

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



A Letter from the Pastor:

by Pastor Jay Anderson

I always chafed at the notion behind the phrase, "patience is a virtue." I'm not sure, if asked, whether or not I could list my virtues, but I DO know that patience is not and never has been one of them. One of my inherent flaws is that I can often be one of those people for whom instant gratification is not fast enough. I'm working on this, and I would say I'm much better about being patient than I used to be - at least on the surface - but at best it's a work in progress and I have a long way to go.

The season of Advent actually helps me with this. Advent is a season of waiting; a season of anticipation. I remember as a kid counting down the days until Christmas, no sense of what Advent was or was about - getting to the ultimate goal of Christmas morning was what the whole season was all about for me. I'm betting it was the same for many of you! I remember one year I had snooped in my mom's closet looking for Christmas gifts before she had wrapped them and I found the gift that I had asked for and I was so excited. But apparently I had left tell-tale signs of my snooping. When Christmas morning arrived I found my gift under the tree and excitedly began trying to tear into the gift-wrapping, only to find that Mom, knowing I had snooped, had wrapped it, not in Christmas paper, but in wallpaper, that she had very thoroughly and efficiently pasted.

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It took me the better part of one of the most frustrating hours in my life to finally get into that package! And I never snooped again. Most years, however, when Christmas morning finally arrived, in a flash of flying paper, ribbons and bows, it was all over before you knew it and then what? Joy because you received that special gift that you so wanted? Tears because you didn't? Boredom because the excitement was over and what were you going to do the rest of the day? In different years at different ages I suppose I experienced all of those emotions at one time or another.

Advent is a particularly difficult time of waiting this year. Not because we can't wait to get to Christmas day - although that's worth the wait - but because waiting for Christmas this year seems to have taken second place to waiting for a vaccine, or waiting for a return to in-person worship, or waiting to dine out, go to a sporting event, or take in a movie in a theater. So many of the things that, only a year ago, we took for granted now seem so far away, even distant memories for us. Perhaps what would be atop the list of things we asked for from Santa this year is just a return to normal...whatever that is.

It's hard to know what we can count on this year, who we can trust, who we can believe in.

Our series for Advent this year, beginning on the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th, is "I Believe, Even When." Taken from a line by a Jewish poet found scrawled on the wall of a prison camp during the Holocaust, the complete thought is, "I believe in the sun, even when the sun isn't shining." I believe this series will help us to remember that, even when things look dark, even when the forecast for Covid-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths is frighteningly high, that God is with us and if we can just wait a little while longer before we try to sneak a peak at what lies ahead for us, that God is traveling with us through this passage and on the other side will be true blessing for us. I think you'll find this series particularly meaningful for you this Advent season, and I hope you'll plan on joining us in livestream worship and inviting your family and friends to join in as well.

Each week in Advent we'll have our usual livestream worship service on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. And like every year at Advent, we'll light our Advent wreath as part of worship. We invite you to have your Advent wreath ready to go and to light your candles right along with us. This year, on Sunday December 20th our Children's Christmas Program will come to you as a pre-recorded presentation, called "Snapshots of Christmas." On Monday December 21st, we'll offer a special pre-recorded Blue Christmas service, intended especially for those who have suffered loss this year and for whom the holiday season - at least this year - is not a particularly joyful time. On Christmas Eve we will bring you a traditional Christmas Eve worship service that we will have pre-recorded and sent out to you early so that you and your family can participate in worship at a time and in way that works for you and your schedule this year. We will also offer, at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve, a live service of *Lessons & Carols* for those who would like to join us for a live service that night.

So I hope you'll plan on being with us in worship this Advent season. I hope you'll join with us in our Advent book study of Adam Hamilton's new book, *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. Details on how to sign up for that are in the worship folder each week. And I hope you'll find all of this worth the wait, just as the Christ child who comes on Christmas Day is certainly worth the wait.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Jay



ADAM HAMILTON

Author of *The Journey, Not a Silent Night, and Faithful*

INCARNATION

REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF CHRISTMAS

Option One - Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

4 Session Study (60-90 minutes each)

In option one, we'll cover one chapter per week, meeting together on Zoom.

