

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



A Letter from the Pastor:

by Pastor Jay Anderson

This Issue:

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|-----------------------------|---------|
| A Letter from the Pastor | Page 01 |
| Church Reopening Task Force | Page 03 |
| Return To Church Guidelines | Page 04 |
| Information on Mask Use | Page 06 |
| Children's Ministry | Page 07 |
| Youth Ministry | Page 10 |
| Facilities News | Page 11 |
| Staff Contact Information | Page 12 |

It's hard to get away to the beach right now and enjoy one of those "trashy beach reads" that the grocery store magazines suggest we immerse ourselves in while on vacation. I enjoy reading and am always immersed in multiple books at the same time, depending on what strikes my fancy at any particular time that I have a few minutes to read. In fact, reading is part of my "daily routine" and has been for a very long time. So what are you reading right now? I'd love to hear whether you're a reader or not. If so, what kind of things do you like to read? If not, what do you prefer instead of reading?

I have different purposes and goals for my reading. Sometimes my reading is just for pure fun and entertainment, escapism some might call it. I enjoy espionage and political thrillers, spy novels, police procedurals, and mysteries to fulfill this need in my reading. To scratch this itch I've been working my way through the Sue Grafton "A is for...B is for...C is for" series (just finished "M is for Malice") as well as Michael Connelly's "Harry Bosch" novels, and I've read in the last couple of years nearly everything that David Baldacci has written. Just to be able to say "I did it," during the early weeks of the shut-down I read Leo Tolstoy's massive "War and Peace."

In fact, you might say I read it twice in the sense that I both read the book and listened to the audiobook as I was reading. You might also consider that I read twice in the sense that I did it for the first time and the last time!

I also consider myself a life-long learner so I am always reading something that will teach me about science or the social sciences, and particularly about history, whether it's World War II, The Civil War or American Revolution, or reading the next in line towards my goal of reading a biography of every U.S. president in order (Millard Fillmore is next up!).

Lynn and I are in a book club together with some friends so whatever book the club decides on is always added into the mix, regardless of the genre.

Each morning, I spend time doing what I call "devotional" and "renewal" reading. This involves reading either a Daily Devotional, or, reading a segment of a book AS a daily devotional. In addition to that brief reading I include some Scripture reading from both the Old and New Testament. My "renewal" reading, then, is something faith-oriented, usually written by a Biblical scholar, teacher or preacher about some aspect of faith or spirituality that I want to explore for my own personal growth and renewal. This reading might be something by Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Barbara Brown Taylor, Nadia Bolz Weber, Thomas More or any number of others. A chapter each day usually has me picking up a new book every couple of weeks so this never gets old. During the month of August we'll be exploring The Apostle's Creed in worship, so my reading pile also includes a couple of different books from different perspectives on the Creed to help me in sermon preparation. So, all told, my "Currently Reading" tab in the Goodreads app through which I track my books shows that I am somewhere in the midst of reading six books at this moment.

So, what are your reading habits like? And if you're not a reader, do you listen to podcasts? If so, which ones? Do you listen or read only to things that reinforce what you already believe, or do you try things that will stretch or challenge you? What do you read or listen to for fun, to learn, or to build up your faith?

Like prayer or meditation or many other practices, reading can be a wonderful spiritual discipline. Even reading and praying your way through the local newspaper can be an eye opening experience if approached in a spirit-filled way. Regardless, I encourage you to never stop learning about the world, about life, and about faith - your faith as well as other faith traditions. We grow as we learn and as we practice our faith in new and different ways, and it is in the practice of our faith, the living of our faith that we help bring God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

"Grow" in peace,

Pastor Jay



From the Church Reopening Task Force

As we continue to work towards determining what a return to live worship will look like and how it will happen, even as we don't know yet when that will take place, we wanted to share some information with you. First of all, we want to thank the 113 families who participated in the survey we sent out to let us know what your thoughts and concerns were about the church's response to the pandemic in general, and about a return to live congregational worship in particular. Your responses helped shape the Return to Church Guidelines that we have included in this newsletter.

Second, as anxious as we know some are to return to the sanctuary and to return to "normal" worship, we wanted to make you aware that there are two mile markers, if you will, that we must pass before any return to live worship can or will take place. First, we must be at a Level 2 on the State of Ohio's Coronavirus indicator. At this writing we are at a Level 3 and pushing closer to a Level 4. Levels 1 and 2 are the only levels at which a return to congregational gatherings would be considered safe, so reaching Level 2 is first and foremost. In addition to that, we must be able to provide a livestream worship experience that is on par with any live worship for the benefit of those of our congregation and church family who are not able to rejoin us in a live worship experience. We will be unable to continue to produce the same pre-recorded worship experience that we are doing presently once we have to begin doing a live service as well, so we must be able to present an online, live-streamed presentation of that service for those who will be worshipping with us from home. We are currently working with a company to develop that technology in our building and we will update you on that progress as we go, but for the time being we are unable to provide that service.

