



## 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  
2025**

MISSION STATEMENT OF NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Dear Friends,*

*It is hard to believe that this Sunday we enter the Advent season. “Advent” originates from the Latin word that means “coming.” It is the time to prepare our hearts for the celebration of God coming into the world as a baby in the manger in Bethlehem. But it is also a dual celebration. When Jesus left his disciples and ascended to heaven to be with his Heavenly Father, he promised that he would come again. “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.” (1 Thess 4:14-18) This is the constant hope as disciples of the risen Christ.*

*I will be preaching an Advent sermon series entitled, “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” which is based on the prophets who give us the hope of the birth of the Messiah: Isaiah, John the Baptist, the Angel Gabriel, and the shepherds and angels who announce Jesus’ birth. We will also enjoy the musical celebration of “Lessons and Carols” on the 14th. We will begin worship each week with different Elders and their families lighting the Advent wreath with words based on the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. These are the true gifts of Christmas.*

*Advent at Nazareth always includes plenty of opportunities for worship, service, fellowship and being together as a church family. Mark your calendars for the Annual Advent Brunch after church on December 7, churchwide Christmas Caroling on December 14 and our Christmas Eve candlelight Communion service on December 24 at 5:00. I count myself blessed for our times together.*

*Blessings,*

*Julie*

# 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***

***December 7      The Lord’s Supper***

***December 14     “Lessons and Carols”***

***December 21     Reception of new Disciples and baptism***

***December 24     Candlelight Communion***

***Christmas Eve Service—5:00***

***December 28     Christmas Carol sing during worship***

**Choir practices will be December 3, 7, and 10.  
We will resume practice on January 7 at 6:45!**

**Head Ushers—Rick and Harriet Watkins**

# Session

## Approvals:

- Approved motion (Cash/Hughes) to amend the agenda to include approvals from the Administrative Committee
- Approved motion from Admin Committee to approve the 2026 Budget. Budget total is \$404, 178.
- Approved motion from Admin Committee to use \$6,700 from the Dyal Fund for the Young Adult Mission Trip.
- Approved motion from Admin Committee to use \$3,560 from the Dyal Fund for sidewalk repair project.
- Approved motion from Admin Committee to use \$1,650 from the Dyal Fund to install a panic bar on the exit door in the Prayer Room.
- Approved motion from BG&S Committee to schedule a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance training session January 10 or 17 at Nazareth.

## Other Items

- 33 names are on the Angel Tree. All gifts should be returned to the Fellowship Hall by December 14th. Be sure to include a name tag on each gift.
- 201 signed Christmas cards will be sent to the Veteran Last Watch organization.
- Youth have assembled 50 Homeless Helper Kits. Thanks to the generosity of Nazareth disciples and strategic shopping by Amy, kits are larger and contain more items this year. Kits will be available for distribution starting Sunday, November 23.
- Missions will prepare an extra bag of food for Feed the Future children to have over the Christmas Break.
- The Advent Brunch will be held in the Family Life Center on Sunday, December 7 immediately following Worship.
- 5 people attended the Lunch & Learn session Sunday, November 16.
- The Prayer Room is complete and open to use. Details about plans for this space moving forward will be shared in the coming months.
- Thanks to the efforts of countless people the 130<sup>th</sup> Foothills Presbytery Meeting held at Nazareth was a tremendous success. Julie received numerous compliments from those attending about our preparation, the hospitality, our friendliness, our updated facilities, the food, and the overall atmosphere. Great job everyone!



# Christian Education



As we enter the Christmas season, may we focus on the reason for the season- Luke 2:10-12: A tiny baby boy was born in a stable surrounded by the sounds and smells of barnyard animals. His mother Mary softly and lovingly swaddled him in cloth and gently laid him in a manger. This baby is the Messiah given to you. May the love and light of Christ, that sweet little baby boy, fill your holiday and the New Year. Merry Christmas. Amy Jackson, Director of Christian Education



Sunday, December 14 after worship, join us for **LUNCH** in the Fellowship Hall (Grilled cheese and soup) followed by **CAROLING** from 1-3pm.