December 2nd - Introduction and Chapter One "Presidents and Kings"

December 9th - Chapter 2 "The Savior and Our Need for Saving"

December 16th - Chapter 3 "Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic"

December 23rd - Chapter 4 "The Light of the World" and the Epilogue

Option Two - Saturday Mornings at 9:00 AM

2 Session Study (90-120 minutes each)

In option two, we'll cover two chapters per week, meeting together on Zoom.

December 5th - Introduction and Chapter One "Presidents and Kings" and Chapter 2 "The Savior and Our Need for Saving"

December 19th - Chapter 3 "Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic" and Chapter 4 "The Light of the World" and the Epilogue

Advent Study

Incarnation:

Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas

His parents called him Jesus. But the prophets, shepherds, wise men, and angels addressed him by other names---including Messiah, Savior, and Emmanuel. Rev. Adam Hamilton's new book, "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas," he explores the meaning behind these titles, what they tell us about the baby whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, and the significance of that Christ child for our lives today.

Pastor Jay Anderson will lead us in this year's study via Zoom. Books are \$14.00 and are available for pick up at the church office. Call ahead, wait in your car, and we'll bring the book to you. They will also be available for pick-up during our Consecration Sunday Drive-Thru Reception on Sunday, 11/22 from 1-2pm.

All are WELCOME, but please
register in advance at
office@chmaster.org

Church of the Master
United Methodist
www.chmaster.org

Support WARM by Tiffany McGinnis

Support WARM. Drop off collections on **Saturday, December 5th** in the church parking lot between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to support efforts by WARM and Rotary to stock the shelves at WARM. We are happy to deliver your food or monetary donations (checks made payable to Church of the Master with WARM in the memo section). This is a great way to let the community know that Church of the Master is still actively engaged in caring for our community.

WARM requested the following items: canned fruit, condiments/dressings, spaghetti sauce, canned potatoes, sugar, flour, coffee, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, dish soap, diapers sizes 4-5-6, gallon Ziploc bags.

Progressive Christmas Concert by Amy Levine

It's almost time for the Progressive Christmas Concert, a community tradition presented by the Westerville Habitat Partnership! This year's version will seem a little different; you won't get cold, lose your way between churches, or worry about where to park. The event can be accessed from your home computer or other device but will still provide beautiful Christmas music at each of our five partner churches to be live-streamed on Friday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. It will then be available to access any time. No tickets will be needed, but do consider making a donation to the Westerville Habitat Partnership as the housing needs of families go on during the pandemic. We will be providing a link to the program at a later date, but thought you'd like to know that this local favorite will continue.

Heifer International by Janice Eddey

We have had a Heifer table for over 25 years. One of our members shared that her father was on the ship that delivered the first animals to needy families. Heifer's motto is Together We Can Change the World. Since it began 75 years ago, Heifer has helped more than 35 million families around the world lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. Heifer works in 125 countries to attain sustainable livelihoods through community-owned inventions, including the United States.. You can send a check to Church of the Master, with a memo line: Heifer International until the end of the year. Cards may be picked up in the office. We have collected \$3,546 so far for Heifer. We would love to reach an ark, which is \$5,000. We have done this for the past 15 years. Thanks to all who have contributed so far.

YOUR MISSIONS DONATIONS AT WORK IN 2020 (January through November)

By Martha Jagucki

Using the Missions and Outreach Committee budget, combined with generous donations from congregation members, we were able to assist a lot of people during a year of extraordinary need.

Food

According to FEMA, food banks across the country are facing sharp increases in demand and decreases in food supply as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this, we have directed \$9,400 to local food banks as follows:

Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM), serves folks living in the Westerville School District—So far this year, COM has donated **582 lbs of food** and **\$6,740** to WARM (\$1,220 from the missions budget, \$500 from the missions endowment account, and \$5,020 from designated congregational donations). This year's final drive-through food drive for WARM will be held on December 5 from 10:00-noon in the church parking lot.



NNEMAP (food pantry south of the fairgrounds)—We have donated **\$1,600** (\$500 from the missions budget, \$500 from the missions endowment account, and \$600 from designated congregational donations).

Promise House (serves students in need at Otterbein University)—**230 lbs of food** and **\$1,060** have been sent to Promise House (\$500 from the missions endowment account and \$560 from designated congregational donations). Planned dinners at the church for Promise House recipients had to be suspended during the pandemic.

