



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

DECEMBER

MISSION STATEMENT OF NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Dear Nazareth Family,

I hope you all enjoyed our first ever "Hanging of the Greens" service. Everyone came with their A game. All of the readers were fantastic—especially AJ Cansler who had to fill in at the last minute. The children were precious carrying in the manger scene. The different Sunday School classes carried out their assignments with grace and it was a way for everyone to participate in the service. The church was beautifully decorated at the end. The highlight was, of course, the music. This is often the case at Nazareth! How blessed we are to have Laura, Dean, Judy, Susan and all of our choir members. As a pastor, I am well aware that music is often more of a sermon than the sermon. I am blessed every week to be spiritually fed by our musicians before I preach. It is hard to believe that our choir is a volunteer choir. As we worship together in our historical sanctuary, surrounded by our Nazareth family throughout the Advent and Christmas season, may the beauty of the season truly nourish your souls and prepare your hearts to receive the babe in the manger.

I also hope that you are enjoying the daily Advent devotions that are being sent each morning. If you are one that doesn't always read your church email, you will want to click on these bits of worship and wisdom, written by Nazareth disciples and staff. And to follow up with how music ministers to us, on the days when we were lacking a written devotion, I inserted some Christmas songs that are meaningful to me. We all experience God in a different way—through creation, Scripture, earthly angels, being surrounded by family and yes, the gift of music.

For the remainder of the Advent season, I will be using Biblical songs as texts for the sermons. One will come from Isaiah, as well as Zechariah's song and Mary's song, both found in the Gospel of Luke.

To close, here are the words to a beautiful Christmas song, performed by Carrie Underwood.
Blessings, Julie

I wonder were you cold that night
Lying there by Mary's side?

Taking your first breath
I wonder were You scared to death?

Fully human, fully God,
Full of wonder and the blood

That one day You would shed to save the world

Tiny feet and tiny hands

With all the earth at their command

It must have felt so strange.

Sweet baby Jesus

Come down to love us

To lie in a manger

So far from home

You could have left us

Helpless and so lost

But you chose to save us

Sweet baby Jesus.

Worship



Worship in person or “Livestream” every Sunday.

Come and worship with us and bring a friend.

Special Events

December 4th	Communion
December 11	Worship
December 18th	Nazareth Handbell Choir
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm
December 25th	Virtual Worship ONLY featuring our own Gwen Yarborough

Head Ushers for December — Mike and Susan Baier

Session Highlights

Approvals:

- Approved motion from Admin Committee to adopt the 2023 Budget. Budget total is \$349,619.63.
- Approved motion from BG&S Committee to move Boy Scouts back to Mission Committee.
- Approved motion from Christian Education Committee to use the curriculum “Talksheets” by David Lynn and Rick Davis for the Youth Sunday School class.

Other Items:

- **Advent meals:** November 30th, December 7th, December 14th. Meals begin at 6:00. Sign up on sheets in Fellowship Hall or Call Debby in the office.
- December 11 church wide caroling.
- All Angel Tree names have now been taken.
- Missions may be scheduling a meeting soon to talk about a possible trip to Eastern Kentucky to assist with rebuilding from the flooding in this area.
- We will have a Virtual Service only on Sunday, December 25.
- Discussed increasing hours for Amy Jackson due to her expanded responsibilities. Received another \$20,000 grant from the Spartanburg County Foundation for this position. The Personnel Committee will follow up with the Admin Committee and make a recommendation for approval by Session.
- Budget will be presented to the congregation as information at the January Congregational Meeting. Congregation will vote to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call.
- Mark Henry serves as liaison between church and Boy Scouts. Mark will attend Missions Committee meetings and the committee will also name a liaison between the committee and Mark. Shuan has also been added to the Constant Contact list to ensure a good flow of communication between the church and the Boy Scouts.
- Caldwell Cabin is being emptied and should be moved by the first of the year.
- Operation Christmas Child activity was very well received. May look at expanding/making this an annual activity.
- Advent Devotions will be sent electronically every day with at least 20 hard copies mailed to those who do not receive electronic communication.
- New elder training will be Saturday January 7. Session will examine elders Monday, January 16 with installation/ordination held on Sunday, January 22.
- Thank you to everyone who assisted with the service for Bob Hatchette and for the loving care given to Bob and Abby.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

The Christmas season is upon us, and the hustle and bustle of the holidays have begun. As our stress levels rise, I urge you to take some time to yourself this holiday season and just reflect on what Christmas means—what it really means. While you are reflecting, I ask that you also listen to two songs or at least read the lyrics. The first is Faith Hill's "A Baby Changes Everything" and the second is Amy Grant's "Breath of Heaven". Until I heard these two songs, I never thought what it would be like to be the mother of Jesus. God's gift of His only son to the world is a remarkable gift but think of young Mary. What questions must be running through her mind: Am I worthy? Am I smart enough? What did God see in me? What will Joseph think? I can only imagine how overwhelmed she was. But God in his infinite wisdom, sent the angel Gabriel to ease any fears that she may have, as we read in Luke 1:26-38. A Baby Changed Everything!

