

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



Happy New Year

A Letter from the Pastor:

by Pastor Jay Anderson

So Wrong, and Yet So Right...

As I sat to write this article I began by looking back at what I had written previously. Typically that means refreshing my memory by rereading the prior month's article, but this being the first offering of a new year, I looked back at the newsletter article I wrote for January of 2020. And the thought occurred to me in reading that piece with hindsight, "only in 2020, with all of its turmoil, could one be so wrong and yet so right." Allow me to remind you.

In January of 2020 we were beginning our first full calendar year together and I wrote about vision. We were looking forward to the new year and considering what lie ahead; General Conference 2020 being at the forefront. And I suggested a way for us to continue to be the church together regardless of what happened at General Conference. We looked forward to the then upcoming series, "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss," to Lent and "The Way of Jesus," and more. The elections were still too far away to be top of mind yet, and the terms "coronavirus" and "pandemic" had not yet entered our daily vocabulary. Ah, to dream of such innocent times...

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So here we are in 2021 and if we know nothing else, we know we're glad 2020 is behind us! This year will be the year that, eventually, we come out of our pandemic-imposed isolation and begin exploring again how to be the church, albeit in a vastly different world than the one we thought we were entering last year at this time. A year ago, "live-stream worship" was not even a thought, now it's the primary way in which we share together in worship each week. And while that will change as people are vaccinated and we are able to return to in-person worship, it won't go away - it will never go away. We will always have a "virtual" congregation who joins us online to worship rather than in-person, and that means we have to adapt and grow in order to meet the needs of those friends. Other means of digital worship and ministry will become increasingly important for us as well.



Reaching new people will be an important priority for us in 2021 - as soon, that is, as we can get back out into public places and inviting people into our spaces again. I can't believe I'm hearing myself saying this (metaphorically of course, I'm actually writing, not speaking) but I can't wait to hear the racket of Scouts running through every corner of the building, of children gathering to sing in the fellowship hall, of dishes rattling (and breaking) in the kitchen, of peoples' phones making noise during worship! Even as an introvert who LOVES his alone time, I can't wait to go sit at Northstar or Java Central just to meet and talk with folks, or to prepare meals in the kitchen for college students. I can't wait for the building to be a little dirty again because it's being used! But as scripture suggests, *everything old is new again*. We will do these things, but we will do them in new ways, because a post-Covid world will not be the same as the pre-Covid world was.

Like the many restaurants and small businesses that were unable to adapt to meet the conditions that the pandemic forced upon them and closed, churches that do not adapt to a new way of being church in a post-Covid world will not last long either. Thinking that everything will be "fine" if we just go back to doing what we did before when nothing is like it was before will not serve the church or the community well. All of us have been impacted, some more than others, by the coronavirus pandemic, as has the community in which we are called to serve. Thinking about this within a theological framework, one might suggest that we are in a death and resurrection moment. Our old way of being, both in the world and in the church, has died and we are in a resurrection moment.

"What we will be has not yet been revealed to us, but being made in the image of God, we shall be like God..."

As we enter this new year together, I trust in the presence of God in all that we do, that God's Spirit is guiding us as we venture into the uncharted waters. And like those whom Moses led out of Egypt, like those Joshua led into the Promised Land, the waters will not part until we take that first step in faith, getting our feet wet while trusting in God's presence.

So, may your feet be soaked, and may your vision be cleared, because God goes with us into new places when we go in faith together! Amen.

Join us Saturday, January 23 for a church-wide virtual game night!

Beat the Winter Blues! Join us for a virtual church-wide game night! We will meet at 8:30 p.m. (to give parents a chance to get little ones to bed before joining). We will adapt favorite games so we can play together on Zoom. All ages are welcome to play! This will be a fun way to connect with our church family and enjoy fellowship together as we are all stuck at home! Please email Erin Flory (children@chmaster.org) to be added to the list for the Zoom invitation.



Heifer International

by Janice Eddey

The Missions Committee wants to thank all of the people who contributed to Heifer International this Christmas season. The total collected was over \$5,000. We earned an ark as we have for the last 15 years. It will go a long way to support all of their outreaches!



Update from the Finance Committee

by Todd Piper, Finance Chair

As the calendar flips to 2021, when I was asked to take over as the Chair of the Finance Committee, I never expected to have to help manage through a 10 plus month-long church closure. Without having regular church services, it has required the Finance Committee to look at new ways to reach out to the congregation. When the committee last reached out to the congregation, we were looking at a significant revenue shortfall for the year. I was unsure if it would make a difference. And you responded, proving me wrong. In my six months as the Finance Chair, I continue to be amazed by the resolve and generosity of our congregation.