Housing and Homelessness

The **Westerville Habitat Partnership (WHP)** is continuing to build while following covid-19 safety guidelines. They are building 5 houses this year—the most they have ever done! See a video about construction of one of the homes at <https://westervillehabitat.com/>. Groundbreaking on the final two houses happened this fall, with the goal to get them under roof and sealed up before the winter. Because most fundraisers had to be cancelled, donations are far below what was expected for the year.



However, the progressive Christmas Concert will go on this year—as a virtual event—starting December 11 at 7:00 p.m.! Stay tuned to the church and WHP websites for details. COM has donated **\$3,000** to WHP this year (\$500 from the missions budget and \$2,500 from designated congregational donations).

YWCA Family Center (near E. Fifth Avenue and 670)—COM has spent about **\$1,500** from the missions budget to serve 6 meals to families at the shelter. During the pandemic we have provided and cooked the food for the meals, but have handed the food off to Family Center staff to serve as one way to limit the number of people inside the shelter. We have donated another **\$1,000** to the shelter from congregational missions donations (unspecified) to assist with increased expenses during the pandemic, such as increased cleaning costs, masks, and hand sanitizer. One unexpected challenge faced by the Family Center was the need for laptops to be used by students doing remote learning!

Open Shelter (advocacy center and day services shelter located downtown)—Because of covid-19, meals have not been served to the homeless at Broad Street UMC since March. Instead, COM volunteers have—3 times—contributed pizzas that have been passed out at lunch time by the Open Shelter staff outside their office. A 4th lunch will be provided on November 30th. This summer, COM volunteers also donated water, masks, hand sanitizer, and personal hygiene items to the shelter. All food and supplies were financed by designated congregational donations. An additional \$720 from the missions budget has been sent to Open Shelter to deal with increased expenses during the pandemic.

Other Local Needs

Laundry ministry—This ministry had to be suspended during the pandemic due to the large group size and amount of close interaction involved. However, individual clients can still call Sherri Mettle to get quarters for laundry. We have tried to stay in touch with clients via phone calls. In December, blankets will be distributed to all the laundry ministry families. Congregational donations made this year can be carried over into next year and utilized when the ministry resumes.



Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio—During the pandemic, demands on the Charitable Pharmacy have intensified. The number of patients increased by 30% compared to last year, and the cost of prescriptions increased by 338%! The pharmacy's goal is to enhance access to affordable prescription medications for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured Franklin County residents. COM has donated \$1,000 from congregational missions donations (unspecified) to help offset rising costs. For every \$1 donated, the pharmacy is able to provide

\$7 in medicine and pharmaceutical services. For more information on how 2020 has affected this organization, see <https://charitablepharmacy.org/news>.

Westerville Neighborhood Bridges—COM has donated \$1,000 from congregational missions donations (unspecified) to support Neighborhood Bridges' city-wide programs during the pandemic, such as supplying wifi hotspots for Westerville school children without the internet access necessary for remote learning, or stocking personal care items (like deodorant, feminine pads) at all of the schools for children in need. If you would like to supply a specific student or family need identified by teachers, social workers, counselors, and (or) principals, visit their website (<http://www.neighborhoodbridges.org/>). Needs may include clothing, furniture, or monetary gifts.

Global Needs

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Covid-19 Fund (“Sheltering in Love”)—COM donated \$1,000 to this fund from the missions budget. So far, 230 grants have been awarded to recipients in 43 countries and 43 U.S. states. The grants are used to assist vulnerable populations around the world impacted by covid-19, including indigenous communities in the U.S. and folks in the Red Bird Mission area of eastern Kentucky. The grants address such things as food insecurity and the need for PPE, handwashing stations, and other pressing needs. For more information, go to <https://umcmission.org/covid-19-response/>.



UMCOR U.S. Disasters—\$1,000 from the missions budget was donated to aid those impacted by fires in



western U.S. and hurricanes along the Gulf coast. For fires, the biggest needs were kits to clean up ash-covered homes and trained volunteers to accompany people back to their home sites. For hurricanes, UMCOR assisted with tarping roofs, mucking out and gutting water-damaged homes, and providing case managers to assist survivors with long-term needs.

