

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



A Letter from Pastor Jay By Rev. Jay Anderson

The January RENEW Newsletter was barely in your hands (or inboxes) with my article recapping 2022 with all its change and accomplishments and my “forecast” of more change to come in 2023 when we announced on January 8th that I would be retiring from Pastoral Ministry effective July 1st of this year. Clearly I knew that my retirement was part of the change that I alluded to in that message, but that was neither the time nor the vehicle through which to make that announcement. I sincerely appreciate all of the well-wishes, the hugs, and the tears that have followed that announcement, but as I said that Sunday morning, we are not done yet. We have work to do and ministry to plan for that needs to happen regardless of who the Senior Pastor is at the moment. So, we move on.

We are in a worship series that ties our lectionary readings to the subject of mental health, particularly depression and other forms of mental illness. This is an issue that has impacted my family for many years on multiple fronts. My mother, my sister, and I all worked in a psychiatric hospital in my hometown in various capacities over the course of many years, providing both care and service to both patients and staff. On the other side of the issue, I and other members of our family have sought therapy and mental health guidance at various times in our lives to help deal with pain, grief, loss, depression, marital issues, and the like. And many of you had a near front row seat when our son-in-law took his own life not long after we first came to Church of the Master. Mental illness touches many, many people in all of our families, our workplaces, our congregations, and throughout the world, and so it’s important that we don’t shy away from dealing with these issues in our teaching, our preaching, and our care with and for one another. This is all of our work as disciples of Jesus Christ, and that’s one reason why we felt called to bring this series at this time and it will continue until Lent begins in February.

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We are six months into an experiment in leadership with our Leadership Council functioning in place of an Administrative Board and other committees. This model, used in many churches across many denominations, has been embraced by some and still presents a challenge for others, but it is accomplishing some of the major things that we hoped it would do, and that is eliminate an overabundance of what have proven to be unnecessary meetings, freeing people up to serve in more ways, to engage in bible study, or to just have much needed time with family. The transition to this new model was over a year in the planning and led directly to the added emphasis on Discipleship and the commitments we all made in various areas of Discipleship this past fall. As a result of those commitments we have developed the Visitation and Prayer Teams that I mentioned in a weekly note last month, and will lead to the variety of book and bible studies being offered by a several people during Lent this year. All of this goes to show that if we invite people into a disciple relationship with Jesus Christ, enable that to happen in ways that work for them and their family, model for them what discipleship might look like, and then get out of the way, the Holy Spirit will step in and make stuff happen! And that's just where we are. We will continue to tweak the workings of the Leadership Council, fixing the bugs that will inevitably arise as we deal with new things, and at some point (likely at the fall church conference) a vote will have to be taken in order to make this change permanent, but I think it is going about as well as could be expected right now, and as a bonus, we've drawn many new people into leadership who did not have the opportunity to serve before, so a win-win.

In addition, we have a couple of staffing issues to address. We have a wonderful staff here at Church of the Master, the best I've ever worked with. That said, staff turnover in churches is constant - not just here but everywhere. Randy Bennett came out of retirement as an architect to take on the role of Facilities Manager on a short-term basis and has expressed a desire to return to retirement soon. So, we are in the process of trying to work out what that is going to look like in the next few weeks. Likewise, the sudden and unexpected resignation of our Youth Director in November left us scrambling until Bob Keep agreed to step in on an interim basis to work with our youth. We need to fill that position as well, but are also looking at some "out of the box" options for youth leadership as well. That said, I and some of our youth parents are in agreement that the next pastor should have a say in who the next youth director should be, so we're not going to rush to make a hire there. We are grateful for Bob's willingness to serve in this way.

