

Renew

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It seems a little odd to do this two months in a row, but let me begin by wishing you all a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Last month that greeting was tied to the liturgical calendar, as the season of Advent begins our year on the first Sunday in Advent. This month, of course, I'm talking about the annual calendar, the Roman calendar, the "normal" calendar, whatever you want to call it. The turning of the calendar from 2019 to 2020 brings with it all kinds of expectations and opportunities for what the "new year" will bring.

One thing that it has brought has been many memes on Facebook featuring Barbara Walters introducing her old news show, saying, "Welcome to 2020!" At the same time, I'm reminded of the church visioning processes that many churches began in the last two decades, all leading towards a church developing a "2020 Vision" for where they wanted to be by this "vision-oriented" calendar year. I was part of such processes both as a lay person and after I began serving churches, and by the sizable notebook labeled "Vision 20/20" that I recently found here in the office, I see that many of you have been a part of this kind of visioning as well.

I first knew that I needed glasses to correct my vision when I was in first grade. I would borrow a friend's glasses to read the film strips that were part of our curriculum back then. Unfortunately, the vision tests they gave to children at that time were so simple (and ineffective) that I was able to pass them easily. I couldn't actually "fail" a vision test and get glasses until I was in fifth grade. And glasses were fine, except I was always breaking the temples on my glasses playing basketball in the playground or something, so they seemingly always had a piece of tape on them. In high school I got contact lenses and wore those for many years. In fact, it was only when, as an adult youth group leader, I was leading a youth trip and we were at Virginia Beach when a wayward swinging arm of a youth literally caught my eye with a fingernail that I was forced to quit wearing contact lenses for good and go back to my old glasses. Funny how your vision can be impacted by something you didn't see coming!

The same type of things happen in our lives and our families as well. Some unexpected event occurs and changes how you look at things, how you plan for the future, even how you deal with the present. We've certainly experienced that in the past year and I know many of you have as well. That doesn't mean we stop moving forward, it doesn't mean we stop doing the things we did as a family, but we do recognize and acknowledge that things will be different - will look different - going forward.

I think that's where we are as church, both locally and denominationally. It's hard to look too far down the road to see where we're going as a church when our view is obstructed or impacted by the upcoming General Conference 2020. Nobody expected the Traditional Plan to pass at General Conference 2019, so the way forward for the church at large is not totally clear right now. Things will become clearer later this year, but for

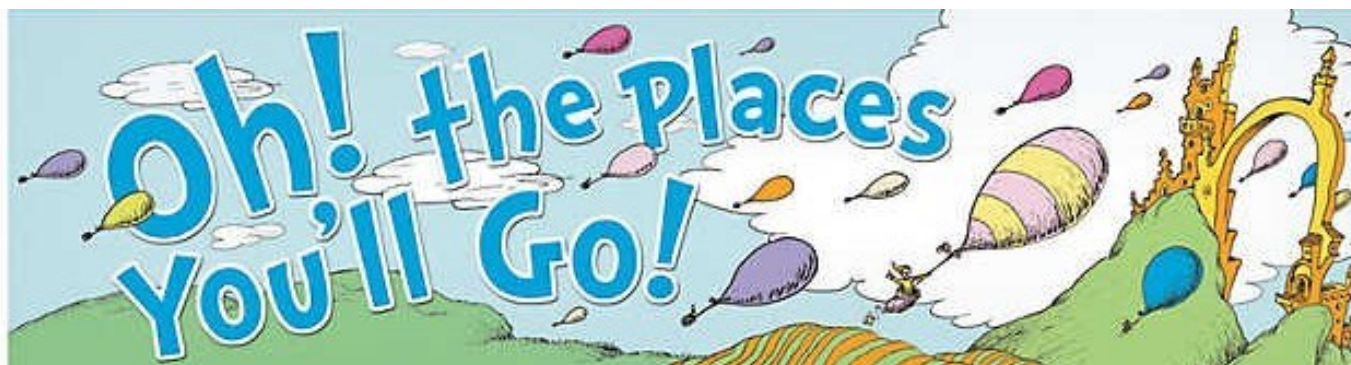
right now we find ourselves in the position of needing to “wear our old glasses” until our vision can be corrected. That doesn’t mean we stand still - we’re not blind and needing help to cross the street - but we do need to think about our vision more locally for the time being. Where do we as a congregation feel we need to be in ministry? How do we, as Church of the Master, exemplify our Love-Grow-Serve model with the people and community right around us? How do we enable and model Christ’s vision of the church in our place at our time? Like hikers on an unfamiliar trail, we don’t freeze and wait for someone to come rescue us, but rather, we proceed cautiously, trusting that our experience and our reason will guide us, even if we don’t know the trail that well.