We will carol to some of our church members who are living in senior communities in our area.

Please sign up on the sheet provided in the Fellowship Hall if you plan to join us.

## Youth Group

Dec. 14- Lunch in the Fellowship Hall & Caroling after worship

Dec. 21- Youth Christmas Party 5:30-7:00pm at the Kern's House (413 E. Woodberry Lane, Spartanburg). Bring an appetizer to share and a gift for the White Elephant/Dirty Santa gift game.

## Naz Kids

Dec. 14-Happy Birthday Jesus party during Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday!

Some of our many volunteers who helped make the Foothills Presbytery meeting so wonderful!



## The Missions Focus for DECEMBER is *The Spartanburg Soup Kitchen.*

**Our Monthly Collection** will be the gifts and gift cards bought for our children from the Christmas Tree. The gift cards will be given to teens.

These items are always needed and you are welcome to bring them to the Fellowship Hall during the month of December and they will be taken to the Soup Kitchen: sugar, Mrs. Dash seasoning, salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder and large cans of lima beans, mixed fruits and collard greens.

**The Pennies for Hunger** offering this month will benefit The Soup Kitchen.



Note: Our next volunteer day for the SK will be in January.

**Thank you Nazareth for your Generosity!**

The **Mobile Meals** bins are full of wonderful bags filled with Christmas treats and other items donated for Mobile Meal clients. Thank you so much for your thoughtful generosity!



The **ANGEL CHRISTMAS TREE** with children's names is happily empty! All 33 names have been claimed, and I'm sure the joy of shopping has begun! Soon our Fellowship Hall will be filled with gifts for these wonderful children, as well as gift cards for teens. **Gifts will need to be in the Fellowship Hall by December 14th.**

**Thank you to Rick and Jayne Duerksen for organizing Angel Tree!**

Mission Committee members have been busy collecting extra food for our **Feed the Future** children so they can have food to eat during the extended Christmas school break. Also, food for a Christmas dinner will be sent home with each of our 25 children being served.

**Homeless Helper Kits** are ready to be picked up to give to a person who will benefit from receiving this bag of useful necessities, including a solar warming blanket! Every year, Amy and our youth get more creative and thoughtful about the items that fill this bag.

Missions sent a \$1,000 check to **Manna Food Bank** in Northwest North Carolina and another \$1,000 check to **Miracle Hill**. A check for \$479.10 was sent to **P.S. I Love You**, serving foster children and their foster parents.

**We are ending our year of giving with thanks and gratefulness in our hearts!**

### **The Carpenter's Table**

Because of our 5 week rotation at The Carpenter's Table, we will not be serving in December. **Our next Carpenter's Table Saturday will be on January 3, 2026.**

# Fellowship



**THE NAZARETH FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

**INVITES YOU TO JOIN US**

**AS WE CELEBRATE THE ADVENT SEASON**

**WITH OUR**

**ANNUAL ADVENT BRUNCH**

**DECEMBER, 7th, 2025**

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP**

**NAZARETH FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

***(All food and drinks will be provided by the committee)***



**Coffee and Conversation on December 7**---Only coffee will be served and no snacks, due to the Advent Brunch after worship.



**December Pickleball**---There will be no pickleball on December 4, December 7, December 9, and December 25.

**NOTE: There will be no Fellowship Committee meeting in December.**



**NOMEO (Nazareth Old Men Eating Out)**

**NOMEO** Club will meet on Tuesday,  
December 9th at 6:00pm at Cribbs  
Kitchen near Publix.

# Presbyterian Women



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

## Ladies Who Lunch

December Ladies Who Lunch will NOT meet at our usual place but will meet on Friday, December 12th at 11:45 at Abby Hatchette's home: 409 Richmond Ct., Spartanburg.