If you've been a United Methodist for very long at all, then you're likely at least somewhat familiar with how the process of the appointment of a new pastor works in our denomination. If you haven't been in the UMC that long, here's a primer. Pastors in UMC congregations are not hired by the local congregation, they are appointed by the Bishop of that Annual Conference. We are in the West Ohio Annual Conference and our Bishop is Gregory Palmer. Bishop Palmer will appoint the new pastor after certain matters of due diligence are completed. Typically, when it becomes clear that there will be an opening in a congregation, the District Superintendent will contact the Staff Parish Relations Chair (SPRC) to have a Congregational Profile completed. That profile tells the DS, the Bishop, and the Cabinet, about who Church of the Master is, what kind of church we are, and what are the needs of the church in general and in the new pastor that will be appointed. That profile will go back to the Cabinet where, along with other churches that have openings, there will be discussions about each church and what pastors are available, ready, or asking for a new appointment. Through a process of prayer and discernment the Cabinet will seek to match gifts with needs in determining who the next pastor will be. The "appointive process" is an ongoing process instead of a seasonal one, as openings occur on a regular basis - there are nearly one thousand churches in the West Ohio Conference. Once a candidate is selected an "introduction" is scheduled with the SPRC. At that introduction the SPRC has the opportunity to meet and get to know the new pastor. To be clear, this is NOT an interview. Unless there is some overarching reason why this person should not be appointed here as determined in that introduction, that will be the next pastor. At some point shortly after that introduction, then, the appointment is announced in both the new church as well as the church that that pastor is leaving on the same Sunday. Once the announcement is made the transition begins. If past history indicates in any way future performance, we will likely hear who the new pastor will be sometime in the late March or early April window.

So, as I said, we have work to do. I made a promise when I first entered ministry - first to myself and then to all the future and yet unknown congregations that I would serve - that when I got to this point in my career I would not "phone it in." That is, I will not slow down or slack off in the work I'm doing with and for you just because my time as your Pastor is short. I will give my best until I step from the pulpit for the final time as your Senior Pastor on Sunday, June 18th. I have too much love and respect for you, for this staff, and to the God who blessed me by calling me to this role in this place to do otherwise.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Jay

Campus Ministry By Rev. Lucy Kelly

Puppy Packs for Pilot Dogs

On January 18th, Otterbein held their annual MLK Service Day event, Pack-the-Mac and More, where students worked on a variety of service projects for the community. This year, Church of the Master partnered with Pilot Dogs to create puppy packs: bags filled with handmade dog toys (for which your empty water bottles were used), paper towels, disinfectant wipes, hand soap refills, dog treats, and items from Pilot Dogs' Amazon wish list. This lovely idea came from Seeds of Caring, which structures their service projects specifically for children. In this instance, we were all big kids enjoying time with a service puppy and putting together meaningful kits for Pilot Dogs. The students were delighted to help, as they always are, and to connect with a wonderful volunteer opportunity in our community. Several students showed interest in wanting to visit the Pilot Dogs facility in Columbus and help with some of the day-to-day operations (playing with puppies, feeding & walking dogs, cleaning kennels, and possibly learning what it takes to become a trainer). Pilot Dogs is a non-profit organization that has been around for over 50 years, helping people who are blind or visually impaired achieve greater independence. For more information, visit their website: www.PilotDogs.org



Pasta Dinner Coming Soon!!

We will be serving our bi-annual pasta dinner Wed., Feb. 15th from 5-7pm for Otterbein students. This will be our first time, since before the pandemic, that we will host this meal in person and not just as a to-go meal. We will have baked pasta, rolls, salad, water, and desserts. Gluten-free options are also available, and gluten-free desserts are welcome. Students will still have the option to take their meals to-go, but we are excited to provide them with a warm meal in our welcoming setting! How can you help? We need volunteers that day and we need dessert donations. We will accept any desserts (they can be pre-portioned or we can divide them up on individual plates at the church). If you are interested in helping please use the signup genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084AA8AD2FAAF94-pasta1>

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Lucy Kelly at campus@chmaster.org.



Children's Ministry Newsletter

February 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, Feb 5th: Family Worship at 11AM

All children remain in the Sanctuary to share in the liturgy and hymns, and to receive Communion. (Nursery care will still be available.)

Sunday, February 5th: Cherub Choir and Junior Choir will sing at 11AM Worship

Children should arrive by 10:30 to warm up with Miss Kitty in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, February 22nd: Lent begins!

Ash Wednesday Worship will be at 7pm. Your family is welcome to attend; I'll have activity bags available for any children.

