



THE MEETING HOUSE NEWS

680 Nazareth Church Road, Moore, SC 29369

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–2:00 pm

1765 Meeting House



DECEMBER

MISSION STATEMENT OF NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

To worship and glorify God and to make disciples for Christ.

Dear Nazareth Family,

Most everyone has heard me say that my favorite birth narrative is found in the Gospel of John. “And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” The original Hebrew would better be translated as “The Word was made flesh and pitched a tent among us.” Eugene Peterson says in *The Message*, “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.” The point is this: we are created by a God who made us in the image of the Holy; we are redeemed by a savior who loves enough to come into the world and get to know us firsthand; we are sustained by a Spirit who empowers us to handle any challenge because of the earthly presence of Jesus. There is no better news that I can think of.

And there is no church family I would rather worship, experience, learn, serve and have fun with than the Nazareth church family. This congregation truly knows what it means to love one another as God loves us. I see it every day in the ways our disciples reach out to one another, pray for one another and truly care about the details of each others’ lives. I experience it in worship—even when we have to subdue our Holy Chaos—as visitors are welcomed and brothers and sisters wave or hug or shake hands or greet each other with a true spirit of gladness.

I see it in the children as they sit on the bench in the front of the sanctuary and listen sooooo attentively, or offer the words of the Affirmation of Faith or mouth the words of the benediction as I sing it. I see it in the youth as they worship and serve and learn and play together.

During Advent and Christmas, you can see it too! Our souls will be fed by the music of the choirs, the youth and the instrumentalists this Sunday during our Christmas Cantata. Our bellies will be fed at the Advent dinners each Wednesday. We have the opportunity to get to know each confirm- and during the Sunday School hour on December 12 and then welcome them as full members into the church later at worship. Our hearts will be fed when we share the gifts that are collected for the Angel Tree recipients and their families, also on the 12th, and later that afternoon as we enjoy our intergenerational caroling. All of this will lead us to worship the newborn King once again on Christmas Eve as we come together as a family to hear the word, sing the songs of our hearts and partake in the Holy Meal.

I am so grateful that John brought Jesus, the Christ child, out of the manger and into the world where he lives and loves among us.

Christmas love to each of you and your families, Julie

Worship



***Worship in person or “Livestream” every Sunday.
Come and worship with us and bring a friend.***

Holiday Worship Schedule

December 5 Christmas Cantata (Adult choir, youth choir and Instrumentalists)

December 12 Confirmation Sunday

December 19 New Disciples join

December 24 Christmas Eve Communion Service at 5:00 pm

***December 26 Virtual worship only—Presbytery worship
featuring our own Nazareth Choir with others***

Please pick up any poinsettias that you donated after the Christmas Eve Service.

***The Byrnes HS Orchestra will present a recital at Nazareth on December 2nd
at 7:00 pm. Nazareth families are invited to attend.***

November Session Highlights

- Approved request to hold Baptism service for Mason Barath and Lillie Underwood on December 12.
- Approved request to use Presbytery Virtual service for Nazareth on December 26th. There will be no in-person Worship Service or Sunday School on December 26th.
- Approved request to accept the proposed 2022 budget. Proposed budget will be amended to add back \$2,400 to external missions to support ministry work of Shalynn/Tyler Crawford. Amended budget will be distributed. The amended budget amount is \$351,434.
- Motion was made and seconded to return to allowing movement during passing of the peace. Motion was approved.

Other Items:

- Margie Dobbins gave a report from the 118th Stated Meeting of Foothills Presbytery.
- The retreat for the confirmation class is November 19/20.
- The confirmation class will join the church Sunday, December 12. There will be a special celebration/recognition time for the confirmands during the 9:30 Sunday School time on December 12.
- Intergenerational Caroling is Sunday, December 12 from 3-5:30 followed by pizza in the Fellowship Hall. We will have vans to use for this event.
- The 250th anniversary celebration is May 21-22, 2022. The planning task force will have their first meeting December 2.