Everyone is invited to go caroling to a few of our NPC members on Sunday, December 11. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 3pm. We will return to the Fellowship Hall around 5pm for cookies and beverages and SANTA! Please feel free to bring cookies to share. Remember—this is an Intergenerational Event and the more the merrier.

All of our young people, High school and under, will have a Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday, December 18 during the Sunday school hour in the Fellowship Hall.



Youth Events

Dec. 4	4pm Youth Choir Practice in Sanctuary 5-7:30pm Meet @ FLC: out to eat & shop for Angel Tree: Bring \$20 gift donation
Dec. 11	3-5 Church wide Caroling, 5:00-5:30 Cookies, beverages & Santa!
Dec. 18	9:30-10:15 am in Fellowship Hall: Birthday Party for Jesus 4:30-6:30pm Youth Christmas Party at the Campbells- bring a gift for the gift exchange (\$15 cap on the gift you bring, please.)
Dec. 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS- No Sunday School Worship virtually No Youth Group

Nazareth children pack
Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes
to be sent to boys and girls in other countries.





Missions



The Missions focus for December is ANGEL TREE

All of our Angels have found homes and we are grateful for your participation. Please wrap all gifts and place the child's name on each gift. Please have the gifts in the Fellowship Hall no later than December 11th. Thank you so much for making Christmas special for these Angels. Also if you'd rather give gift cards for the older children we are collecting those too. Place gift cards in the baskets provided for the teens.

Other Nazareth Mission Opportunities

The Carpenter's Table

Our day to serve at TCT will be Saturday, December 3rd, from 8-12. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Taylor Nunamaker. (864-992-5708)

The Spartanburg Soup Kitchen

Our next day to serve will be Saturday, December 24th from 9-1.
This may be subject to change.

If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Chuck Holmes. (864-556-9702)

Just Coffee

Mark Adams, our missionary from Just Coffee, will be here December 18 and will give us some information on this mission during worship.



A Special Offering will be received at our Christmas Eve Service to benefit The Spartanburg Soup Kitchen, in place of Pennies for Hunger.



Missions, cont.

Nazareth Presbyterian is packing “*Feed the “Future” bags* for DR Hill Middle School starting December 1st. Our first delivery will be December 7th. In addition, on December 14th we will be delivering two weekend packs (a gallon Ziploc bag) and a family dinner along with a new backpack. We can add toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, gloves, etc. to the December 14th bag if we’d like. We will have 20 children but that number can change. We will deliver on Wednesdays between 8:30 and 1:30. Items needed are listed below and Sam's or Costco are suggested for your purchases. A group of elves has already packed bags for several weeks but we will begin collecting items immediately in the bin in the Fellowship Hall. See pictures of the sample bags below so that you can see the sizes that are needed to fit in a gallon bag.

Items needed are: spaghetti, ravioli, chicken, roast beef, soups, individual mac and cheese, oatmeal, grits, pop tarts, individual fruit cups or applesauce, crackers, chips, cookies, granola bars, energy bars, fruit snacks, juice box, small water, small apple or orange juice, sport drink.

*Please do not bring peanut butter, ramen noodles, or Vienna sausages



**Place needed items in the bin provided
in the Fellowship Hall
marked “Feed the Future”
Thank you for your participation!**





Fellowship

Advent Meals will continue on
December 7 and 14

Wednesday December 7th we will have a catered meal with pumpkin and apple pie for dessert.



Wednesday December 14th Chuck Holmes will be serving his famous pancakes and ham.

Meals will be served at 6:00 pm.

Please sign up for each meal on the sheets provided in the Fellowship Hall. You can also call Debby at the office—no later than Monday at 2:00.

There is no charge, but we will accept donations to help offset the costs.

The Fellowship Committee will not meet in January.

We will resume in February and plan for Souper Bowl Sunday.

Offerings for General Giving

Offerings— as of 10/31/22 \$253,702.92

Expenses—as of 10/31/22 \$309, 462.05

<\$ 55,759.13 >



Presbyterian Women

Back Porch Circle

Join us for Back Porch Circle on December 13th at 10:0AM! We will be meeting at the church Fellowship Hall this month. Julie will be leading us in our study and discussion of Lesson 4, "Sabbath and Surrender" from the Celebrating Sabbath Bible Study book. We look forward to seeing you!

Circle 3

Circle 3 will have a Christmas Dinner Gathering Tuesday December 13 at 6:30 pm at the home of Aletha Misenheimer, 148 Brookhaven Drive, Moore. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will be collecting donations for our annual Christmas mission project, Heifer International. Visitors are always welcomed!