So, assuming I’ve mixed enough metaphors to satisfy whatever any of us needs in order to “see” where I’m going with this, here’s what I propose: Let’s just be the church and let General Conference work itself out. As I’ve said before and I continue to believe, regardless of what happens at General Conference, regardless of what pieces of legislation from whichever constituency proposed them are passed, in the end there will be a moderate to progressive expression of Methodism that comes out on the other side, which is where I feel this congregation desires to be - a church that loves God and loves Jesus, and who desires strongly to be welcoming to all people. Those groups and churches who are at either extreme will most likely find an exit plan that is satisfactory to them. Or, the extremists will hold tight and it will be those in the middle who create a more welcoming expression. Either way, I think we’ll be able to begin to see what the rest of the journey looks like in another six months. Either way, we have work to do. We have children and college students who need to know the love of God in their lives - and we are the ones called to share it with them in this place. There are seniors and singles who need to know that they are still a vital part of this church family even if they can’t always participate at the levels they once did - and we’re the ones called to help them know that by word and action. There is music to be sung and shared, prayers to be led, discipleship pathways to build and follow, mission and outreach opportunities to support and so much more for us to be doing, gather than allowing our vision to be stuck on navel-gazing.

So here’s just one part of my vision for us in 2020. Let’s be the church! In our upcoming series on “The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss,” we’re going to explore timeless messages from God and Jesus Christ that are found in Scripture, but told through some stories that we often don’t think about as “scriptural.” During Lent we’re going to explore “The Way of Jesus” and what it looks like to make a commitment to following Jesus in our every day lives. As part of that series we’ll use a wonderful film called “The Way,” that came out a few years ago that I think you’ll love. I know I did! And Adam Hamilton has a new resource coming out for Lent that I’m looking at to possibly use as well. This Spring offers so many possibilities for us if we keep our heads up and keep our eyes focused on the way of Jesus - loving God and loving our neighbors. God is calling us to do new things in this new year. I’m excited about the direction we’re going to be able to go in 2020 thanks to your amazing outpouring of generosity in our Fall Stewardship Campaign. So, thank you! And let’s just keep our eyes, our hearts, our arms and doors open to who and how God is calling us to be the church in 2020. And to borrow from Dr. Seuss, “Oh, the Places We Will Go!”

Blessings,

Pastor Jay



Emergency Preparedness Plan

The Administrative Council have approved our updated Emergency Preparedness Plan. In the coming weeks, we will have individual leaflets for you to read and take with you. We will also be asking the ushers, staff members, and any other members of the congregation who are interested to attend a short training class so that we can respond to emergencies in the appropriate manner.

Here are a few immediate instructions to remember:

- ♦ It has been decided that if there is a Level 2 Snow Emergency declared in Westerville and/or Franklin County, the church will be closed and all activities (including worship services) will be cancelled.
- ♦ Call 9-1-1 for any emergency situation (Fire, Medical Emergency, Bomb Threat, Suspicious Persons, Active Shooter).
- ♦ If we need to evacuate the building – the gathering area is the lawn between the parsonage at 90 W. College Ave and Otterbein Clippinger Hall at 102 W. College Ave.
- ♦ In the event of immediate severe weather conditions – everyone move to the Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ In the event of an active shooter situation – Run, Hide or Fight

The Trustees and Facilities Manager thank you for your attention to this very important information.



For your information—January

Children's Ministry News

Music and the Master (M&Ms) News

All children, youth and families are invited to join us Thursdays from 5:30-7:00pm for music, fellowship, food and study. During January, the children will join the larger church in studying "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss!" We will also begin our preparations for Children's Sabbath. We look forward to a fun-filled month as we grow closer to God together. M&Ms will resume on Thursday, January 9th. We hope to see you there!

Children's Chime Choir

All children 1st-5th grade are invited to join the Children's Chime Choir for Session 3. The choir practices each Thursday evening from 5-5:30pm in Room 20. Session 3 starts Thursday, Jan. 9, and concludes with ringing on Children's Sabbath, February 23. Please let Marilyn Rogers (rogersmbg@gmail.com) know if your child plans to ring!

