

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master

LEN
fast • pray • give



A Letter from the Pastor:

by Pastor Jay Anderson

What's Next?

I don't believe any of us imagined, when the pandemic hit last year and forced the end of in-person gatherings, meetings, and worship, that a year later we would find ourselves still in that situation. The last in-person event we held in the church in 2020 was the Amy Lecture with Eboo Patel, and we even questioned that day as to whether we could go ahead with that event.

And even as so much has remained the same over the past twelve months, much has changed as well, both in the world and in the church.

Vaccines have been developed and slowly but surely the population is being vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. And as the percentage of the population who have been vaccinated increases, we are seeing a corresponding decrease in the numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths - both on the national level as well as locally. That does not mean we're back to "normal" by any means; it is still vitally important that we wear masks, maintain safe distancing, and continue to wash our hands thoroughly and frequently. But we're moving in the right direction and, according to the experts, if that trajectory continues we might experience something resembling "normal" by this summer.

This Issue:

A Letter from the Pastor	Page 01
Congregational Updates	Page 03
Children's Ministry	Page 05
Youth Ministry	Page 08
Substitute Teachers	Page 09
February 2021 Calendar	Page 10
Staff Contact Information	Page 11

Your Church Reopening Task Force takes all of this into consideration when we meet and discuss next steps for Church of the Master. While all of us are anxious to get back to “normal” in-person worship, we are also very aware that distribution of the vaccine is slower than anticipated, that until recently vaccine availability has been inconsistent, and that for many it seems that the odds are better of winning the lottery than landing a coveted vaccine appointment at one of the grocery or drug stores where they are being offered. That said, slowly but surely we are making progress, and anecdotally at least, we are hearing that more of you are getting vaccinated.

So it is in the spirit of where we expect to be in the coming weeks that I am happy to share with you that the Task Force has set a target date for a return to in-person worship of May 2, 2021. It is our feeling that, with the ongoing ramp up of vaccination availability, with the addition of a third vaccine from Johnson & Johnson imminent, and the expected continued downward trajectory of cases, hospitalization, and deaths in Franklin County that we can safely return to a limited in-person worship service beginning in May. As we have indicated before, we will begin with one in-person service and that initially we will have to limit the number of people who can be in the church at one time and that everyone present will be required to wear a mask and have their temperature taken before entering the building. As we then move forward and can evaluate the efficacy of our plans, we will make adjustments to broaden the availability. We will keep you informed going forward as to what that return to in-person services will look like as the Task Force continues to meet.

That said, some things will be different, as they must be. None of us are the same people we were pre-pandemic and in that regard, the church is not the same either. We realize that as a result of this yearlong pandemic that some people will not return to in-person worship regardless of the safety involved. We also realize that there are some who joined our worship online who were not with us before and that an online congregation will always be a part of the Church of the Master family going forward. And we realize, that our mission and vision as a church must adjust to this new, post-pandemic world or the church will continue to decline in relevance for a larger and larger segment of the community. So in 2021 we will begin a time of discernment about who God is calling us to be as a congregation in this community at this time. We will seek to discern how God is calling us to take the good news of the Gospel in new, innovative, and effective ways to a community that needs, now more than ever, to know the love of God as shown to us in Jesus Christ. And we will look at everything from our weekly calendar to our organizational and committee structure to our staffing and volunteer needs to make sure that we are prepared and positioned properly to be God’s hands and feet in our community in this post-pandemic period. What we have before us, as we emerge from the tomb of pandemic practice and protocols, is the opportunity for a new resurrection life on the other side. And as scripture tells us,

What that ultimately will look like for each of us has not yet been revealed; but we know that as children of God, made in God’s image, we shall be like God. That is the hope that is given to us in Jesus Christ.

