

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



A Letter from the Pastor:

by Pastor Jay Anderson

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Gwfitngings!

That's kind of what it sound like when you say "greetings" while wearing a mask, isn't it? It's also kind of how it feels. I've noticed that it's easy (too easy, actually) to walk right by someone you meet on the street and not realize that it's somebody you know when both of you are wearing masks.

I guess we're going to have to spend more time studying peoples' eyes in order to learn to recognize one another because masks are going to be an ongoing fashion necessity.

In this space last month I opined hopefully that we might return to live worship sometime in June. Regretfully, that will not be the case. As the state has begun "reopening" our economy, businesses, etc., we are beginning to see spikes in the number of infections, in hospitalizations, and in deaths from the coronavirus Covid-19. I will not be so bold (or so foolish) as to repeat my mistake of poorly predicting our return to live worship. I will, with confidence, though tell you it will likely not be any earlier than the first of August. To that end, our Church ReOpening Task Force has just begun its work, digging into all the questions that must be answered, issues and contingencies that must be planned for in order for us to be able to return to live worship safely. We will report out to you regularly as we are able to discern next steps and best practices, but understand that we will not jeopardize anyone's health

in order to open "quickly" or because other churches have opened already. No two churches are alike, and what works for one won't necessarily work for another.

Our task force will make recommendations based on what is best and what is safest for THIS community as a whole. About the only thing we know for sure is that things are going to be different - there's no way around that. Things will look different and we will have to think about "church" differently.

For example, Vacation Bible School is going to have a different look this year. As Erin and Bev shared a couple of weeks ago, we're going to a model that is more "virtual" than "in-person." The REACH mission trip has been canceled by REACH for this summer and so we are exploring what "REACH in Our Hometown" will look like, knowing that it will be a different experience compared to prior years. Likewise with Confirmation - our confirmation class is nearly complete but we are unable to take those youth on a confirmation trip at this time. The last several classes have been done via Zoom rather than in person. We will recognize and welcome these young people into membership in the church in the future, but we want to do that in a "live" setting rather than virtual if at all possible. If not, they'll become the first (and hopefully only) Confirmation to join the church via Zoom or some other electronic means. Graduate recognition is going to be done initially via a video in worship so that we can acknowledge our graduates during "graduation season." We hope to be able to recognize them "live" at a later date, but "later dates" are uncertain right now. These same ways of doing things "differently" extend across the board to how we hold meetings, how we do congregational and pastoral care, how we teach Sunday School at all levels, and other things as well. It's going to be different - but different doesn't necessarily mean bad.

Life in the early church was different for the first followers of Jesus. While Jesus was no longer physically in their midst - they could no longer meet with him - his Spirit descended on them at Pentecost and they began a new thing, a new way of being church. Their journey with Jesus suddenly looked very different than what it had before, but it enabled them to do new things, new kinds of ministry, as Jesus has told them they would. As they "thought differently" about what it meant to be the church, they began to expand ministry into areas and places where Jesus had never been able to go physically. The spread of the Gospel in the immediate aftermath of Pentecost was almost pandemic in nature and the Book of Acts records the amazing numeric growth that occurred. There was NOTHING that was going to flatten that curve - and there was no desire to do so!

It's easy to toss around cliches and aphorisms, quotes and colloquialisms, but we must remember that ideas and sayings took on those qualities BECAUSE they were relied upon and shared as inspiration and for fortification by so many for so long. So try these on:

The only thing that is constant is change...
The only thing we have to fear is fear itself...
Be the change you hope to see in the world...

Like the disciples who first learned to be the church in a new way after the ascension of Jesus, like every generation who has gone before us who has been confronted with some kind of earth-shattering, mind-blowing existential threat ranging from disease to disaster, from war to terrorism, we are confronted with a pandemic that not only threatens and takes life, but also that challenges us to think about how we live out Christ's call in all of our lives in new and organic ways. As followers of Jesus Christ, our first concern MUST be about caring for others - the least, the last, and the lost - before our concern becomes about our own wishes, desires and comforts. Would we rather be worshiping live in our beautiful sanctuary? Absolutely! Is that the best thing for our community, our older members and our children right now? Absolutely not!

