

# RENEW

Official Newsletter of Church of the Master



## A Letter from the Pastor: by Pastor Jay Anderson

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So, other than your hair growing longer that you'd really like (assuming that hair growth is something you have to contend with) or that your roots are revealing more about you than you prefer other people to know, how are you doing right now? One of the things that this pandemic and response is forcing us to do is to think differently about what we do and how we do it. Some folks talk about life "returning to normal," but honestly, I don't think things will ever "go back" to normal, but I do believe we'll "go forward" to a new normal.

For example, many people have begun to use Kroger Click List or the similar features that other grocery stores are using where they do your shopping for you and you just have to show up to pick it up. It's very convenient if you don't mind someone else picking out your produce for you. I know that a lot of people will return to doing their own shopping once the gathering restrictions are removed, but a lot of people will also continue with the new normal of using this service.

Similarly, we have discovered in the church that using Zoom, we can have some very good meetings in 40 minutes or less - meetings that have sometimes taken 60-90 minutes in person in the past. I think the "new normal" in the way of expectations is that ALL meetings should be able to be done in about 40 minutes, certainly no longer than 60.

I think this is not unlike what the disciples dealt with in the aftermath of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. No, Jesus wasn't physically there with them, except in a few instances and depending on which Gospel account you read, but he did "Zoom" in from time to time for a meal, for a walk, or to pass on the Spirit to them so that they could adjust to the new normal that they had to deal with as well. It wasn't always easy, they didn't do things "the way they had always done it" before, but they adapted and the church grew rapidly and broadly in the coming years.

I don't know when we'll be able to gather in person for worship again.

My expectation is that it will not be until sometime in June at this point. While I'm anxious to see all your smiling faces in person again, I also don't want to do something that is going to jeopardize or endanger any of you. Video worship is not ideal - I get that - but for now, like the disciples who had to lock themselves away in the immediate aftermath of the crucifixion for their own safety, we need to continue to gather from afar in order to make sure that everyone is safe.

I was speaking about this with Lucy Kelly today, after we concluded recording parts for worship, about what it might look like going forward

after the stay-at-home orders were lifted. A couple of thoughts:

When we return, we're going to have to continue maintaining safe distancing, even in the sanctuary during worship.

We're going to have to get used to wearing masks when we gather, and not shaking hands

When we return, not EVERYONE will return. There will be some for whom gathering publicly will still NOT be safe, and so in order to continue to reach and care for them, some form of video worship will have to continue even after public gatherings have begun again.

So, "going back to normal" will not be an option for us - "going forward into a new normal" is the road that lies ahead. We will have to very carefully consider what that looks like, how the Spirit is leading us to BE the church in the society we find on the other side of pandemic, whenever that happens to be. In the meantime, we continue to care for one another, pray for one another, and provide for one another. That is a "normal" that will never change!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Jay



We are requesting a card shower for Ernie Rodgers, who will turn 100 years old on May 5. He would love to know we are out here and still care.

**Mr. Ernest Rodgers**  
99 W. Plum St  
Westerville, OH 43081

# Congregation Updates

# Congregational Care

by Michele Beach

Hopefully all of you are doing as well as possible as we continue to function in this unusual time. The Telecare Ministry is continuing to contact people every 2-3 weeks. If you are not receiving calls from this ministry and would like to, please contact Michele Beach at 614-975-7164 or [beachml@gmail.com](mailto:beachml@gmail.com) and I will get you added to our list.

I know that I have been having difficulty remaining functional while we are all self-isolating. I encourage each of you to try and accomplish at least three things each day:

Something for yourself – Take a shower, work on a puzzle, read a book, take a walk. Do something each day to care for yourself.

Something for others – Make a phone call, write a card, send a text, do something to care for someone outside of your home. Stay connected to each other.

Connect with God – Say a prayer, read a scripture, or listen to a song or hymn that touches your heart. God is always with us, we need to reach out to Him each day.