I continue to hold each of you in prayer, even as I covet your prayers. Death and resurrection are part and parcel of what it means to be followers of Jesus Christ. As we have lost friends and loved ones in this time of pandemic yet continue to believe and trust in the promise of their resurrection to be with God, so that same trust holds true for the church in this life, that that which doesn’t break us will make us stronger, giving us new life in Jesus Christ who calls us to go and be disciples in all the world. Let it be so.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Jay

March Health Cabinet Huddle

By Laurie Bowman BSN, RN, Health Cabinet Chair

It seems incredible that a year ago this month the state of Ohio started shutting down due to Covid-19. In the past year, we have collectively had to deal with new challenges presented by the pandemic and subsequent lockdown and quarantining. I think it is very important to recognize that while the ways we have individually been impacted have been very different, collectively, we all have experienced trauma and grief. I also think it is very important for everyone to know that their feelings of trauma and grief are valid and authentic. So as we enter this Lenten season of contemplation, it is a good time for us to begin unpacking some of the grief we have experienced over the past year.

One great way to do this is to read through and engage in the “Connecting Worship and Daily Living in Lent” resource provided by the church. *(Please feel free to reach out to the church office if you would like a copy of the resource!)* This booklet can help lead you through the process of healing through inward and personal disciplines (self-care) and outward and social disciplines (community connection).

Other suggestions of good self-care practices to engage in include:

Reaching Out!

Call a friend or relative that you haven’t spoken with recently. Set up an outdoor socially distanced coffee meet-up with a friend. Think about sending a handwritten letter or card in the mail to someone- it’s happy to find something in your mailbox besides ads and bills. Write a letter to someone who impacted or touched your life. Have a conversation with your pastor or counselor. Talk with a friend about things you are struggling with and things that you have recently found joy in.

Trying Something New!

Is there an activity or project you have ever wanted to try? Set aside some time each week or day to try a new activity. Baking? Knitting? Writing a book? Painting or photography? Challenge yourself to focus on enjoying the process of creativity instead of getting stuck in the pursuit of perfection. This also helps you practice mindfulness- giving your attention fully to what you are doing in the moment.

Trying Something Old!

Do something you enjoy. Schedule some time into your week to do something you enjoy or used to enjoy doing. Examples include taking time to re-read a favorite book, watch a favorite movie or TV show, shooting some hoops in the driveway and more!

Get Moving!

Turn on some of your favorite music and have a dance party. Take a 15-minute walk outside when the weather is nice. Play with your kids or pets. Do an online workout video.

Good News! There are some options available through our church to help get you moving!

Tai Chi classes over Zoom are led by Kathy Bowman for \$3 a class every Thursday at 10am. For more information you can contact Kathy at KaBowman5@gmail.com

Yoga and gentle stretching classes via Zoom led by Amy Ritts. All ages and experience levels welcome! Saturday March 20 & 27 at 10:30am. For more information and to get the link for the classes contact Amy at amy.coxe@gmail.com

If anyone else is interested in hosting a Zoom exercise class for church and community members, please contact me at laurie.coxe@gmail.com – I would love to talk with you!

We are also hoping to get some charity walking groups started when the weather improves and Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Stay tuned to your emails for more information on these and other Zoom exercise opportunities!

United Methodist Women

By Barb Piper

The Church of The Master UMW Board met virtually on February 9, 2021. It was good to see each other, and we took care of a few items that needed attention. We needed to decide on our pledge to our District for 2021. It was decided to keep our pledge the same as last year - \$3500. We voted to disburse the money earned from our 2019 bean soup sales (\$247.00) to W.A.R.M. Our treasurer, Carol Rogers, will send the check to them.

Everyone was very hopeful that we could resume our monthly meetings by the end of summer and or this fall. Kim Hoessly is hoping to be able to have our yearly golf scramble in September. That is always a fun time for both male and female golfers. Prayers for continued good health for all church members and being able to see each other in person this fall.