We'll get there in good time...in God's time. In the mean time, we'll explore what it means to be the church in new ways, with new people, with new tools, but with the same old love of God and love of neighbor in our hearts.

May it be so, amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jay

by Chris Bowling

Martin Luther said “Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.” Music is the most delightful present God has given us, music shapes our worship, and music is ever present in our daily lives. Music has the power to cheer us up when we are sad, comfort us in our times of grief, and express emotions that words cannot begin to express. This is why we are charged throughout scripture to sing and praise God with instruments, when our words fail is the moment when music picks up and carries on. It doesn’t have to be a hymn, just a simple tune, even what we categorize as secular music can shake loose its bonds and serve as a messenger from the Almighty. The Psalmist writes, “I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.” (Psalm 104:33, NRSV)

I share all of this because, this is what is on my mind as we continue to figure out ways to do music ministry while observing quarantine. I want to thank everyone who has reached out to me sharing how much the music we are providing means to them. We seem to have found a groove, so to speak, but are always exploring more ways we can share music with our congregation. Be looking for an announcement about a virtual hymn sing in Mid-June, I am working out licensing and other details at the present and hope to have that scheduled in the next few weeks. We will sing to the Lord as long as we live, because “music is a fair and glorious gift from God.”- Martin Luther

I close with thoughts from Kim Hoessly, she shares her insight to why she sings in the choir: “On more than one occasion, I have looked at my schedule and thought, “What can I cut?” and I’ll be honest, “what about cutting choir”, has come up, more than once in the 30 odd years, as something to cut. But every time, *every time*, I answer that question with No. I do love making music, but it’s more than the music. I would miss the camaraderie and the deep rooted joy I get from choir rehearsals and singing in worship. I don’t have a solo voice, but I can be part of the music; part of a larger entity where every voice matters. And do I have a favorite choir anthem? I don’t really have one favorite, but I do love the anthems that have great harmony parts and I am partial to a cappella. I love the sound of the unaccompanied human voice.” Peace and Blessings to All! Chris

United Methodist Women

by Barbara Piper

Another month has gone by and I have missed seeing all of you once again. The new normal seems to be frustrating, but we are all surviving and carrying on our lives in a different way. Hope this finds you all well. We shall pray for an end to this terrible virus and remember those who are sick or who have died and their loved ones.

It was with sadness that I read about the passing of our long time UMW sister, Ginny Jordan. She was a faithful member of Church of the Master’s UMW for many years and a great contributor to our programs and learning about the work of our missionaries all over the world.

I’m attaching a video from the UMW web site which has some of our regional missionaries speaking on how our contributions have made an impact on their women/children. Women in the region shape our Regional Missionaries work. Each missionary assists the women, children, and youth primarily through: Training Programs/Workshops/ Strategic Planning/Network Development. Watching the video gives us a better understanding as to how we all make such a huge difference with our dollars – directly from the women who use these funds. I hope you enjoy this as much as I have.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHcmcBO_clg&feature=youtu.be

Children's Ministry

by Erin Flory



Over the past few months, we have been carefully monitoring the recommendations from the governor, public health officials and our denomination in attempt to carefully discern how to best proceed with our VBS, Day Camp and Survivor Camp this summer. The health and safety of our children, youth and volunteers is of utmost importance. We are also keenly aware that VBS, Day Camp and Survivor Camp are wonderful opportunities for our children and youth to grow in their faith, to reach out to our community and to strengthen relationships within our church family. With all of these things considered, we have made the decision to offer a virtual program this summer instead of our traditional programming. We are going to spread out the Knights of North Castle activities over a five-week time frame, rather than do one huge VBS/Day Camp week. All of the activities for our preschoolers through rising 5th graders are designed to be multi-age in nature so the children can do them together with their families. Each week your family will receive a link with interactive videos, and multiage lessons and activities connected to our theme. All activities can be done in small chunks and can be done flexibly to fit your schedule. You might choose to do the intro for the week on Sunday and then do the craft, games, science experiment and Bible lesson on various days during the week. You will be able to pick up a bag with all the materials needed for activities for the week. No planning, no prep, just lots of fun for your family! For our rising 1st -5th graders, your child has the option to be placed in a virtual crew with other kids. Virtual crews will meet once a week (using Google Meet) with their crew leaders to do team building activities and dive a little deeper into the weekly Bible lesson and how it applies to their lives. If you would like for your child to participate in a virtual crew, please indicate on your registration form.