Abby would like an idea of who will be coming, so please let her, Shirley, or me know. Abby will be providing a meat, so everyone is asked to bring a side, salad, dessert, etc. to share. Abby would like an idea of what you are bringing to help her in planning. ([abhatchette@gmail.com](mailto:abhatchette@gmail.com))

Abby also has a special friends and family Christmas tree that she would like all of us to be a part of. If you will bring her a small picture of yourself (about 3 inches) she will cut it into a circle and put it in the frames that she has. Try to bring the picture ahead of time. You can leave it with Debby in the office or give it to Abby at church.

## Back Porch Circle

The Back Porch Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, December 9th at 10 am in the Nazareth Family Life Center. We will enjoy the newly refurbished Parlor room for our meeting. It's cookie exchange day!. Bring a dozen or two of your favorite Christmas cookies and take a dozen or two home. Oh yes, eat a few too. We'll have coffee ready for everyone. Julie will lead us in our study of Lesson 4 in '*Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*'.

## Circle 3

Circle 3 will meet on Tuesday, December 9th, at the home of Ronda Woodall, 436 Pendernale Drive, Moore, at 6:00 pm. We will have our Annual Christmas Dinner. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will be deciding on our gift to Heifer International.

## Offerings for General Giving

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Offerings as of 10/31/2025 | \$ 273,485.75        |
| Expenses as of 10/31/2025  | <u>\$ 296,601.81</u> |
| Net Ordinary Loss          | \$ -23,116.06        |

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

# HISTORY ~ and Nazareth Memory Tree



*'Christmas in Killarney'*

*"Christmas in Killarney,*

*Is wonderful to see..*

*Listen to my story, And I'll take ya back with me!*

*The holly green, the ivy green*

*The prettiest picture you've ever seen,*

*Is Christmas in Killarney,*

*With all of the folks at home.*

*It's nice, you know, to kiss your beau,*

*While cuddling under the mistletoe*

*And Santa Claus you know, of course, Is one of the boys from home.*

*The door is always open, The neighbors pay a call*

*And Father John before He's gone, Will bless the house and all!*

*How grand it feels to click your heels,*

*And join in the fun of the jigs and reels*

*I'm handing you no blarney,*

*The likes you've never known*

*Is Christmas in Killarney, with all of the folks at home."*

*Written by John Redmond and Irish tenor, Frank McNamara (1950)*

*Given by Carroll Caldwell, Historian*

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**The memory tree in the Fellowship Hall is up and decorated.**

**There's plenty of room for more ornaments.**

**If you would like to donate an ornament in memory of a loved one,  
this is what you need to do.**

**Pick out an ornament of your choice and tag it with your loved one's name  
and date of death. Bring it in a box so it can be stored year to year.**

**Also put your loved one's name on the box.**

**You can leave it on Debby's desk or give it to  
Tina Cantrell, Jenny Stidham, or Barbara Melton.**



# 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  
Buddy Berry  
John and Martha Bainbridge  
Tom Brewer  
James Cantrell’s friend, Ed Tarver  
Dalton and Reagan, friends of the Deurksens  
Jean Glass  
Gerald Broome’s grandson, Adam  
Carroll Caldwell’s sister, Anita Edwards  
Jane Cook  
Marlene Cutler’s brother, Dick and family  
Margaret Culclasure  
Joe Fox  
Abby Hatchette  
Neil and Joan Houghton

Gladys Mills  
Katie Morgenstern  
Officer Nominating Committee  
Phyllis Powers’ aunt, Donna Cudd Young  
Deb Ritzo’s cousins, Karen and Lori  
Julie Schaaf’s father, Bob Carter  
Jessica Schneider’s aunt, Gladys Moyer  
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 |               |

### Missionaries and Mission Partners:

Mark Adams  
Shalynn and Tyler Crawford

### Concerns of the World:

**The world                      Those who face their first Christmas without a special loved one**

**“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 DECEMBER

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Buildings, Grounds & Safety | Sunday, December 7th, at 8:30 in the Wagner Classroom |
| Worship                     | Sunday, December 7th, at 8:30 in the Session Room     |
| Evangelism & Nurture        | Sunday, December 7th, at 8:45 in the MS Classroom     |
| Christian Education         | Tuesday, December 9th, at 5:30 in the Session Room    |
| Fellowship                  | no meeting in December                                |
| Missions                    | Sunday, December 14th, at 8:45 in the Missions 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 JANUARY NEWSLETTER

