



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
2024

MISSION STATEMENT OF NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Dear Nazareth Family,

This year has been one of challenges in every way. Continued killing in Israel, Lebanon, Gaza and Ukraine. Storms like Helene and Milton taking so much from people in our area of the country. National elections that always bring divisiveness, no matter how hard we try for them not to. My family has had health challenges and our church has also faced some trying times. And quite honestly, the commercialism of Christmas almost makes me want to skip it.

On top of that, as a church professional, there is extra work; extra pastoral care that goes with the understandable depression that accompanies the holidays; extra praying with church members that comes with the family feuding that goes with the holiday. You get the picture!

Yet the Good News, the bedrock of our faith is this: “Do not be afraid; for unto you a child is born.” (Luke 2:10) As a person, NOT as a pastor, I have to work hard to anchor my heart in this message from the angel. Christmas is about a moment that changed the history of the world!

So may this Good News anchor your heart as well. As we Christmas Carol to our church members this Sunday, may we bring the Good News of great joy: God loves you and so do we. As we shop and wrap and bake and sing, may we do it to the Glory of the Lord: The little child who will lead us. As we send our Christmas cards, may we not just check off the box of obligatory message to a college roommate or great Uncle Bob, but use the opportunity to share the blessings of our year.

My favorite Christmas song appears in the Advent devotion book that you will receive day-by-day or in the mail if you do not use computers. I will not reprint the whole song here but will whet your appetite so you can look forward to it. It is called, “I Believe” by Natalie Grant and it helps me reframe my cynical attitude and overwhelmed emotions that seem to come with the Christmas season.

“In an land far away time stood still, long ago. There were shepherds in fields, but at least that is how the story goes. Woman with child and an inn with no room. Born in a manger foretelling a tomb. And it’s more than a fable, more than a fairy tale. More than my heart can conceive. I believe the Wisemen saw the baby boy the angels called the Son of God. Heaven’s child, the great I Am, born to take away my sins through nail pierced hands. Emmanuel has come, and I believe.”

Christ’s love to you all,

Julie

Worship



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

December 1	First Sunday in Advent, Decorate the Christmas tree during worship, 10:30
December 8	Christmas Cantata, Choir and Strings, 10:30
December 15	Worship, 10:30
December 22	Worship, 10:30
December 24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion, 5:00 pm
December 29	Christmas Carol Sing during worship, 10:30

Head Ushers for December— Betty and Nelson Hoenig

Session Minutes

Approvals:

- Approved motion from the Evangelism & Nurture Committee to accept the proposed sample document for use with the upcoming postcard mailout.
- Approved motion from the Administrative Committee to accept the proposed 2025 budget of \$386,517. Budget will be presented as information at the January 2025 annual meeting.
- Approved motion from the Buildings, Grounds & Safety Committee to allow Vlad to use the FLC for a family Thanksgiving dinner.
- Approved motion (Yarborough/Stidham) to host the Foothills Presbytery Meeting on November 11, 2025 at Nazareth.

Other Items:

- Commissioner Margie Dobbins submitted a report from the November 12 meeting of Foothills Presbytery.
- Clerk to discard Family Life Center Use Policy (11-13-2019); Flower Policy (5-17-2010). Will follow up with Julie on Sexual Misconduct Policy, Nepotism Policy and Standards of Conduct for Employees.
- Thank you to Susan Kern, Jenny Stidham & Tina Cantrell for their diligent work on the postcard mailout that was a directive from the Legacy Partnership. Mailout should go out by the end of the year.
- The Advent Brunch will be in the FLC following Worship/Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 8.
- Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in the Rise Against Hunger event. Over 17,000 meals were packaged.
- Missions Committee looking to establish P.S. I Love You as an ongoing missions project beginning in 2025.
- New elder training is Saturday, January 4. Session will examine elders-elect at the January 20th Session meeting with installation/ordination on Sunday, January 26 during Worship service.
- Julie to contact suggested representatives for the proposed Generosity Team.