Our Survivor program for rising 6th -8th graders will follow a similar format as our family-based Knights of North Castle. Survivor participants will have virtual activities that connect to the weekly themes but are done in a way to “Supersize” the impact for each student. Youth participating in Survivor will also have the option of joining a virtual crew to connect with the other youth and leaders. Miss Bev will be sending more information with specific details related to Survivor to middle school families soon. The cost for the supplies for our virtual summer program is \$20/child or youth with a \$50 cap for a family. If your family is in need of a scholarship, please check the box on the registration form - no questions asked. We want to make sure that every family is able to participate.

We will continue to carefully monitor the recommendations as we head into the summer. If we are in Phase 2 or 3 by July, we are hopeful that we might also be able to offer an optional family-based day camp experience. If this is possible, your entire family (children, youth and adults of all ages) would be invited to come to Camp Sugarbush together for one morning or evening session.

During this time, your family would be able to rotate together through special camp activities such as creaking, tie-dying, nature art or campfire cooking. This would allow you to maintain social distance and not mix together with other families as a large group. Day Camp is a very special tradition at Church of the Master and we are hopeful that we will be able to offer an opportunity for you to enjoy this in a different, but meaningful way. More details will be provided as we get closer to that time if this is a safe option. It is our prayer that this summer will help your entire family grow closer to God in the strength of God's mighty power! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Summer 2020 Virtual Knights of North Castle

- Five weeks of fun for your whole family (beginning the week of June 21 and continuing through the week of July 20)
- Virtual lessons and activities designed to do at your own pace
- Family-based activities for children 3 years old-rising 5th graders
- “Supersized” Survivor activities for rising 6th -8th graders
- Interactive Bible lessons
- Ready to go bags with all materials provided
- Amazing science experiments
- Awesome crafts
- Fun music and games
- Optional virtual elementary and middle school crews to allow rising 1st -5th graders and 6th -8th graders to connect with friends and crew leaders
- \$20/child or youth or \$50/family cap to cover the cost of supplies
- Scholarships available



June Children's Ministry News

Summer Sonbeams!

Look for a link in your e-mail on Sunday mornings for Summer Sonbeams! Sonbeams is designed to be multi-age for kids preschool through 5th grade. While we continue to do church at home, you will receive a link to a video with the Deep Blue lesson for the week, a lesson from Miss Erin, our memory verse for the month, discussion questions for your family and an interactive Kahoot game that goes with our Bible story for the week.

PJs, Stories and Prayers with Miss Erin – June 9th

All children are invited to join in our virtual meet-up on Tuesday evening, June 9th. This is a great chance to connect with friends, and share together in a story, devotion and prayer. Look for the Google Meet invite in your email. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact Erin Flory at children@chmaster.org

7:15 p.m. preschool/kindergartners

7:45 p.m. 1st-5th graders

Master Parents Meet-Up – June 2 and June 16

Join us for our virtual Master Parents Meet Ups at 9:00 p.m. Tuesdays June 2 and June 16th. This is a great way to connect with other parents and stay in community with one another during this time when we can't be physically together. Look for the Google Meet invite in your email.

Calling all Knights!

The deadline to register for our virtual Knights of North Castle program this summer is **June 7**. This will give us enough time to make sure we have your supplies ready to go! Registration forms were mailed to all families and are also available on the church website. Please contact Erin Flory (children@chmaster.org) if you need any information.