Sunday, March 5th: Chime Choir & Youth Instrumental Ensemble will play at 11AM

Palm Sunday, April 2nd: Cherub Choir and Junior Choir will sing at 11AM Worship

Tuesday, June 20- Friday, June 23: VBS/Daycamp (yes, Tues-Fri only) with VBS Sunday on June 25th! Please save the dates now, so that your family can participate. See below for more details!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

M&M's Meal Help!

We need Adult/youth volunteers each week for set-up and clean-up of dinner – please sign up!

February: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AADA72AABFF2-mms2>

March – April: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AADA72AABFF2-mms3>

SPRING Acolytes Needed: March - May!

We need 2nd-6th graders to fulfill this special role during the 11:00 service. Sign up for as many Sundays as you wish: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4AADA72AABFF2-acolytes7>

Join “Church of the Master Children’s Ministry” Facebook group!

This is a private group for parents of kids involved in our children’s ministry. We can share stories and pictures, and Miss Cindy will sometimes share ideas to help your children engage with God’s love outside of worship! www.facebook.com/groups/chmasterchildren/

Save the Date: VBS 2023!

Tues. June 20 - Fri. June 23

We'll be offering a 4-day camp this year, to accommodate the church's observance of the Juneteenth holiday on Monday of that week. Another change for this year, is that our VBS and Day Camp will each have a separate curriculum, or "theme" to best address the developmental needs and learning environment for our distinct age groups.

Registration will open to our church families in early March. Whether we're able to offer spots to the general public after that will depend entirely on **your congregational response to our need for volunteers!** Our goal is to serve 100 campers, which would require about 50 adult and youth volunteers! Please note this important week in your calendar, so that when you receive an email or call asking for VBS volunteers, you'll be able to say "YES" and support this important ministry and outreach of our church!



At the "Hero Hotline" headquarters, here in our building, our Preschool and Kindergarten campers will learn to work together and share their gifts as they answer God's call on their lives! Featuring lessons from heroes in both the Old and New Testament, this theme is based on Romans 14:19 *Let's strive for the things that bring peace, and the things that build each other up!*

Our 1st-3rd graders and U2 will return to Day Camp at Sugarbush, where we'll engage with "Wild Wonder – Creation Care!" This nature-based program, fully designed for outdoor camps, is centered around Psalm 104:24 *What a wildly wonderful world, God! You made it all, with Wisdom at your side, made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.* Campers will learn how the beauty and complexity of creation points to the goodness of God, and the importance of our role as environmental stewards.



ONGOING EVENTS:

Music & the Master (M&M's)

M&Ms is a time for children and their families to grow in God's love, emphasizing MUSIC as an act of service and of praise! Each Thursday evening, we offer activities for young people from birth through high-school, making it convenient for your whole family to participate in meaningful faith and fellowship!



M&Ms Weekly Schedule:

	0-2	3-K	G1-3	G4-6	G7-12	Parents
5:00			Chimes (6th*) Rm 20		Youth Handbells Balcony	
5:30	Cherub Choir (with parents) Fellowship Hall		Faith & Mission Rm 17	Faith & Mission U2 Rm	Youth Fellowship Youth Rm	Cherub Choir or Dinner Set-Up
6:00	Dinner in Fellowship Hall					
6:30	Nursery	Faith & Mission Rm 8	Junior Choir (6th*) Rm 15		6-12 Grade Instrumental Ensemble	Dinner Clean-up Bible Study Fellowship Hall

*6th Graders may participate in Youth Handbells/Youth Music – as it is more developmentally and musically appropriate – unless they/their parents prefer they remain in the children's ensembles.

Dewdrops, Rainbows and U2 on Sunday Mornings!

Our Sunday morning children's church programs are offered during 11AM Worship, at which we also offer Nursery care. About 10 minutes into the service, children are invited forward to participate with the Children's Message, then afterward, preschool through 6th graders may transition to their classrooms (see below). Or, families may choose to have children remain in Worship – children's sounds, energy, and emotions are welcome as part of God's joyful noise!