We will not have communion Sunday, December 4 due to the Choir Cantata. We will have communion during the Christmas Eve Service December 24.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

During Advent, the youth are discussing “*The Heart That Grew Three Sizes*” by Matt Rawle. Its about finding faith in the story of the Grinch. We all know the famous story: The Grinch hates Christmas with all the Whos’ singing, playing loud instruments, decorations etc. so, he devises a plan to steal the Whos’ Christmas. Once he does, he sits up on top of his mountain waiting to hear their cries, but instead hears singing and rejoicing. “*It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags! And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before— Maybe Christmas,’ he thought, ‘doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps.. means a little bit more!*” (From the Parables of Dr. Seuss by Robert L. Short) And as we Christians know; it does mean more. The message of Christmas is the unconquerable love of God given to us. The good news that Christmas announces to us: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11 NIV).

Please join us in spreading the good news by supporting our newest members, the 9th and 10th grade Confirmation Class on Sunday, December 12th: first, at a reception from 9:30-10:15am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by their confirmation into the church during worship service. ***There will be no Adult or Youth Sunday School that morning.***



Later in the day, we will go **CAROLING** to a few members of NPC at their homes, followed by dinner in the Fellowship Hall. (Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall if you will be joining us.) We wish you Hope, Peace, Love and Joy during this and every Christmas season.
The CE Team

YOUTH EVENTS

December

Wed, Dec 1	Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Cantata 7 PM
Sun, Dec 5	Christmas Cantata Worship Service 10:30 AM
	Angel Tree Shopping (bring donation \$\$ for gift) 5:30-7:15 PM @ FLC
Sun, Dec 12	Confirmation Sunday for Fall Confirmation Class
	Caroling 3-5:30 PM @ main church
Sun, Dec 19	Christmas Party @ the Friday's (bring \$5 gift) Meet @ FLC 4:30 PM, return 7:30 PM.
Sun, Dec 26	No Youth, Merry Christmas!



Missions



Missions Focus for December

Angel Tree

If you did not get Angel Tree name, The SOUP KITCHEN is also asking for \$25 gift cards for the teenagers. Walmart, Visa, etc. There are designated baskets to put the gift cards in, in the sanctuary and the office. All Angel Tree gifts are due by December 12th. They should be bundled and labeled with the child's name and number and left in the Fellowship Hall.

Homeless Helper Kits are located in the fellowship hall, the entrance to the sanctuary, and in the office. Please take one to keep in your car so that you can give it to someone in need.

Nazareth Mission Opportunities

The Carpenter's Table

Our day to serve at TCT will be Saturday, December 11th from 8:00—12:00.

There will be a Drive-thru Food Drive for TCT on Sunday, December 12th from 1:30 to 3:00. Volunteers will get your donations from your car. Contact Taylor for more information.

The Soup Kitchen

We will not be serving at the Soup Kitchen in December.



Fellowship

Advent Meals will be 12/1, 12/8, and 12/15 in the Family Life Center at 6:00 pm. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time of holiday fellowship with your church family. Please sign up so we will know how many to prepare for. You can also call Debby at the office to sign up.



Save the Date

Nazareth is turning 250 years old! We are older than America! The grand 250th Anniversary Celebration Weekend will be May 21st and 22nd, 2022. Additional details will be coming out over the next few weeks!!

Missions - The Carpenter's Table

Nazareth supports a local food bank called The Carpenter's Table, which distributes food to needy families in the community every Saturday. The Carpenter's Table is located next door to Tyger River Presbyterian Church, across the street from Walgreens in Duncan. One Saturday a month, Nazareth provides 100% of the workers for the operation. We are very lucky that the youth group consistently comes every month to help, but we are still sometimes a little short on volunteers. Our next date to serve is December 11th from 8:00AM - 12:00PM. If you are interested in helping, please contact Taylor Nunamaker at tynunamaker@gmail.com or 864-992-5708.

In addition, The Carpenter's Table also needs help picking up food during the week. Please see the message below to learn about how you can help with this important service opportunity.

Thank you,
Taylor Nunamaker

A significant amount of the food TCT distributes is donated to the organization by Sam's Club of Spartanburg. Each Tuesday and Thursday, TCT sends two volunteers to Sam's at 9AM to pickup whatever items Sam's deems ready to donate. The volunteers generally use a pick-up truck, large SUV, or van to transport the food back to The Carpenter's Table where there will be additional volunteers helping to unload and sort the food. Some volunteers like to arrive earlier than 9AM and if the Sam's staff is available they will go ahead and get the food pulled for them.