Sponsor a child for our virtual Knights of North Castle program!

We have a unique opportunity to offer a virtual VBS program to our church families and the larger community this summer. We are very sensitive to the fact that the past few months have been very challenging for many families. The church will offer a full scholarship of \$20.00 per child to cover the cost of the supplies for the week, no questions asked, for any family who would benefit from a scholarship. To help make this possible, we are asking for the congregation to help sponsor a child. If you would like to sponsor a child for VBS, please note "VBS sponsor" when you make your donation. Thank you for helping our children continue to grow in their faith this summer!

Next Generation Ministries

Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

by Bev Pancoast

Beginning June 1st there will be a few updates with the Church of the Master Youth Programming.

- We are excited to welcome all rising 6th graders to join us for our weekly youth events. We are excited to have them join us.
- Over the summer we will start to have virtual meet ups separately with Middle School (rising 6th-8th graders) and High School (rising 9th-Class of 2020) so that as we get to a point of having “in person” meet ups, we will have natural small groups that have already been meeting together. There will still be some “All Youth Events” as well.
- It is time to fill out the New Youth Medical Forms and Family Registration forms. Look for them to come via snail mail and electronically. Please fill them out and return them to Bev. We will need to have these forms on file for your youth to participate in church activities.

All youth events will be hosted in Zoom meetings. Links will be sent to youth via e-mail and/or texting. We will not be posting the link in any social media or on the web site. If you need the links, please send an e-mail to bev@chmaster.org or text 330-416-4656

Middle School Youth

Survivor Camp:

5 weekly installments beginning June 21

All rising 6th -8th graders are invited to join us for virtual Survivor Day Camp. Beginning the week of June 22 and running through July 20, we will send out weekly experiences that youth can do alone or with their families. There will be an option for virtual Survivor crews that will meet weekly for discussion and fun! We are trying to make Survivor a “super-sized” summer event like it always has been. You will need to register by June 7. Cost is \$20 per participant. There is a \$50 cap for families. Scholarships are available. Just check the box on the registration form.

High School Youth

Sunday Evening Meet Ups

Weekly 7:00 pm, beginning June 21

All rising 9th Graders- Class of 2020 graduates are invited for a time just for our Senior High Youth. Our topic for the summer will be “Believe it or Not” stories from the Bible that were not taught in childhood Sunday School Classes.

Combined Youth

Lunch Bunch: We meet on Tuesdays @12:30 via Zoom for a laid back check-in to see how life is treating you.

Thursday Night Meet Ups

Weekly, 7:00 pm (6/4, 6/11, & 6/18)

We will be finishing up our study on the book of James.

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Youth Group Sunday Night Hang Outs

7:00 pm 6/7 & 6/14

All Youth are invited to come to the Zoom hangout where we will play games, get to know each other, have a devotion, etc.

Coming in July:

The Gospel According to Harry Potter

Thursday Evenings beginning 7/2

For this will be looking at the book, “The Gospel According to Harry Potter: The Spiritual Journey of the World’s Greatest Seeker” by Connie Neal. We will be looking at the spiritual themes in the popular Harry Potter series, well-known Christian author and Harry Potter fan Connie Neal explores the world of magic and mystery created by J. K. Rowling alongside the stories and grand themes of the Bible. Contrary to those who reject the series as a threat to the Christian faith, this book demonstrates how the lessons in Harry Potter not only echo many of the stories in the Bible but reinforce the central messages of Christianity. This study covers all 7 of the Harry Potter books. Please let Bev know if you are interested by 6/15 so books can be ordered.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Training will available on-line beginning June 1st. There will be training for new volunteers, a refresher for volunteers who need to recertify, AND a new piece for ALL Volunteers for On-line meetings & Social Media connections with our children and youth. There will be a quick google form to fill out for each video so we know who has watched it. To get the training links, please email Bev Pancoast (bev@chmaster.org).