Congregational Care

By Michele Beach

The Telecare team is in need of additional people to make calls to members of the congregation. Telecare is currently making calls from home. If you are able to help, please contact Michele Beach for more information, 614-975-7164.

Church Reopening Task Force

Please follow the below link to take the congregational survey concerning the potential reopening of the church on May 2, 2021. Please complete the survey by March 8th. The Church Reopening Task force team thanks you in advance for participating in the survey.



<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uGxjil64lrYebprkNSvLDVtnImS7d8GmhSAMHIKpuFw/edit?usp=sharing>

Children's Ministry News

by Erin Flory

Virtual Music and the Master

During our weekly virtual M&Ms, our children will continue to “Dig In” and explore the foundations of our faith. As we tackle both new and familiar stories we will contemplate the big question “Who is God?”

Our topics for March include:

Bible Story	Bible Point
Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	God is Powerful
God Surrounds Elisha with Angels	God is Always With Us
The Last Supper	We Remember Jesus
Peter Denies Jesus and Jesus Forgives Him	God is Forgiving

Children's Ministry Palm Sunday Celebration!

All families are invited to join us **Sunday, March 28th at 11:30 a.m.** for a special outdoor M&Ms to celebrate Palm Sunday. We will enjoy music with Miss Kitty, a Palm Sunday lesson and a parade with our palm branches. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and come dressed for the weather. We will also have Holy Week bags for each family with special activities to help you journey to Easter together.



*In the event of rain, this event will shift to a “drive through” style to pick up palms and Holy Week bags.

Please sign up at:

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

M&Ms Parent Study

Join other M&Ms parents (on Zoom), Tuesday evenings throughout March from 6:30-7:30 p.m as we study Adam Hamilton's new book *Words of Life*. Together we will explore the Ten Commandments as Adam Hamilton helps us see how every thou-shalt-not was intended to point to a life-giving "thou shalt." Please contact Erin Flory if you would like to be included on the Zoom invitation.

Stay Connected!

Contact Erin Flory (children@chmaster.org) if you would like to be added to the Children's Ministry email list. You can also join our private Facebook group. Search “Church of the Master Children's Ministry.”

Discovery on Adventure Island VBS/Day Camp

June 21-25, 2021



This year our theme is Discovery on Adventure Island. Together we will learn to shine God's light in the world! Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, create fun crafts explore amazing science experiments and serve God through mission projects. Plus, campers at Sugarbush get to enjoy the fun of traditional camping activities such as hiking, campfires and creeking! It is our hope to be able to offer both an "in-person" and "at-home" VBS experience this summer. We will follow all current health guidelines (masks, small groups, social distancing, hand washing, etc). Preschool VBS (for 3 year olds-rising kindergartners) will be held outside at the church from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Day Camp (for rising 1st-5th graders) will be held at Sugarbush Day Camp from 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Families who choose the "at-home" option will be able to pick up crafts, science experiment and Bible activities to do along with interactive videos for the week.

This year we are asking families to pre-register to help us safely plan for enough volunteers and supplies. Pre-registration is open to church families through March 31, after which it will be opened up to the community. Please make sure you save a spot for your child!

Please complete the online pre-registration:

<https://chmaster.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

Families who pre-register will receive more specific information and be asked to return final registration forms along with the registration fee later this spring. The cost is VBS \$25.00/Day Camp \$35.00 with a family cap of \$70.00 for children in the same family attending VBS and/or Day Camp. Scholarships are available if needed.



But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me." Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.

- Matthew 14:27-31a

Dear Friends,

Back in 2018, the theme of the Reach Mission trip was "Get Out of the Boat." It talked about Peter stepping out of the boat and keeping his eyes fixed on Jesus so he would stay on top of the water. The theme throughout the week challenged participants to "step out of the boat." We learned that even if you think what you are currently doing is focused on God's plans for your life, God might be changing the plan and you will need to step out of the boat and maybe even step into a different one. Something in that message found a place inside of me and it has kept growing, even when I didn't want to listen. But like many throughout the ages have found, you cannot run away when God is calling you to do something new.

