Merry Xmas, Deer!
- E. Crisp Kringle
- F. Santa walking backwards.
- G. Saint Nickel-less
- H. At Snow-balls
- I. The elf-abet
- J. A cookie sheet
- K. Low 'elf-esteem
- L. Silent Night
- M. Fleece Navidad
- N. An ice-burger
- O. A Christmas quacker
- P. It's Christmas, Eve
- Q. Santa Clues
- R. Jungle Bells

TOTAL CORRECT ANSWERS

Merry Christmas



designed by freepik.com

Where does Santa plug in his new hybrid sleigh?