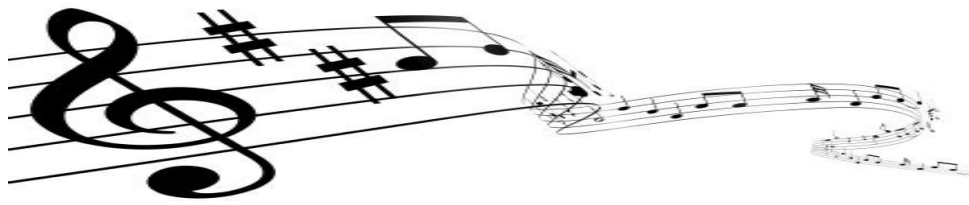
Remember - “Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”  
I Thessalonians 5:11

## Update from the Finance Committee

by Greg Shaw

Many thanks to all of you who have continued to faithfully support our church with your financial contributions during this period of disruption. While I feared the potential impact that closing our doors to traditional worship services would have on our giving, our March income turned out to be better than anticipated. Thanks to your continued generosity, we have so far been able to meet all of our financial obligations. While income is below our budget estimate, so are our expenses to date. We are indeed grateful that our pledged revenue stays reasonably close to projected income. As might be expected, we are falling short of our normal unpledged revenue since we are not congregating, but hopefully that gap will close quickly after we are able to resume our normal worship setting. Please try, as you are able, to continue your normal giving of tithes and offerings to Church of the Master.

Please remember **all** checks submitted to Church of the Master for handling need to be payable to Church of the Master. If you are directing money to different funds or events, that information should be clearly marked on your envelope and memo line of the check. We do not have separate funds or accounts for youth, mission projects, designated endowments, etc. Those separately earmarked funds and accounts are used within our internal accounting system only.



## From the Music Ministry

by Chris Bowling

But what about the music? This has been the question I've asked myself since the beginning of our present situation. How do we present music in worship without gathering people to sing and play? The answer was far from simple; it involved laying aside tradition and any preconceived notion of how we've done church music before. We've gathered in groups of less than ten, we've kept our six foot social distance, and we've sang and played and recorded worship music offering the gifts we have because we love music and we love our church. I share all of this because I challenged the members of the Chancel Choir to share what the choir means to them and why they do what they do. Before I share some of their responses over the next few months' newsletters I thought I would share my response to those questions.

What does the choir mean to me? To answer this question I go back to my home church in Eastern Kentucky, I remember being in awe of our choir, and from as early as I can remember; all I wanted was to be a part of that group. It was in middle school when my voice began to change that I actually began singing with our Chancel Choir and I was hooked. From that point on nothing brought me greater joy than making music as part of an ensemble, even today I love singing, or playing, with other musicians. My one voice blending with others to become part of something much larger than myself is, to me, what church music is all about. It wasn't till I was in high school that I found a passion for directing, still making music but empowering others to use their gifts, still one amongst many but sharing my gifts in a different way. All that said, our choir at Church of the Master is my joy, my passion, my chance to unite my gifts with others, so that we lead worship and offer the best music possible. It is in that spirit that I invite everyone to into the music ministry here at Church of the Master. I honestly believe there is a place for everyone in our church's music ministry, and any of us who are a part of that ministry will help anyone interested explore the musical possibilities. I want to close with a favorite hymn verse, "Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!" – Fred Pratt Green

## McCurdy Mission Trip RESCHEDULED for 2021

by Jan Hamann

Due to the Corona Virus concerns closing down the McCurdy School and many of the McCurdy Ministries facilities, we will not be able to do in-person mission work at McCurdy this year. Our Church of the Master Mission Team trip to McCurdy has been rescheduled for Sept 27-Oct 2, 2021 (same week, one year later!) If you would be interested in being a part of that team, save the date on your calendar and contact Jan Hamann for more information.



