

keep in touch

December 16, 2021



Greeting Caldwell Church family and friends,

Hope your week is going well; stay healthy and let's keep each other in prayer.

Here we are already in the heart of December; the 4th week of celebrating the Advent season anticipating the Birth of Christ, and patiently await His Second Advent. In these four (4) weeks, each Sunday we are highlighting God's promises revealed in the Christmas story and celebrating Jesus' Birth. The season is usually one filled with singing and songs of the season: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, It Came upon the Midnight Clear, O, little Town of Bethlehem, Joy to the World, and Silent Night*; with a few Fa-las added. There are many great songs and carols that help make the season bright. It is hard to imagine Christmas without hymns, carols, and songs of the season; they can bring us comfort and joy.

In my messages leading up to Christmas, I have highlighted several of the Church's hymns we find directly in the Bible: **Zechariah's Song** from *Luke 1:68-79*. **Mary's Song - The Magnificat** found in *Luke 1:46-55*. **The Angel's Song** in *Luke 2:14*, and **Simeon's Song; the old priest who blessed Jesus and Mary and Joseph** from *Luke 2:29-32*; this is called "**Nunc Dimittis**": "Now, let your Servant Depart in Peace", a song of praise for seeing the Messiah. These are hymns of the ancient church, which we have used for 2000 years. (I'm glad Luke included them in his Gospel.)

I am looking forward in celebrating this second Christmas with you; even though our first Christmas Eve service was cancelled because of bad weather. Let's pray this year, it's a go! Christmas is an exciting time. The sanctuary looks wonderful for Advent and Christmas. This year seems still a little different from past years because of the Co-vid virus; our gathering may be limited, but we are still focusing on the coming of Jesus the Christ-child.

Look for the Advent services and our Christmas Eve: *Carols, Candlelight, and Communion*, in person or on facebook, watch our weekly message, and use devotional material on the Church's website: www.caldwellohumc.org . Let us live our lives in the hope of all God's blessing, find peace in God's promises, experience joy in the presence of Jesus in our lives, and share the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, with each other.

In Service to God and the Church

Blessings, Pastor Jeff Coggins

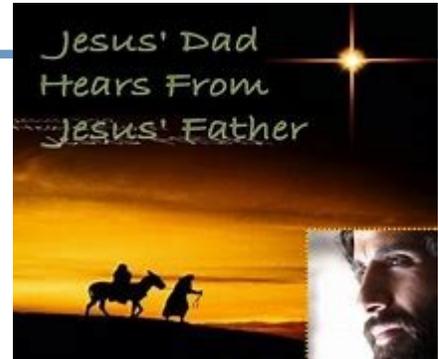
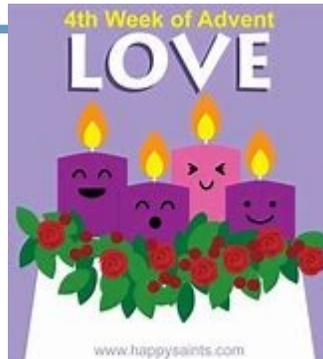
P.S. Thanks Church decorators, Praise team, and Stephon, Katelyn, Frank, Stan as well as the youth for working so hard with our Christmas display and light show. If you are able to stop by the church parking lot; turn into 107.7 F.M. on your car Christmas music and it will help you celebrate the



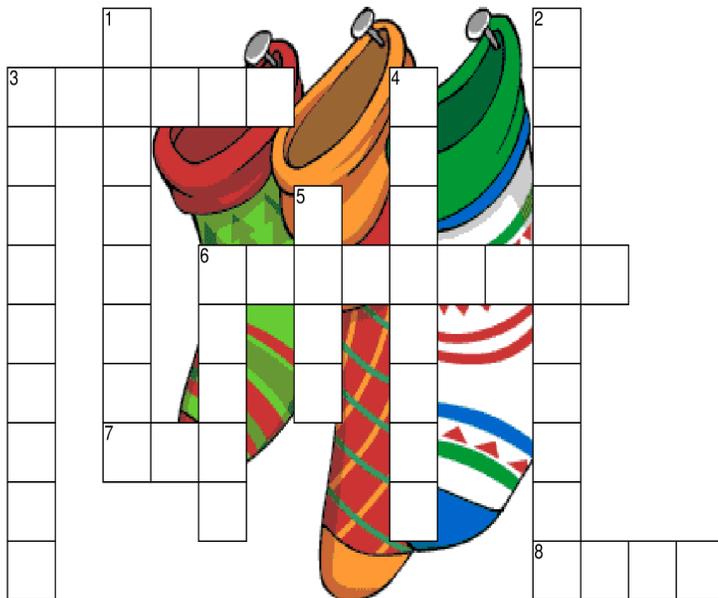
radio, and listen to the season.