Christian Education

As we enter into the Christmas season, may this time be one of spiritual reflection as well as gratitude to God for loving the world so much that he gave us his only son: an innocent baby born in the humblest of ways: a manger in a stable complete with barnyard animals. A sweet baby born with nothing, but one who would grow up to nurture a nation and who would be accessible to all mankind, especially the common man. "Praise to God in the highest and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased". Luke 2:14

Sunday, December 1st after worship, join us for a warm, friendly meal of grilled cheese and homemade soup, followed by caroling to our in-home members from 1-3pm. We hope you will join us in bringing the Christmas spirit through song to our in-home members.

Sunday, December 8th the youth will pick up trash on our adopted highway after brunch. We invite everyone to come and help us to beautify and preserve God's world through this meaningful mission project. Please wear close-toed shoes. Vests, grabbers and trash bags are provided.

YOUTH SCHEDULE

- Dec 1- No youth group, but there is caroling from 1-3pm
- Dec. 8- 1pm Adopt-A-Highway trash pick up after Brunch-leaving from the FLC
- Dec. 15- During Sunday School- we will have a Happy Birthday Jesus party
- 6-7:30pm Youth Christmas Party at the Melton's
- Dec. 22- no Youth Group- Merry Christmas
- Dec. 29- No Youth Group- Happy New Year

Jan. 5- No Youth Group

NAZ KIDS EVENTS

- Dec 1- Lunch and caroling after church: 11:45 Lunch- followed by caroling from 1-3pm
- Dec. 15- During Sunday School- Happy Birthday Jesus party

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Missions



The MISSIONS focus for December is Angel Tree for the Soup Kitchen

The missions for December will be gifts for The Angel Tree families. These gifts will need to be wrapped and returned by December 15th, with the name of the child on each gift. Thank you for fulfilling the wishes of these precious children! I'm sure you will be able to picture their smiles and feel their joy on Christmas morning.

Thank you for the Christmas Bags donated for Mobile Meals! The meals they receive from Mobile Meals are a blessing and appreciated by our experienced-living folks. A little extra gift of special treats at Christmas is a welcome bonus that will lighten their hearts and make them smile.



In December, our Saturday to help with The Soup Kitchen will be on December 28th from 9:00-1:00. Please call Mt. Nebo Baptist Church for any questions you may have.

The next Saturday for The Carpenter's Table will be on December 14th. Set-up will start at 7:00 and serving clients will begin at 8:00. Our needs remain the same: help getting a tent and tables ready, putting out cones and getting computers connected, running and manned. Any souls who are knowledgeable with computers, and come to help, will get warm blankets to help keep warm. No kidding. For information or questions, please email Pat Smith at palmettopat@hotmail.com or call 330-417-3461.

Abby Hatchette is extremely appreciative of the volunteers coming on the third Thursday of each month to help bag food at The Carpenter's Table. Thank you for dedicating your time to Abby and this community service.

Amy has been busy collecting coats, hats, scarves, mittens, blankets, clothes and other items needed in western North Carolina. If you have any items to donate, please ask her if she is still collecting or if she can direct you to those who are collecting.

Pennies for Hunger offering will be received
Sunday, December 29th for the Soup Kitchen.



Have a blessed December and Merry Christmas! Missions Committee

~ Join us for this new ministry ~

The NOME O Club (Nazareth Old Men Eating Out)

The Nomeo Club will meet on Tuesday, December 10th,
at 6:00 pm. Location to be determined.



Presbyterian Women



Ladies Who Lunch



Will meet on Friday, December 13 at 11:30. Our very special gathering will be at the home of Kim Kotecha, 12 Grayson Drive in the Shenandoah III subdivision. Please bring an appetizer, salad or dessert, and your festive spirit!

Back Porch Circle

The Back Porch circle will meet on December 10th in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM. We will continue with lesson four, "Water Justice." Join us!

Circle #3

Circle 3 will have a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 10, at the home of Ronda Woodall, 436 South Pendernale Drive, Moore, at 6:00 PM. Please bring covered dish to share. Join us for a festive evening of fellowship and fun.

Fellowship



Join us on Sunday, December 8th at the Family Life Center for our Advent Brunch.
No need to sign up, just come and enjoy!

