

RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



A Letter from the Pastor:

by Pastor Jay Anderson

As you read this newsletter Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away and following days after, the beginning of the Advent Season. After more than a year and a half of pandemic-effected activities, after having to worship last Advent and Christmas in a live-stream only way, it will be wonderful to return this year to a traditional in-person Advent and Christmas Season. And what could be more traditional than our lectionary-based theme for Advent this year, "Come Home for Christmas."

Advent is an invitation. For many, it is the invitation to get into that Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration, and let the holiday transform everything around us. We're not all about Christmas, the holiday, about December 25 with all the jingle bells and tinsel. We *are* about Christmas, the Mass of Christ, the celebration of the Incarnate one who comes to remind us that we are not alone, and God is with us. We are about the longing for the coming kin-dom, where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and love will be the tie that binds us together. That's the home for which we long. That's the invitation this Advent season to our church and to the world: "Come home for Christmas."

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We will gather on Sunday November 21st, and again on the following Monday and Tuesday for the traditional Hanging of the Greens, where we will pull out all the stops to decorate the sanctuary and some of our outdoor areas for the Advent/Christmas seasons in order to prepare for the season. Christmas Eve worship will include both our traditional Family Service led by our children as well as A Service of Lessons & Carols in which we recount and celebrate the coming of Christ in word and song. There will be much to celebrate as we embrace Christ's invitation to "Come Home for Christmas" this year.

With that to look forward to, there are a couple of other things leading up to that "most wonderful time of the year," that I want to share with you as well. On Sunday November 7th we will remember the saints who have completed their journey in faith on All Saints Sunday. This service will include Holy Communion and a time of remembrance of those of our church family who have died in the past year. Also in November we will be conducting our annual stewardship campaign, where we are asked to prayerfully consider what percentage of our income God is calling us to give to support the mission and ministry of Church of the Master. Thanks to your incredible generosity, paired with the diligent stewardship of our staff and our Finance Team, we have been able to do wonderful ministry over this past year, even in the midst of pandemic restrictions and challenges. And as you will learn during this campaign, many of our ministry areas have been able to not only do incredible ministry this year, but have wonderful visions for how to share the love of God in our community in new ways in 2022. I look forward to celebrating God's generosity made manifest in our giving at the conclusion of our fall campaign in November.



So as we move into this season of Thanksgiving, of counting our blessings while also being blessings to other, I give thanks for all of you and your prayers and support that Lynn and I have received over the past year. In the midst of joys and in the midst of struggles, I thank God for you every day, lift you in prayer to God every day, and seek to serve God humbly with you every day.

Blessed to be a blessing,

Pastor Jay

Support WARM. Drop off donations for WARM in containers located outside the sanctuary. This is a great way to let the community know that Church of the Master is still actively engaged in caring for our community.

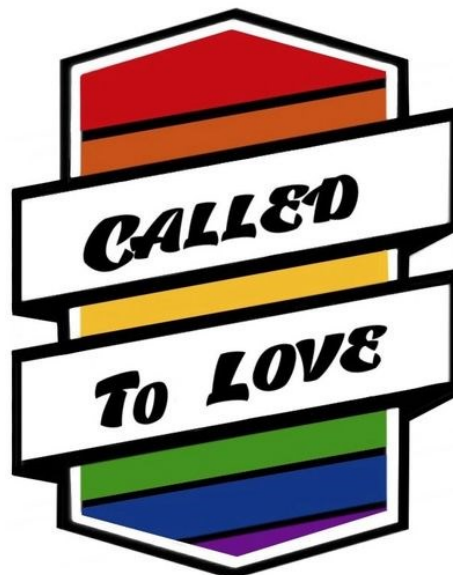
Current needs at WARM include: brown rice, grits, cream of wheat, oatmeal, peanut butter, canned mushrooms, canned olives, dry coffee creamer, egg noodles, stewed tomatoes, tomatoes with green chiles, shelf stable juices



Called to Love!

Our next meeting of “Called to Love” will be Monday, November 15th at 7pm in the sanctuary. This group seeks to educate ourselves about the experiences of LGBTQ+ persons, and explore our own implicit biases and behaviors to find ways we can grow as individuals and as a church community. Our content and discussion at the November meeting will center on how to be a strong ally, and we hope you’ll join us! If you have questions, contact Cindy Hughes hughes_cindy@yahoo.com.

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Creating a Legacy Through Generosity

By Greg Shaw

As we turn the calendar to the month of November, we are reminded that we are nearing the celebration of Thanksgiving. That means its also time to celebrate and give thanks for the impact that Church of the Master has on each one of us and the community.

Soon you will receive a mailing that will include our version of a Narrative Budget. This report highlights programs of our church, describing how we are touching lives within our walls and beyond. We want to share relatable stories on current activities and future plans of the church to carry out our mission and ministry, rather than overwhelm readers with a spreadsheet- style budget that lists our activities by column titles.

As we focus on Stewardship and Generosity over the next three weeks, you will see videos of people who respond to the question about “Why I give to Church of the Master.” I hope you will consider how Church of the Master has impacted you and consider how your financial support for 2022 can help us grow Christ’s Kingdom. Your generosity is counted on to keep Church of the Master a thriving place of worship and discipleship-growing.

