



THE MEETING HOUSE NEWS

680 Nazareth Church Road, Moore, SC 29369

864-576-8034 nazareth@nazarethpresbyterian.org



Office hours: Monday—Thursday 9:00 am-2:00 pm

1765 Meeting House

AUGUST 2026

MISSION STATEMENT OF NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Dear Friends,

I cannot remember the last time Vacation Bible School left me feeling so joyful! What a true treasure Nazareth Presbyterian Church and all of our disciples are - to dedicate ALL of Bible School to helping others! Many thanks to Amy Jackson, the Christian Education and Missions Teams and all who participated with hands-on help and/or donations. "Christians in Action" is certainly what we are, and it is my prayer that we will continue to be!

This Sunday, August 2, we will have our Annual Blessing of the Backpacks. Children from nursery age through college, as well as teachers and other school staff, are invited to bring your backpacks for a special blessing and blessing tag.

While the students and teachers have to return to school early, we will continue to have joint Adult Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall through August 16. This will enable us to finish our book on Moses. We will also continue our "Stories from the Sandbox" through August 23.

August 9 will be Youth Sunday. This is one of the most special worship services of the year. It is truly a joy to hear from the youth and see their growing relationships with Jesus happen right before our eyes as they mature in their faith. On August 16, we will have a visit from Shalynn and Tyler Crawford, our CFM Missionaries in Germany. Tyler will be delivering the message during worship, and he always brings a fresh perspective for us. I will enjoy both services with you.

Don't forget that we continue with our "Year of Prayer." This month, our prayers are focused on those returning to school. You will receive some special prayers each Monday to get you started. I know the Prayer Team would welcome other ideas for involving the congregation in this important ministry.

As always, it is my privilege to be your pastor. I look forward to our joint ministry in the month ahead.

Blessings,

Julie "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19

Worship



**Worship in person or "Livestream" every Sunday.
Come and worship with us and bring a friend.
Join us for Coffee & Conversation at 9:00 am
Sunday School at 9:30 am, followed by Worship at 10:30 am**

**Sunday, August 2nd – Blessing of the Backpacks
Sunday, August 9th – Youth Sunday
Sunday, August 16th – Tyler and Shalynn Crawford
Sunday, August 23 – Guest musician, Dr. Cynthia Swicegood
Sunday, August 30 - Baptism**

Ushers for August are Gayle Mason and Dunnie Bibb.



A Handbell Ringer is needed! Please contact our Handbell Director, Judy Hatchette at 864-439-7667. She will teach you!

Nazareth Choir will resume practices on Wednesday, August 26, at our Annual Back to Choir dinner and practice at the home of Ed and Petra Warren. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm, followed by a preview of new music. Spouses are welcome to attend!

SESSION APPROVALS:

- Approved motion (Stidham/Franklin) to allow Tyler Crawford to preach Sunday, August 16, 2026.
- Approved motion (Whitfield/Kern) to Call a Congregational Meeting Sunday, July 12 to Elect a Nominating Committee
- Approved motion from the Administrative Committee to elect a nominating committee. Committee members are: Session Representatives – Susan Kern, Rusty Kirkpatrick, Kaushik Kotecha; Choir – Amelia Senn; Youth – Ean Kern; Adult Sunday School – Chuck Holmes; At-large – Abby Hatchette

YEAR of PRAYER at Nazareth ~ AUGUST Prayer Focus: Back to School

As a new school year begins, our prayer focus is centered on everyone returning to the classroom. We lift up our students as they prepare for a year of learning, growth, and new opportunities. We pray that God will give them wisdom, courage, confidence, and a desire to honor Him in all they do. May they build lasting friendships, make wise choices, and experience His peace and protection each day.

We also pray for our teachers, administrators, school staff, and parents. May God grant teachers patience, strength, creativity, and encouragement as they invest in the lives of their students. We ask Him to give parents wisdom as they guide and support their children throughout the school year. Together, let us pray that every school would be a place of safety, respect, and learning, and that God's love and grace would be evident in every classroom, hallway, and home.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." — Joshua 1:9

Please continue to add your "Unspoken Prayers" to the cross in the prayer room. These are confidential and will not be removed or read by anyone. We have also added an "Answered Prayer Jar". We invite you to place a marble (located next to the jar) in the glass jar for each answered prayer you receive. This will serve as a visual reminder of God's power and faithfulness.