United Methodist Women - Once again, we will need to delay our May meetings for a later date. I hope all are well except for wanting to be together with family, friends and your fellow UMW members. As we repeat at every meeting, let us say our Purpose once again.

**PURPOSE:** United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## Virtual Sunday School

Anyone who would like to be a part of the Sunday school class should email Tiffany McGinnis ([tiff\\_23@hotmail.com](mailto:tiff_23@hotmail.com)) or Rebecca Watson ([becky.watson@ameritechgh.net](mailto:becky.watson@ameritechgh.net)) so that you can be included in the email that comes out with the zoom link and password.



We have March-April and now May-June copies of **Upper Room** that we can mail to anyone who is interested. If you would like a copy, please email the church at [office@chmaster.org](mailto:office@chmaster.org). Also, specify in the email if you would prefer the small or large print version. We definitely don't want all of these to go to waste!

# Children's Ministry

by Erin Flory

## VBS, Day Camp and Survivor News



Be assured that we are carefully monitoring the recommendations from the governor and the bishop as we make plans for VBS/Day Camp this summer. As with all things in life right now, VBS/Day Camp will likely need to look different this summer. Our Knights of North Castle theme is still a go! We are currently planning both in-person and virtual options for VBS/Day Camp so we will be prepared to offer a SAFE and fun program for our children, youth and volunteers however things unfold. Know that we are working hard to make sure our kids have a fun and faith-filled summer. Please continue to reserve the week of July 20-24 on your calendars! We are hopeful we will have more specifics by the beginning of June. We're in this together!

Questions? Contact Erin Flory ([children@chmaster.org](mailto:children@chmaster.org)) for VBS/Day Camp or Bev Pancoast ([bev@chmaster.org](mailto:bev@chmaster.org)) for Survivor.

### Children's Ministry at Home!

For the past six weeks, our M&Ms families have been participating in virtual M&Ms at home. Each week, a video is emailed to our children and their families. Miss Kitty, Miss Di and Miss Erin lead the children in singing, they watch a video introducing the Bible story for the week from our Deep Blue Curriculum, do a lesson with Miss Erin, celebrate birthdays, and share together in prayer. It has been a joy to involve different children each week asking the question (What day is it?!) and reading the Scripture for the week. Miss Julie and her puppet friend, Gary have also prepared a special segment for our preschool and kindergarten friends sharing the Bible story for the week. A huge thanks to Miss Lucy for her work behind the scenes editing the videos! For Holy Week, Miss Erin delivered bags with a Deep Blue Easter book, the supplies to make a set of Resurrection Eggs, devotion ideas, crafts and an M&M Easter poem (with M&Ms for each kid, of course!) to each family with children in the life of the church. This time at home has been a wonderful reminder of the importance of parents and families in a child's faith formation. Far too often we are so busy with school, work and activities that faith development activities at home tend to take a bit of a back seat. Many families have embraced this chapter with more time at home to find creative ways to create holy moments with their families. During Holy Week, several families baked their own communion bread. Others created stained glass windows on their front doors or used sidewalk chalk to share encouraging Bible verses with their neighbors.

For the month of May, we will continue with virtual M&Ms. Our topics for May include:

**May 7** Peter and John (Acts 4:1-22)

**May 14** Peter in Prison (Acts 12:1-17)

**May 21** Paul is Changed (Acts 9:1-19) This will be our virtual M&Ms Banquet! We will celebrate our wonderful year together!

\*After Memorial Day, we will shift to summer programming for all children's ministry either in person or virtually.

### **Virtual Meet-Up Opportunities for Parents and Kids**

We will continue to have virtual meet-ups for both children and parents on alternating weeks throughout the month of May. We will use Google Meet. Check your email for the link right before the meet-up. If you are using a computer, you will simply need to click the link to join. If you are using a mobile device, you will need to download the Google Meet app before joining the meeting. Please reach out to Erin if you have questions. Looking forward to "seeing" you soon!

