

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



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A Letter from the Pastor: by Pastor Jay Anderson

Happy March! Last month I wrote about the reasons I enjoy February, among them being that it is the shortest month. When I think about March there are other things that I like, one of them being that if it is not a leap year and February is its usual 28 days, then the dates for Sundays in March are the same as for the month of February. I know that's kind of a

"church geek" thing, but when we're planning for worship weeks in advance that is somewhat helpful, at least to me! I also like that Spring begins in March, although we have to go three weeks in before we get to it and even then, it's likely to be just as cold and snowy on the first day of Spring as it was on the first day of Winter - maybe even more so. I love that March Madness takes place (mostly) in March, even though the finals leak into April. Growing up in the basketball-mad state of Indiana has always nurtured a love for the really good quality games that the tournament brings, even if I don't always sit and watch them all. And I love that we usually begin the season of Lent in March with Ash Wednesday Worship. Ash Wednesday has always been one of the most meaningful worship services of the year for me, even though it is often one of the lightest attended.

This year on Ash Wednesday we will begin a series for Lent titled **"Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith,"** based on a book of "40-ish" devotions by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie titled, "Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection." Our series will explore, through the scriptures of the Revised Common Lectionary, how we can push back against our society's urgings and expectations to always climb the ladder, seeking more and better, and instead nurture what it is we already have into a life and faith that is good, or at least good enough. After two years of pandemic and trying to figure out what is "right" and what is "better" or "best," sometimes we just need to hear and have affirmed that what we are doing is enough, that God loves us and blesses us as we are, where we are, and that we don't need to strive to go higher, faster, or farther. Instead, we'll urge you to find what works for you, what patterns, what disciplines, whatever, and let that work to connect you with God without pressuring yourself or being pressured by others to do more, to try more, to strive more...

So, whether you worship in-person or on-line, I hope you'll join us this season. Our Ash Wednesday service, on March 2nd, will be live-streamed, so if you are a young family with kids and getting to a 7pm worship service just doesn't work for you, or if you're an older adult who doesn't feel comfortable driving after dark or when you don't know what the weather will be like or the condition of the roads, then plan on joining us online. I think everyone needs to hear this message of Lent, but especially our younger families who are juggling so much with kids and school and activities and pandemic and work and careers. I Invite you, after you get the kids to bed on Ash Wednesday, to settle in, give yourself a little break, and just be affirmed that you are enough, that what you do is enough, that God loves you for who you are, not what you do.

And just a brief word in conclusion about our pandemic protocols. Several cities and school districts have removed their mask mandates in the past couple of weeks, making masking optional in some cases. We have taken our lead on our masking protocols from both the CDC and the local schools throughout the pandemic. We continue to monitor case numbers, hospitalization numbers, as well as the number of Covid deaths being reported and are considering what, if any changes, to make to our masking guidelines. There are a couple of concerns in particular that are shaping our response. First, case numbers being down is a good thing, but there is no way of knowing whether that is because the virus is in decline or because more and more people are home-testing and those positive tests are not reported anywhere. That means that hospitalization and death rates are, perhaps, the more important numbers to be considered. And second, with many schools making masking optional only in the last week or so, we want to see what the impact on cases in the schools are, whether they spike or stay steady, before we change our policy, lest we have to immediately turn it around. So for now, we will maintain our requirement for masking in the building, but will be monitoring this information regularly, revisiting it every couple of weeks. We'll keep you advised, but for now, in order to best protect both our oldest and youngest members, especially those under five years old for whom no vaccine is yet available, as well as those who are immunocompromised, we will continue to require masks in the building.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Jay

Associate Pastor & Campus Ministry Updates: from Pastor Lucy Kelly

The following article is reprinted from The T&C, Otterbein's online magazine.



Church of the Master perks up Otterbein with Monday Morning Coffee

From free coffee to good fellowship, the Church of the Master has served the Otterbein community for more than 170 years.

[By Sean Moneypenny](#) | Published 02/03/2022 12:00pm
Photo by [Sean Moneypenny](#)

For the past ten years, the Otterbein community has benefited from the Church of the Master's (COTM) Monday Morning Coffee (MMC) ministry. Between the hours of 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., anyone is welcome to step through the red doors and grab a donut and a cup of coffee. The team is always ready to serve outdoors or indoors, depending on the weather.

The Church of the Master has been dedicated to serving the Otterbein community since 1851, just four years after Otterbein was founded. The Otterbein community has benefited greatly over the years as COTM has provided community outreach, various ministries, covenant meetings, worship services, pancake and spaghetti dinners. Leading COTM's on-campus ministries for the past four years, Pastor Lucy Kelly recently became the Associate Pastor for Church of the Master. "Everyone's welcome, when we are outside, when families are walking by with their kids and dogs, we invite them to come on up," said Kelly.

