

3001 12th Ave. Rd.  
Nampa, ID 83686  
208-466-6344

JANUARY 2024



For more information check out our website [www.bethelnazarene.org](http://www.bethelnazarene.org)

## FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! The Christmas lights are coming down. The Christmas tree is being put back into the box. Stockings are being taken down and put back into the bin. Mom is scouring the house for any decorations that might have been missed. All the bins are lined up in the hall and ready to be put out into the garage. That is when we realize it. We need to reorganize the garage to make room for all the stuff. What has changed, why won't it fit anymore?

We are coming out of the old year and into the new. We have just had an awesome month of celebrating Jesus Christ. In December we make space to serve others and focus on what the true meaning of Christmas is all about. Our lives are busier during the advent season trying to do all the things, but it seems bearable because we are doing it with our focus on Jesus. That is when we realize it. We need to reorganize our schedule. What has changed, why won't it fit anymore?

In January we make New Years Resolutions but why? Is it possible that we really liked the time we were able to spend with Jesus during the advent season but are having a hard time finding a place in our schedule to do that now. Is it possible that we put so much thought into the commercial side of Christmas that we are quick to put it away and not want anything to do with it until next August when stores start putting out the Christmas displays. Two lifestyles collide during the advent season. Now we must choose which one we want to live into for the new year.

When we come to a crossroad in our lives, we need to listen to what God is telling us. In Matthew 22 we find that Jesus is telling us we need to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. So, in the new year we can live this out by putting God before everything else. We will probably need to reorganize things but we do not have to do this alone. God will be right there with us through the process. So, let's start out this new year LOVING GOD with all that we are and listen to what God is trying to tell us.

Happy New Year!

~Pastor Josh Potter

## Church Events

- Jan. 3 - Lunch Bunch; Upward Coach Mtg
- Jan. 7 - Liberty Quartet
- Jan. 8 - Upward Basketball & Cheer Starts!
- Jan. 12 - District Parenting Conference
- Jan. 14 - House of Prayer; NMI Council Mtg
- Jan. 16 - 50-UP
- Jan. 17 - Board Mtg
- Jan. 21 - Grandparent Service
- Jan. 23 - Ladies' Souper Fellowship
- Jan. 26-28 - Teen Winter Retreat
- Jan. 28 - Wesley Covenant Service (evening)



# Look what's happening...

## Liberty Quartet in concert! Sunday, Jan. 8 @ 6pm

Join us for this fun night of Southern Gospel music! We will be taking a Love Offering to support their ministry. Please make gifts out to "Liberty Quartet".

Lunch Bunch - We are revamping Lunch Bunch! All women (young, old, single, married) are invited for this fun time of fellowship. Bring a sack lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall. Call Bertie @ 208-800-7541 if you have any questions.

50-UP Jan. 16th @ 5:45pm - Entertainment this month will be Joyful Sound. The meal will be Homemade Soup. Please sign-up at the Welcome Desk to bring a pot of soup or cornbread or rolls. Also signup if you need a ride.

50-UP Field Trip - We are taking a tour at the Scentsy Factory in Meridian!! Thursday, Jan. 25 @ 9am. Lunch will be in their cafeteria. Sign up in the foyer right away if you would like to go.

Secret Sister Prayer Ministry - We will be drawing names for the new year on January 15! There are new Secret Sister forms available in the foyer, please get them back to the office by January 14. Secret Sister is first and foremost a prayer ministry. It gives you the opportunity to pray specifically for a sister in Christ throughout the year. The monthly gift should just be a small token (\$10 or less) to say you're thinking about them. Talk with Jackie Thornton if you have questions.

## KIDS Dept. News...

### Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

Our season starts the week of January 8 with practices and our first games will be Friday, Jan. 12 & Saturday, Jan. 13! Come out on Fridays and Saturdays to support all our participants. The teens going to Guatemala this summer will be hosting the concession stand both days each weekend. All donations will go toward their trip.

*\*\*3D KIDS will resume January 10, 2024. All Kid Ministry will keep going in Pastor Kym's absence. Thank all the volunteers for stepping up to fill in the gaps and let's keep praying for a Children's Pastor!*

Christmas Cards! Check the "mailbox" in the foyer for cards you may have received! We also collect "old" cards for Carol Cox who likes to do projects for the kids with them. She'll take old calendars as well.

Ladies' Bible Study ~ Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024 @ 9:30am  
"Sermon on the Mount" by Jen Wilkin. Come learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This is a 10 week study led by Susan Waterman. Books are \$25; you can sign up for one in the foyer or purchase your own. Childcare is available for kids age zero to Kindergarten and you MUST signup so we have enough nursery workers.

Ladies' "Soup-er" Fellowship - Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30pm at the home of Julie Braden (15631 Locust Lane). Bring a soup or dessert to share. Sign-up in the foyer if you can make it. We can take the bus from the church if enough people sign up for a ride.

2023 Contribution Statements - There will be 2 separate statements for the year since we switched giving programs mid-year. Statements will be emailed to the address we have on file by the end of January for donors having given a single gift of \$500 or more in 2023. If you need a printed copy of your statement or if you don't see it in your email, please contact Amy in the church office.

### Celebrate Recovery ~ A New Year has begun!

We are starting with Lesson 1 on Thursday, Jan. 4. Denial ~ "a self-protecting behavior that keeps us from honestly facing the truth". And Principle 1 "Realize I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable." Come find help for your hurts, habits and hang-ups every Thursday night at 6:30pm. Light dinner is served at 6pm.

### **District Parenting Conference January 12-13, 2024**

**At Nampa First Church of the Nazarene**

Special Speaker: Jim Burns

Cost is only \$40 per couple/\$20 per individual!

Register at <https://brushfire.com/intermountaindistrict/2024parentingconference/563377>