The Nazareth Fellowship Committee hopes that you have enjoyed our gathering times during the past year. Know that we welcome visitors and new members at all times, and would love to have you join us. We always need men, women, and teens to get the job done. As 2024 draws to a close, we send wishes for Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy to every Nazareth household! May we all celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with friends and loved ones, even if they are not nearby. We hope your hearts will be filled with joy as we worship and fellowship together, and look forward to the new year to come.

Offerings for General Giving

Offerings as of 10/31/24 \$ 284,814

Expenses as of 10/31/24 \$ 264,819

Net Ordinary Income YTD \$ 19,995

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



HISTORY ~ *Coming Home For Christmas*



“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David because he belonged to the house and the line of David.” Luke 2:4

One of the greatest joys in my life was the coming together of family and friends to celebrate Christmas and Thanksgiving! Brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles would all converge in Mama’s kitchen to share a holiday meal and catch up on the latest adventures of her illustrious children. Daddy would sit in his recliner and take it all in and smile, occasionally raising his cup while exclaiming, “Hey woman! How about warming my coffee up!”, which was followed by a sideways glare from the server! After dinner, we would all retire to the living room where gifts would be exchanged. Big brother had just pulled up on his Harley Davidson, and as always on such an occasion, we would break out the guitars and have a mini concert for those in attendance. Storytelling was a big part of the Christmas celebration and boy did we have some doozies! My dad and my brother had the gift of gab and they sure could elaborate! They knew how to ‘colorize’ a story and could captivate the listeners’ attention only to achieve their disbelief while including a couple of “whoppers!” It was great fun and established some cherished memories!

While traveling over the years, chasing those construction jobs across the country, I lived in ten different states, but I always knew that my home and my family were here, in Spartanburg, S.C. The nostalgic familiar sights and sounds and the memories produce that comfortable feeling of confidence and security. It has been said that “home is where the heart is,” and I believe it to be true. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said it best:

*“Each man’s chimney is his Golden Milestone,
Is the central point from which he measures
Every distance
Through the gateways of the world around him.*

*In his farthest wanderings still he sees it;
Hears the talking flame, the answering night-wind,
As he heard them
When he sat with those who were, but are not.”*



We may build more splendid habitations, fill our rooms with paintings and with sculptures, but we cannot buy with gold the old associations.

Merry Christmas to you all and a Happy New Year! Carroll Caldwell, Historian

CEMETERY ~ WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Our Second Year Of Participation

Save the date

Nazareth will continue its participation in this annual tradition on **December 14th, 2024 at 12:00 Noon.**

It is an initiative that is growing across America and Nazareth will once again be a participant.

We have already surpassed our goal of 256 wreaths sponsored. So many have supported this project and we are grateful that YOU are grateful for the service and sacrifice given by the veterans resting in Nazareth's cemetery.

We need volunteers to assist in the ceremony and the distribution of the wreaths. Based on last year's experience, we would like at least 15 people to assist in the process. Please call Mike Baier if you can help, and mark your calendars to be present to assist in the activities.

If you cannot assist in the event, we hope you will participate as a wreath presenter. We believe that the participation will be meaningful for all. Each wreath will be placed by volunteers, but we cannot assign or designate a particular veteran to any participant. WAA wreaths are given "anonymously". This entire event should not take more than 2 hours. Last year it only took about 30 minutes, but we will be more aware of the process and ensure that each wreath is laid with greater respect and formality. Anyone is welcome to lay a wreath or wreaths. The proper protocol will be demonstrated.

Last year we had more people attending than we anticipated, and the Fellowship Hall was packed. This year we will have the ceremony in the Family Life Center. As a participating cemetery, Nazareth has their own page on the Wreaths Across America website. You can go there by following this link.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/sc0301>.

Even if you do not sign up as a volunteer, everyone is welcome to come and participate on Saturday the 14th. We hope to see many of you there.

