



## THE MEETING HOUSE NEWS

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm 1765 Meeting House



**JANUARY  
2026**

MISSION STATEMENT OF NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Dear Friends,*

*I am excited to announce that the Session voted to declare 2026 “The Year of Prayer” at Nazareth. We don’t know exactly what this will look like so if you have ideas, please let me know. Since we are Presbyterian, be forewarned—there may be committees formed! One thing that we would like to do is have a dedication of our beautiful prayer room. Another is to form an “Intercessory Prayer Team” who would be willing to take a turn being in the Prayer Room each Sunday immediately after worship for people who need to be prayed with individually. A very easy way to participate is to add your name to the Prayer Chain. We realize that we have been remiss by not asking this on the New Disciple forms that are filled out. If you would like to be a part of this very important ministry, simply email Dale Wright at [dalejwright@gmail.com](mailto:dalejwright@gmail.com) and she will add you to the list.*

*January may seem a little quiet after all the activity that the church has seen since October. Every month, the staff says, “I think October is our busiest month . . . I think November is our busiest month . . . .” You get the picture. But don’t believe for one minute that we will be dormant during the month! Watch for service, learning and worship opportunities. In fact, our Young Adult Mission Team, along with three sponsoring adults leave Saturday for Serve Orlando. If you are interested in being a prayer partner for one of these 8 individuals, please text or email me. I will be working on this ministry this week.*

*I don’t believe in New Year’s Resolutions but January is the perfect time to join a Sunday School class, get involved in a committee that interests you, join the choir or anything else you feel called to do. I have a feeling that 2026 will be another great year at Nazareth Presbyterian. Perhaps the verses below can be your verses for the year.*

*Blessings,*

*Julie*

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7**

# 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**

**January 25th we will Install and Ordain our New Elders.**

**Thank you to all who donated the lovely poinsettias that beautified the sanctuary during the Advent season. Money collected above the cost of the poinsettias was given to TCT and SK. The 2026 Flower Calendar is on the wall outside the sanctuary. Please sign up as soon as possible for January!**

**Head Ushers for January: Susan and Mike Baier**

# Session

## Approvals:

- Approved motion (Cash/Hayes) to correct spelling error on November 28 Evote minutes.
- Approved motion from Missions Committee to collect a special offering at Christmas Eve service for Mobile Meals.
- Approved motion from the Admin Committee to fill 2 Cemetery Trustee Vacancies. Elected Ross McClellan to a 4-year term through 2029 and Michael Baier to a 5-year term through 2030.
- Approved motion from the Admin Committee to use \$2,000 in Dyal funds for Dyal project 2988 IT Upgrade. This work has been completed but has revealed some deterioration in connections under the sanctuary. Beowulf will investigate.
- Approved motion from the Admin Committee to use \$1,600 in Dyal funds for Dyal project 2989 TCT Computer and Fans purchase.
- Approved motion (Dobbins/Kotecha) to have 2026 be the Year of Prayer at Nazareth.

## Other Items

- Thanks to the generosity of Nazareth disciples 4 carloads of gifts were taken to children at the Soup Kitchen.
- Nazareth’s day to serve at the Soup Kitchen is the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday every other month. A schedule for 2026 will be posted. Volunteers for this important mission are needed.
- We will undecorate the church Monday, December 29 at 10:00am.
- The Lessons & Carols service on December 14 was wonderful. Many thanks to our Music Ministry leaders, to the choir, all the musicians, and the readers for a beautiful spirit-filled service.
- 12 people participated in Caroling on Dec. 14. Carolers visited Jim Anderson, John & Martha Bainbridge, Gladys Mills & Katie Morgenstern.
- New Elder training is tentatively set for Saturday, January 3. Elders elect will be examined at the January 19 Session meeting and installed during Worship Service on January 25, 2026.



# Christian Education



Our Young adults along with 3 Naz. adults will be going on a mission trip to “Serve Orlando” in Orlando, Florida January 3-9<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for protection, safe passage, guidance and strength as they volunteer with several organizations next week. Participants are Lillie Underwood, Jamison Franklin, Jefferson Elmore, Mason Barath, Trent Cook, Petra Warren, Terry Doyle, and Mel Stauffer.