Class	Ages/Grades	Bible Literacy Content
Dewdrops	3 years* - Kindergarten	Children are introduced to the Bible, by being read to from a "storybook Bible" format, following the 3-year lectionary cycle.
Rainbows	Grades 1-3	Children deepen their Biblical understanding by repeating the 3-year lectionary, this time reading a "storybook Bible" for themselves, and occasionally a CEB translation bible with teacher guidance.
U2	Grades 4-6	Children begin to explore a more mature understanding of the 3-year lectionary content, by regularly engaging with a CEB translation bible, and with additional historical and social context.

*3-year-olds attending Dewdrops must be potty-trained, as we do not have appropriate facilities to address diapering needs in this classroom.

U2 News

U2 will be putting on a mission moment for our church on February 23, 2023. We will be serving dinner during M&Ms with a pancake dinner. Please come and enjoy breakfast for dinner! See the flier for more information!

U2 PRESENTS

Pancake Dinner

Join us Thursday, February 23 for dinner at M&Ms for a pancake dinner made by our U2 group! There will be multiple options to add to your pancakes along with bacon and sausage. There will even be a Gluten Free pancake option, too! See you then!

M&Ms Schedule:

- 5:00 chimes and youth bells
- 5:30 faith development/cherub choir
- 6:00 dinner
- 6:30 faith development/youth ensemble



WARM Donations and Volunteers Needed



Current needs:

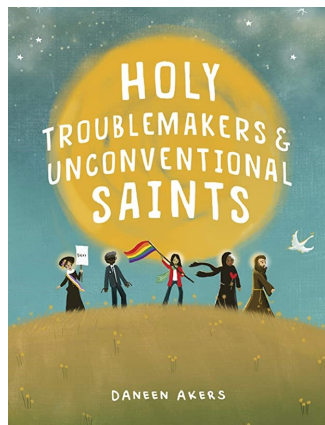
- Body lotion
- body wash
- shampoo
- conditioner
- deodorant
- razors
- dishwasher detergent
- fabric softener
- helpers-various
- rice sides
- applesauce
- mandarin oranges
- pears
- raisins
- oatmeal
- pizza sauce
- coffee

WARM Volunteer Opportunity:
10 volunteers needed
Saturday February 4th
10am-Noon
Email Tiffany McGinnis to sign-up
(tiff_23@hotmail.com).

Please drop off donations in rolling carts outside sanctuary.

New Discipleship Studies for Lent

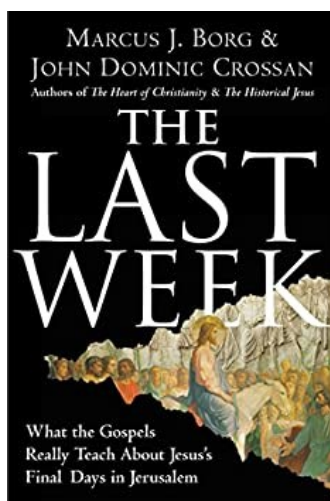
Look for more details on each study in the worship folders in the coming weeks as well as on our social media.



"Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints"

by Daneen Akers
Sundays, 10am-10:45am
Ages 10+
Starting 2/26/23
In person
Facilitated by Julie Porretta

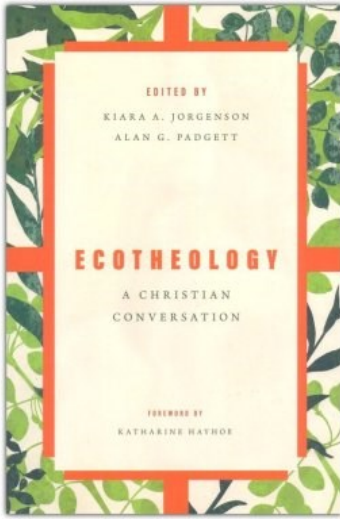
Join us as we explore Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints. This 12 week study will invite us to explore the concepts of holy troublemaking as modeled by the people profiled in the book *Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints*, from diverse faiths, who worked for love, compassion, and justice, even when that rocked the religious boat. These lessons ask questions such as: What is holy and good trouble? What is not? What lessons can we learn from those who have gone before on this path? How do we keep our joy and inner peace while working for a world where all can flourish? What might my contribution be? Each week we will focus on a different person of faith who worked for the justice of the marginalized. The original book, *Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints* is geared towards 8-14, we want to invite anyone ages 10 and over to join this multi-generational study. There will be no prior reading needed for each class. Come to all sessions, or pop in as you are able.