Sunday December 19, 2021

- ◆ Sunday Services are on our facebook page: Caldwell UMC Ohio.
- ◆ This Sunday Service is based on Matthew 1:18-25 "Responding to Love"
- ◆ Old Testament scripture is Jeremiah 31:3-6



Christmas Crossword



Advent Word Search

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

Across

3. What Santa rides on Christmas Eve.
6. Holiday filled with presents and cheer.
7. The color of Christmas.
8. It is usually placed at the top of the Christmas tree.

Down

1. The month you celebrate Christmas.
2. He wears a red suit and has a white beard.
3. We hang these by the fireplace.
4. What we find under the Christmas tree.
5. It is decorated with ornaments and lights.
6. Type of cane that we eat at Christmas.

ADVENT
ANGELS
CHRISTMAS
GOD
JESUS
JOSEPH
LOVE
MARY
NAZARETH
PRAYER
STAR





Happy Anniversary

12/19 Kayla Schoepner

12/21 Patricia Clift

12/22 Don & Micki Archer

12/21 Chaz Pfeffer

12/22 Bonnie McAfee

12/22 Judy McMullen



Option Mc

We're taking orders for church themed shirts. Stop in the office or sign up in the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

Come see the Christmas Light Show in the lot beside the church
Every evening from 6-10PM
Music on radio 107.7



Christmas Eve Service at the church
"Carols, Candlelight and Communion"
7PM



... When the shepherds came they had a place to park their sheep.

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



IT'S ONLY 15 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!
THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO READ MATTHEW 1:18-25.



MATTHEW 1:18-25



Christmas means "Christ-mass." Although the date is a guess, the tradition of observing it goes back to at least the fourth century. Under the influence of the church, Christian traditions replaced pagan solstice festivals throughout Europe. Often the more innocent pagan practices (such as bringing in a Yule log, decorating with holly and the like) were carried over into the Christmas observance, transfigured with new

The Christian Meaning Behind Ancient Traditions

Evergreen Trees were the symbol of eternal life. Martin Luther introduced them to the Reformation Church as a picture of our endless life in Christ, by bringing in a tree to his family on Christmas Eve lit with candles ([Isaiah 60:13](#))



Candles are a picture that Christ is the Light of the world ([John 8](#)).

Holly speaks of the thorns in His crown ([Matthew 27:29](#)).



Red is a color of Christmas that speaks of Christ's blood and death.

Gifts are a reminder of the gifts of the Magi to baby Jesus. Each of them speak to a component of His incarnation: Majesty in life, Bitterest Agony in Death and He as God's Perfect gift to us ([Matthew 2](#)).



The Yule Log was a symbol by which all the men in the family would carry a log large enough to burn for 12 days into the house. They were identifying with Christ and His Cross. The fire was started with a fragment from the previous years [this refers to the eternal existence of Christ before His birth] log. It speaks of warmth, unity, joy and the security of endless life.

Mistletoe was an ancient symbol from the Roman times. It was under mistletoe that old enmities and broken friendship were restored. So Christ was the One who took away the enmity and gave us peace with God ([Romans 5:1](#); [Romans 8:1](#)).



Bells are associated with ringing out news. Christ is the good news, the best news of all.

Santa Claus is a Dutch word that is actually Sinter Claus, Saint Nicholas, in English.



Saint Nicholas was the supposed early Bishop of a church in Asia Minor [the modern country of Turkey]. He became aware of some desperate needs in his congregation, and a family having to sell their children into slavery, so one night he came and left money on their doorstep. It was gold in a stocking.



Winter Solstice Blessing

NOW IS THE TIME TO HONOR THE REBIRTH OF THE SUN, TO REMEMBER THE LIGHT IN THE DARKEST PART OF THE SEASON WITH HOPE OF GOOD THINGS TO COME, AND THE PROMISE OF A RENEWED LIFE.

First Day of Winter

In Columbus, Ohio, USA: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 10:59 am EST

The winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, it takes place in 2021 on Dec. 21. Cultures around the world have long held feasts and celebrated holidays around the winter solstice. Fire and light are traditional symbols of celebrations held on the darkest day of the year.



Merry X'mas

Who put the "X" in Xmas?

You've probably heard the phrase "Keep Christ in Christmas." The idea is always the same: let's not rub out the religious roots of this holiday by saying "Xmas," instead of Christmas.

For us as Christians, [Christmas] is one of the most holy of the holidays, the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. And we don't like for people to take Christ out of Christmas. They're happy to say merry Xmas. Let's just take Jesus out. And really, some think it's a war against the name of Jesus Christ.

This is of a-piece with those who fret that saying "happy holidays" is somehow scrubbing the season's religious ties away. But those who make this argument are barking up the wrong tree, because, you see, the X in "Xmas" *literally* means Jesus. Allow us to explain.

How can the letter "X" stand for "Christ"?