When you arrive at Sam's receiving dock (back of the building where the trucks unload) you notify the Sam's Club receiving staff who you are and what you are there for and wait for them to call for the departments to bring their donations to receiving. Normally it takes about 10-15 mins for the food to be brought out. They will bring it out to the dock on pallets. The quantity can range from 1 pallet to 5 or more. Two or so pallets is typical. If the volunteer has a pick-up truck, the Sam's Club staff will just put the pallet in the back of the truck. Otherwise, the volunteers unload the boxes from the pallet and put them into their vehicles. This task does involve lifting boxes that can weigh as much as 50 lbs. each.

The Sam's pickup volunteer's primary role is to transport the food back to TCT and help unload it. The entire process usually is complete no later than 10:00 AM. So the commitment is from approximately 9-10AM one day per month on either a Tuesday or Thursday morning. We have a standing schedule of volunteers that fill these slots. Right now we are specifically seeking additional help on several days throughout the month. We can be flexible in trying to match schedules.

If you are willing to assist in the Sam's pickup process, please contact Ryan Johnson at ryanwj@gmail.com or 864.641.8360.

Presbyterian Women

Festive December Ladies who Lunch

We are invited to the home of Julie Schaaf on Friday, December 10, at 11:30! The address is 230 Kilgore Circle, Simpsonville. Carpools from the church can be arranged.

Please bring "finger foods" such as appetizers and desserts.

Join us at this Festive gathering even if this will be your first time at 'Ladies who Lunch'.

Back Porch Circle

We will meet on Tuesday, December 14th, at 10:00 AM at the home of Debbie Balltrip. We will continue in our new book, What My Grandmother Taught Me, based on the women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.

Books are \$10. Dress for weather since we will meet on the porch!

New members welcome!

Circle 3

will have their Christmas dinner and fellowship time on Tuesday, December 14th, at the home of Leslie Stuermann, 119 Riveredge Dr. , Moore, at 6:30 PM.

Please bring a covered dish to share. We will be taking up donations for Heifer International to buy livestock for the underdeveloped nations. Visitors are welcome!

Saturday Sisters' Christmas

Who else has missed Christmas at Dale's? Saturday Sisters has not been together since before COVID! It's time we get together and Christmas is perfect! Everyone is invited so please invite anyone!



As has been our tradition, Dale Wright has offered her home.

When: Saturday, December 18th at 11 AM.

Where: 813 Laurel Bluff, Spartanburg

Bring a covered dish and a wrapped ornament to exchange.

Blessings to all, Barb Melton and Dale Wright



Safety Off-duty officer

Our church employs an off-duty deputy from the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department for each Sunday service and at other functions when requested. The officer arrives on-site 30 minutes prior to the beginning of Sunday school, enters the building at the back (office) door, and tours the inside as well as the outside of our premises. He (she) then moves the vehicle to the driveway opposite the sanctuary main entrance and throughout the service observes the cemetery side of the sanctuary, the main entrance, and the courtyard and Fellowship Hall doors. The officer is equipped with a Nazareth radio and is in touch with two observers in the sanctuary as well as the nursery attendant throughout the service.

Stewardship

“Grace, Gratitude and Generosity”

During the Stewardship Season you heard eloquent words from Jeff Hayes, Steve Balltrip and Brian Kern about grace, gratitude and generosity, respectively. You were asked each week to consider the following questions:

How have you seen grace/gratitude/generosity in your life?

How have you seen grace/gratitude/generosity in the life of this congregation?

How can you share the grace/gratitude/generosity that you have been given?

If you have not turned in your pledge form or your “Time and Talents Sheet,” please do so.

Offerings for General Giving

Offerings - as of 10/31/21 \$ 255,073.06

Expenses - as of 10/31/21 \$ 271,332.19

< \$ 16,259.13 >

Owe no man anything, except to love one another;

Notes from the Office

Mondays in the office from 10:30-12:00 are reserved for taking care of your offerings. Please plan accordingly to come by Debby's office any other time.

When writing checks for anything other than general giving, please be sure to make it out to NPC and then put the designated recipient on the memo line. It is very important that one check is not for 2 or 3 different funds or accounts. Please write separate checks (no split checks) if you are giving to the general offering and another charity or account. Ex: General and Building, Ex: General and TCT. We do our best to make sure your contributions are safe and deposited to the right account in a timely manner. Thank you for making this step a little easier for us!

