

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

Rev. Jason Jones, Minister
Stefanie Petty, Administrative Assistant & Newsletter Editor
Tony Gill, 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

February 11 & 25

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



*I hereby command you: Be strong
and courageous; do not be frightened
or dismayed, for the Lord your God is
with you wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

BUDGET UPDATE

Offerings Received for Week Ending 1/19/21: \$2,385.00

Offerings Received for Week Ending 1/26/21: \$2,830.00

Average Offering for Last Five Weeks: \$3,446.00

Average Weekly Need: \$4,945.38

Jan.-Dec. 2020 Offerings Compared to Budget: (\$8,283.98)*

**Reflects the amount received UNDER Budget*



- ♦ Sympathies to the family of Patty Richards, who passed away on January 17. Services were held on January 23 at Parson's.

COVID-19 VACCINE

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available to individuals age 70 and older. Schedule your vaccination online at ourshot.IN.gov, or call 2-1-1.



Have you boxed up all the Christmas decorations yet? A neighbor of mine, from a few years ago, didn't put away his inflatable Christmas characters for weeks after Christmas. They sat, deflated, along with a light-up manger scene, in his front yard, a quiet tribute to the season that had passed. We had some faithful workers turn out at the church, after we celebrated Epiphany, to put away all of our seasonal decorations until next year. The first Sunday without them was a little strange, without the lights and the Christmas tree; I was no longer surrounded by the cover of all the season's stuff.

There's a poem by Howard Thurman that says:

When the song of the angels is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone.

When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.

The work of Christmas is begun.

It's true. Now, as we go back to normal life, the reality of the incarnation is known. Here, in daily living, we know Christ has come among us, to show us a new way, to save us, to announce the in-breaking of God's kingdom. The decorations may be boxed away, but the gift of Christmas is not.

Grace & peace,
Jason Jones

pRESchool NEWS

2021-2022 REGISTRATION

Friday, February 12, will be the first day of 2021-2022 preschool registration. This day is reserved for current students, church families, or siblings of current students. All classes will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, starting at 7:30 a.m. All registrations may be brought to the Extended Learning Center doors for drop-off.

Friday, February, 19, will begin registration for families from Delaware County and the surrounding communities. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. All registrations may be brought to the Extended Learning Center doors.

We are considering offering a Transition Class in the fall. This class would be for students who have completed the 4-5 Class but are not quite ready for kindergarten, or for students who have missed the cut-off with a late birthday. Classes would be offered Mon., Wed., & Fri. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. If you are interested in this possible option, please contact Angela Lopez at (765) 284-2430 as soon as possible. We are also exploring the possibility of an additional all-day class on Tues. & Thurs. from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This class would be made up of students from the 3-4 Class who want to explore their preschool opportunities a little more in depth. Again, please let me know if either of these classes would fit you and your child's needs.

important dates

February 5 Teacher Work Day, No Classes

February 15 Presidents Day, No Classes

REPORT FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

On January 19th, the General Church Board voted to approve a Search Committee of Tony Gill, Joanna Hahn, Winnie Muhiga, Jason Ratts, Jairen Rees, and Ann Wolfe to immediately begin the process of finding a replacement for Rev. Jason Jones. His last Sunday with us will be on Easter, April 4th. So far, this group has met with Carolyn Reed, Associate Regional Minister, to learn protocol about the process, met another time to discuss a potential Interim Minister candidate, and then worked out an interview format. A candidate for Interim Minister has been scheduled for the Search Committee to interview via Zoom on January 29th. The intent of this committee is to keep the congregation informed of the steps being followed to secure an Interim Minister and, ultimately, a Senior Minister. Please refer to the "Overview of Search and Call Process" on the next page to see the standard procedure set forth by our Regional Office in Indianapolis.

~Ann Wolfe, Committee Facilitator

OVERVIEW OF SEARCH AND CALL PROCESS

- Month 1:** Christian Church in Indiana Regional Staff Minister meets with board of congregation
Regional Staff Minister meets with congregation’s search committee
Discuss interim needs and process
Consider names for interim minister
- Month 2/3:** Search committee calls an interim minister
- Month 3/4:** Regional Staff Minister meets with congregation’s search committee
Discuss overview of process with Search & Call Manual
Identify any issues that may need resolving before search moves forward
- Month 4-5:** Search committee, other leaders, interim minister and regional staff plan process for resolving any issues in the life of the congregation
- Month 5-7:** Search committee gathers information to create congregational profile
Demographic information about congregation
Clarity around mission/ministry of the congregation
Identify needed gifts/qualities in a new pastor
Gather information about the community
- Month 7:** Search committee sends completed congregational profile to Regional Staff Minister
- Month 7:** Regional Staff Minister sends group of ministerial profiles to search committee for consideration
- Month 7-?:** Search committee considers candidates
Phone/video interviews with 3-4 persons
Listen to sermons
Contact references
Narrow to 2 persons
Do on-site interviews
Narrow to 1 person and extend call
Search committee presents candidate to church board
Upon approval, search committee presents candidate to congregation for final vote

Note: Total time for completed process is about 12-18 months, depending on issues to be resolved or how soon the committee is able to identify a candidate to present.



NOTES OF APPRECIATION

“Hazelwood Church, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping with the Christmas Gift Lift. Because of your help, many residents in the nursing home had a wonderful Christmas. We couldn’t have done it without you. Once again, thank you.

Wishing you all the best for 2021,”
~Kay Walker

“Thank you, Hazelwood, for your generosity! We were able to send a second check for meals to Christian Ministries’ Sleeping Room in the amount of \$745, which makes our total giving \$1,275. This is amazing and not only provides meals for our week of sharing, but will also help when needed. Praise the Lord!”

