

Hazelwood Christian Church
1400 W University Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303
Ph. (765) 282-5969
Email: hazelwoodchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.hazelwoodchurch.org



HAZELWOOD LEAVES

May 21, 2020

Rev. Jason Jones, Minister
Stefanie Petty, Administrative Assistant & Newsletter Editor
Ann Wolfe, Moderator
Sunday Schedule: Online Worship Service, 10 a.m.

Our Mission:

**Sharing Christ with our community
through service and relationships.**



Look for us at:
www.hazelwoodchurch.org
We are constantly building and adding to it, so check back often! You can also contact us through the Website. Check out the home page.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

June 4 & 18

Items to be published in the Newsletter are due in the office the Monday prior to publish date. Thank you!

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Deuteronomy 31:8

BUDGET UPDATE

Offerings Received for Week Ending 5/12/20: \$5,670.00

Offerings Received for Week Ending 5/19/20: \$4,185.00

Average Offering for Last Five Weeks: \$5,442.80

Average Weekly Need: \$4,945.38

Jan.-Apr. Offerings Compared to Budget: (\$7,154.94)*

**Reflects the amount received UNDER Budget*



- ◆ Sympathies to the family of Wanda Strauch, who passed away on Saturday, May 16.
- ◆ John Starnes is at home recovering from recent surgery.



March 8 was the last time we were all together for worship in our building. For over two months we've been worshipping from home, all gathered around a computer, tv screen, or phone. I don't think any of us had any idea, on March 8, of the changes we'd experience. I remember there being a lot of talk in the news about COVID-19, but no real changes had taken place yet. I remember having the thought, "Should I be shaking hands?," but I didn't think anything was serious enough to act upon. Now, that time seems almost quaint with all the changes since then. The following week, Ball State went to online-only learning, and it wasn't long after that when Muncie schools went to online learning, too. We went to online worship for March 15, and, since then, we haven't been back together in one room, but we've been worshipping together from our homes while we're doing our online worship.

As I've listened and discussed with leaders from other churches, an idea has probably been at the center of our conversation: "How do we get back to March 8?" How do we get back to that March 8 reality, where we're all together, worshipping as normal in our building? That's been the focus of so much thought among people who lead churches. I understand that desire; our being physically together and worshipping in our building has been the focus of church life, and it's right and normal to want to have that back.

Continued on next page...

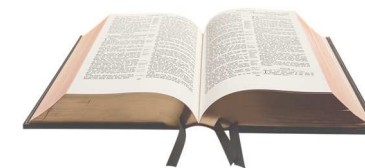
I wonder, though, if the question before us shouldn't be "How do we go back?," but "How is God leading us forward?" It's helpful for me to know God's people have gone through things like this before. When the people were brought out of slavery in the Exodus, once they left the familiarity of life in Egypt, they started wishing they could go back to their past life in Egypt. During the Babylonian exile, the people were taken away from their homes and the worship life of the temple in Jerusalem. They had to remake their faith and worship in light of their living in Babylon. That time of exile became one of the most vibrant periods of faith for ancient Israel. What is maybe my favorite section of scripture, Isaiah 40-66, comes out of that time where they had to renew their faith in their new situation. Their loss of their old worship life led to a beautiful renewal of their faith in God!

I believe this is a time of bad news and good news. The bad news is the challenges presented to us by COVID-19 will be with us for a while. And even while we are trying to figure out how to safely and faithfully return to worship in our building, worship won't look like March 8. That's the bad news. Here is the good news: God is still with us, and God isn't through with our world. God's people have been through things like this before, where they'd had to renew their faith under new and challenging circumstances. And so the question for us is not how we can turn the clock back to March 8, but how is God leading us in faithfulness, creativity, and renewal in this new season we're in? This could be a period where we look back and see it as a powerful experience of renewed faith. It's so tempting to look back, like the Israelites looking back to their old life of slavery in Egypt. Maybe, though, God isn't leading us to look back, but to look forward with boldness and faith.

Grace & peace,
Jason Jones

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20





DISBURSEMENT

- ♦ \$1,000 to Winnie's Kids

DISBURSEMENT

We have extended the deadline for donations to help 'Winnie's Kids' in Kenya until Sunday, June 7. Please mark all contributions 'Winnie's Kids,' and mail it to the church office (if writing a check, it would greatly help our bookkeeper if you write a separate check from your regular offering). Winnie is hoping to make her trip to Kenya this summer, though may need to adjust her plans depending on travel restrictions that may be in place. Regardless of the timing of her trip, there are still great needs in Kenya, so please prayerfully consider how you can help 'Winnie's Kids.'

~Blessings & Gratitude from the Missions & Benevolence Team

June Birthdays

| | | | |
|---|--------------|----|----------------|
| 3 | Louise Maley | 18 | Glen Sulanke |
| | Amy Stucky | 19 | Francis Muhiga |
| 4 | Erin Ciscell | 23 | Tiffany Ingles |
| 8 | Toni Carter | | |

If your name has been inadvertently left off, let us know!
Call the church office or send an email to
hazelwoodchurch@gmail.com.



JONES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the Jones Scholarship recipients for the 2020-2021 school year!



New Recipient:

Adam Glaze– University Of Southern Indiana

Renewals:

Josh Clary– Ball State

Andrew Glaze– Taylor University

Victoria Long– Ball State University

Khamasi Muhiga– Ball State University

Brynmar Rees– Butler University

Kara Tucker– Taylor University



In response to the current Covid-19 pandemic, all in-person meetings and events at Hazelwood are still on hold. While we all miss being able to gather together in person during this time, we separate ourselves from each other with love in our hearts in an effort to keep each other safe and healthy.

Don't miss out on worshipping with us online on Sunday mornings! Visit our website for details: hazelwoodchurch.org.

If you need to contact the church staff, you can do so by calling the church office at (765) 282-5969, sending an email to hazelwoodchurch@gmail.com, or sending an email directly to any of the office staff:

Rev. Jason: hccjjones@gmail.com

Stefanie: hccspetty@gmail.com

Marianna: hccmgill@gmail.com

Rhea: hccrmorgan@gmail.com