Southwestern Ohio District News

November 20, 2026

DISTRICT COMMUNICATION

Thanksgiving is on everyone's mind this weekend. It has been fun to read the special worship services various churches are offering during this season. As we worship, we do so with gratitude for God's forgiveness, provision, and blessings. May your services be filled with obvious joy and celebration for His goodness. Tracy and I are praying for you as you gather with your congregations this weekend. Don't forget to sign up for the annual district banquet. It's just a few weeks away! Daryl

WORSHIP LEADER (Part-Time):

Wrightview Nazarene is looking for a part-time worship leader. If interested, contact Pastor Trevor Smith at trevor.smith.ctr@gmail.com or by phone (937) 318-9879.

SWO QUICK LINKS:

District Website CLICK HERE
Facebook CLICK HERE
Newsletter Signup CLICK HERE

MEN'S CONFERENCE LINK:

For those men who attended the recent men's conference that was held at West Chester Nazarene on November 7th, you can watch the conference again by CLICKING HERE.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: 24 HOURS OF PRAYER:

Join Nazarenes around the world on November 20-21, 2026, for a powerful time of united prayer.
From sunrise to sunset in the Americas, the global church will gather on Zoom for 24 hours of continuous prayer. Let's believe together that God will move to the ends of the earth.
USA/Canada Region Times:
November 20: 3:00 p.m. PT
November 21: 7:00 a.m. PT
***Please do not share the link publicly on social media.**
Link: CLICK HERE

SWO DISTRICT LEADERS' CHRISTMAS BANQUET 2026:

Who: Pastors, Associate Pastors, and SWO District leadership teams along with their spouses
When: Monday, December 7, 2026
Where: Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center
Time: Hors d'oeuvres at 5:45 PM with dinner at 6:15 PM
Cost: $30 per person, make payment to: HGCRC
For More Information: Click on BANQUET

****RSVP****ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1ST** by emailing highergroundservice@gmail.com or by calling 812-637-3777
****RSVP****ENTRÉE: Prime Rib*, Pecan Chicken, or Baked Ham**
***NOTE: If your order is Prime Rib, Higher Ground will email you a ticket after December 1st that you will need to bring with you to the dinner.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ROAD CLOSURE: There is a road closure on Indiana St Rt 46. You will need to go one more exit to the St Leon Exit #164. You will turn right from the highway. Then you will turn right again onto St Rt 46. We will be on the left approximately 4 ½ miles from the exit.
NEW ENTRANCE: Higher Ground has a NEW ENTRANCE. The new entrance is now located at the top of the crest of the hill. (No longer right next to the creek.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

The District Office will be closed November 25th, 26th, and 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no Friday newsletter on November 27th.

NCM 2026 CHRISTMAS PROJECT:

The 2026 NCM Christmas Project, *Room for Every Child,* highlights the ways local churches are caring for displaced children around the world. These ministries do more than meet immediate needs. They help children find stability, experience belonging, continue their education, receive emotional and spiritual care, and discover that God deeply loves them. Displacement can leave children feeling invisible and forgotten. Through the work of local churches, children are reminded that there is room for them at the table, room for them in the classroom, room for them in the community, and room for them in the family of God. For more information on how to give or become an ambassador CLICK HERE. **Have questions?** Email Hayley or JP.

HOLINESS TODAY PODCAST:

The Holiness Today podcast brings a thoughtful mix of conversations and perspectives from across the Church of the Nazarene—from pastors and lay leaders to professors, college presidents, denominational voices, and ministry partners. Each episode explores the questions, challenges, theology, and everyday realities shaping the church today, offering encouragement, fresh perspective, and ideas you can carry into your own ministry. Whether you're listening on your commute, between meetings, or during a quiet morning, make space for a conversation that strengthens your faith and connects you to the wider Nazarene family. The Holiness Today podcast: a common place for everyday faith. Podcast

NBUSA FOUNDATION MATCH:

NBUSA wants you to know about the Foundation Match — a benefit designed with you in mind, especially if you serve a smaller congregation. Here's how it works: Every dollar you or your church contributes to your 403(b)-retirement account — up to the first $250 — gets a 100% match. Dollar for dollar. No minimum threshold to clear first. That means a contribution as small as $250 can become $500 toward your retirement. If you've been waiting until things are more stable to start saving, this is your sign that now is a good time to start — even in a small way. CLICK HERE to learn more about the match program or call 888-888-4656.

THE COMPASS INITIATIVE 2.0:

Emergency Savings Match for Lead/Sr Pastors in the U.S.

- Receive a one-time benefit for eligible pastors;
- Apply online at compassinitiative.org;
- Save $750 in a year ($63/month or $15/week) in your ESA;
- Attend a 90-minute virtual workshop;
- Verify or establish your myNBUSA account at https://nbusa.org/start_mynbusa;
- Document your ESA account balance has reached $750;
- Receive a $750 Match from NBUSA through your local church (next quarter); and
- Enjoy the benefit of $1,500 in emergency savings and then work to grow it from there!