Kids' Night In

All kids 3 years old-5th graders are invited to join us from 5:00-8:00pm on Saturday, February 1 for a fun-filled Dr. Seuss night. We will enjoy fellowship together as we play Dr. Seuss inspired games and do Seuss style crafts and watch some of the classic Dr. Seuss tales (How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Horton Hears a Who! And The Lorax). We will have chicken nuggets, green beans, applesauce, and rolls for dinner with "Cat in the Hat" cups for dessert! *Cost is \$10/child or \$25/family.* Please let Erin (children@chmaster.org) know by 9:00am Friday, January 31 if we can count your kids IN!



M&Ms in Mission

Thank you to all who helped with our Count Up to Christmas. We donated 375lbs of food to WARM! Thanks for being a blessing to our neighbors in need.

Children's Sabbath

Please plan to join us on Sunday, February 23 for a special combined worship service at 10:00 led by our children. All children in the life of the church are invited to participate. We will begin our preparations during M&Ms this month. If you child does not regularly attend M&Ms but would like to be a part, please let Erin (children@chmaster.org) know so we can make sure you are involved.

M&Ms Praise Team

Calling all 4th/5th graders and any youth who love to sing! Join us after M&Ms from 7:00-7:30pm on January 23 and 30th to practice. The M&Ms Praise Team will sing during the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, February 2. This is meant to provide an enrichment opportunity for our young people to be involved in worship and share their gifts through music. Please meet Chris Bowling in the sanctuary right after M&Ms. Please let Erin Flory (children@chmaster.org) know if you plan to participate.

Sunday School

Parents, did you make a New Year's Resolution to be more purposeful about growing in your faith this year? The Sunday School hour is the perfect chance for you to try out one of the adult classes. We hope your children will join us for Children's Sunday school from 9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings. All children age 3 through fifth graders gather in the Movie Room upstairs at 9:30 for a time of singing and fellowship. The preschool/kindergartners then transition downstairs to Room 8 and the 1st-5th graders move to room 17 for their lesson.

Rainbows and Dewdrops

Rainbows and Dewdrops are the Children's Church programs held during the 11:00 worship service. Rainbows is for children in 1st-3rd grade while Dewdrops is for 3 year olds-kindergarten. All children are invited to begin the worship service with their families, participate in the Children's Moment during the service and then follow their teachers to their classrooms. Dewdrops is held in Room 8 downstairs and Rainbows is held in Room 17 upstairs.

Important Dates:

January 9 – M&Ms resumes
 January 10 – U2 Scavenger Hunt 6:00-8:00pm
 January 26 – Cherub Choir and Junior Choir sing for 11:00 worship
 February 1 – Kids' Night In 5:00-8:00pm
 February 2 – Kids' Praise Team sings for 11:00 worship
 February 22 – Children's Sabbath Practice (1st-5th graders)
 February 23 – Children's Sabbath 10:00 worship

The U2 Church Scavenger Hunt is here!

Friday, January 10, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

All 4th-6th graders are invited to join us for a Scavenger Hunt around the church. You & | your team will have to solve the clues that will lead you to the next clue. It is bound to be lots of fun. Please let Bev (330-416-4656 or bev@chmaster.org) or Lucy (803-760-6268 or ucykellycefm@gmail.com) know if you are planning on attending by Thursday, January 9.

Memory Verses

Our kids are working hard to memorize Scripture each month. These are our memory verses for January.

Sunday School Verse

Come, follow me. (Matthew 4:19a)

Rainbows/Dewdrops Verse

So they went out and proclaimed that people should change their hearts and lives. (Mark 6:12)

Safe Sanctuary Training

Over the next few months, Bev Pancoast will be offering Safe Sanctuary training. If you are in need of training, please let Bev know so we can schedule a time that works for you!



What's going on here on Monday nights? We have a new Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop! BSA 560 is now chartered with Church of the Master and we welcome them here on Mondays from 6:30pm-8:30pm. The Cub Pack has up to 100 scouts and parents and the Troop has up to 40 scouts and parents so we will have a full building on Monday evenings.

Please note that our BSA Troop 471 still meets here on Tuesday nights. Their numbers are decreasing but this is still a vital group.



Where Are They Now?

Where Are They Now?