Always feel free to call if you have questions. *Debby and Karen*

2021 Contribution statements will be coming to you in January.



HISTORY....holidays as a child

The Holiday Season has always been one of my favorite times of year. The air is crisp, the leaves have turned; it's harvest time in the rural South, when the farmer receives the bounty from the fruits of his labor. A time of Thanksgiving, family, and celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A time to reflect on another year gone by. I will not dwell on the troubles of the present; I prefer to reminisce of the blessings in the past.

Some of my fondest memories are of my mother's kitchen where I was nourished with home-made love as a child, waking up to the sound of coffee percolating in the old pot on the stove, the smell of fried fatback wafting through the house and watching Mama roll out dough and cut out biscuits with the top of a drinking glass. The smells and the aroma of the breakfast meal being prepared was met with great anticipation. It was simple food, but special to me because of the author of its creation. Being outside meant being in the woods, shuffling through the leaves while the warm sun shines down through the trees. The smell of someone burning firewood, spooking an unexpectant deer, muscadines and scuppernongs, catching crawfish and hellgrammites in the creek. A boychild, free from worry. Setting out rabbit gums in the broom straw fields and taking a nap in the sun. First frost was hog killing time. My dad once brought home a half of a hog, put it in an old steamer trunk and covered it with salt. Mother had a black cast iron skillet in which she made the best pone of yellow cornbread, and it seemed like there was always a pot of pintos simmering on the back burner back in the kitchen for supper time. Mom managed to make a meal with very little to work with. Salmon patties with rice and gravy, country ham with biscuits and redeye gravy, fried porkchops, black-eyed peas with turnip greens. On our birthdays, we always got a homemade chocolate cake, 3-layer. Even after we were grown, sometimes she would make a very moist 2-layer pineapple coconut cake. For a weekday treat, Mom would make a plate of fudge and keep it in the refrigerator. At the time, I didn't realize the amount of work and sacrifice that mother gave to us. Always putting herself last in her devotion to our little family. I wish that she was here so that I could tell her that I am grateful and that I love her. Sundays, we always had fried chicken. Mother would cut up a whole chicken and distribute it to us at the table. I might get a wing or a leg, maybe the pulley bone, but Daddy always got the big piece of chicken!

*Have a very Merry Christmas y'all and a Happy and Healthy New Year.
God Bless You All!*

Carroll Caldwell, Historian

Our Church Family

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Please remember the following in your prayers.

Members and Friends of Nazareth

Sheryl Anderson's friends, Brandi & Jake
McKelvey and baby Hendric
Cindy Buttino's friend, Jerry Beheler
Melanie Campbell & family and mother,
Linda Goings
Margaret Culclasure
Marlene Cutler's sister, Jackie Fuller
Joe and Martha Fox
Bob and Abby Hatchette
Amy Hatley
Peggy Landers' friend, Mary
Frances Lynch
Gayle Mason's friend with cancer

Gladys Mills
Oates family
Deb Ritzo and family
Deb Ritzo's cousin, Karen
Faith Rodgers
Danny Schaaf's brother, Dallas
Ben Smart's friends, Robert Hendrix and
Jimmy Lee



In the Armed Forces:

Lee Hughes	Joey Menendez
Reggie Hughes	Dorothy Ellis
Albert Bianco	Eric Gallman
Shelly Roberts	Mike Roberts

Jacob Schneider
MMFA Jacob Schneider
USS Ronald Reagan
Unit 100197 Box 2898
FPO AP 966 16

Missionaries and Mission Partners:

Mark Adams
Shalynn and Tyler Crawford

Concerns of the World

During this time of Advent, let us pray for Peace on earth and good will to all humankind.

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."
2 Chron 7:14

Please call the church office when a concern needs to be added to
or taken away from the list. Thank You.

Committee Meetings for DECEMBER 2021

Buildings Grounds & Safety	Sunday, December 5th @ 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall
Christian Education	Sunday, December 5th @ 8:30 AM in the GIFT Classroom
Evangelism & Nurture	Sunday, December 5th @ 9:00 AM in the Bridges Classroom
Worship	Sunday, December 12th @ 8:30 AM in the Session Room
Fellowship	Sunday, December 12th @ 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall
Missions	Sunday, December 12th @ 9:00 AM in the Missions Room

OFFICE HOURS - Debby works in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 2 pm. Julie is in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 4:30 pm. In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Julie at 864-421-2750.

