

# HAZEL LEAF

## Hazelwood Baptist Church

265 Hazelwood Avenue

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Waynesville, NC 28786

*Tim Lolley, Pastor*

*Denise Mathis, Minister of Music and Worship*

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*"To express the love of God through worship, caring, sharing, and reaching out to others with the good news of Jesus Christ."*

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April 2021

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### Reflections.....

It was Charles Dickens, the English writer and novelist who, in 1859 penned the words in the Tale of Two Cities, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

Although not a theologian, Dickens captured the thoughts of almost all of us that have found ourselves in the midst of a year that we will never forget. As I write this note to you, I am reminded of what an incredible year of constant change, adaptations, and adjustments that all of us have experienced – both individually and collectively. We have seen humanity at its best and at the same time observed humanity at its worst. We have share in some memorable moments as well as moments that we wish we could forget. We have shared in victories as well as losses. We have ridden the spectrum of all human emotions from anticipations to disappointments.

Life is beginning to return to some sense of normalcy. Many have received either their first or both of the COVID vaccines. The numbers of the pandemic are continuing to fall, although we also know that we must continue to be vigilant and remain steadfast.

As I write to you, we are quickly approaching the Holy Week of Easter! It is a time to look both inward at our lives as well as gazing outward – remembering the reason for the death of Jesus on Golgotha's tree to the celebration of his resurrection from the borrowed tomb! Easter reminds us all of another two opposites – death and resurrection. I pray that as we journey through the holy days of Easter, we will once again be reminded to look back at the cross and forward to the empty tomb. It really is a sight to behold!

As we move forward into a beautiful Spring, we are sharing with you some changes to our ministries at HBC. A year ago, due to the rapid spread of COVID, we suspended our Bible Study on Sunday mornings as well as our Wednesday evening ministries. After much prayer and thought, the deacons and myself – in consultation with our Safety and Security Team are announcing that beginning on Sunday, April 11, we will be offering an adult Sunday School Bible Study class as well as a Bible Study Class for youth and a Bible Study Class for children. In addition, we are making plans to resume our Wednesday evening ministries to students on April 14. We are also exploring additional ministries for adults on Wednesday evening – with the exception of our choir. Hopefully, we will soon be at the point of being able for our amazing choir to gather again for rehearsals and to share in our Sunday worship service. In order for Sunday morning Bible Study and Student ministries to resume, we MUST have additional workers. Everything from van/bus monitors, people checking temperatures, assisting, helping and teaching – ALL are needed. We simply must have more people willing to help as we move into a new chapter. If you are interested or willing, please let Tasha Byrd know immediately. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Be a part of what's to come!

Thank you again for being so awesomely amazing! It is an honor to be your pastor! Let's keep praying and living for Jesus! The best is yet to come!

You are loved!