Reach 2020 Update

Last night I had to send an email to the Reach participants that I didn’t want to send. It came after I made a phone call to Mike Jones, the Executive Director of Reach that I didn’t want to have to make. In fact, when all of the Reach participant families met in over a Zoom call in April, I really thought things would be ok, and Reach “In My Hometown” would really happen. But as we live in the time of a Global Pandemic, we have found many of the things we looked forward to and love slipped away from our reach this year.

After much prayer, and conversations, we have come to realize that for the safety of the neighbors whose home we would work on, the restrictions that are still in place for numbers of people who can be together, social distancing, and logistics for each work site and work crew (food, restroom accessibility, etc.) we have decided that Reach in “My Hometown” is not going to be a reality for Church of the Master Youth in this CoVid-19 Pandemic time.

This is not a decision that was made lightly. I have lost countless hours of sleep and shed quite a few tears, knowing that I was going to be the one to tell you that Reach 2020 for Church of the Master is cancelled. We know that Reach is a giant part of many of our youth’s summer plans and giving it up is not something we even could fathom this time last year.

We will look ahead to Reach 2021 and how we might be able to use some of our learned skills in our community as restrictions are lessened and needs arise. I will be working with Bill, the Church’s Financial Secretary on how to handle the money that has already been paid. Please be patient, we will fill you in as soon as we can. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

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Church of the Master Graduating Senior Scholarship Recipients



Ben Driscoll is the son of Tom and Janna Driscoll and older brother to Sam. Ben is graduating from Westerville Central High School. His awards and honors include the Church of the Master Graduating Senior Scholarship and the Ohio Gateway scholarship from Ohio University. Ben will be attending Ohio University's Scripps School of Journalism this Fall. Ben has been an active member in the youth group, a regular face in the "youth balcony" during Sunday morning worship, Sunday Night Youth, Retreats, and Reach Mission Trips. Ben has been a volunteer for Spaghetti Dinners and Midnight Pancakes for Otterbein students. Ben has been a volunteer in our children's programming. He has volunteered with Day Camp, Club Sam, and Kids' Night In.



Riley Piper is the son of Todd and Holly Piper, older brother of Nolan, and grandson of Sam & Rosemary Dorff. Riley is graduating from Westerville Central High School. His awards and honors include the Church of the Master Graduating Senior Scholarship, Outstanding Senior Award of the Social Studies Department, the Youth Scholarship Award, and the Senior Superlative of Drama King. Riley will be attending Columbus State Community College starting this summer and studying American Sign Language. Riley has been a leader in the youth group. He has been part of the Youth Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Sunday Night Youth, Retreats, and Reach Mission Trips. Riley serves on several church committees including the Administrative Council, Worship Committee, and SPRC. Riley has volunteered with Day Camp, served as a volunteer for Spaghetti Dinner and Midnight Pancakes for Otterbein students, and is part of the Laundry Ministry and the YWCA meal crew as well. During the CoVid19 pandemic, Riley has been checking in with older church members to bring them a smile from a phone call or helping them out as needed.

High School Graduates

Kate Birath, daughter of Jim & Carol Birath is graduating from Westerville Central High school. She will be attending The Ohio State University.

Jeffery Evans, son of Jim and Lynne Evans is graduating from Westerville North High School. He will be attending Ohio University.

Ella Holtzmuller, daughter of Jon & Jocelyn Holtzmuller is graduating from Westerville North High School.

Nairan Normand Jr, son of Kimberly Mills and Nairan Normand Sr. is graduating from Whetstone High School. He will be attending The Ohio State University.

Emily Rogers, daughter of Jeff and Mary Rogers is graduating from Westerville Central High School. She will be attending Columbus State Community College.



College Graduates

Marielle Beach- graduating from Wittenberg University with B.A. in German and International Studies.

David Day- graduated from Columbus State Community College with an Associates of Applied Science in Paralegal Studies.

Carly Conkel- graduated from University of Tampa (December 2019) with a B.A. in Psychology.

Owen Jagucki- graduated from Miami University with a B.A. in Political Science with a Minor in Philosophy.