The last several years have been challenging for me with my mother's sudden illness and passing followed by Erik's motor vehicle accident, and then the Covid19 pandemic. Adjusting to family life without my mom has been a long process. Some might think that two years has been an adequate amount of time, but my mom was a vital piece of our family unit and largely the reason I could be a mom and a youth pastor. Her role as JD's grandma was very hands on in our daily routine. With all that was happening in my family, I started to have a hard time juggling family life and ministry obligations..

Right before the Covid19 Pandemic, I attended a seminar on Suicide Prevention in Teens. One of the parents in attendance said that it can take up to 6 months for a teen dealing with mental health issues in central Ohio to get an appointment with a counselor. The professionals facilitating the seminar agreed. In that moment, that little something that nudged me back at Reach 2018 started to get bigger. In the year that has followed I have not been able to lose that thought. I have stayed "in the boat" not wanting to leave the comfort that has been part of my life for the past 12 years.

As we have gone through the evaluation process these past months, I can finally say it. After 26 years in youth ministry, with 12 being at Church of the Master with 4 different pastors, I am burned out of local church youth ministry. I love the youth of Church of the Master with my whole heart and they deserve more than what I can give them now. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown me how much time I have missed with my family and before it is too late, I need to be intentional with the time I give to my family. I need a vocation that allows me to do just that. God has put the plan in front of me and has asked me to step out of the boat. The answer is clear. It is time for me to follow God's new calling for my life..

Pastor Jay asked me several months ago, if I thought my call could be changing. The answer is yes. I have prayed, listened, and discerned. I have come to the realization that God is calling me to go back to school and get a Master's Degree in Clinical & School Counseling. I may not be able to fix the 6 month waiting time for every youth seeking counseling, but I certainly can be part of the solution.

It is time for me to step out of the boat and walk into the new path that God is calling me to. I will forever be grateful to Church of the Master and all that it has meant to me and my family. Erik, JD, and I plan to stay at Church of the Master.

As my tenure on the staff is ending, I would like to share the lyrics to one of my favorite hymns that I found helped me discern the changing God's call on my life.

"Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" (Cesáreo Gabaráin UM Hymnal, No. 344)

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

With a grateful heart,

Beverly Pancoast
Director of Youth Ministries



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. Weather Permitting we will meet outside at the church or another location. That information will be sent out via email and text. In the case of bad weather, the Zoom link will be sent out on Sunday afternoons via email & text. After March 14, questions can be directed to Larry Anderson or Pastor Jay.

Sunday Evening Youth—Outside & Together

At a recent Youth Ministry Task Force Meeting, the members decided that it is important for the youth to be together (masked and socially distanced of course).

Sunday, March 7, 21, & 28 6:00-7:30
In the Church Parking Lot, Weather Permitting
“Lost and Found”

People get lost for all sorts of reasons but sometimes we get lost because of decisions we make or because of decisions that people make around us. Teenagers need spaces and people who will help them find their way back when they find out that they are lost and welcome them home when they make mistakes.

Jesus wanted everyone to know that these environments exist, especially with Him. With Jesus, lost things get taken care of and found things get celebrated. It's important to know when you feel lost, **Jesus notices you. Jesus values you more than you know. Jesus always welcomes us back.** And, the best news, **Jesus invites you to the party.**



Sunday, March 14th 6:00-7:30pm
In the Church Parking Lot, Weather Permitting
Game Night & Farewell

All youth are invited to join us in the church parking lot to join us on Bev's final day on Church of the Master staff. We will share in a devotion and then play a few games—both new and old.

“The Gospel According to Harry Potter Bible Study”

Thursday Evenings 3/4, 3/11 @7:00-8:00pm via Zoom

Join us on as we finish up Section 1: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone. The study will pick up after Easter assuming there is interest and there is a volunteer to lead the study.