Our High School Students are going to “Mini” Montreat, which Presbyterian Youth Council=PYC plans and organizes for our Presbytery. Our very own Mila Barath is part of PYC. Ashley Whitfield will join Darcy Yarborough, Ella Yarborough, Peyton Allen and Mila Barath for this wonderful weekend retreat. Please be in prayer for them as well. As part of their retreat, they are doing mission projects with BeLoved, a nonprofit organization in Asheville, NC. One of the projects you can help with is donating books for all ages and magazines.

**There is a collection tote on the pew in the Fellowship Hall for books/magazines.  
We need these by Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Coming up: SPARTANBURGERS GAME, Sat. April 25 at 4:30pm

**NPC will be going to the Spartanburgers baseball game, not only to see the ballgame, but to support our very own Nazareth Pres Choir as they sing the national anthem before the game! There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to go to the game. Tickets are \$16 each. Last day to sign up is Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter).**

**Naz Kid Event- SNOW DAY**

**On Sunday, January 25 after church the NAZ kids will have lunch followed by snow day fun and a movie. Please sign up if your family is planning to come.**



## **Youth Group January Schedule**

**Jan. 9-11- High Schoolers at Mini Montreat**

**Jan. 11- 5:30- Youth that didn't go to Montreat will go out to eat**

**Jan. 18- 5:30-7pm Format & Mission Project at the FLC**



# Christian Education, cont.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY



## Christmas Caroling



# Nazareth Happenings

We welcome our new Nazareth Disciples



**Darcy Martin**



**John Skripnik**



**Rachele & Drew Cash**



**Sean & Sara Nix**

**Baptism of Harrison Cash**



**Angel Tree  
Christmas delivery**

## The Missions Focus for JANUARY is St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic.

St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic in Spartanburg needs new, unused items for adult patients like **fidget mats, puzzle/activity books, coloring supplies, books, craft kits, blankets, slippers, toiletries (travel size, unexpired), water bottles/mugs, playing cards, and gift cards**, all from pet/smoke-free, perfume-free environments, with no political/religious content, and delivered according to their guidelines. They prefer new items over used and don't accept latex balloons or gift-wrapped donations.

### Specific Wish List Items for Adults

- **Comfort & Activities:** Handmade fidget mats/muffs, puzzle/activity books (crosswords, Sudoku), coloring books & pencils, magazines, craft kits, fleece blankets, playing cards, books, DVDs.
  - **Personal Care:** Travel-size toiletries (must be unexpired), slippers, reusable water bottles/mugs.

**Gift Cards:** For coffee, gas, or grocery stores.

### Donation Guidelines

- **Condition:** Items must be new or newly made.
- **Environment:** Must come from a smoke, pet dander, dust, and perfume-free home.
- **Content:** No political, religious, discriminatory, or violent themes.
- **What They Don't Accept:** Latex balloons, gift-wrapped items, get-well cards, or large volumes of knit/crocheted hats.

**The Carpenter's Table—Our next day to volunteer is Saturday, January 3rd, from 8-12.**

**The Soup Kitchen—Our next day to volunteer is Saturday,**

**January 24th, from 9-1.** On our last Saturday working at the Soup Kitchen, only two volunteers from Nazareth Church came to help. We need more volunteers to stay active in our Soup Kitchen rotation. Please consider volunteering for this organization that benefits so many people.



**Pennies for Hunger offering will be received on Sunday, January 25th and will benefit the Spartanburg Soup Kitchen.**

## Notes from Missions:

Thank you to everyone who adopted an Angel from the Angel Tree this year! Our church overflowed with presents and bikes! The gifts were delivered to The Soup Kitchen by Santa's elves Rick, Margie, Rick and Harriet and many children were grateful on Christmas Morn! If I left out any names of other helpful elves, thank you for your help and generosity.

The Christmas cards for vets we sent were greatly appreciated, and we received a gracious thank you. These cards of appreciation can be sent year-round to Veteran's Last Patrol, 140B Venture Blvd., Spartanburg, SC, 29306. For more information about this organization, go to [www.veteranlastpatrol.org](http://www.veteranlastpatrol.org).