El Porvenir—COM has donated a total of \$3,270 to assist with water, sanitation, and reforestation projects in Nicaragua (\$3,000 from the missions budget and \$270 from designated congregational donations). These funds were used, in part, to (a) supply mini-handwashing stations to homes, schools, and health centers lacking running water during the pandemic; and (b) help build a water system piped from a well to taps in the yards of villagers in El Rincon.

McCurdy Ministries— COM donated \$2,250 (\$2,000 from the missions budget and \$250 from designated congregational donations) to support this ministry in New Mexico. The preschool program is currently happening online via Zoom, but plans are in place to eventually move to a hybrid teaching model. The school-based mental health counseling service (Project Carino) has seen a spike in hours logged treating families by telephone and Zoom calls. McCurdy Ministries also provides adult education, high school equivalency, literacy coaching, and parenting and grandparenting support groups.



The COM work trip to McCurdy Ministries that was scheduled for October of this year has been rescheduled for October of 2021.

Gaston Ntambo (Wings of the Morning)-- COM donated \$3,680 (\$2,000 from the missions budget, and \$1,680 from designated congregational donations) to support pilot Gaston Ntambo and this medical flight

ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Gaston flies pastors to churches, sick people to hospitals, and pharmaceuticals to remote villages in a country where roads are often impassable.

Heifer International—\$2,300 in congregational donations will be sent in by year-end to provide families that are living in poverty with an animal. Earnings from the animal acts as a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.



Children's Ministry News

by Erin Flory

Advent Bags

This advent season will be very different as we are all finding new ways to celebrate at home with our families. "Advent at Home" bags were delivered to all of our M&Ms families. These bags are full of fun and simple activities to help us all keep our eyes on Jesus this season.

Virtual M&Ms

Virtual M&Ms will resume with a Christmas twist each week in December. Look for weekly videos with music and a lesson that can be done around your family's schedule. We will also have one Zoom meet-up this month for each age group. We look forward to a fun time full of Christmas stories, games and fellowship.

Dec. 10 6:30 p.m. – Zoom for Preschool/Kindergarten

Dec. 17 6:30 p.m. – Zoom for 1st-5th graders

Christmas Snapshots Program

Our children have been hard at work preparing for a virtual Christmas program. We were able to take advantage of the good weather earlier in November which gave us the chance to meet outdoors and in small groups before the stay-at-home advisory began. We look forward to sharing the program with the congregation virtually on December 20.



M&Ms Families in Mission

During December, M&Ms families are invited to collect hygiene items to help the homeless in our community during these cold winter months. The items will be donated to Lower Lights Ministries in Franklinton. Lower Lights is hoping to prepare 200 hygiene kits to distribute to the homeless here in Columbus. Let's help them reach this goal! Items can be dropped off to the church from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. throughout December. Please call the church (614-882-2153) when you arrive and someone will get the items from you. You can also contact Miss Erin to work out alternate drop off plans.

Travel size deodorant (men and women)
Travel size shampoo and conditioner
Travel size toothpaste and toothbrushes
Travel size lotion
Tissue packets
Travel size mouthwash
Combs

Small brushes
Baby wipes
Razors (men and women)
Feminine products
Hair ties
Lip balm
Warm socks

Save the Date for VBS/Day Camp 2021

Mark your calendars to join us for “Discovery on Adventure Island” the week of **June 21-25, 2021!** We have Sugarbush Day Camp reserved and look forward to a wonderful week learning how God’s light shines. There is much still up in the air about this coming summer, but we are optimistically looking forward to being able to be together in some form this coming summer for VBS/Day Camp. Save the date and make plans to join us on the “Island!”



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.

Sunday Evenings @6:00-7:30 p.m.

Merry Christmas to Me: A 4-WEEK SERIES ON Christmas

Christmas today vs. Christmas in Bethlehem? Well, let's just say they are two very different worlds. But they don't have to be. Christmas tends to turn into a holiday where we think about what we will get instead of what we have the opportunity to give. By looking at the Christmas story and wondering about everything that each person gave, you'll be able to give some incredible encouragement to students wanting to make Christmas less about "me" and more about Jesus. On the first Christmas, **Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and God gave everything.** Knowing all of that, we can inspire us to give things too.



November 29 Comfort

On the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort.

December 6 Stories

On the first Christmas, the shepherds gave their stories.