Safe Sanctuary Update 2021

All of the Safe Sanctuary training materials can be found on the Church of the Master website under “resources”. After March 14th, any questions about the Safe Sanctuary policy or training can be sent to Miss Erin (children@chmaster.org)

WE ARE HIRING



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Columbus City Schools may have a perfect opportunity for you. We are currently seeking individuals to work as a **SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** within our district (locations vary). Feel free to share this information with anyone you know who may be interested in this opportunity and encourage them to apply. **Training provided!**



Bachelor's Degree with Sub License

*Don't have a sub license?
We will help!*

Starting at
\$18/hour
(\$126 per day)

Bachelor's Degree with Teaching License

Starting at
\$20/hour
(\$140 per day)

APPLY TODAY

- ▶ Go to www.ccsosoh.us/jobs
- ▶ Click "Teachers Apply Here"
- ▶ Click "Substitute" under the Available Jobs header

*Work for 60 days straight and you may become benefits eligible for medical, dental, vision, and life insurance.
Details provided during hiring process.*

Columbus City Schools, established in 1845, is Ohio's largest school district, serving the needs of 50,000 students in 100 schools. We are committed to building a culturally diverse workforce. Minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. CCS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, national origin, disability status, or protected veteran status.

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS Talent Acquisition

ccssoh.us/jobs

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 2021	1 7:00pm-SPRC Meeting	2 10:00am-Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m.-Zoom M&Ms Parent Study	3 6:00pm-Handeblls Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.-Zoom Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.– Book Study led by Jim Wagner	4 7:00pm-Youth Bible Study: Harry Potter	5	6 9:00am-Zoom Lenten Book Study
7 9:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	8 7:00m– ZOOM Finance Meeting	9 10am– Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m.-Zoom M&Ms Parent Study	10 10:00 a.m.- Reopening Task Force Meeting 6:00pm-Handeblls Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.– Zoom Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.– Book Study led by Jim Wagner	11 7:00pm-Youth Bible Study: Harry Potter	12	13 9:00am-Zoom Lenten Book Study
14 9:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	15	16 10am– Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m.-Zoom M&Ms Parent Study	17 6:00pm-Handeblls Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.– Zoom Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.– Book Study led by Jim Wagner	18	19	20 9:00am-Zoom Lenten Book Study
21 9:00am-Sunday School 10:00 am- Live Stream Worship 6pm-7:30pm- Youth Group	22	23 10am– Staff Meeting 6:00pm-Missions/ Outreach Meeting 6:30 p.m.-Zoom M&Ms Parent Study 7:00pm-Health and Wellness Meeting	24 6:00pm-Handeblls Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.– Zoom Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.– Book Study led by Jim Wagner	25	26	27 9:00am-Zoom Lenten Book Study
28 9:00am-Sunday School 10:00am-Palm Sunday Live Stream Worship 11:30 a.m.-Children’s Ministry Pam Sunday Celebration 6pm-7:30pm- Youth						



**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.

Church of the Master United Methodist
24 N. Grove Street
Westerville, OH 43081

614.882.2153

Staff

Pastor Jay Anderson, Senior Pastor
pastor@chmaster.org

Erin Flory, Director of Children's Ministries
children@chmaster.org

Kitty Laurich, Children's Choir Director
childrenmusic@chmaster.org

Bev Pancoast, Director of Youth Ministries
youth@chmaster.org

Lucy Kelly, Director of Campus Ministries
campus@chmaster.org

Chris Bowling, Director of Music Ministries
music@chmaster.org

Tyler Domer, Music Associate
choir@chmaster.org

Kim Hoessly, Bell Choir Director
handbells@chmaster.org

Amber Johnson, Office Administrator
office@chmaster.org

Bill Ruff, Financial Secretary
finance@chmaster.org

April Smith, Facilities Manager
facilities@chmaster.org

David Campbell, Custodian