As a church family we watch our children become youth and when they graduate from high school many times we lose track of where they are and what they are doing. Each month we will feature an update on “our kids” who are now out in the world.

Kristen Rudge

After graduating from Westerville South High School, Kristen attended the University of Cincinnati and earned her Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. Through the engineering program, she had to work full time at an engineering company for 5 semesters. Kristen did all of her rotations at Beckett Gas in Cleveland, Ohio. During her last rotation, Kristen was offered a full time position starting after graduation. Kristen moved to the Cleveland area in May and started working as a product engineer at Beckett Gas in June.

Kristen wrote: “I don’t have a favorite memory from my time at Church of the Master, but some of my favorite youth activities were attending the Reach Mission Trips and the Fall/Winter Youth retreats.”

“One thing I’ve learned about myself is that I connect well with music. I enjoy worshipping through song and when I’m having a bad day certain songs do wonders to cheer me up. I think being involved in the youth praise team we had, helped expose me to different worship songs that I still come back to and enjoy listening to.



From the Laundry Ministry:

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Advent mitten tree! There were 108 pairs of mittens/gloves, 29 stocking caps/hats and 13 pairs socks! Many families will receive these with much Love from our family to theirs.



Youth Ministry News

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Grades 6-12 in the Green Youth Room (off of the Fellowship Hall)

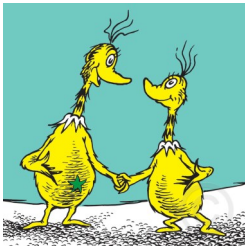
All youth are invited to join us on Sunday Mornings. Beginning on Sunday, January 19 we will begin a study entitled, "The Gospel According to Pixar." Hope you will join us!



SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GROUP:

6:00– 7:30 p.m. Youth Group Our full youth group meets on Sunday Evenings. We will provide snacks each week. Occasionally we eat dinner together. Those dates will be publicized in the monthly youth news. We are looking for folks to provide snacks for the youth and serve as another adult with the youth.

- January 5:** The day after the Lock-In: No evening work group
- January 12:** Chili Luncheon after Church: No evening Youth Group
- January 19:** The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss "The Sneetches"
- January 26:** Tough Topics: "Racism in 2020"



"The Sneetches" Sunday, January 19

In the spirit of the Sunday Morning sermon series, "The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss" We will spend our time together looking at the lessons of faith we can learn from "The Sneetches"

Tough Topics: Racism

Sunday, January 26

The news is filled of stories from around the country of how people of color are treated. How can we as Christians respond to these events?

THURSDAY EVENING YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES AT M&Ms

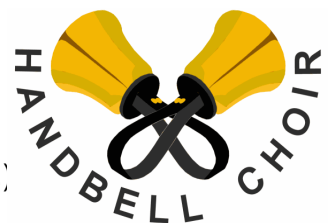
5:30-7:00 p.m.

All Middle School and High School youth are invited to join us on Thursday evenings!

- 5:30 p.m. Homework, Hang Out, or Hand Bells
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study

YOUTH HANDBELLS, THURSDAYS AT 5:30 P.M.

This session of Youth Hand bells will begin practicing on January 16 and play in worship in March. All youth, grades 6-12, are welcome to join us. Never rung chimes or bells? We are happy to teach you! If you are not currently ringing and you would like to, contact Kim Hoessly for information on the next session of bells. (khoessly@columbus.rr.com or phone/text 614-537-8596.)



Youth Ministry News



THE 11th ANNUAL YOUTH CHILI LUNCHEON: Sunday, January 12 Join us after 11:00 a.m. worship for our 10th Annual Chili Luncheon. We'll be serving some of the best chili in Westerville, along with, chicken noodle soup, salad bar, and great desserts. Gluten Free & Vegetarian options will be available. The funds from this lunch will help defray the cost of the 2020 REACH Work Camp to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. We currently are looking at approximately 35 youth and adults planning to be a part of our Summer Mission Trip with Reach!

Reach 2020– June 21-27, 2020

There is still space for youth and adults to join the 2020 Youth Mission Team that is headed to the Gatlinburg, PA area. All rising 6th grade through 2020 graduates are invites to participate. Adults are also welcome to join us! For more information contact Bev Pancoast.