"The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem"

by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan
Sundays 12:30pm-2pm
Adult study
Starting 2/26/23 (5 week study)
In person
Led by Rev. Jay Anderson

This book is about the last week of Jesus' life. It is a week of extraordinary importance for Christians. With its climax on Good Friday and Easter, it is "Holy Week," the most sacred time of the Christian year. And because of its centrality for the lives of Christians, how this story is told and understood greatly matters. In this book, renowned biblical scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan seek to tell and explain, against the background of Jewish high-priestly collaboration with Roman imperial control, the last week of Jesus' life on earth as given in the Gospel According to Mark. Both authors spent their professional lives focused on the historical Jesus, but here they work together on a humbler task: to retell the story everyone thinks they know too well and most do not seem to know at all. This will be a six-week study, ending on, appropriately enough, Palm Sunday. Each session will last between 60-90 minutes depending on the depth of conversation we have. Copies of the book are available online and we will ask that you purchase your own copy prior to the beginning of the study on Sunday February, 26th at 12:30. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch or to run out following worship and bring lunch back with you before our 12:30 start time. Any questions, please reach out to Pastor Jay.



"Ecotheology: A Christian Conversation"

by Jorgenson & Padgett

Tuesdays 6-7pm

Adult study

Starting 2/28/23 (six weeks)

In Person. (A zoom version may also be offered- time TBD)

Led by Rev. Lucy Kelly

We are called by God to love creation, but what does that entail? We will explore what ecotheology is and read through examples of creation care in scripture as well as inspirational examples of people working for creation care today. This material will offer opportunities for great conversation about how we can respond to the climate crisis and our human responsibility to care for all living things.

Select Pews No Longer Needed

Church Pews Available!

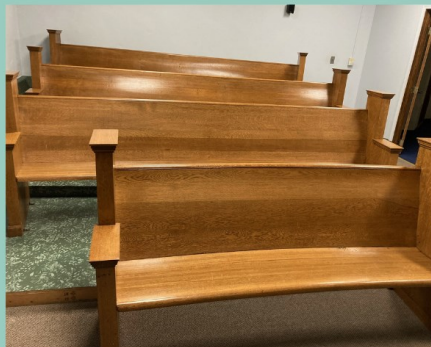
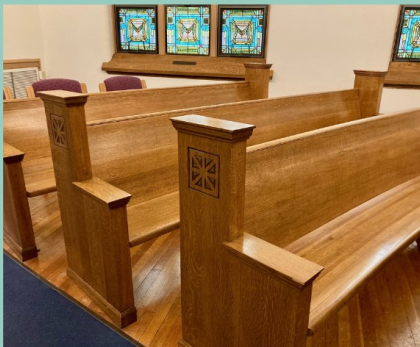
Repurpose a church pew as indoor or outdoor decor



Available to church members at no charge (donations accepted), you handle pick-up & transport.

40" tall, oak pews
Variety of Lengths from 5'-11'

Contact Randy to claim yours! facilities@chmaster.org





Called to Love


Join us for our next meeting on Monday, February 20, at 7pm in the Sanctuary! During the months of January and February, we have been conducting a "Hospitality Audit," to critically answer the question "How welcoming is Church of the Master, *REALLY?*" At our February meeting, we discuss our findings, and make a plan to put our welcoming suggestions into action! Contact Cindy at hughes_cindy@yahoo.com with any questions, and you can find the notes and details of our December meeting on our website: <https://chmaster.org/called-to-love>

Minority Mental Health Conference

There is an important conference coming up in Franklin County March 31, 2023, free for representatives of the following types of Organizations are invited to attend:

- Government
- Healthcare Delivery
- Community-based organizations
- Faith-based organizations
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Social Service Agencies.