Ladies Who Lunch

Ladies who Lunch will have a Festive Lunch on Friday, December 9, at 11:30 am at the home of Dale Wright, 813 Laurel Bluff, 29301, Thornhill subdivision.

Please bring an appetizer, salad and/or dessert to share.

This would be a fine time to enjoy Ladies who Lunch even if you haven't joined us before.

As always, let Marian Stephen know if you will or won't be with us.



Evangelism and Nurture

SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD

The Christmas Season is a wonderful time to remember our Shut-ins. Imagine their delight when they get cards from their Nazareth family and realize they are still remembered! Their information is in the online directory or at the office.

For your information, Margaret Culclasure has a new address. It is:

Mrs. Margaret Culclasure

White Oak at North Grove,

290 N Grove Medical Park Dr., Room 512



“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.***



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

John Bainbridge	Gladys Mills
Katie Barath's parents, Robert and	Mark and Holly Onufer
Linda Williams	JoAnn Robertson's niece, Stacey Lancaster
Gerald Broome's grandson, Adam, and friend,	Amelia Senn's brother, Robert & wife, Sandy
Glen Stribling	Pat Smith's brother-in-law, Steve Semer
Kathy Cothran's friends	Dave and Marian Stephen
Peden Cook	Leslie Stuermann's friends, Vivian & Willard
Margaret Culclasure	Macabee
Marlene Cutler's sister, Jackie Fuller	Jessica Sullens' friends, Mandie and Devin
Joe and Martha Fox	Louis Womble
Abby Hatchette and family	
Amy Hatley	
Amy Jackson's sister-in-law, Theresa	
Gayle Mason	
Emma Labelle and the Maul family	
Isaac and Hannah Melton and baby, Sailor	



In the Armed Forces:

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

Jacob Schneider
CVN 76 USS Ronald
Reagan
Unit 100197 Box 2898
FPO AP 96616

Missionaries and Mission Partners:

Mark Adams
Shalynn and Tyler Crawford

Concerns of the World

Ukraine

Those dealing with mass shootings throughout our nation

“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

Buildings, Grounds & Safety	Sunday, December 4, @ 8:30 AM in the Wagner Class
Worship	Sunday, December 4, @ 8:30 AM in the Session Room
Christian Education	Sunday, December 4, @ 8:30 AM in the GIFT Classroom
Evangelism & Nurture	Sunday, December 4, @ 9:00 AM in the Bridges Classroom
Fellowship	Sunday, December 11, @ 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
Missions	Sunday, December 11, @ 9:00 AM 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 Tuesdays and
Thursdays, 9:00am to 3:00pm.

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

Flower Schedule

Thank you to all who helped to
beautify our sanctuary with
poinsettias for the month of December!



The new flower calendar is posted outside
the sanctuary door. Please consider
filling in your name to provide flowers.

January 8 Dave & Marian Stephen
January 15
January 22
January 29

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION for the
February NEWSLETTER will be due to

Debby in the office by

Tuesday, January 24th

**Moderators and all others,
please adhere to this date Thank you!**

UPDATED WEBSITE

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

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

Dear Church Family,



*Both of us want to thank you for
all the lovely cards, food and your
thoughts and prayers. It is comforting
to know you have all that strength and
well wishes coming your way.
God bless,*

Dave and Lois Weneck

*I want to thank each of you for
your unwavering prayers, concerns
and heartfelt cards. Your presence was
felt every step of my journey. God has
given me a rare gift, one which I know
would not have been possible without
faith, hope and love. You all showered
me with these throughout the past
months. May God bless you and the
work of this church.*

*Dallas Schaaf
(Danny Schaaf's brother)*

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 Stuermann
- 18 Tiffany Nobles
- 22 Jennie Lindman
- 23 Barbara Melton
- 25 Pat Smith
- 27 Lou Buttino
- 27 Lily Cairns
- 27 Phyllis Powers
- 31 Kathy Cothran



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



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
- 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

JANUARY

- 06 David & Marian Stephen
- 17 Larry & Phyllis Powers



DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 The Carpenter's Table 8-12
4 BG&S 8:30 Worship 8:30 CE 8:30 E & N 9:00 Youth choir 4:00 Youth Group— FLC 5:00	5 Handbells 5:30	6	7 Choir 7:00	8	9 Ladies Who Lunch 11:30	10
11 Fellowship Missions 9:00 Churchwide Caroling 3-5	12 No Handbell Practice	13 Back Porch Circle 10:00 Circle 3 7:00	14 Choir 7:00	15	16 Handbell Practice @ 4:00	17
18 Youth Birthday Party for Jesus Fellowship Hall 9:30 Youth Christmas party @ Campbell's 4:30	19 No Handbell Practice Session 7:00	20	21 No Choir	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 Offering
25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> Virtual Worship only	26 Office Closed	27	28 No Choir	29	30	31