Ronni Royer graduated from Otterbein University with a B.A. in Criminology and Sociology with a Minor in Psychology.

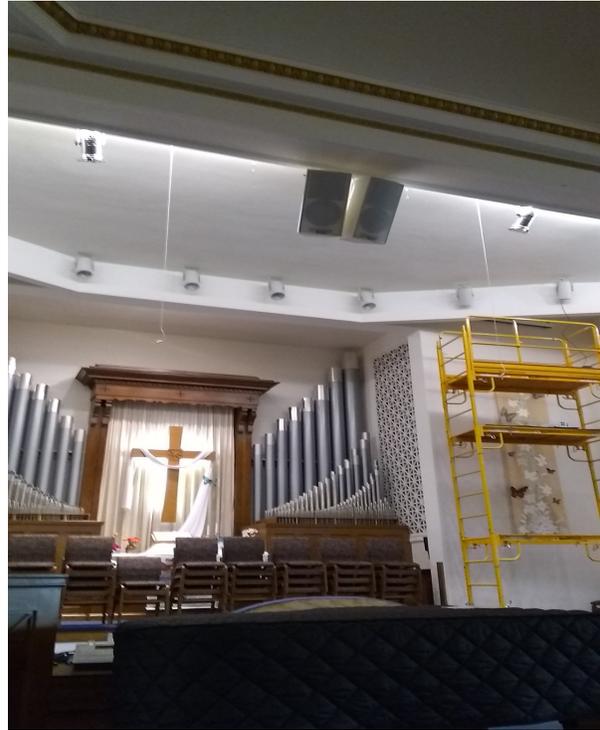
Will Sampson graduated from Miami University with a B.A. in Psychology, a B.A. in Anthropology, and a Minor in Comparative Religions



Presenting Our New Lights & Controller for the Sanctuary!

by April Smith

All installation work was completed in 3 days by Joy Audio Visual, LLC and owner Alex Thompson. He and his assistant, Dave, did a fine job for us and Alex has begun training us on the controller operation and programming. He will be back to help us set up more features when we are able to have in-person worship services again. We are grateful for his knowledge and professionalism!



First day of work, the boxes of lights are waiting and the scaffold is put together

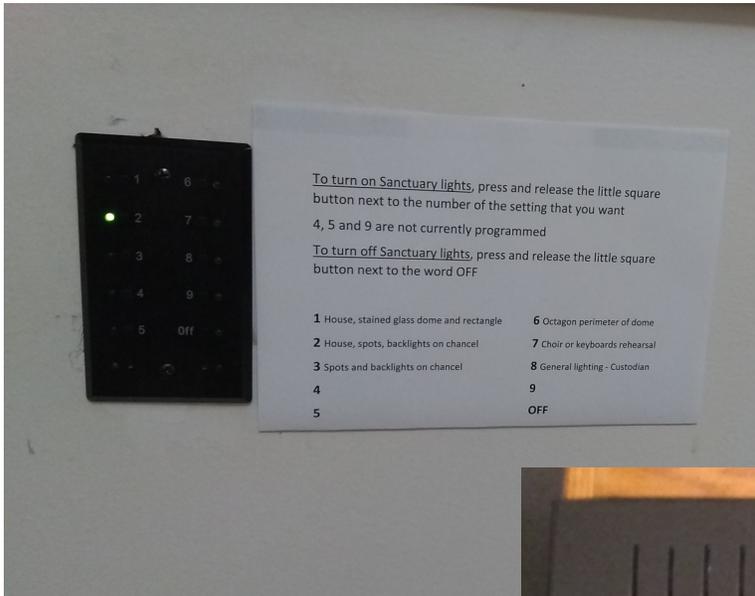
Six of the eight new chancel spotlights are mounted

All eight new spotlights are lit as well as our six original spots. Two non-working spots were removed





New lights: 2 moveable spotlights (black) in the back of the sanctuary and 8 new spotlights to light the chancel area.



New easy to use wall switch with 9 programmable settings

New control board with many programmable features or can be used "live."





**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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