**will be due to Debby in the office by  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd!**

**Please consider the holidays! Thank you!**



### FLOWER CALENDAR

*During the month of December  
poinsettias will beautify the  
sanctuary.*

*Thank you to all who gave in honor or  
memory of loved ones!*



*Be looking for the 2026 Flower Calendar and sign  
up to provide flowers for a given 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,*

*Thanks to the many who have  
turned in their "Commitment to  
Generosity Cards" for 2026.*

*Please be in prayer if you have not  
turned this in and also please be  
mindful of your giving if you have  
not satisfied your 2025 pledge.*

*Stewardship/JOG Committee*



# Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries

## DECEMBER

02 Elfriede Henry  
04 Paula Cash  
05 Matthew Mathis  
10 Rick Duerksen  
13 Dale Wright  
13 Brian Kern  
14 Mel Stauffer  
16 Deb Gray  
16 Bill Stuermann  
21 Brooke Clay  
21 Hannah Melton  
23 Barbara Melton  
24 Angela Jackson  
25 Pat Smith  
27 Lou Buttino  
27 Lily Cairns  
27 Phyllis Powers  
31 Kathy Cothran



## 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

## DECEMBER

01 Louis & Cindy Womble  
10 Isaac & Hannah Melton  
11 Jay & Melanie Campbell  
16 Charles & Stephanie Heath  
19 Lane & Molly Barker  
19 Dave & Lois Weneck  
21 James & Tina Cantrell  
22 Bill & Leslie Stuermann  
31 Travis & Barbara Lee



## JANUARY

17 Larry & Phyllis Powers



# DECEMBER



| Sun   | Mon                    | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat |
|---|------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----|
|   | 1                      | 2  | 3<br>Choir practice<br>6:45  | 4<br>No Pickleball<br>AA meeting<br>6:30   | 5  | 6   |
| 7<br>BG&S 8:30<br>Worship 8:30<br>Evang & N 8:45<br><br>Annual Advent<br>Brunch @ FLC<br><br>No Pickleball  | 8                      | 9<br>Back Porch<br>Circle 10:00<br><br>No Pickleball<br><br>Circle # 3<br>6:00<br>NOME0 6:00 | 10<br><br>Choir practice<br>6:45   | 11<br><br>Pickleball<br>6-8<br>AA meeting<br>6:30  | 12<br>Ladies Who<br>Lunch 11:45<br>Abby<br>Hatchette's | 13  |
| 14 Missions 8:45<br><br>ANGEL TREE<br>Gifts are due<br>Naz Kids<br>Happy Birthday<br>Jesus party<br><br>Churchwide<br>Caroling after<br>worship<br>Pickleball 3-5 | 15<br><br>Session 7:00 | 16<br><br>Pickleball<br>10-12  | 17<br><br>Choir practice<br>6:45   | 18<br><br>Newsletter info<br>due to Debby<br><br>Pickleball<br>6-8<br>AA meeting<br>6:30                                 | 19   | 20  |
| 21<br>Reception of new<br>Disciples and<br>baptism<br><br>Pickleball 3-5<br><br>Youth Christmas<br>Party @ Kern's   | 22                     | 23<br><br>Pickleball<br>10-12  | 24<br>Office closed<br><br>Candlelight<br>Communion<br>Christmas Eve<br>Service 5:00 | 25<br><b>Merry<br/>Christmas</b><br> | 26   | 27  |
| 28 Christmas<br>Carol Sing<br><br>Pennies for<br>Hunger offering<br><br>Pickleball 3-5  | 29                     | 30<br><br>Pickleball<br>10-12  | 31<br><br>Office closed  |  |  |     |