Consecration Sunday is November 21st, when Estimate of Giving cards will be collected. As a thank you celebration, Sunny Sips beverage trailer will be in our parking lot to serve coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and hot cider. Look for the trailer between 8:30 and 12:30!



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Children's Ministry News

by Cindy Hughes

Sundays: Rainbows and Dewdrops

Families are encouraged to worship together during the 9:00 a.m. service - we will have activity bags to help your children stay engaged. Our Sunday morning children's church programs (Rainbows and Dewdrops) and nursery care are offered during the 11:00 service. Preschool and elementary children begin the 11:00 worship service with their families and will be invited to meet their teachers in the Gathering Space after the children's message to transition to their classrooms. On the first Sunday of each month, children will return to the Sanctuary during Communion to participate with their families.

Week	Lesson	Scripture
November 7 (Communion)	The Widow's Offering	Mark 12:38-44
November 14	Be Ready	Mark 13:1-8
November 21	Christ the King	John 18:33-37
November 28 (1 st week of Advent)	A Good Ruler	Jeremiah 33:14-17

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

It has been such a blessing to meet outside and in-person for M&Ms this fall – I've have been simply blown away by how well smoothly everything worked, and how beautiful (mostly) the weather was! **We will be moving permanently indoors for the season on 11/4**, as earlier sunset and cooler temps are now upon us. Because children under 12 still cannot be vaccinated, we will *not be offering dinner* at least through December, with the hope to reintroduce indoor meals in January if Covid case numbers and children's vaccine availability support doing so safely. See below for the adjusted schedule, knowing that we will need to change again when we add dinner back into the evening – at which point we will be back to our "pre-Covid" M&Ms line-up. (Wouldn't that be amazing!?! Let's all pray on it!)

5:30-6:00 pm:

Children's Chimes in Rm 20

6:00-6:30 pm:

Cherub Choir in Fellowship Hall (toddlers-K w/their grown-ups)

Faith Development in Rm 17 (1st-5th graders)

6:30-7:00 pm:

Godly Play in Rm 8 (3 year olds-K)

Junior Choir in Rm 15 "Movie Room" (1st-5th grade)

Thank you for your flexibility - we will continue to monitor Covid numbers, and adapt as needed. November 25th there will be **no M&Ms due to Thanksgiving.**

Looking ahead to Advent & Christmas

December 5th, 6-7pm:

Save the date for “Cocoa & Carols,” an outdoor holiday gathering for our church community!

December 24th: Family Christmas Eve Worship, 5pm

We are planning for our traditional Family Christmas Eve service, led by our children and including Chime Choir, Cherub & Junior Choir, and telling the nativity story! (We will continue to observe any CDC safety guidelines in place at that time.) Please begin to think about if your family will be available to participate, as I will be sending a survey in early November to determine which children may want speaking parts and other specific jobs in the service.

Children’s Ministry Service Opportunities

November service project: “Holiday Cheer for Active Military”

We are partnering with Operation Evergreen (<https://youtu.be/Pm0E6Cf-JPk>), who provide Christmas trees to active military units serving overseas. Church of the Master children and families can create cards and ornaments to be included with the trees, to help express our gratitude for their service, and add some cheer to their holiday! Participation kits and more details will be available at M&Ms on 11/4, but please let Cindy know if you need to arrange a different pick-up situation. All contributions need to be returned/collected by Sunday morning 11/14, so they can continue their journey into the hands of our military personnel in time for Christmas!

For 2nd-5th Graders and Up: Acolytes Needed

Jesus said “I am the light of the world,” and lighting candles in Worship is a symbol of Jesus’ presence in our world and in our sanctuary! We critically need acolytes to fulfill this special role during the 11:00 service - three each Sunday for the remainder of our “We Make the Road by Walking” sermon series. While this has typically been a task for our 2nd-5th graders, we also welcome Youth and Adults to participate in carrying Christ's Light! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4aada72aabff2-acolytes>

For Adults and Youth: Co-Teachers STILL needed

We need a few co-teachers for Thursday evenings at M&Ms. We have 30 minutes of Faith Development for 1st-5th graders from 6:00-6:30. Nothing to prepare – just be ready to give your energy and attention to our children! I would love to find some persons willing to serve twice a month in this role. Email Cindy Hughes (children@chmaster.org) when you’re ready to be of service!

Have you joined the Church of the Master Children’s Ministry Facebook group?

This is a private group for parents of kids involved in our children’s ministry programs. Having this additional connection point will be helpful if we would need to switch to a virtual format again. www.facebook.com/groups/chmasterchildren/



**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

Lucy Kelly, Associate Pastor
associate@chmaster.org

Cindy Hughes Director of Children’s Ministries
children@chmaster.org

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

Hannah Tonn Director of Youth Ministries
youth@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 Fullah, Office Administrator
office@chmaster.org

Bill Ruff, Financial Secretary
finance@chmaster.org

Randy Bennett, Interim Facilities Manager
facilities@chmaster.org

David Campbell, Custodian