To volunteer please Call, Text or Talk with Mike Baier, 864-316-1153

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:

Susan Baier
Buddy Berry
Anne and Tom Brewer and Jennifer
Sandy Brown's friend, Geoffrey
Gerald Broome
Carroll Caldwell's son, Aaron
Margaret Culclasure
PJ Earley
Engel Family
Joe and Martha Fox
Amy Hatley
Stephanie and Charles Heath
Laura Henderson's mother, Frances Daniel
Chuck Holmes

Amy Jackson's brother, Mark and family
Debby Keaton's husband, Rex Keaton
Caryle Marzke
Gladys Mills
Herb Respass and family
Deb Ritzo and family
Ted and Joann Robertson
Amelia Senn's brother, Robert
Marian Stephen's sister-in-law, Trish
Jessica Sullens' sister, Lori Cook
Judy Taetz



In the Armed Forces:

Lee Hughes	Mike Roberts	Albert Bianco
Reggie Hughes	Dorothy Ellis	Ridgway Jackson
Albert Bianco	Eric Gallman	Shelly Roberts

Missionaries and Mission Partners:

Mark Adams
Shalynn and Tyler Crawford
Tim and Marcie Schaeffer

Concerns of the World:

Those living in warfare

Those affected by Helene and Milton

“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 for December

Buildings, Grounds & Safety	Sunday, December 1st at 8:30 in the Wagner Classroom
Worship	Sunday, December 1st at 8:30 in the Session Room
Evangelism & Nurture	Sunday, December 1st at 8:45 in the Middle School Classroom
Christian Education	Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30 in the Session Room
Fellowship	Sunday, December 8th at 8:30 in the Gift Classroom
Missions	Sunday, December 8th at 8:45 in the Missions Room
Administrative	Tuesday, December 10th at 5:15 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 Wednesdays and Thursdays, 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

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION for the

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

will be due to Debby in the office by

Wednesday, December 18th.

All moderators and others who contribute, please adhere to this date. Thank you!



FLOWER CALENDAR

December poinsettias will beautify our sanctuary for this month. Thank you to those who have purchased in honor or memory of someone special.

January 5

January 12

January 19

January 26

Dear Church Family,



I would like to send my thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, cards, delicious food, and kind thoughts from our Nazareth family during my surgery and recovery. I am gradually improving each day and Mike and I are grateful for each of you.

Sincerely,
Susan Baier

Simon, Peggy and Lily would like to thank our church family for the prayers, cards, and other remembrances to honor Simon's sister, Grace. We appreciate your kindness and support.

Blessings,
The Landers-Cairns Family



There is a 2025 Flower Calendar in the SS hallway. If you would like to provide flowers, please sign up.

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.

The florist we order from that delivers orders to the church is Carolyn's Florals & Baskets 864-439-7283 Hours: W-F 10-4, Sat. appt.

Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

02 Elfriede Henry
04 Paula Cash
05 Matthew Mathis
10 Rick Duerksen
13 Dale Wright
13 Brian Kern
16 Deb Gray
16 Bill Stuermann
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 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
11 Jay & Melanie Campbell
16 Charles & Stephanie Heath
19 Lane & Molly Barker
19 Dave & Lois Weneck
21 James & Tina Cantrell
22 Bill & Leslie Stuermann
30 Isaac & Hannah Melton



JANUARY

17 Larry & Phyllis Powers



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 BG&S 8:30 Worship 8:30 Ev & N 8:45 Confirmation begins Lunch & CAROLING No Youth	2	3	4 CE meeting 5:30 Choir practice Dress rehearsal 7:00	5 AA meeting 6:30	6	7
8 Fellowship 8:30 Missions 8:45 Nazareth Choir Christmas Cantata Advent Brunch @ FLC Youth AAH trash pickup 1:00	9	10 Back Porch Circle 10:00 Administrative Meeting 5:15 Circle 3 6:00	11 Choir 6:45	12 AA meeting 6:30	13 Ladies Who Lunch 11:30	14 The Carpenter's Table 8-12 Wreaths Across America Service in the FLC 12:00
15 Birthday party for Jesus—Kids and Youth during SS Angel Tree gifts are due today Youth Christmas Party at Melton's	16 Session 7:00	17	18 Choir 6:45	19 AA meeting 6:30	20	21
22 No Youth Merry Christmas!	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00	25 Christmas Day Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 AA meeting 6:30	27	28 The Soup Kitchen 9-1
29 Pennies for Hunger offering Hymn Sing No Youth Happy New Year!	30	31				