DISTRICT CALENDAR – November/December:

11/20 – 11/21/26 – NYI Tri-State Quiz Meet, MVNU
11/20 – 11/22/26 – NYI Fall Retreat, Cross Oak Camp, Saint Mary's Ohio
11/25 – 11/27/26 – Thanksgiving, District Office Closed

December

12/07/26 – SWO Leaders Christmas Banquet, 5:45 PM, Higher Ground Conference & Retreat Center BANQUET
12/11/26 – District Camp Board Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, Higher Ground
12/12/26 – NYI Quiz Meet, 9:30 AM, West Carrollton Church, 550 South Elm Street, West Carrollton, OH 45449
12/24/26 – 01/01/27 – Christmas & New Years Break District Office Closed

NDI QUICK LINKS:

NDI Hub Newsletter Signup CLICK HERE
NDI Website CLICK HERE

SWO PRIMETIME EVENT - LA COMEDIA DINNER THEATER:

When: Friday, April 16, 2027
Where: La Comedia Dinner Theater, 765 W. Central Avenue, Springboro, OH 45066
Arrival: 10:30 AM
Cost: **$53.00** (includes lunch buffet)
Play: "Fiddler On The Roof"
RESERVATIONS START: 1/6/27
RSVP by 4/1/27: 513-777-5600 (100 seats available on a first come first serve basis)
Checks Payable To: SWO NDI
Mail Check to: SWO District Office, 7943 Tylersville Road, West Chester, OH 45069
For More Information: Click on link: LA COMEDIA

NMI FALL NEWSLETTER: CLICK HERE

2026/27 SWO JR. PROJECT: SWEET SURRENDER CAFE – POZNAN, POLAND:

This year's Junior Project supports the Sweet Surrender Cafe in Poznan, Poland - the coffee-house ministry led by Nazarene missionaries Kurt and Holly Johnson. Sweet Surrender is a real, working coffee house that serves as a non-threatening entry point into the community, where people who might never walk into a traditional church find a warm welcome, genuine friendship, and the love of Christ. The first Sweet Surrender opened in Gdansk in 2008, and the Poznan cafe followed in 2010.
When war came to Ukraine, the Poznan cafe became a refuge. Sweet Surrender has served Ukrainian families fleeing the conflict - offering Polish-language classes, art therapy, women's fellowship groups, children's programs, and a place of trauma recovery and hope.
Give: Sweet Surrender Cafe - Approved Mission Special #154046
Online: give.nazarene.org/donate/154046
District Junior Project goal: $3,000
Coordinator: Elizabeth Bennington - ebennington2004@gmail.com

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NYI QUICK LINKS:

Calendar: CLICK HERE
Communication: CLICK HERE
Facebook Page: CLICK HERE
Instagram: CLICK HERE
Website: CLICK HERE

ALPHA YOUTH:

Finding creative ways to disciple students, develop their leadership skills, and equip them to confidently share their faith which can be challenging. Our friends at Alpha Youth help youth leaders and students to grow in each of these areas. Through thoughtfully designed resources and experiences, Alpha Youth create welcoming spaces where young people can engage in real, open, and meaningful conversations about life, faith, and purpose. CLICK HERE to learn more!

CELEBRATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE:

We want to celebrate what God has done and what He is continuing to do in the lives of students, whether they attended BLAST, Camp, NYC, or if they didn't attend these events, in the local youth ministries. Please fill out this celebration form, and let's celebrate the work that God is doing! https://forms.gle/zwowspEUTHCvx1px8

SWO TEEN QUIZ MEET:

When: December 12, 2026
Where: West Carrollton Nazarene, 550 South Elm Street, West Carrollton, OH 45449
Time: 9:30 AM
For More Information: Contact Greg Kindle at gkindle90@gmail.com

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CHURCH COMMUNICATION

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – WEST CHESTER NAZARENE

West Chester Nazarene is having a Blue Christmas service on December 20th at 6:00 PM. Blue Christmas is designed to provide comfort, support and hope for all experiencing grief, sadness, or loneliness during this Christmas season. It acknowledges that not everyone experiences the joy and celebration often associated with Christmas and offers a space for reflection and healing. You may have a great loss, lost a job, no family near, or just need to find hope again. This service is a safe and welcoming space for individuals to acknowledge their pain and find solace in the message of hope through Jesus Christ. Even in darkness, there is a promise of light and healing through faith. For more information, CLICK HERE.

Have a great weekend!
SWO District Office
To unsubscribe, please call 513-777-5600 or email swonaz@swonaz.org