December 13 Worship

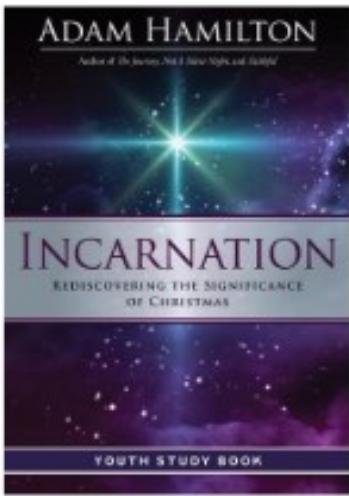
On the first Christmas, the wise men gave their worship .

December 20 Youth Group Zoom Christmas Party

We will have some games, share some Christmas traditions, and fellowship together. More details will be sent out in the middle of December.

December 27 Everything

On the first Christmas, God gave everything.



"Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas" - A Youth Advent Study

Thursdays Evenings December 3, 10, 17, & TBD 7:00 p.m.

Youth who are interested in a more in depth study for Advent are invited to join us for a **Zoom Thursday Night Study (7:00pm) on Dec 3,10,&17**. We will need to choose 1 more meeting time because our 4th session would land on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in the study, please let me know so I can get a copy of the study to you. Here's a little peak as to what the series will cover:

In *Incarnation*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores the meaning of these titles and what they tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Join him and reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today!

Topics include:

- The Royal Titles: Lord and Messiah
- The Deliverer's Title: Savior
- The Incarnate Title: Emmanuel
- The Light of the World
- Epilogue: The Word Made Flesh

Safe Sanctuary Update 2021

As we head to the start of 2021 I will be reaching out to those who need to recertify on our policy. We now can do the training completely on-line. If you are interested in volunteering with the children or youth ministries in 2021, and haven't been trained on our policy yet, please contact me so we can get you all set up to volunteer when we resume regularly scheduled programming.

2021 Church Calendar of Meetings and Events

by April Smith

Please email April at facilities@chmaster.org with your meetings, classes or other regularly scheduled events for 2021. We have not created any calendars for the new year and I would like to ask all committee chairs, group leaders, teachers or coordinators to contact me with your meeting dates and times for at least the first four months of 2021.

We will plan meeting locations for you when we are able to return to in person gatherings. For now, we will list your meetings for attendance by ZOOM unless you specify otherwise.

If you would like to schedule a one time only special event or fundraiser, please contact me for a facility request form.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

April Smith, Facilities Manager



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER 2020			1 10am– Staff Meeting 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice 6:00-7:00pm- Handbells Rehearsal 7:00pm-8:30 pm- Zoom Adult Advent Book Study	2 3 7:00pm-8:00pm- Zoom Youth Advent Book Study	4 5 9:00am-11:00am -Adult Advent Book Study 10:00am- 12:00pm— WARM Collection Drive-Thru	
6 9:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	7 7:00m– ZOOM SPRC Meeting	8 10am– Staff Meeting	9 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice 6:00-7:00pm- Handbells Rehearsal 7:00pm-8:30 pm- Zoom Adult Advent Book Study	10 7:00pm-8:00pm- Zoom Youth Advent Book Study	11 12	
13 9:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	14 7:00pm-ZOOM Finance Meeting	15 10am– Staff Meeting	16 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice 6:00-7:00pm- Handbells Rehearsal 7:00pm-8:30 pm- Zoom Adult Advent Book Study	17 7:00pm-8:00pm- Zoom Youth Advent Book Study	18 19 9:00am-11:00am -Adult Advent Book Study 11:00am- Recording for Blue Christmas 12:45pm- Recording for Christmas Eve	
20 9:00am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship Children's Ministry Christmas Program 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	21 10:00am- Blue Christmas Service- YouTube 7:00 pm-Trustees Meeting	22 10am– Staff Meeting 6:00pm– ZOOM Mission/Outreach Com- mittee Meeting 7:00 pm-ZOOM Health and Wellness Meeting	23 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice 7:00pm-8:30 pm- Zoom Adult Advent Book Study	24 10:00am- Christmas Eve Service-YouTube 7:00 pm– Christmas Eve Live Stream Service: Lessons and Carols	25  26	
27 9:00am-Sunday School 10:00am-Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	28	29 10am– Staff Meeting	30 8:00am-12:00 pm- Organ Practice 			



**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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