In October, when I last communicated with the congregation, our un-pledged giving, which accounts for 26% of our expected income, was at 46% of our budget for the year. We reached out to the congregation and you responded. I'm happy to tell you that as of the end of the year, we have been able to meet our 2020 income budget. We were only able to achieve our 2020 revenue goals with the giving and dedication of the entire congregation. Because of your resolve, we have been able to keep providing the same dedicated level of service during these difficult times.

Now we begin looking to 2021 and the needs of the Church for the coming year. We are looking at the budget and working with the committees to ensure that we are using the funds given to the Church to promote Christ's vision for his Church. If you have not turned in an estimate of giving card, I urge you to do so. We will be meeting and setting the budget in early January for the upcoming year.

If it has been a while since you have given a monetary gift to the church, we invite you to make a gift now by mailing a check, make a donation by visiting the Church website, <https://chmaster.org/>, or using the donate button that appears each week on the email with our YouTube worship service. And as always, if your financial situation has changed and you need to revise your estimated giving, please reach out to Bill Ruff, our Financial Secretary, and he can make those adjustments for you.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support in these unusual times. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Children's Ministry News

by Erin Flory

Let's Dig In!

In the new year, our children will begin to “Dig In” and explore the foundations of our faith. As we tackle both new and familiar stories we will contemplate the big question “Who is God?” We look forward to seeing you as we continue our virtual M&Ms.

Our topics for January include:

Bible Story	Bible Point
Moses and the Burning Bush	God is real
God Knows Jonah Ran Away	God is all-knowing.
Jesus Feeds 5,000	God is our provider.



Save the date! Children's Sabbath will be February 28, 2021!

We will spend January and February preparing for Children's Sabbath on February 28th. We will put together a pre-recorded virtual service for that Sunday with a wide variety of that all of our children can be involved safely from home. More details will be coming to your mailbox soon! We look forward to the ways our kids will bless the congregation.

M&Ms Kids in Mission

Ohio Health has asked churches to write notes of encouragement for their staff. Can your family help? Notes can come from any age group, so parents and kids can work together. The notes are simply meant to provide encouragement. They can be very short. Crayons and stickers are welcome! If you like, the note can be specific about what you appreciate—(“thanks for sacrificing for us”; “thanks for your kindness”; “wishing you patience”).... Any of these is great!

Miss Erin will gather the notes and send them to the Pastoral Care department at Ohio Health. Please send your notes to the church by **January 31**.

Erin Flory
Church of the Master
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Westerville, OH 43081



