

Hazelwood Christian Church
1400 W University Avenue
Muncie, IN 47303
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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

March 25
April 8 & 22

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



**Faith is the assurance
of things hoped for,
the conviction of
things not seen.**

Hebrews 11:1

BUDGET UPDATE

Offerings Received for Week Ending 3/2/21: \$4,029.00

Offerings Received for Week Ending 3/9/21: \$5,801.00

Average Offering for Last Five Weeks: \$6,346.60

Average Weekly Need: \$4,945.38

January 2021 Offerings Compared to Budget: (\$1,104.57)*

**Reflects the amount received UNDER Budget*



- ♦ Sympathies to Don Crose and family on the passing of his niece, Tammy, on February 23.



What keeps you up at night? More than too much pizza or the cup of coffee you had too late in the evening, what I'm asking is what are the worries that keep you from rest. Usually, whatever holds us awake is a picture of what we believe to be most important and what we fear will take it away. We're all different; it might be anxiety over money or health problems that keep us awake; it might be strained relationships or the argument we had earlier in the day that we keep replaying in our minds. Whatever that is, the thing that robs us of sleep is probably the thing holding our deepest concern, value, and fear.

Can I tell you what has kept me awake as the pastor of Hazelwood? It's the church's property. What has occasionally kept me from sleep at night is the upkeep and maintenance of the church's physical property and the nagging sense that it will eventually overwhelm the congregation. When we went through the Epiphany Process with Hope Partnership, we had an outside evaluator look at our congregation to give us an expert's opinion of the church. One of the things he highlighted was the property, saying that a church of our size cannot maintain a facility like this over time. He also said that our church, although on a large property, is very hidden in the center of Muncie. I, too, said when I first came to visit Hazelwood as a prospective pastor that it wasn't clear that the church was there even as I drove past it on University Ave. I often, when I meet people in Muncie, tell them I'm a pastor, and they usually ask where the church is and are puzzled when I explain to them its location. Many in our city

Continued on next page...

Pastor Jason's Journal, continued...

just don't know we're here. Our location, though large and in the heart of Muncie, is on a lightly-traveled street and invisible to most of the community.

I've seen the church's basement flood three times since I've been here, and the year before I arrived the church had an even more significant flooding. Our most recent flooding cost the church over \$20,000. It's only a matter of time before flooding happens again. I've also seen a lot of money go out to pay for continued maintenance on the property: new roofs, furnaces and air-conditioners, lawn care and upkeep, snow removal, and cleaning are just a few of the many expenses the church has paid to keep the property afloat. The question that kept me awake is how long the church can continue to pay a lot of money for a large property that is hidden from the rest of the community.

I know that the church, nine years ago, entertained the question of relocating from its present space, even voting with a split vote to move. Many of you have told me about that time, and for whatever reason the plans didn't come to be. I've brought up, a couple of times in meetings, that moving might still be in the church's future, but the topic was quickly set aside. I could tell that the church wasn't, after a time of crisis, ready to take on such a big question. I hope I can still shine a little light on that possibility now with the hopes that in the future it might not be an unfamiliar thought. When I first started at Hazelwood, work was already underway to sell the Fellowship House, and I thought then that letting go of that part of the property would be enough; now I wish the church would have followed through with its decision to seek a new home. I realize I'm soon to hand off the baton of pastoral leadership, and what happens down the road isn't up to me, but I hope I can water this little seed of possibility that might come to new life in years to come.

One of the hidden blessings of this time of pandemic is it has taught us the church isn't the property. We've been a church even as we've been away from our physical space. We've learned that God is present with Hazelwood and working through us even as we're not meeting at 1400 W. University. Maybe this time has taught us something important for the future. I know many of you long for our church building, and that is natural since the building is a repository of holy memories. But, the question I'm raising is: what if our building is more millstone than flotation device, the thing dragging us down rather than lifting us to life. The things that keep us awake show us what is valuable to us. Even as I'm taking up a new ministry, Hazelwood's mission and future is important to me. Even if you disagree, I hope you'll see why it's kept me awake.

Grace & peace,
Jason Jones

COVID-19 VACCINE

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available to individuals age 50 and older. Schedule your vaccination online at ourshot.IN.gov, or call 2-1-1.

Anyone needing a ride to get to their vaccination appointments can call the Muncie-Delaware Senior Citizen Center at (765) 289-0844. They are working with MITS and Lifestream to help people get to/from their vaccinations after they have scheduled the appointment.

SANCTUARY WORSHIP UPDATE

Since Delaware County is at the Blue level (as of this update), Hazelwood is moving forward in getting members back onsite as long as masks are worn, social distancing is practiced, and hand sanitizer is used. We will not come forward for communion quite yet. Instead, a “2-in-1” communion packet with juice and wafer will be provided. We may ask members to call the church ahead of time to let us know you’ll be attending so that worship chairs can be socially distanced and labeled according to families, “social bubbles,” and individuals.