**Your prayer team,
Cindy Buttino, James Cantrell, Harriet Watkins, Barbara Melton**



Christian Education



Putting faith into action takes a village! Thank you to our amazing Nazareth community and the Dyal Fund for your incredible support, that made this year's VBS a massive success. We are so grateful for everyone's hard work on all our mission projects, including the most challenging one- the prayer keychain!

Join us on **August 2** for a special **Blessing of the Backpacks breakfast at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall followed by the Blessing of the Backpacks during worship.** All students, teachers and school staff are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a special blessing.

Save the date! **Youth Sunday is August 9!** Please come and support our young people as they lead us in worship. Please be sure to stay for lunch as the Fellowship Team provides a Low Country Boil at the FLC.

Sunday School classes will resume from summer schedule on Sunday, August 23rd.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER EVENT



A Huge Thank You To ALL!!

**20,000 + Meals were prepared to go all over the world
to feed the hungry!**



Christian Education



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VBS
at
Nazareth



CIA: Christians In Action

Missions

The Missions Focus for August is *The Carpenter's Table*.

Our day to serve at The Carpenter's Table is Saturday, August 1st from 7am to 12noon.

Items needed: any size diapers, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruit, tuna, ramen noodles (square blocks), or any other non-perishable foods.

A thank you from our new mission: Growing Gardens, Feeding Minds

Dear Julie, Petra, Judy, and members of Nazareth Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so very much for your threefold gifts to Growing Gardens, Feeding Minds--first from your PW group, and then from you Pennies for Hunger offering and Mission Committee. We just received the second check yesterday.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to complete construction of a new kitchen at Kadiju Primary school and to launch the lunch program for the students last week with a celebration that included not only the children and teachers but parents and community members as well.

In fact, as Rev. Tom Ochuka told us, one gentleman, 80-year-old retired police officer Amos Onyango, who had attended Kadiju in his own youth, said he had never in his life seen a lunch program of this caliber. He publicly pledged to mobilize the community to support the school by contributing grain and other necessities.

We are confident that Kadiju is off to a very good start as the third school to serve a nutritious lunch every school day to its students, and we are delighted that you were part of its story.

Blessings,
Trisha Tull



Thank you to Jayne and Rick Duerksen and the faithful volunteers who pack up the food for our Feed the Future backpacks for the middle school students at D.R. Hill Middle School.



**Pennies for Hunger
offering will be received
on Sunday, August 30th
and will go to
The Carpenter's Table
ministry.**



Fellowship News



Join us each Sunday for Coffee & Conversation
in the Fellowship Hall @ 9:00 am.

The **Low Country Boil** is almost here!! We are getting excited and hope you are planning to attend. It will be on **Sunday, August 9th** right after church in the Family Life Center. We will have music and plenty of good food and dessert.

Please sign up on the Low Country Boil sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, August 2nd! We want to make sure we have enough for everyone!!

There is no charge for lunch, but there will be a voluntary donation jar at the door for the Middle Tyger Community Center.

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming trip to Jeter Apple Farm for lunch and apple picking!! We will travel by car to the farm near Hendersonville on Thursday, September 24. More information on this trip will be coming!! September is prime apple picking time, so you don't want to miss this great adventure! Mark your calendars!!



Join us for Pickleball: Sundays – 3:00-5:00pm (except August 9th)
 Tuesdays – 10am – 12pm
 Thursdays – 6:00-8:00pm



The NOMEO men's group will start our season on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm at [Paisano's in Duncan](#), "a casual, family-owned restaurant serving Italian and Greek food, including pizza, pasta, and gyros."

1556 E Main St, Duncan, SC.

This will be a good time to share our summer activities and what we did or didn't get around to!

We are a group of men who like to eat, have a good time and fellowship together. We are not all old men, but we worship at Nazareth Presbyterian Church. Ask someone younger or older than you to come along. Let's mix it up!

I think that Fall is on its way; can any of you feel it? I'm looking forward to getting together. If you have questions, contact Mel Stauffer. Email: Mstauffer@bellsouth.net 864-901-6731

Presbyterian Women



***Ladies Who Lunch
will meet Friday, August 14th, at 11:45am
at Apollo's Restaurant.***

Back Porch Circle will resume in September.