UPDATED WEBSITE

Check out our updated website with weekly sermons available and a church directory.

Please Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/Nazareth.1765



FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2022 Flower Calendar is now posted outside the sanctuary in the SS hall. Please consider signing up for this wonderful way to honor someone as well as contribute to the beauty of worship.
You can also call Debby to sign up.



Flower Schedule

December Poinsettias will beautify our sanctuary in honor and memory of your loved ones. Thank you for all who contributed!

January 2
January 9
January 16
January 23 Julie Schaaf
January 30

Dear Church Family,



I want to thank everyone for the cards, food and phone calls but especially for all of your prayers while I've been sick and in the hospital. I truly believe that it was your prayers that saved me. It's wonderful to know that there are people who actually care about you and I recognize and appreciate it. That means a lot to me. I am gaining my strength gradually and getting in some ways, back to normal. It's going to take a while! I'm looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas. I have a lot to be thankful for! Especially my friends at Nazareth! You're the best! God bless you all!

Carroll Caldwell

Thank you to all the wonderful prayer warriors at Nazareth! You all have no idea how much the family of Brandi and Jake McKelvey and Baby Hendric appreciates your prayers!

Sheryl Anderson

Thank you for the cards, prayers, and lovely plant sent in memory of my husband.

Judy Peterson

During this time of Thanksgiving and anticipation of the celebration of Jesus' birth, I am so thankful for the many prayers and cards from our Nazareth Church family, for good neighbors, for a wonderful surgeon, for two new hips, for Nurse Louis' care during recuperation, and for therapist Nathan.

Cindy Womble

Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

02 Elfriede Henry
04 Paula Cash
05 Matthew Mathis
08 Kim Cansler
10 Rick Duerksen
13 Dale Wright
13 Brian Kern
16 Deb Gray
16 Bill Stueremann
18 Tiffany Nobles
22 Jennie Lindman
23 Barbara Melton
25 Pat Smith
27 Lou Buttino
27 Lily Cairns
27 Phyllis Powers
31 Kathy Cothran



JANUARY

04 Mila Barath
04 Peggy Landers
05 Bob Hatchette
13 Liam David Maul
14 Abby Reynolds
15 Aletha Misenheimer
18 Neil Houghton
18 Doug Hughes
19 Jamison Franklin
20 Leslie Stueremann
21 Carolyn Berry
22 Marian Stephen
23 Roy Oates
23 Pat Sykes
25 Ashley Whitfield
27 Drew Cash
27 Carol Tesh
28 Judy Taetz
29 Mandy Mathis
30 Susan Baier
30 Joan Cothran
31 Virginia Friday
31 Kaushik Kotecha

DECEMBER

01 Louis & Cindy Womble
11 Jay & Melanie Campbell
16 Charles & Stephanie Heath
19 Lane & Molly Barker
19 Dave & Lois Weneck
21 James & Tina Cantrell
22 Bill & Leslie Stueremann



JANUARY

06 David & Marian Stephen
07 Jerry & Marian Johnson
17 Larry & Phyllis Powers
26 Blake & Emily Collins



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Advent Meal 6:00 Choir Youth Dress Rehearsal for Cantata 7:00	2 Byrnes HS Orchestra Recital 7:00	3	4
5 BG&S 8:30 CE 8:30 E & N 9:00 Christmas Cantata Worship service Youth 5:30	6	7	8 Advent Meal 6:00 Confirmands examined by Session 6:30 Choir 7:00		10 Ladies Who Lunch 11:30	11 The Carpenter's Table 8—12
12 Worship 8:30 Fellowship 8:30 Missions 9:00 Angel Tree gifts due Confirmation Sunday Youth Caroling 3-5:30	13 Handbells 5:50	14 Back Porch Circle 10:00 Circle #3 6:30	15 Advent Meal 6:00 Choir 7:00	16	17	18 Saturday Sisters Christmas @ Dale's 11:00 AM
19 New Disciples join Youth Christmas Party @ Friday's 4:30—7:30	20 Handbells 5:50 Session 7:00	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 
26 Virtual Worship ONLY No Youth	27 Office Closed	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	