Sam Dorff, an MMC veteran volunteer of over eight years, added, "The administrative ladies over here [pointing towards Clipping Hall] stop in most Mondays. We even get the professors in here."

Pastor Kelly added, "There are professors that come in that really need a chance to talk, so they'll come in and they'll chat for five minutes with us. You can just tell their week has just been loaded and they really enjoy coming in and telling us anything and everything. So, they appreciate it."

What started out as coffee, tea and hot chocolate a decade ago has grown into a full-blown breakfast served to the community. Kelly makes sure that everyone, even those with dietary restrictions, can start their day a little brighter. Gluten-free snacks are offered alongside the donuts - Schneider's is a student favorite.

Judie Salyer, a 1963 Otterbein Alumna, has been here since day one. Salyer and Bev Pancoast started the MMC ministry 10 years ago. "Four or five years ago we started serving donuts and we were going through only four or five dozen back then, now we are up to nine. Donuts are paid for and supplied by the MMC team."

Elizabeth Foster, a musical theatre major, looks forward to seeing the MMC team on Mondays. "I have 8 a.m.'s every day, so it helps me get out of bed. They are always just so kind to me when they walk in and always have a smile on their faces."

"We gain as much from this as the students do, maybe even more. It's nice that we can actually provide this ministry. We are open doors here, and we are all about inclusivity, and in that all are welcome. That is a big part and aspect of our ministry," Kelly said.

Called to Love

Our next in-person meeting will be **Monday, March 21st at 7pm** in the Sanctuary - please save the date! This group seeks to educate ourselves about the experiences of LGBTQ+ persons, and explore our own implicit biases and behaviors to find ways we can grow as individuals and as a church community. Our planned topic for 3/21 is "What can we do in our own congregation to ensure LGBTQ+ inclusion and welcome?" Please contact Cindy Hughes with questions at hughes_cindy@yahoo.com



Children's Ministry Newsletter—March 2022

by Cindy Hughes

Sundays: Rainbows, Dewdrops, and U2!

Families are encouraged to worship together during the 9:00 a.m. service - we have activity bags to help your children stay engaged.



Our Sunday morning children's church programs are offered at the 11:00 service, during which we also offer Nursery care. After the Children's Message, 3-year-olds through 6th graders are invited to meet their teachers in the Gathering Space to 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!

The first Sunday of each month is "Family Worship," with all children remaining in the Sanctuary to participate with the traditional liturgy and hymns, and to receive Communion. Including this practice regularly will allow our children to more fully participate in our congregation, and learn from an earlier age what it means to worship in Christian community! (Nursery care will still be offered as an option during "Family Worship.")

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 understanding of Biblical persons and content by repeating the 3-year lectionary, this time reading a "storybook Bible" for themselves, and occasionally a "children's 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 standard Bible (CEB), and with additional historical and social context.

**3-year-olds attending Dewdrops must be potty-trained*

Thursdays are for M&Ms (Music and the Master)

It has been such a blessing to be meeting in-person for M&Ms! For health reasons, we are still *not offering dinner*, so if you need to bring food for your family to eat in between activities, feel free to find a table or an open classroom to distance yourself safely from others while your masks are off.



We are excited to be offering an enhanced schedule of activities on Thursday evenings, now encompassing all of our young people from birth through high-school! We hope this makes it more convenient for your whole family to participate in meaningful faith and fellowship.

M&Ms Schedule (dinner not included)

	0-2	3-K	G1-3	G4-6	G7-12	Parents
5:30			Children's Chimes*		Youth Handbells	
6:00	Cherub Choir		Faith Development	Faith Development	Faith Development	(Cherub Choir)
6:30	Nursery	Godly Play	Junior Choir*		Youth Choir	Bible Study

*6th graders may choose to participate in Youth Handbells and Youth Choir if these groups are more appropriate to their experience/maturity than Children's Chimes and Junior Choir.



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 programs. We can share stories and pictures, and Miss Cindy will sometimes share activities and ideas to keep your children engaged with God's love outside of worship and M&Ms! Having this additional connection point will also be helpful if we would need to switch to a virtual format again.

www.facebook.com/groups/chmasterchildren/

For 2nd-6th Graders: Acolytes Needed

Jesus said "I am the light of the world," and lighting candles in Worship is a symbol of Jesus' presence in our world and in our sanctuary! We need acolytes to fulfill this special role during the 11:00 service. While this has typically been a task for our 2nd-6th graders, we also welcome Youth and Adults to participate in carrying Christ's Light!