A major part of this process is maintaining the streaming aspect of worship so that members who prefer staying at home, are confined to home, or live outside of the immediate area can continue to participate online. The goal is to have little of the service pre-taped, much like in pre-pandemic times. We will continue to have videos or presentations on the monitors since they proved useful in the past.

Tony Gill is working to get the service streamed from the church rather than from his living room. He has already met with some musicians in the sanctuary to establish correct sound levels. Since he still has full-time job responsibilities, however, Tony has time limitations. Your patience is very appreciated. The return to the sanctuary will happen sooner than later; we will let you know when that much-anticipated Sunday arrives!

COVID-19 Protection Plan Team: Tony Gill, Jeff Heavilon (health professional), Rev. Jason Jones, Bob Weller, Ann Wolfe



Updates from the Search Committee

INTERIM MINISTER UPDATE

We have an Interim Minister! Rev. Pamela Pettyjohn has a skill set drawn from many past experiences, one of which was an elementary and middle school teacher. She currently serves in an Interim position in Missouri and will be available sometime after July 16. What to do in the gap between Rev. Jason’s last Sunday (Easter, April 4) and when Rev. Pamela begins? We have a Regional friend returning as “Interim-Interim”. Rev. Diane Zehr is agreeable to helping us out during this period. We look forward to greeting Rev. Diane with Hazelwood hospitality again soon.

Thank you to fellow Search Committee members Tony Gill, Joanna Hahn, Winnie Muhiga, Jason Ratts, and Rachel Smith. Caroline Reed, Associate Regional Minister, remains a steady guide during this endeavor.

~Ann Wolfe, Search Committee facilitator

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE– LAST CALL!

March 15 is the deadline to submit changes to update the church’s pictorial directory. If nothing has changed from the 2018 version – home address, phone number(s), email address(es), and photo – then that information will be repeated. Several entries, however, have NO photo, so now is the time to add yours! Updated information and photo can be emailed to Stefanie at hccspetty@gmail.com, or mail it to: Hazelwood Christian Church, 1400 W. University Avenue, Muncie IN 47303. Any mailed photos will be returned to you after they have been scanned.

This directory is accessed online, but if you do not have a computer, etc., a hard copy may be requested. Let’s help Interim Rev. Pamela Pettyjohn learn who we are!

~Ann Wolfe, Search Committee facilitator



DISBURSEMENTS

The following organizations each received \$250 from the Permanent Fund:

- ♦ Habitat for Humanity
- ♦ Bedford Camp
- ♦ Second Harvest Food Bank
- ♦ Motivate Our Minds
- ♦ A Better Way
- ♦ YWCA
- ♦ Children's Clothing Bank of Delaware County

Receiving \$150 from the Permanent Fund: Christian Ministries

~Blessings from the Missions & Benevolence Team

March Birthdays

1	Andy Rees	8	Shirley Bookout	22	Dennis Holmes
2	Sue Weller	17	Yeno Matuka	24	Jeane Garrett
5	Steve Cartwright	18	Dee Moser	26	Barbara Syphers
	Carol Schussler	20	Felix Muhiga	30	Amy Moudy

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



March 11	Sing-a-long with Marianna, 7 p.m., Facebook
March 14	Daylight Savings Time Begins, Turn Clocks FORWARD 1 Hour
March 16	Trustees, 5:30 p.m., Zoom Board, 7 p.m., Zoom
March 28	Palm Sunday
April 1	Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 p.m., Facebook

pRESchool NEWS

pRESchool REGistRation

Our morning classes for the fall are filling up fast. If you have a child, or know of a family with a child, and are interested in signing up for preschool, don't delay, sign up today!

scholarSHIP NEEDs

With the pandemic taking a toll on our economy, we have several families who could benefit from a scholarship this year and the upcoming school year. If you feel God tugging on your heart to help out a family, whether it be a monetary donation or to be in prayer for them, that would be wonderful. Below is a list of the classes and fees:

2-3 class: \$65.00/month	Infant room: \$215.00/week, full-time
3-4 class: \$115.00/month	Infant room: \$115.00/week, part-time
4-5 class: \$150.00/month	Transition class: \$280.00/month
Enrichment class: \$225.00/month	

pamPEREd chEF fundRAISER

Our Pampered Chef representative will be at the church this coming Tuesday, March 16, between 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with cash-and-carry products. Twenty-five percent of sales go to the preschool!

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March 22-26	Spring Break, No School
March 30	Easter Egg Hunt, 2-3 Tuesday Class
March 31	Easter Egg Hunt, 2-3 Wednesday Class
March 31	Easter Egg Hunt, 4-5 Class
April 1	Easter Egg Hunt, 3-4 Class
April 2	Good Friday, No School
April 12-16	Week of the Young Child/Spirit Week
April 25	Preschool Sunday, Virtual
April 26	Preschool Art Show