~Missions & Benevolence Team

WALK-A-MILE 2021

A new year, a new adventure! Join us in a virtual rally to raise awareness of our neighbors in desperate need!

Participants in WALK WEEK can fire up their treadmills, take a trek around the neighborhood, or challenge themselves to complete one or more featured outdoor route-of-the-day circuits between February 8 & 13. Walkers can stop at the Muncie Mission any day of WALK WEEK to drop off donations, pick up a t-shirt, and snap a selfie with the Big Red Shoe.

The good news is everyone can take part– walk or support Hazelwood walkers with a donation to Hazelwood. Please write a separate check from your regular offering and be sure to write “Walk-A-Mile” in the memo line. You can register to walk or make a donation directly at munciemission.org/walk. Be sure to put down that you are walking for Hazelwood Christian Church!

New year blessings and thank you for your love and support.
~Missions & Benevolence Team

February Birthdays

8	Aurora Bennett	15	Jeff Clary	21	Wilma Purtlebaugh
10	Tori Long	17	Jill Clark	23	Scott Heavilon
12	Rhea Morgan	18	Melissa Ritchie	24	Gwen Clark
13	Wendy Rees	20	Jonathan Rowe	28	Bethany Ratts



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

A LETTER TO ALL DISCIPLES

Dear Disciples:

Here at the beginning of a new year, there is no doubt that our church - as much of the rest of the world - is in a wilderness season. We find ourselves wandering, longing for the comfort of what we once knew and wondering what the future holds.

I believe that this moment, like all wilderness moments, holds great opportunity for us, if we are brave enough to imagine what might be. I want to invite you to imagine with me.

Several intertwining crises present themselves in this moment, each with a particular opportunity: The pandemic, which has caused the cancellation of our General Assembly and forced so many churches out of their buildings, provides an opportunity to re-envision what church looks like in all expressions and to explore what it means to be a church sent out. The racial justice reckoning happening across the United States gives us an opportunity to revisit our commitment to be a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church; that is, to be the church we say we are.

The economic crisis, in which the wealth gap is widening and leaving many without access to resources, gives us an opportunity to discern how we will love and serve our neighbors, even as we work toward a more just economy for all. The political unrest in the context of American democracy gives us an opportunity to explore what it means to be witnesses to the story of Jesus in a time of such division and change. And the ever-present crisis of climate change provides an opportunity to reaffirm our call to care for God's creation, even as we confess and repent our participation in its destruction.

In this moment, then, our calling is clear. As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, we are called to imagine a church that bears witness to God's limitless love. We will need to act with courage. We will need to give ourselves permission to change, to let go of processes and structures and practices that don't serve us well any longer. We will need to let go of fear - the fear of what might happen if we do change, and the fear of the unknown future.

I'd like to share with you some ways we can live into this calling this year by focusing on four key areas: covenant, story, tools, and practice.

Covenant: The Governance Committee of the General Board is doing some important work exploring what it means to live in covenant. They've been reflecting on the theological foundations of our governing documents, reviewing possible revisions to the Design, and reexamining how we make decisions and how we speak as a church. As we prepare to hear more about this work later this year, **I hope you will pray for those who are discerning a way forwards, and for your congregation as it lives in covenant with the whole church.**

Story: It is time for us to shape a new narrative for ourselves, particularly in terms of

Continued on next page...

A Letter to All Disciples, continued...

what we see when we imagine ourselves an anti-racist church. Establishing common values and practices lived out in individual contexts will help us shape a vision of a shared future. Every day we must tell our story, share the good news, and make decisions that hold us accountable to be the church we say we are. In the coming months, I will be sharing ideas and inviting others into conversation with me, as together we imagine our new story. **Please make sure you're signed up for my *Dear Disciples* newsletter and follow Disciples social media so you won't miss these opportunities to imagine with me.**

Tools: There are some new tools already in the works that will help us do ministry together. I hope you have heard about Alex, a new Disciples database that will eventually replace the yearbook. It will provide a *real-time* directory and help us track churchwide data trends and help our regional and general expressions support congregations more effectively. New communication tools are being developed as well; you can now sign up for email newsletters that bring you the news you want, whether that's updates on justice efforts, messages from me, news from the whole church, or resources particularly for pastors. In addition, increased collaboration among regional and general ministries are helping us work in covenant with one another. Building relationships across the church, across laity and clergy, and across generations will be key to infusing our church with new energy as we all share our gifts in ministry. **You can learn more about Alex at www.disciples.org, where you can also sign up for newsletters and connect with ministries across the church.**

Finally, practice: Grounded in spiritual growth and development, we begin with love, letting love lead us into action testifying to the church we say we are. Our faith practices help us understand that love: We share communion at the Lord's Table as an expression of God's expansive welcome. We practice baptism and proclaim that we walk in new life. We study and share the ancient stories that point to a new world. We pray together, a practice that reminds us that we are not alone, that we are created and loved by God. We serve our neighbors, acknowledging that we are connected to each other and that we are called to live not for ourselves but for the sake of the world. **I hope, as we move into this new year, that you will stay connected to your local congregation, and that you will embrace the practices of our faith that give you life.**

Church, we are called to imagine a new world. We are called to imagine God's reign fully come, and to discern how we can participate in making it so. We call ourselves Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. **It is time for us to be the church we say we are: to seize the opportunity of this wilderness moment and to move forward with courage, permission to change, and freedom from fear, to imagine a church that bears witness to God's limitless love.**

I'm glad to be in ministry with you,

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, General Minister and President