Sign up here for as many Sundays as you wish: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4aada72aabff2-acolytes2>



West Ohio Camps

The West Ohio Conference of the UMC provides various summer camp opportunities for children, youth and families at Camp Otterbein, Camp Wesley and Camp Widewater. Church of the Master offers camp scholarships to members/children of members 18 years and younger; contact Miss Cindy for scholarship details. To see all of the camp offerings and register online go to www.westohiocamps.com

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, March 6th: First Sunday of the Month “Family Worship”

All children remain in the Sanctuary to share in the traditional liturgy and hymns, and to receive Communion. Please stop in the Gathering Space to grab an activity kit or book to help keep younger children engaged. (Nursery care will still be offered as an option during “Family Worship.”)

Thursday, March 31st: NO M&Ms (Spring Break)

Thursday, April 28th: Last M&Ms of the School Year

Monday, June 13th – Friday, June 17th: VBS/Day Camp

Please save the date on your calendar for VBS/Day Camp/U2 - we are counting on parents to volunteer, and would love all our children to participate! Registration will begin in early March.

Sunday, June 19th: VBS Sunday, 10 AM Combined Worship

Come to Worship on the Sunday following camp, so we can celebrate our week together, and share all the fun with our families – plan to stay afterward for our “Food Truck Party!”



U2 Ministry (Grades 4-6) Newsletter—March 2022

by Hannah Tonn

U2 Day of Service: We will be hosting a U2 Day of Service on Saturday, March 19th from 11am-3pm. This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided! We will be creating care bags and packing donations for Nationwide Children's Hospital, writing letters for a local nursing home, making tie blankets for the Ronald McDonald House, and creating "You Made My Day" cards. Below is a list of donation items we need. Feel free to drop them off at the church office Sunday – Friday!

Infant/Toddler:

- Teethers
- Soft Plush Rattles
- Soft Crinkle Books
- Musical Toys
- Textured Blocks or Balls

Children:

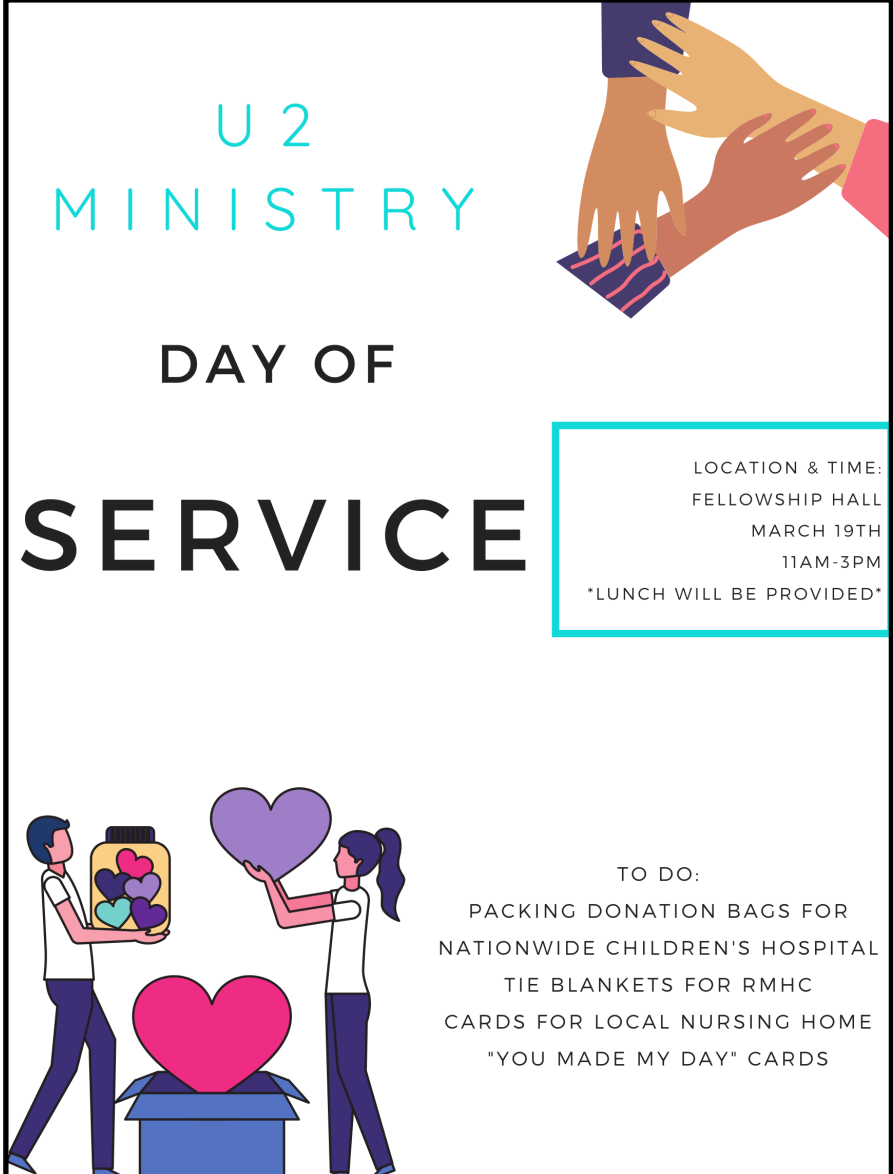
- Action Figures
- Lego
- Basic Art Supplies
- Picture Book (Non-Religious)
- I Spy Books