So, we continue to ask for your prayers and your support as we all navigate an environment that none of us has ever experienced. The hard work of this task force is greatly appreciated and we will keep you apprised as things change. In the meantime, please read over and familiarize yourself with these guidelines for what a return to live congregational worship in the sanctuary at Church of the Master will ask of all of us. We are in this together - and God is with us! Thanks be to God!

RETURN TO CHURCH GUIDELINES



WELLNESS

Anyone who is sick, coughing, has a sore throat, or a fever is asked to remain home. We're committed to continuing to provide worship online, so anyone who needs to remain at home whether due to illness, being in a vulnerable group, or other reasons can still join us in worship.

As we enter the building, we will use no-touch thermometers to take everyone's temperatures. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher will need to return home where you can worship with us online.

Everyone over the age of 8 will be required to wear a mask. If you forgot your mask, we'll provide one to you. If you're unable to wear a mask, we ask that you continue to worship with us from home until masks are no longer needed.

Everyone who enters the building must sanitize their hands with provided hand sanitizer, unless a health condition prevents it.

At this time the church will not be making coffee or water available. Please feel free to bring your own drinks, we just ask that your containers have lids to minimize spills and that you dispose of any empty cups or bottles on your way out of the sanctuary or take them home for disposal.

Please limit use of the restrooms to emergencies only and limit occupancy to one person (and a parent or aide) at a time if at all possible. A changing table will be available in the Nursery room.



ACCESS TO THE SANCTUARY

When we return, please use the eastern most doors on Main Street closest to the parking lot. For those who cannot negotiate the stairs the handicapped entrance on the south side of the building will be available. We would ask that if a member of your family needs to use the handicapped entrance that all members of the family use this entrance so as to stay together. This will minimize congestion in the Gathering Space and allow for the ushers to more easily seat your family together.



RESERVATIONS

We will have a limited number of seats available, so for a time, we will use a reservation system. Making a reservation in advance will ensure that we have a seat for you in worship. More information about how to make reservations is coming soon.



WORSHIP TIMES

We will begin to have live worship services with our traditional service which starts at 11:00. As our numbers grow and we find it necessary to add a service in order to maintain social distancing another Sunday service will be added.



WORSHIP

Our services will be designed to be as touchless as possible by holding doors open, eliminating paper bulletins and hymnals, individually packaged

communion elements, and using offering collection boxes after worship instead of passing the plate. Several studies have shown that singing, communal prayer, and congregational responses poses a higher risk for the spread of the virus, even though we recognize that singing and group prayer are an important part of how we worship God together. So that we can continue to connect to the Holy Spirit through music, our worship leaders will sing while the rest of us will express our love of God by humming, clapping, dancing, raising our hands, etc. instead of singing.



CHILDREN

Children's Sunday School, Rainbows, Dewdrops and nursery care is not currently available. Children are encouraged and welcome to worship with their families. Parents-- know your little ones are loved by

their church family! We are excited to hear their voices and rustlings while we worship together. We know there will be challenges for you as we navigate this season together and we are committed to showing grace in all circumstances. Children's Ministry programming will continue through our weekly M&Ms (Music and the Master) program. To be added to the M&Ms e-mail list, contact Erin Flory (children@chmaster.org).

THANK YOU!

We thank you all for working with us to take care of each other, even when it may be inconvenient. You may not be someone who is in a vulnerable group or concerned about catching the virus, but these measures will help us to protect those who are. They only work if all of us buy in and do our part to keep each other safe. Thank you for putting the safety of our Church of the Master family members first!



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Individuals or families should maintain social distancing in the sanctuary and Gathering Space. Everyone will need to wait to be seated by the ushers, who will place those who are living in the same household in seats together, and maintain 6 feet of distance between those who are not living together.

Only our ushers will be able to seat you, move chairs or rearrange seating.

We are all looking forward to seeing each other again and will naturally want to give each other hugs or handshakes; but during this season we will greet each other with smiles and waves that maintain 6 feet of social distancing.

When leaving worship, we will wait to be directed by the ushers and use the specific exits they guide us to, so we can avoid creating bottlenecks and maintain social distancing.

Hello! With all the conflicting information regarding mask use recently, here are ten points to help you navigate that information as well as answers to questions I have been hearing recently.

1. First and foremost, the CDC is currently recommending anyone over the age of 2 wear a cloth face mask, except for those who have breathing issues or those who would be unable to remove a mask by themselves. The state of Ohio is requiring masking in public for all over the age of 10 who are able.

2. Wearing a mask **is critical** when social distancing (defined as keeping a distance of at least 6 feet) is not possible when in public and/or you could be within 6 feet of any individual who is not a member of your household.

3. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask and after taking your mask off. When putting your mask on or taking it off, try to only touch it by the ties or ear loops.

4. Masks should be washed after each day of use. Between uses, try to store your mask in a paper bag, which has better air flow and will allow saliva and condensation droplets to dry. It is safe to wash masks with your normal laundry, or to handwash in hot water.

5. When wearing your mask, remember to have it cover your nose and chin. Ideally the mask will fit snugly over your face, but make sure that you are still able to breathe easily.

6. There are several different styles of masks, so try to find one that works for you! Many retail stores are selling masks, as well as your neighbors/friends/family members and sellers on Etsy. The important thing is that a mask has at least 2 layers of cotton material and that it be big enough to cover your nose and chin. After that, the sky's the limit!

7. For runners, people participating in high intensity exercise, and those working outdoors in the heat: Try to maintain at least a 6 ft distance from others. A good option is to wear a neck gaiter, which can easily be pulled up over the face when within 6 ft of others. If you are passing someone within seconds, you don't necessarily need a mask, but you should be prepared.

8. DO NOT wear a mask while swimming at the pool or beach or during any other water activity that could cause your mask to become saturated with water.

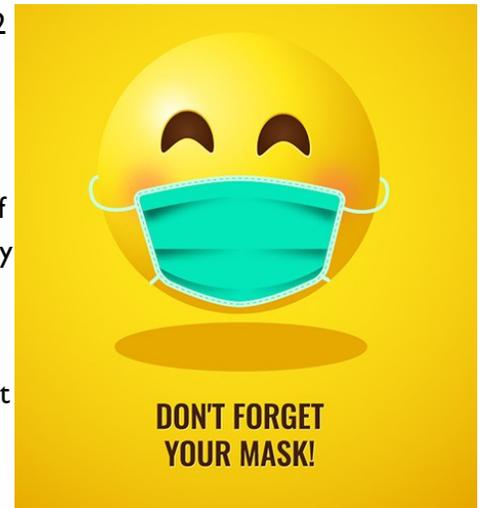
9. Remember you are wearing a mask not only to protect yourself, but also to protect others. Wearing a mask is something that takes getting used to. Try to focus on the fact that you are wearing a mask to protect those around you in addition to yourself. Be cognizant that some people are unable to wear masks for health/safety reasons and be kind. If you have children going back to school, it will help them adjust if they get used to wearing their mask at home for shorter periods before they have to wear one at school for the entire school day.

10. And lastly, please remember, if you think you may be sick, try to stay home and self-quarantine.

KID CRAFT With the recommendation of wearing masks more stores are selling masks. A fun activity for kids getting ready to go back to school could be to tie-dye their own masks- many stores are selling white cotton face masks that could easily be dyed, colored or otherwise personalized.

If you still have questions, the CDC website and [Coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) are good sources of information. You can also call the Ohio Coronavirus Call Center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) with any questions/concerns. [The Call Center](#) is staffed from 9 a.m to 8 p.m each day, including weekends.

Laurie Bowman, RN & Incoming Health Cabinet Chair



Children's Ministry News

by Erin Flory

Children's Ministry is taking an intentional pause from formal programming in August to give our children and families a chance to adjust to a very different beginning of school and the juggling and balancing that will be happening in all of our homes! Please don't hesitate to reach out to Miss Erin through email or phone if there are ways that we can support your family through prayer during these weeks ahead.

Miss Erin's email (children@chmaster.org), cell (614) 436-0549.

Back-to-School Blessing

We will have a back-to-school blessing for all of our students and teachers as part of our service on Sunday, August 23. Plan to "tune in" that day as we pray for the teaching and learning (in person or virtual!) that will happen this year.

Kids – keep your eyes on your mailboxes!

Master Parents Meet-Up

Connect with other Master parents Thursday, August 13 at 9:00 p.m. to catch up, share joys and concerns from the summer and support one another as we face the uncertainties that come with this new school year. Look for the Google Meet invitation in your e-mail.

VBS Wrap-Up

Thanks to all who helped to make our five weeks of virtual VBS a huge success! We pray that our children will *Armor Up* and "Be Strong in the Lord" as they prepare to head into a new school year.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped prepare materials, record lessons, pass our supply bags and lead virtual meet-ups.

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Miss Kirstin | Miss Maggie | Miss Becky |
| Miss Kitty | Mr. Nick | Miss Tiffany |
| Miss Di | Miss Gloria | Miss Martha |
| Miss Gabby | Miss Sarah | Miss Julie |
| Miss Sabrina | Miss Kaleigh | Miss Krista |
| Miss Cindy | Miss Heather | Pastor Jay |
| Miss Jan | Miss Amy | Miss Lynn |
| Miss Kaleigh | | |

*And a special thank you to all of the parents who made VBS come to life in your homes this summer!