**In ending the year, the Mission Committee placed \$1,000 in the Rise Against Hunger Fund and sent \$421 to St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic. We collected \$617 for Mobile Meals on Christmas Eve.**

## Fellowship



### Fellowship News

**The Fellowship Committee is planning a Pickleball Clinic on Sunday, January 11 from 3:00 to 5:00.**

If you have always wanted to learn to play, now is the time. Teachers will be members of the Nazareth Congregation. We have several members who have become very proficient pickleball players!! Pickleball has been proven to sharpen your mental abilities as well as keep you in great physical shape. We have found that playing with both Nazareth members and non-members has become one of our greatest benefits. We have made many new friends! Please plan to come!!



**We look forward to seeing everyone in the coming year at our regular Sunday morning Coffee and Conversation from 9:00 to 9:30 before Sunday School. Great time to visit with friends!**

**Note: Beginning in January, the Fellowship Committee will begin their monthly meetings on the 1st Sunday of each month instead of the 2nd Sunday.**

**Put this on your calendars: Souper Bowl party Sunday, February 8th in the Family Life Center.**



**Join the NOMEO Club**

*(Nazareth Old Men Eating Out)*

**On Tuesday, January 13th,  
@ 6:00 pm at Cribbs in Publix parking lot.**

# Presbyterian Women



**Ladies Who Lunch**  
will meet Friday, January 9th  
at 11:45 at Apollo's Restaurant

**Back Porch Circle**  
will meet on Tuesday, January 13th at 10:00am in the  
Nazareth Fellowship Hall. Come share our lesson and bring a friend too!

**Circle 3**  
will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at the home of Elfriede Henry, 115 Brookhaven Drive, Moore, at 6:15 PM. We will be starting our new Bible Study with the book by Louie Giglio, Don't Give The Enemy A Seat At Your Table. This is a great time to come and be part of a great group of women who enjoy being together for fellowship and study.

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## **Christmas party at Abby Hachtette's home**



# JOG

**J.O.G.**

Journey of Generosity



## Journey of Generosity (JOG)

As we begin a new year, please enjoy this devotional titled  
“Refreshed” by YouVersion.

*Do you know someone who constantly pours themselves out?*

*They’re generous with their words, unselfish with their time, and openhanded with their money. And yet, somehow, they always seem to have more to give.*

*The author of Proverbs, traditionally attributed to King Solomon, said this:*

***“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”  
Proverbs 11:25 NLT***

*King Solomon knew a thing or two about generosity. In fact, Scripture tells us:  
“King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.”  
(1 Kings 10:23). But he was also generous, spending years of his life funding and building  
the temple in Jerusalem, as well as sharing what he had learned with others.*

*Some of the unhappiest people on earth are stuck in a cycle of selfishness. But if you’ve  
ever been generous with your life—whether you’ve given financially, contributed your  
expertise, invested your time, opened up your home, or offered spiritual, emotional, and  
physical support—you know from experience: those who refresh others will themselves be  
refreshed.*

*Of course, we shouldn’t give to get. And we also must apply God’s wisdom when it comes to  
setting boundaries and avoiding burnout. But Jesus is the King of an upside-down Kingdom,  
where:*

***The last will be first. The greatest will be a servant.  
Those who give up their life will save it.***

*Jesus even told a story of a poor woman who gave more than anyone else—because she  
gave everything she had (Mark 12:41-44).*

*You don’t have to be rich to be generous; you just need a heart that is willing to serve.*

***So, this year, instead of a scarcity mindset, let’s have a mindset  
of abundance. Our God has unlimited strength, power, and resources.***

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

### Offerings for General Giving

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Offerings as of 11/30/25 | \$ 297,803.31        |
| Expenses as of 11/30/25  | \$ <u>329,050.99</u> |
| Net Ordinary Loss        | \$ -31,247.68        |

***“Owe no man anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another  
has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8***

# HISTORY



## Laodicea “Dicey” Langston

The part of the backcountry of South Carolina where the Pacolet, Tyger and Enoree Rivers converge comprises what are now Spartanburg, Laurens and Union counties. This area saw many exploits of a violent nature during the American Revolution. Even though there were many loyalists in this area, there was much hatred of these stories and the British by the Patriots who also lived there.