M&Ms Parents Small Group

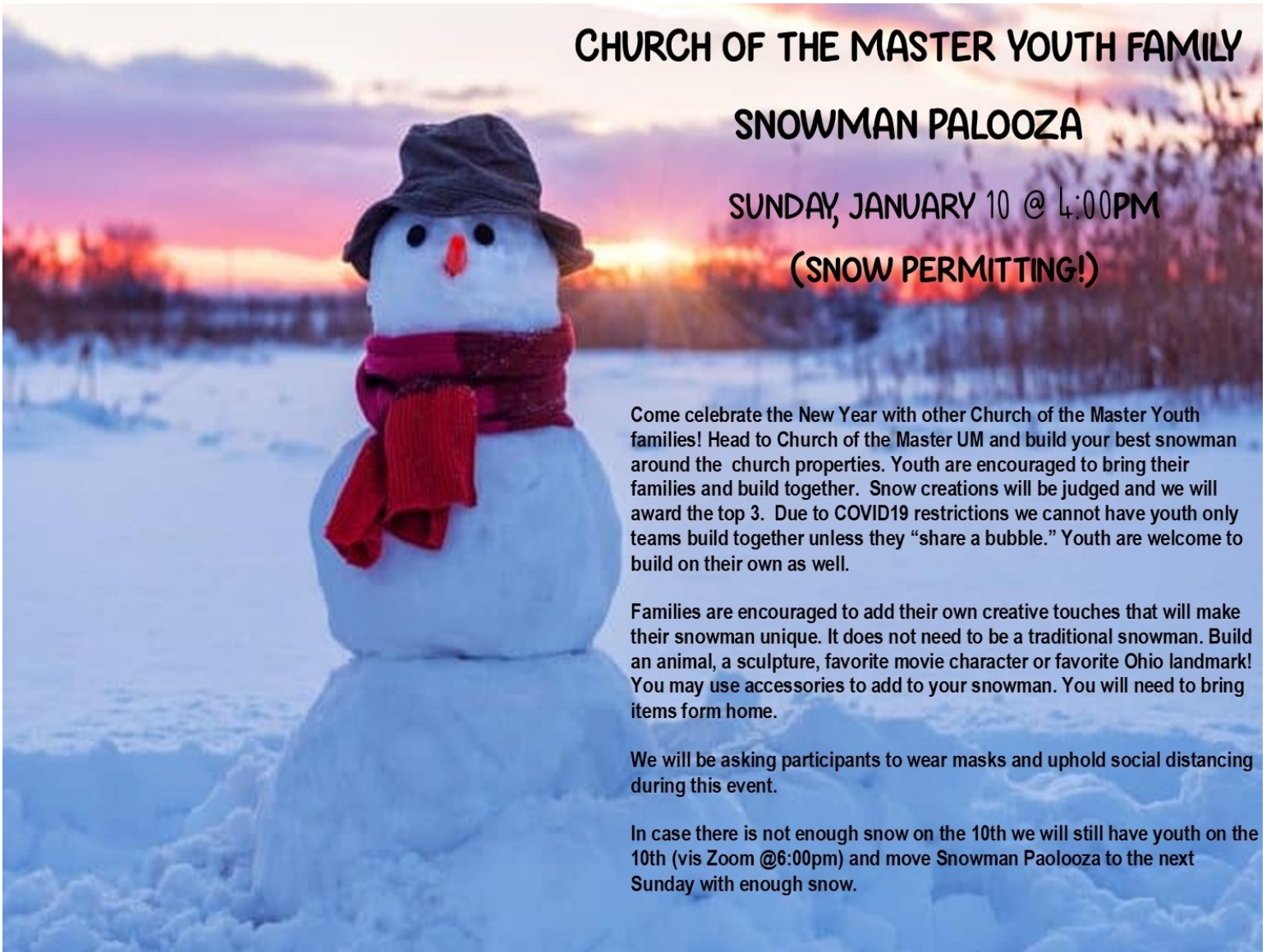
We are looking to start a small group for M&Ms parents to help us stay connected and grow in our faith this winter. If you would like to be able to connect with other M&Ms parents for study and/or fellowship, this is the place for you! We will meet virtually on Zoom and will choose a meeting time and potential study topics based on those interested. Please let Erin Flory (children@chmaster.org) know if you are interested.

Youth Ministry News

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

by Bev Pancoast

The Church of the Master Youth Ministry program is open to all youth in grades 6-12. Our Youth will meet (unless noted elsewhere) in 2 groups—Junior High (Grades 6-8) and High School Grades (9-12). Groups will start together and then break into the 2 groups for age level ministry time. While Franklin County is in the Covid-19 Purple level, we will meet via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent out weekly via email and text. If you have youth aged students and do not receive youth ministry emails, please contact Bev at youth@chmaster.org or 330-416-4656.



CHURCH OF THE MASTER YOUTH FAMILY

SNOWMAN PALOOZA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 @ 4:00PM

(SNOW PERMITTING!)

Come celebrate the New Year with other Church of the Master Youth families! Head to Church of the Master UM and build your best snowman around the church properties. Youth are encouraged to bring their families and build together. Snow creations will be judged and we will award the top 3. Due to COVID19 restrictions we cannot have youth only teams build together unless they “share a bubble.” Youth are welcome to build on their own as well.

Families are encouraged to add their own creative touches that will make their snowman unique. It does not need to be a traditional snowman. Build an animal, a sculpture, favorite movie character or favorite Ohio landmark! You may use accessories to add to your snowman. You will need to bring items from home.

We will be asking participants to wear masks and uphold social distancing during this event.

In case there is not enough snow on the 10th we will still have youth on the 10th (via Zoom @6:00pm) and move Snowman Palooza to the next Sunday with enough snow.

Sunday Evening Youth
6:00-7:30 p.m.

GOALS: A 4-WEEK SERIES ON Wisdom.

Do you have goals? Yes? No? Not sure yet?

Teenagers want to make a difference in the world, but to do that, they might need help clarifying their ambitions. This series will help them discover that

they are designed for God-sized goals. Nehemiah grew to understand the tension of having a dream and pursuing it, because he had a big goal inspired by a big problem. Big goals and big problems, these are things in life that will continue to exist together. And sometimes, like Nehemiah, we can get stuck because **God-sized goals require God-sized gratitude. Big difficulties can inspire God-sized goals, and God gives us strength to pursue God-sized goals.**



January 3 Big difficulties can inspire God-sized goals.