Teenager:

- Sketch pads/Drawing Pencils
- Fidgets
- Fingernail Polish
- Card Games
- Novels (Non-Religious)

Toiletries/Care items:

- Hand Sanitizer
- Lip Balms
- Granola Bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Gum
- Mini Shampoo/Conditioner/
Body Wash
- Lotion
- Tums
- Notebooks
- Pens
- Magazines
- Crossword Puzzles
- Comfy Socks
- Spa Items
- Gift Cards (ex: gas, Door Dash,
Restaurant)



The poster features the text "U2 MINISTRY DAY OF SERVICE" in large, bold letters. To the right, a box contains the location and time: "LOCATION & TIME: FELLOWSHIP HALL MARCH 19TH 11AM-3PM *LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED*". At the bottom, a box lists the tasks: "TO DO: PACKING DONATION BAGS FOR NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TIE BLANKETS FOR RMHC CARDS FOR LOCAL NURSING HOME 'YOU MADE MY DAY' CARDS". The poster is decorated with illustrations of hands, a person holding a jar of hearts, and a person holding a heart over a box.

U2
MINISTRY

DAY OF
SERVICE

LOCATION & TIME:
FELLOWSHIP HALL
MARCH 19TH
11AM-3PM
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

TO DO:
PACKING DONATION BAGS FOR
NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
TIE BLANKETS FOR RMHC
CARDS FOR LOCAL NURSING HOME
"YOU MADE MY DAY" CARDS

Youth Ministry Newsletter — March 2022

by Alyssa Hodge

YOUTH FUNDRAISER 2022

Pick Your Favorite & Take it Home.



SOUP WARS

Soup Wars

On March 20th the youth will be hosting a Soup War after the 11:00 am service to raise money for our mission trip to Boston this Summer. Join us to taste test and help pick the winner. Don't forget to take some home! Each pint will be \$5.00

Lenten Study

For the duration of the Lenten season we will be exploring our church devotional "Good Enough" from a young person's perspective. Youth devotional will be sent out every week with table talk conversation starters. Join us every Sunday evening at 5:00 PM to learn with us!

You've Been Egged

Is it a hassle to stuff hundreds of eggs and hide them around your yard early Easter morning? All that bending too much for your back? Leave the work to the youth! Their backs are plenty young.

To raise funds for the upcoming mission trip to Boston the youth will be selling pre-filled Easter eggs, delivering and spreading eggs in your own yard.

Please see the flyer for details to purchase. You can order using the link or QR code below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8IQc02LZNPUxK9oxOYZZD5AaUddtJVbp_1lZquPmirFW9Pg/viewform



CHURCH OF THE MASTER YOUTH FUNDRAISER

You've Been Egged!

Be Easter Egg Hunt Ready! Each egg is filled with quality candies/toys!

20 Eggs - \$30.00

50 Eggs - \$40.00

75 Eggs - \$60.00

100 Eggs - \$75.00

Spread the Easter Miracle and Sponsor a family in need!

DELIVERIES WILL TAKE PLACE THE EVENING OF SATURDAY APRIL 16, 2022

All the proceeds of this fundraiser go directly to the Church of the Master Youth Mission Trip to Boston, MA.

Music Notes—March 2022

by Chris Bowling

“When in Our Music God is Glorified”, page 68 United Methodist Hymnal, the last verse reads, “Let every instrument be tuned for praise, let all rejoice who have a voice to raise, and may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!”