Please see the ad below for more information and sign up using the QR code if you are interested.



Mental Health Literacy: It Matters


FREE CONFERENCE
addressing
intersecting
barriers
between
access to
mental
health services
and health
literacy.

March 31, 2023
9 a.m-4 p.m.
Columbus Museum of Art
480 E. Broad St.
Questions? Call 614-645-5608.




CONFERENCE INCLUDES:

- Mental health access simulator
- Panel discussion on community barriers to mental health service access
- Small group work to organize action

REGISTER
Scan QR code below or visit
<https://bit.ly/MHL33123>.



This conference is supported by the Office of Minority Health (OMH) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance funded by OMH/OASH/HHS through the Advancing Health Literacy Grant. Main grant partners are:



Westerville Habitat Partnership News

We would like to thank all of those who participated in our Soup for Shelter and Progressive Christmas Concert events in December either by volunteering, attending, or donating! It was a three year hiatus from the normal events and we were so happy to see people come back to the Otterbein campus center and our churches this year! We raised over \$9,200 with our combined events to fund more house builds in this new year!



WHP is always looking for ways to do additional fundraising and have started doing restaurant dining days. Our event at City BBQ raised \$174 in December!

Thank you all again for your continued support of this vital ministry. Our home owner, James, who we heard in the video presentation at the concert (<https://youtu.be/qT-LxLLPgeg>), had his home dedication on January 14th.

The Westerville Habitat Partnership has set dates for our events for 2023! Please add these to your calendar!

- July 30, 2023 Tapestry of a Town
- August 18/19, 2023 Walls Build at The Point
- December 8, 2023 Soup for Shelter/Progressive Christmas Concert

WE NEED HELP! We are looking for a person to take care of our social media platforms and website! If you know of someone who is skilled in this area and willing to help, please have them reach out to Amy Levine or Ed Hamann!

We also are looking for others who may want to join Ed and Amy in working with WHP. Many of the churches have three or four who help plan and volunteer for our events. Everyone is welcome!!

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm Exultation Ringers 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2 5 pm M&Ms 5 pm Youth Handbells	3	4
5 9 am Worship 10 am Seekers Sunday School 11am Worship+ Livestream and Nursery	6 8:00 am Coffee Ministry 1-3:30 pm Stephen Minister Training	7 9 am Tai Chi Class 10 am Staff Meeting	8 6pm Exultation Ringers 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9 5 pm M&Ms 5 pm Youth Handbells	10	11
12 9 am Worship 10 am Seekers Sunday School 10 am VBS Meeting 11 am Worship + Livestream, Nursery, Raindrops, Dewdrops, & U2	13 8:00 am Coffee Ministry 1 pm Stephen Minister Training	14 9 am Tai Chi Class 10 am Staff Meeting 11am United Women in Faith	15 All Day-- Pasta Din- ner Prep 5-- 7 pm Pasta Din- ner for Otterbein Students 6 pm Exultation Ringers 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16 5 pm M&M 5 pm Youth Bells 6 PM Stephen Ministry	17	18
19 9 am Worship 10 am Seekers Sunday School 11 am Worship +Livestream, Nursery, Raindrops, Dewdrops, & U2	20 8:00 am Coffee Ministry 1-3:30 pm Stephen Minister Training 7 pm Called to Love Meeting	21 9 am Tai Chi Class 10 am Staff Meeting	22 6pm Exultation Ringers 7 pm Ash Wednes- day Worship Service (nursery available) 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 5 pm M&M 5 pm Youth Bells	24	25
26 9 am Worship 10 am Seekers Class 10 am "Holy Trouble- makers" Discipleship Study 11 am Worship + Livestream, Nursery, Raindrops, Dewdrops, & U2 12:30 pm "The Last Week" Adult Discipleship Study	27 8:00 am Coffee Ministry 1-3:30 pm Stephen Minister Training 6 pm Missions and Outreach Committee	28 9:00 am Tai Chi Class 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Ecotheology Adult Discipleship Study				



**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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