***Circle 3 will resume meeting on Tuesday, August 11, at the home of Ronda Woodall,
436 South Pendernale Drive, Moore, at 6:15 PM. We will be studying Chapter 6
Freedom Revolution in our book "Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table."
Visitors are always welcome!***

Administrative

Using Your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to Support God's Work

If you are age 73 or older and are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your traditional IRA, you may have an opportunity to give in a tax-efficient way. (Taxpayers can start at age 70 1/2 even before RMDs are required).

The IRS allows eligible individuals to make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** by having all or part of their RMD sent directly from their IRA custodian to a qualified charitable organization, such as our church.

For many members, this can be a meaningful way to faithfully support the ministry while potentially reducing taxable income. If you normally give your tithes or special offerings from your RMD, you may wish to ask your IRA administrator about sending your gift directly to the church. Because tax situations vary, we encourage you to consult your financial advisor or tax professional to determine whether a Qualified Charitable Distribution is appropriate for your circumstances.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce." — Proverbs 3:9

Offerings for General Giving

Offerings as of 6/30/26	\$193,240.50
Expenses as of 6/30/26	<u>\$193,136.03</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 104.47

***"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices,
God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16***

SCAN TO GIVE



***Your Tithe is important for our continued ability to "Make Disciples for
Jesus" and support our missions locally and worldwide. Scan the
code with your phone to make your offering to Nazareth.***

Journey of Generosity (JOG)

As summer ends and the school year begins, let's recap some of the very generous summer we've had here at Nazareth!

First, the adult Sunday school classes came together for the summer to give the regular teachers a break. Volunteers generously gave of their time, knowledge, and talents to teach the combined class.

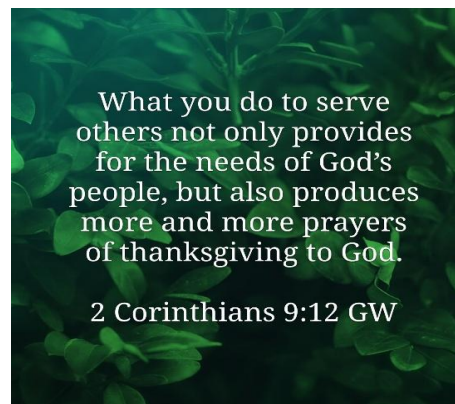
Thank you Naz disciples!

Next, the church sent Laura Price and Petra Warren to the Worship and Music conference in Montreat, NC this summer. They were able to spend a week with the theme "Who'll Be a Witness." **Thank you Naz disciples!**

The whole church was then invited to participate in our intergenerational VBS called "CIA – *Christians in Action*." It started off with a wonderful luncheon provided by the Fellowship committee and then went into our big Rise Against Hunger event. We had volunteers from pickleball, scouts, and other churches join us in packaging 20,000 meals to help feed the hungry. We also raised over \$8,000! VBS continued for two more nights with a focus on missions. The first night was set on local mission projects. We wrote thank you cards to veterans in Hospice, made cat enrichment toys for the Spartanburg Humane Society, packed summer homeless helper kits, and filled backpacks with school supplies for foster children through PS I Love You. The second night focused on international mission projects. We made prayer key chains for our missionaries, Tyler and Shalynn Crawford, to take back with them to Germany, treat bags for VCOM physicians to take to children in the Dominican Republic during their medical outreach trips, and filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse. All of these organizations are receiving abundant blessings because of the generosity of Nazareth disciples! **Thank you for making it all possible!**

Last, but not least, the church also sent the youth to Montreat for the summer youth conference. Five youth and two chaperones got to enjoy the beautiful mountains all while learning how God is with us as we "Wonder and Wander." From prayer partners to food donations, your generosity provided us a week to deepen our faith and friendships.

Thank you Naz disciples!



Those are just some of the big examples of generosity from this summer. Nazareth truly would not run without everyone coming together as disciples of Christ. Whether you gave of your time, energy, finances, or prayers, thank you for being a part of Nazareth and continuing its legacy and mission. It truly takes a village and I'm honored to be a part of such a wonderful and generous church family.

-Ashley Whitfield

Stop by our bulletin board near the Gift classroom for ideas of how to be generous at Nazareth!