### **PJs, Stories and Prayers with Miss Erin (April 28, May 12, May 26)**

Put on your pajamas and get ready to join Miss Erin every other Tuesday evening for a story, short devotion, prayer and chance to catch up with your friends! A big thank you to parents for helping your children mute/unmute their microphones so everything goes smoothly!

7:15 p.m. Preschool/Kindergartners

7:45 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders

### **Master Parent Meet-Ups (May 5 and May 19, 9:00 p.m.)**

Connect with other Master Parents to check-in, enjoy fellowship and share prayer requests. Feel free to hop in as your schedule allows.

### **Needed!**

We need large cardboard boxes to prepare our Knights of North Castle decorations for VBS this summer. Large appliance or furniture boxes are awesome!! Please let Erin Flory know if you have any cardboard to donate. We will arrange to pick it up! Thank you!

### **Exciting News!**

Kirstin Antonaros will be joining us in May as our Children's Ministry Summer Intern! She will be helping with all areas of Children's Ministry, both behind the scenes and with our children. Miss Kirstin has a huge heart for our children and will be a tremendous blessing to all of us this summer!





Check out what some of the kids of Church of the Master have been up to while staying safe at home!



# Next Generation Ministries

## Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12)

by Bev Pancoast

### **Sunday Evening Youth Group Time:**

May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

7:00 p.m.

All Youth in Grades 6-12 are invited to join us for our Youth Gathering. We will play a game or two, and then have a short lesson. Look for the email with the link to the meet up. We will be trying a virtual “Iron Chef” –like activity and a virtual campfire. Look for details in the weekly youth emails!

### **Thursday Evening Youth Meetings**

May 7, 14, 21, & 28

7:00 p.m.

All youth are invited to this youth group time together. We will share Pows and Wow and a short devotional. Look for the email with the link to the meet up.

### **Tuesday “Lunch Bunch”**

May 5, 12, 19, & 26

12:30 p.m.

All Youth are invited to join in this fellowship time together. Look for the email with the link to the meet up.

### **Reach 2020 “In My Hometown”**

**June 12- 27 (as of 4/20/20)**

In the midst of the CoVid-19 pandemic, Reach Mission Trips has been working diligently to have the 2020 summer mission season continue. At the end of March, Reach announced that instead of having youth go to the original locations published, that we would have the opportunity to have

“Reach in my Hometown.” We have met with some folks from our congregation that can help up locate projects and we have met with Reach participants and families to see what Reach in Westerville could look like for us. Assuming that the Ohio Governor and the West Ohio Bishop say that we can be out of quarantine then we are planning on participating in this different looking Reach week. Reach will be live streaming evening program, providing the training for “blue shirts” to know the nuts and bolts of running a Reach week (We have Kaleigh Rudge who served on Reach staff last summer). For this to happen, we will need help. We will need folks to help with meals, snacks, ideas for neighbors who could use a project. We will need prayer partners for each participant. We will share our needs as we plan for this different endeavor.

Please lift the Reach year round staff and the churches that are figuring out what “Reach in My Hometown” looks out and the feasibility there is each community. Many similar Mission Trip organizations have just cancelled their summer opportunities, but Mike Jones, the Executive Director of Reach, said Reach is not ready to cancel, because he knows there are people who really need a Reach team to come to their homes this summer.

We know that there are churches and youth who will not be able to participate and that some of the people who could use the help the most in their homes are also the people who are at the highest risk to catch CoVid-19.

We know that our plans may need to change several times before June 12... and that it could mean that we do not get to participate at all in 2020, but the one thing we know for sure is that God is in our midst and with God, all things are possible.

In our current Covid-19 “Stay at Home” status, Church of the Master Youth Ministries are still happening, just in a different way! We are using “Zoom” to see each other’s faces and connect with each other. If you need a link to the meeting and don’t get the email you can call or text Bev Pancoast at (330)-416-4656.



**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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