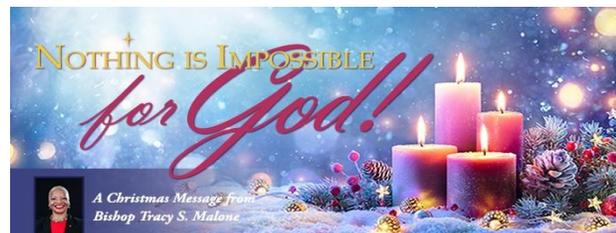
In Greek, the language of the New Testament, the word Christos (Christ) begins with the letter "X," *χριστός* or *chi*. Our letter 'P' is rho in Greek. Chi is written as an 'X' and Rho is written as a 'P', but they are the first two letters of the Greek word Christ 'savior'. 'XP' is sometimes used to stand for Christ. Sometimes 'X' is used alone. This is the case in the Chi (X) abbreviation for Christ in Xmas.

In the early fourth century, Constantine the Great, Roman Emperor from 306-337, popularized this shorthand for Christ. According to legend, on the eve of his great battle against Maxentius, Constantine had a vision that led him to create a military banner emblazoned with the first two letters of Christ on it: *chi* and *rho*.

(our X and P) ✠

So Xmas also means Christmas; but it should also be pronounced 'Christmas' rather than 'ex-mas'!

(The following message is excerpted from Bishop Malone's Christmas Message found on the Conference website www.eocumc.com)



In this holy season and in every season, God is always reaching out to us through Christ Jesus, in the ordinariness of our lives ... in the beautiful places, the broken places and the barren places ... and God comes and meets us in the spaces and circumstances where we need God the most. God is always working for good, and nothing is wasted in our lives. Jesus Christ, who is Light, is always at work shining light that pierces through the darkness and despair in our lives and in the world. Through Christ, we can have a relentless hope, experience deep peace, be loved unconditionally, and have unspeakable joy. Nothing is impossible for God!

So, I invite us to "let it be" with us according to God's will "trusting the Holy Spirit to come over us and the power of the Most High to overshadow us" and be bold and courageous witnesses to the Good News of the Gospel ... the love, the saving grace, and hope of Jesus Christ. Every testimony, every prayer, every conversation, every effort to listen, every word of encouragement, every act of compassion, every attempt to forgive, every expression of love, and every act of justice we do in Jesus' name brings more of his light, hope, healing, and peace into the world. Let it be! Nothing is impossible for God!

Blessings and peace to you and yours as we journey with great anticipation from Advent into the profound hope of Christmas



family devotions for
Christmas

Daily Bible passages to read
together as Christmas
approaches

Dec. 1 ~ John 1:1-5
Dec. 2 ~ Isaiah 9:2-7
Dec. 3 ~ Isaiah 11:1-10
Dec. 4 ~ Jeremiah 33:14-16
Dec. 5 ~ Luke 1:5-10
Dec. 6 ~ Luke 1:11-17
Dec. 7 ~ Luke 1:18-25
Dec. 8 ~ Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 9 ~ Matthew 1:18-21
Dec. 10 ~ Matthew 1:22-26
Dec. 11 ~ Luke 1:39-45
Dec. 12 ~ Luke 1:46-56
Dec. 13 ~ Luke 2:1-5
Dec. 14 ~ Luke 2:6-7
Dec. 15 ~ Luke 2:8-12
Dec. 16 ~ Luke 2:13-14
Dec. 17 ~ Luke 2:15-18
Dec. 18 ~ Luke 2:19-20
Dec. 19 ~ Micah 5:2-5
Dec. 20 ~ Matthew 2:1-2
Dec. 21 ~ Matthew 2:3-6
Dec. 22 ~ Matthew 2:7-8
Dec. 23 ~ Matthew 2:9-12
Dec. 24 ~ John 1:14

New List for Advent Challenge

This Advent you are challenged to complete as many acts of kindness on this list as you can and also to make up your own. Christmas is the season for giving and the best way to show God our love is to show love to one another.

- * Give someone a nice compliment
- * Bake a treat for someone
- * Help a friend with a chore or errand
- * Pick up and dispose of a piece of trash
- * Donate blood
- * Let someone go ahead of you in line
- * Buy a meal for the guy behind you at the drive through
- * Phone that friend you haven't heard from for a while.

These are just a few ideas. We are here to serve God and spread his love! And remember "Most of all let love guide your life" Colossians 3:14

Merry Christmas!

The church office has a new email address!

secretary4him@caldwelsumc.net



PRAYER CONCERNS

Sympathy for Barbara Szerzst family,

Pam Grabianowski, Shellzy Cantor Schott, Peggy Townsend, Davianne Sidwell,

Tim Geary, Brooker Family

Our veterans and our world. Our teachers and students and those who assist them. We pray for unspoken requests and those we name in our heart. And for each other.