Upcoming Reach Events:

Super Bowl Sub Sale	February 1-2
Potato Bar Luncheon	February 23
Reach Night #1	February 23

Campus Ministries

Monday Morning Coffee

7:15-9:30 a.m. Resuming 1/13

Otterbein students are returning to campus and that means our coffee ministry is back. If you are interested in being s Monday morning volunteer, please contact Lucy Kelly.

Mark you calendar for the next **Spaghetti Dinner on, Tuesday, February 18.**

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES- JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Church Office and Building Closed 7:30 a SAA Morning Group	2 7:30a SAA Morning Group 2p Troup 560 Move In Day	3 Pastors Sabbath 7:30a SAA Morning Group 6:30 SA Evening Group 8p Youth Lock-in	4 Pastor Jay on Vacation
5 Pastor Jay on Vacation 8:30 Casual Worship Service 9:30 Sunday School All Ages 9:30a Confirmation Mentors 11a Traditional Worship Service 4p Troop Patrol Leaders Council Meeting	6 Pastor Jay on Vacation 7:30 SAA Morning Meeting 9a Aerobics 10a Quilting 10a Volunteer Work Crew 6:30p BSA Cub Pak 560 7p BSA Troop 560	7 Pastor Jay on Vacation 7:30A SAA Morning Group 6:45 BSA Troop 471 7p SPRC Meeting	8 Pastor Jay on Vacation 7:30A SAA Morning Group 9a Aerobics 6p Exultation Ringers 7p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 Pastor Jay on Vacation 7:30a SAA Morning Group 5p Chime Choir 5:30 Music & the Master	10 Pastor Jay on Vacation 7:30a SAA Morning Group 8:30a SAA Morning Group Fellowship 6:00p U2 Event 6:30p SA Evening Group	11 Pastor Jay on Vacation 9:45a UMW Board Meeting
12 8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 12p The Annual Youth Chili Luncheon	13 7a Monday Morning Coffee Ministry 7:30 SAA Morning Group 9a Aerobics 10a Quilting 10a Monday Volunteer Work Crew 12:30p Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6:30p BSA Cub Pack 560 7p BSA Troop 560	14 7:30 SAA Morning Group 6:45p BSA Troop 471 7p Finance Committee	15 7:30 SAA Morning Group 9a Aerobics 12:30 Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6p Exultation Ringers 7p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30a SAA Morning Group 10a Staff Meeting 5p Chime Choir 5:30p Music & the Master 6:30p Stephen Ministry	17 Pastor's Sabbath 7:30a SAA Morning Group 8:30a SAA Morning Group Fellowship 12:30p Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6:30p SA Evening Group	18 9a Confirmation 10a Card Crafting
19 8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 6p Youth Group	20 MLK Day—Church and Offices Closed No Coffee Ministry 7:30a SAA Morning Group 6:30p BSP Cub Park 560 6:30p BSA Cub Pack 560 Pinewood Derby 7p BSA Troop 560 7p Trustees Meeting	21 7:30 SAA Morning Group 9:15a Tai Chi 6:45p BSA Troop 471 7p Administrative Council 7p K Circle 4 Him	22 7:30 SAA Morning Group 9a Aerobics 12:30 Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6p Exultation Ringers 7p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30a SAA Morning Group 10a Staff Meeting 5p Chime Choir 5:30p Music & the Master	24 Pastor's Sabbath 7:30a SAA Morning Group 8:30a SAA Morning Group Fellowship 12:30p Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6:30p SA Evening Group	25
26 8:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service 12p Children & Youth Visioning Event 6p Youth Group	27 7a Monday Morning Coffee Ministry 7:30a SAA Morning Group 9:00 a.m. Aerobics 10a Quilting 10:00 a.m. Monday Volunteer Work Crew 12:30p Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6:30p BSA Cub Pack 560 7p BSA Troop 560 Court of Honor 7p Telecare	28 7:30 SAA Morning Group 9:15a Tai Chi 6p Outreach Committee 6:45p BSA Troop 471 7p Health and Wellness Committee	29 7:30 SAA Morning Group 9a Aerobics 12:30 Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6p Exultation Ringers 7p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 7:30a SAA Morning Group 10a Staff Meeting 5p Chime Choir 5:30p Music & the Master Children and Youth Visioning Event	31 Pastor's Sabbath 7:30a SAA Morning Group 8:30a SAA Morning Group Fellowship 12:30p Otterbein Choir Rehearsal 6:30p SA Evening Group	



**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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