*The mission of the JOG Team is
to encourage Nazareth to live a life of generosity for Christ.*

HISTORY



Earliest School at Nazareth

The earliest school in Spartanburg County apparently was created by the organizers of Nazareth Presbyterian Church. It's name was Eustatle School.

It's history is obscure, but it apparently began about the time or shortly after the church was organized. The first pastors of the church were also teachers in the school. Nazareth Church was organized in 1765.

Eustatle School subsequently became Minerva Academy. Eustatle School was conducted for some years at Foster's Meeting House and about 1785 a building was erected and the name was changed to Minerva Academy. Minerva Academy is believed to have operated on a site about three miles north of Moore on the Old Saluda Gap Road until about 1820.

Rock Spring School, also located on the Saluda Gap Road was believed to be the second earliest school in the Spartanburg District. It was apparently located about one half mile north of Moore and was patronized by the Moores, Barrys, Cooks, Means and other pioneer families of that area. The exact date of its creation is not known but it was in operation in the 1780's.

Other early schools of the county include: Bethel Academy, Poplar Springs Academy, Matthew Evins School, Fort Prince Academy, Pear Field School, Word Academy, New Prospect Academy and Hutchinson's School.

Bethel Academy was organized at Woodruff by the Bethel Baptist Church soon after the church was established in 1787.

Poplar Springs Academy was in existence as early as 1816 at the old Presbyterian camp-meeting site at Poplar Springs.

Matthew Evins Academy was a private one operated by Matthew Evins on Crim's Place on the Tyger River about 1815. It was later moved to the C. A. Barry property and operated until about 1850.

Fort Prince Academy was located near the site of Fort Prince about four miles north of Fairforest on Blackstock Road. It was established in 1805. Barry's School was created by Henry Patillo Barry near Switzer early in the 1800's, but its dates of operation are not exactly known.

Pear Field Academy was established near the site of the Trinity Church at Cross Anchor and operated about the same time as the Barry School.

Word Academy was established near Cedar Spring in 1824 by the Rev. James Porter.

New Prospect Academy was located in that community sometime before 1825 but records on it are obscure.

Hutchison's School was established by James Hutchison at Cross Anchor in 1825.

Given by Carroll Caldwell

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:

Jim and Marilyn Anderson
Katie Barath
Buddy Berry
Martha Bainbridge and family
Shirley Boone
Tom Brewer
Gerald Broome and grandson, Adam
Grant and Sandy Brown's daughter, Jessica
Tommy Campbell's brother, John
Chris and Paula Cash's relatives, Esther & Jadon
Jane Cook
Joe Fox
Candy Franklin's relative, Sgt. Seth Walker
Jeff Hayes' sister, Jennifer Anderson
Jean Glass
Vickie Gray's mother, Elizabeth Culbertson

Nancy Hughes' sister, Cindy Jennings
Elaine Kirkpatrick's sister, Lois Pifer
Debby Keaton's husband, Rex & Baby Luke
Gladys Mills
Katie Morgenstern
Sean Nix's mother and stepfather
Deb Ritzo
Julie Schaaf's mother, Becky Carter
Danny and Julie Schaaf's nephew, Brad
Amelia Senn's brother, Robert
Mel and Lyn Stauffer
Wendell and Jenny Stidham's daughter, Chrissy
Carol Tesh's grandson, Banks, and parents Jesse & Madeline
Rick and Harriet Watkins' son, Taylor
Dave Weneck's grandson, William Weneck



In the Armed Forces:

Lee Hughes	Mike Roberts	Reggie Hughes
Dorothy Ellis	Albert Bianco	Eric Gallman
Shelly Roberts	Ridgeway Jackson	Matthew Marr

Missionaries and Mission Partners:

Mark Adams
Shalynn and Tyler Crawford
Tim and Marcie Schaeffer

Concerns of the World:

Those suffering from weather disasters Victims of earthquake in Japan Voters in SC

"So, then, this is my very first command: God's people should make petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings on behalf of all people –on behalf of kings, and all who hold high office, so that we may lead a tranquil and peaceful life, in all godliness and holiness. This is good; it is acceptable with God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to know the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4

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

Committee Meetings in August

Buildings, Grounds & Safety	Sunday, August 2nd, at 8:30 in the Wagner Classroom
Worship	Sunday, August 2nd, at 8:30 in the Session Room
Fellowship	Sunday, August 2nd, at 8:30 in the GIFT Classroom
Evangelism & Nurture	Sunday, August 2nd, at 8:45 in the Middle School Classroom
Christian Education	Monday, August 3rd, at 4:00 in the Session Room
Missions	Sunday, August 9th, at 8:30 in the Missions Room