Many of the Tory soldiers who patrolled this region often gave no thought about discussing their battle plans and spoke freely about their strategy in front of women who aided the Patriot cause. One of these women was Laodicea “Dicey” Langston, the sixteen year-old daughter of Solomon Langston, who was born on her Father’s plantation on May 14, 1766. She lost her mother when she was young and was raised by her father and brothers. Dicey’s brother, James, was a devoted Patriot and would often receive intelligence from his sister who would often take every opportunity to gather information about the Tories movements and actions and pass it on to Patriot forces. There came a time when she overheard a plan in which a group of loyalists, led by “Bloody Bill Cunningham” and known as the “Bloody Scouts,” due to their acts of cruelty, were intent on attacking a settlement where her brother James and some friends were camped. She left her home in the middle of the night and traveled many miles, walking all the way, wading across the Enoree River in neck-deep water. Reaching the other side, she hurried to warn her brother, who had just returned from an exhausting expedition and was in need of food. Dicey, although tired, wet and cold, fixed the men a meal. The small company of Patriot soldiers hastened to give alarm to their neighbors and when the “Bloody Scouts” arrived, all of the Patriots were gone. Then one day while returning from the Spartanburg area, Dicey was met by a company of Tories who ordered her to give them some intelligence regarding those she had just visited and she refused. They pulled a gun and threatened to shoot her, but another Tory soldier stopped him.

After the war, on January 9, 1783, Dicey married Captain Thomas Springfield, a loyal Patriot leader. They lived and raised a family at their home on Tigerville Road near Travelers Rest. They had 22 children and around 140 grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dicey passed away on May 23, 1837 at 71 years of age!

Buried in Nazareth Cemetery: Ada Langston, wife of John Langston  
(8/28/1890—9/3/1912)

*given by Carroll Caldwell, Nazareth Presbyterian Church 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:

Jim and Marilyn Anderson  
Debbie Balltrip  
Buddy Berry  
John and Martha Bainbridge  
Tom Brewer  
Gerald Broome's grandson, Adam  
Grant and Sandy Brown's daughter, Jessica  
James Cantrell's friend, Ed Tarver  
Tina Cantrell's uncle, Doug Kidd and family  
Dalton and Reagan, friends of the Duerksens  
Jean Glass  
Carroll Caldwell's sister, Anita Edwards  
Jane Cook  
Marlene Cutler's brother, Dick and family

Joe Fox  
Abby Hatchette  
Todd and Amy Jackson's nephew, Michael  
Jackson and Amy's family with the flu  
Katie Schaaf Kelley's friend, Carlie Ayers  
Gladys Mills  
Katie Morgenstern  
Phyllis Powers' aunt, Donna Cudd Young  
Deb Ritzo's cousins, Karen and Lori  
Danny Schaaf's brother, Dallas  
Julie Schaaf's father, Bob Carter and family  
Amelia Senn's brother, Robert



## 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

## Concerns of the World:

### Peace in the New Year

**“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 JANUARY

|                             |                                                      |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Buildings, Grounds & Safety | Sunday, January 4th, at 8:30 in the Wagner Classroom |
| Worship                     | Sunday, January 4th, at 8:30 in the Session Room     |
| Evangelism & Nurture        | Sunday, January 4th at 8:45 in the MS Classroom      |
| Fellowship                  | Sunday, January 4th, at 8:30 in the GIFT Classroom   |
| Missions                    | Sunday, January 11th, at 8:45 in the Missions Room   |
| Christian Education         | Tuesday, January 13th, at 5:30 in the Session Room   |

### OFFICE HOURS

**Julie** is in the office Monday-Thursday  
9:00am 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](http://www.facebook.com/Nazareth.1765)

### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION for the

#### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

**will be due to Debby in the office by  
Thursday, January 22nd. Thank you!**

### FLOWER CALENDAR



|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| January 4   | Communion    |
| January 11  |              |
| January 18  |              |
| January 25  | Julie Schaaf |
| February 1  | Communion    |
| February 8  |              |
| February 15 |              |
| February 22 |              |