Let every instrument be tuned...Let ALL rejoice who have a voice... Most non-musicians do not believe they have an instrument and some will not raise their voice for fear of being heard. However, music is for everyone and I will admit my biggest shortcoming is assuming everyone knows they are welcome to join our music ministry here at Church of the Master. Over the next few months, in an attempt to draw the circle wider, I will be inviting YOU to join our music ministry.

The list of music ministry here at Church of the Master offers something for all ages, and we are always looking to improve and expand our options. For singers we have Cherubs, Junior Choir, Youth Choir/Praise Team, 9AM Worship Team and Chancel Choir. For ringers, we have Children’s Chimes, Youth Bells, and the Exultation Ringers. For folks who just like to fellowship together our drum circle will be meeting again beginning in the late spring.

As we look to draw the circle wider it is time that we open the doors of our music ministry and invite more to instrumentalists to participate. I know there are a few folks who play guitar in our congregation and we would love to gather for a jam session, in hopes of inspiring musicians to help accompany our 9AM worship service. Look for a jam session date coming after Easter. Beyond guitars and drums is it time to gather the brass and woodwind players again and for our chamber ensemble to lead the congregation in musical worship. For those who have limited time, but would like to sing, we will also be offering summer choir. This group will gather between worship services and rehearse a piece for worship. More details about this group will be coming in the future.

I know this is a lot of information and I will endeavor to expand upon each of these opportunities in the coming months. Pandemic has made it very difficult to share music and the arts, but it is time that we move forward, safely, and reimagine how music can share the love and grace of God with our congregation, our community, and our world.

The first verse of “When in Our Music God is Glorified,” reads “When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!”

My prayer is that you have a song in your heart and you will be inspired to share it!

In the Grace of Christ,

Chris

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1 7:30 am SAA 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Tai Chi	2 7:30 am SAA 12:45 Otterbein Singers 3:00 Vox Otterbein Rehearsal 5:30 Youth Bells 6:00 pm Exultation Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 7:30 am SAA 3:45 pm Comedy Class 5:30 pm M&Ms	4 7:30 am SAA 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:30 pm SA Meeting	5
6 9:00 am Worship 11:00 am Livestream Worship 11:00 am Nursery 5:00 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Soul Satisfaction	7 7:30 am SAA 6:30 pm BSA Troop 560 7:00 pm SPRC	8 7:30 am SAA 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Tai Chi 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	9 7:30 am SAA 6:00 pm Exultation Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Play Rehearsal	10 7:30 am SAA 3:45 pm Comedy Class 5:30 pm M&Ms 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	11 7:30 am SAA 6:30 pm SA Meeting	12
13 9:00 am Worship 11:00 am Livestream Worship 11:00 am Nursery/ Rainbows & Dewdrops 1:00 Play Rehearsal 5:00 pm Youth Group	14 7:30 am SAA 8:30 am Coffee Ministry 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:30 pm BSA Troop 560 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee	15 7:30 am SAA 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 Tai Chi 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	16 7:30 am SAA 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:00 pm Exultation Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Play Rehearsal	17 7:30 am SAA Meeting 3:45 pm Comedy Class 5:30 pm M&Ms 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry 7:00 Play Rehearsal	18 7:30 am SAA 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:30 pm SA Meeting	19 10:00 Confirmation Day of Service 11:00 am U2 Day of Service
20 9:00 am Worship 11:00 am Livestream Worship 11:00 am Nursery/ Rainbows & Dewdrops 12:00 Soup Wars 1:00 Play Rehearsal 5:00 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm Soul Satisfaction	21 7:30 SAA 8:30 am Coffee Ministry 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:30 pm BSA Troop 560 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal 7:00 pm Called to Love	22 7:30 am SAA 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Tai Chi 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	23 7:30 am SAA 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:00 pm Exultation Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	24 7:30 am SAA 5:30 pm M&Ms 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	25 7:30 am SAA 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:30 pm SA Meeting	26
27 9:00 am Worship 11:00 am Livestream Worship 11:00 am Nursery/ Rainbows & Dewdrops 1:00 Play Rehearsal 5:00 pm Youth Group 5:00 pm Troop 560 PLC Meeting 5:30 pm Soul Satisfaction	28 7:30 am SAA 8:30 am Coffee Ministry 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:00 pm Mission/ Outreach Committee 6:30 BSA Troop 560 7:00 Play Rehearsal 7:00 Health Cabinet Meeting	29 7:30 am SAA 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 Tai Chi 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	30 7:30 am SAA 12:45 pm Otterbein Singers 6:00 pm Exultation Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal	31 7:30 SAA 5:30 pm M&Ms 7:00 pm Play Rehearsal		



**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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