January 17 You are designed for God-sized goals.

January 21 God gives us strength to pursue God-sized goals.

January 28 God-sized goals require God-sized gratitude.

Safe Sanctuary Update 2021

As we begin 2021, I will be reaching out to those who need to recertify on our complete policy. We now can do the training completely on-line, so you can do it from the comfort of your own home and at the time of day that works best for you. You will simply watch the videos on each section and then answer a short quiz on the information you learned.

Note: We now have a new policy specifically on virtual meetings and social media. All volunteers within our children and youth programming will need to take this component whether it is time to recertify completely on the policy or not. I will be sending the link for this section out this month.

If you are interested to volunteering with the children or youth ministries in 2021, and haven't been trained on our policy yet, please contact me (youth@chmaster.org) so we can get you all set up to volunteer when we resume regularly scheduled programming.

Church Candle History

by April Smith

Each Advent and Christmas season when we bring out all the extra candles and I see the labels on the cartons, I am reminded of my childhood growing up in Syracuse, NY where America's religious candle industry began. There were once five candle factories in Syracuse and our home was right up the road from two of them. You will find candles made by all of these companies in the cupboards here at Church of the Master.



Will Candle Company began in 1855 in the Syracuse backyard of a Bavarian immigrant by the name of Anton Will. Natural beeswax was purchased from the local farmers and Anton personally inspected every lot to insure only the finest quality for his church candle products. Anton Will's untimely death in 1866 forced his wife Rosina to run the business and even expand it while raising three young sons. In 1875, Rosina married Christian Eckerman, the owner of another new candle company in Syracuse that had ties to the Francis Baumer Candle Company, resulting in a family merger that in 1896 became the new **Will & Baumer**. Ownership of Will & Baumer remained within the Will, Baumer and Eckerman families until 1972. Will & Baumer relocated in 2009 to Lewisburg, Tennessee and has become primarily a candle importer rather than a manufacturer.

Francis Baumer recruited Jacob Steigerwald, a young yet accomplished Bavarian candle designer and for 16 years, Steigerwald supervised production at the **Francis Baumer Candle Company**. When Baumer merged his company with the Eckerman & Will Candle Company, Steigerwald faced a decision: should he join the bigger, diversified company and share in the increased responsibilities? Or should he concentrate on religious traditions? His answer was **Cathedral Candle Company**, opened in 1897. Over 100 years later, it is owned and operated by the fourth generation of Steigerwalds. Cathedral still makes only church candles. The original factory, on Kirkpatrick Street in Syracuse, remains the core of today's expanded manufacturing facility. Assembly lines of molds, presses, and inventive automation devices built to Jacob Steigerwald's specifications still operate there today, alongside modern state-of-the-art candle manufacturing equipment built to Cathedral's specifications.

Muench-Kreuzer Candle Co. was founded in 1925 by brothers Alexis and Norbert Muench and their cousin, Fredrick Kreuzer. It adopted the **Emkay** name, a play on the company's original name, because many customers did not know how to pronounce Muench-Kreuzer. For many years, it made commercial candles for use in people's homes, as well as religious candles. It sold candles directly to the public from a retail store in the front of its building. Muench-Kreuzer shut down in 2011 and the factory was sold and converted into apartments. Emkay candles are sold by most major religious product supply companies, including Cokesbury, serving the United Methodist Church worldwide.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY	2021				1 	2
3 9:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	4 7:00m- ZOOM SPRC Meeting	5 10am- Staff Meeting	6 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice	7	8	9
10 9:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	11 7:00pm-ZOOM Finance Meeting	12 10am- Staff Meeting	13 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice	14	15	16
17 9:00am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	18 MLK DAY HOLIDAY	19	20 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice	21	22	23 8:30 PM-Church Zoom Game Night
24 9:00am-Sunday School 10:00am-Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	25 7:00pm-Zoom Administrative Council Meeting	26 10am- Staff Meeting 6:00pm-Zoom Mission/ Outreach Meeting 7:00pm-Zoom Health /Wellness Meeting	27 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice	28	29	30
31 9:00am-Sunday School 10:00am-Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group						



**LOVE GOD.
GROW IN CHRIST.
LIVE TO SERVE.**

Find us on Facebook at
“Church of the Master United Methodist”

Church office Hours
Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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