**The 2026 Flower Calendar is up 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 Church Family,*

*"We would like to thank Julie, Susan  
Baier and Brooke Clay for the service for  
Margaret Culclasure. We also want to  
thank Cyndy Urquhart and the other  
ladies of the church for the lovely  
reception and to Nazareth church family  
for all their love and support."*

*Tommy and Ann Campbell*

*Thank you so much for your  
prayers, calls, and cards. These  
expressions of concern meant so much to  
me. It was comforting to know that God  
and you all were with me.*

*With gratitude, Judy Taetz*

*Thank you to Nazareth Church for  
allowing us to use the facility to spend  
this time together and come back to our  
parents, grandparents and great-  
grandparents' home church to have our  
family reunion together! The family of  
Perry Andrew & Mattie Leonard Edge*

# Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries

## JANUARY

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



## FEBRUARY

01 Nelson Hoenig  
07 Jane Cook  
09 Bill Berry  
12 Grant Brown  
14 Shalynn Smith Crawford  
14 Ross McClellan  
17 Susan Kern  
21 Trent Cook  
23 Stephanie Heath  
26 Barbara Lee  
27 Gail Johnson  
28 John Bainbridge  
28 David Franklin  
28 George Sykes

## JANUARY

17 Larry & Phyllis Powers



## FEBRUARY

04 Carter & Angela Smith  
05 Todd & Amy Jackson  
16 William & Carolyn Berry  
20 Tommy & Frances Lynch  
28 Rick & Jayne Duerksen



# JANUARY



| Sun                                                                                                                   | Mon                                                  | Tue                                                                                                              | Wed                                                             | Thu                                                                             | Fri                                                      | Sat                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                       |                                                      |                                                                                                                  |                                                                 | 1<br><br>Pickleball 6-8<br><br>AA meeting 6:30                                  | 2                                                        | 3<br>The Carpenter's Table 8-12<br><br>Young Adults on Mission Trip 3-9 |
| 4<br>BG&S 8:30<br>Fellowship 8:30<br>Worship 8:30<br>Evang & N 8:45<br><br>Pickleball 3-5                             | 5<br><br><br>Handbell Practice 5:30                  | 6<br><br>Pickleball 10-12                                                                                        | 7<br>Books & Magazines due for youth<br><br>Choir practice 6:45 | 8<br><br>Pickleball 6-8<br><br>AA meeting 6:30                                  | 9<br>Ladies Who Lunch 11:45<br><br>HS Mini Montreat 9-12 | 10                                                                      |
| 11<br>Missions 8:30<br><br>Pickleball Clinic 3-5<br><br>Youth out to eat 5:30                                         | 12<br><br><br>Handbell Practice 5:30                 | 13 Back Porch Circle 10:00<br><br>Pickleball 10-12<br><br>Christian Ed 5:30<br><br>NOME0 6::00<br>Circle #3 6:15 | 14<br><br><br>Choir practice 6:45                               | 15<br><br>Pickleball 6-8<br><br>AA meeting 6:30                                 | 16                                                       | 17                                                                      |
| 18<br>Handbell Choir rings<br><br>Pickleball 3-5<br><br>Youth @ FLC Format & Mission Project 5:30-7                   | 19<br><br><br>Handbell Practice 5:30<br>Session 7:00 | 20<br><br>Pickleball 10-12                                                                                       | 21<br><br><br>Choir practice 6:45                               | 22<br>Newsletter info due to Debby<br><br>Pickleball 6-8<br><br>AA meeting 6:30 | 23                                                       | 24<br>The Soup Kitchen 9-1                                              |
| 25<br>Pennies for Hunger offering<br>Installation/ordination of Elders<br><br>Naz Kids Snow Day<br><br>Pickleball 3-5 | 26<br><br><br>Handbell Practice 5:30                 | 27<br><br>Pickleball 10-12                                                                                       | 28<br><br><br>Choir practice 6:45                               | 29<br><br>Pickleball 6-8<br><br>AA meeting 6:30                                 | 30                                                       | 31                                                                      |