VBS Kids in Mission!

Don't be fooled by the fact that our VBS kids have been home with their families this summer! Our youngest disciples have been hard at work making God's love visible in our community. Each week our kids and their families participated in a different mission outreach project. They baked an amazing 664 cookies for the Open Shelter, donated 90 boxes of cereal for WARM, wrote letters to our homebound church members, blessed neighbors with sidewalk chalk messages and supported the church-wide school supply drive for WARM. Thanks to our kids for their awesome witness to all of us!



Coming this fall – *Empowering Courageous Kids*

Our theme for Children's Ministry in September and October will be *Empowering Courageous Kids*. We will learn how people throughout the Bible conquered doubt, worry, and uncertainty with God's power. Our kids will discover how they, too, can use God's power to find courage no matter what they're facing.

Check your email for more details in the weeks ahead. We look forward to kicking off a great new school year together beginning the week after Labor Day!

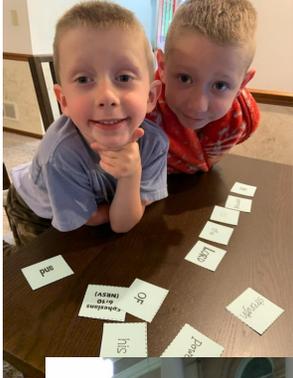


We collected 261 lbs. of school supply donations for WARM!

Thank you!



Church of the Master Virtual VBS 2020



Youth Ministry News

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

by Bev Pancoast

To despite Covid19 and it's challenges, the youth have continued to stay connected through our weekly virtual meet ups. Our Middle School Youth met weekly on Thursday evenings with our "Survivor" time. The High School youth met on Sunday, and a combined group met on Tuesdays for "Summer Lunch Bunch." It's been good to be together even if it's only on a screen. As we head into August and the beginning of a school year that seems will be heavily at a distance and on screen, we will be taking a few weeks off from multiple virtual meet ups. There will be a few "All Youth' events, but our regularly weekly meet ups will start back up after Labor Day.

Youth Group Virtual Senior Farewell

Sunday, August 16 7:00pm (time is tentative)

The Youth Group will be meeting in Zoom to celebrate Riley & Ben and all they have meant to the youth group. There will be more information including a link to the to Zoom meet up in email. If you would like to be a part of this meet up and don't get the youth emails, please contact youth@chmaster.org and we will make sure you have the link.

2020 Youth Group "State Fair Butter Cow" Contest

Sunday, August 23 7:00 p.m.

The Ohio State Fair may have been cancelled and the chance to see the butter sculptures have melted, but the Church of the Master Youth have a chance to bring their own spin to this tradition. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the 2020 Butter Sculpture Experience.



Categories that "butter" sculptures can be entered in include:

- Favorite Bible Stories**
- Best Youth Moments**
- Favorite Animals**

Youth can enter any /all of these categories. They need to be ready to be "judged" by 7:00 pm on Sunday, August 23rd. Sculptures can be make from blocks of butter, playdough, or clay. (Just don't eat the play dough or clay).



Facilities News

by April Smith

Greetings everyone!

We miss seeing you. Please know that we are working hard at keeping the church building in good operating order so that we will be ready to open the doors again when it is safe to do so.

We've had some challenges with the air conditioning system in the sanctuary but our knowledgeable HVAC service contractor managed to identify and correct the problems. We need to be able to have consistent temperature to keep the organ and piano happy. And if you want to think about this coming winter season (because who isn't loving this brutal heat wave?!), the boiler system has been chemically treated and flushed out for the first time ever.

The LED lighting project is now complete! We changed out every fluorescent tube in the building (except for the special short ones behind the cross) and replaced them with an LED tube. According to my calculations, we removed 17,532 watts and replaced with 6,474 watts. Our receipts and documentation have been submitted to Go Sustainable (through Westerville Electric Department) and we are on track to receive a nice rebate. We can't wait for you to be able to see how much brighter it is in the building!

A big thank you goes to Rick Landis, Chuck Erickson and David Campbell for changing out all 32 light bulbs above the stained-glass dome over the sanctuary. These are also LEDs and look great!

We have purchased and installed 5 new laptop computers. We had several that were old and slow and breaking so now we are all working with updated machines and software. This also eases the burden on those staff members who were using their personal laptops for church work.

Trustees approved and signed a contract with General Restoration to replace the 20 year old asphalt shingles on the roof of the church and also repair the box gutters in anticipation of finally solving the water leak problem that has caused some of the interior plaster to crumble. Once the exterior work is done, we'll look into fixing up the interior issues on the plaster walls.

David and I would like to thank you for the shout-outs and waves we've received from you as you pass by the church and see us working outside! It makes us smile. 😊

Stay well and thanks for your ongoing prayers and support!



**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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