OFFICE HOURS

Julie is in the office Monday-Thursday
9:30am to 4:00pm

Debby works in the office Monday-Thursday
9:00am to 2:00pm

Amy works in the office on Tuesday and
Thursday, 9:00am to 3:00pm

***In case of a pastoral emergency, please call
Julie at 864-421-4750.***

UPDATED WEBSITE

Check out our updated website with
weekly sermons available and directory.
Please Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/Nazareth.1765

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION for the SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

will be due to Debby in the office by
Monday, August 24th. Moderators, please
adhere to this timeline. Thank you!

FLOWER CALENDAR



August 2	Communion
August 9	Mel & Lyn Stauffer
August 16	
August 23	
August 30	Dale & Rusty Wright
September 6	Communion
September 13	
September 20	Kim & Kaushik Kotecha
September 27	

***We need slots filled for the Flower Calendar and
we hope you will sign up to provide flowers for a
Sunday. Let Debby know your special words for
the bulletin!***

***You can donate to the Flower Fund so flowers can
be provided for a Sunday when no one is signed
up. To donate, you can write a check to NPC and
memo it to the Flower Fund.***



Dear Friends,

*My family and I want to thank
you for all the kind expressions of
sympathy given to us at the loss of John.
He loved Nazareth and all the people.
Thank you for the prayers, cards that
were sent, and the nice reception after
the funeral.*

All was greatly appreciated.

Martha Bainbridge

Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries

AUGUST

01 Harriet Watkins
 01 Marilyn Anderson
 02 Mark Henry
 02 Robert Morgenstern
 03 Colt Melton
 06 Tommy Campbell
 12 Shirley Boone
 13 Buddy Berry
 14 Sheryl Anderson
 17 Kriss Budno
 20 Steve Collins
 20 Marlene Cutler
 20 Julia Garrett
 22 Carrie Wright
 23 Cindy Womble
 24 Thomas Barker
 24 Shelby Barker
 26 Laura Henderson
 27 Gerald Broome



SEPTEMBER

02 Mike Baier
 02 James Cantrell
 03 Kerry Henderson
 05 Robert Friday
 06 Ella Kern
 07 Cassie Yarborough
 08 Nancy Ferguson
 09 Anne Brewer
 09 Jan Ellis
 10 Gladys Mills
 12 Dwayne Pergrem
 14 Sailor Melton
 16 Amy Jackson
 18 Jim Anderson
 22 Dale Allen
 24 Kathy Allen
 28 Jeff Hayes
 29 Darcy Martin
 30 Kathryn Kotecha

AUGUST

02 Grant & Sandy Brown
 08 Dale & Kathy Allen
 16 Bob & Abby Hatchette
 16 Roy & Joyce Oates
 31 Russ & Dale Wright



SEPTEMBER

04 Rick & Harriet Watkins
 20 Joel & Jessica Watts
 26 Gene & Kathy Cothran
 27 Larry & Robin Whitfield



AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 The Carpenter's Table 7-12
2 BG&S 8:30 Worship 8:30 Fellowship 8:30 Evang & N 8:45 Blessing of the Backpacks Pickleball 3-5	3 Christian Education 4:00	4 Pickleball 10-12	5	6 Pickleball 6-8 AA meeting 6:30	7	8
9 Missions 8:45 Youth Sunday Low Country Boil @ FLC (No Pickleball)	10	11 Pickleball 10-12 NOMEIO Club 5:30 Circle #3 6:15	12	13 Pickleball 6-8 AA meeting 6:30	14 Ladies Who Lunch 11:45	15
16 Tyler & Shalynn Crawford Pickleball 3-5	17	18 Pickleball 10-12	19	20 Pickleball 6-8 AA meeting 6:30	21	22
23 Sunday School Classes resume Pickleball 3-5	24 Newsletter info due to Debby	25 Pickleball 10-12	26 Annual Back to Choir Dinner and Practice 6:00 at Ed & Petra Warren's home	27 Pickleball 6-8 AA meeting 6:30	28	29
30 Pennies for Hunger offering Baptism Pickleball 3-5	31					