

APRIL | 2021

# NORTHERN LIGHTS

NORTHERN MICHIGAN DISTRICT  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

[NMD Website](#)

[Global Ministry Center](#)

[Holiness Today Magazine](#)



He is not here, for He has  
risen, just as He said.  
Matthew 28:6

# The Glory of the Gospel

BY REV. DAN GILMORE

1 Corinthians 15 is the great resurrection chapter of Scripture. The Holy Spirit, by the pen of the Apostle Paul, declares the certainty of the believer's glorious resurrection and our victory, through Christ, over sin, death, and hell. Hallelujah! Also contained in this powerful chapter is the oldest known creedal statement of the Church of Jesus Christ.

In verses three and four specifically, the Apostle recites the core elements of the Gospel (emphasis added): **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES; AND THAT HE WAS BURIED, AND THAT HE ROSE AGAIN THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.** Scholars note that the phrasing here is in creedal form, indicating that this was an early Church creed which Paul was instructed in and which he then taught. These few phrases encapsulate the essence of the good news we have received and which we are charged to declare to all the world.

As we rejoice in the glory of Christ's resurrection, let us shine the light of this glorious Gospel by word and deed! Live in His Resurrection!

# 2021 DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



Jurisdictional  
General Superintendent  
Dr. David Graves  
presiding

**April 23-24, 2021**

**Clare Church of the Nazarene  
10160 S. Grant Ave.; Clare, MI 48617**

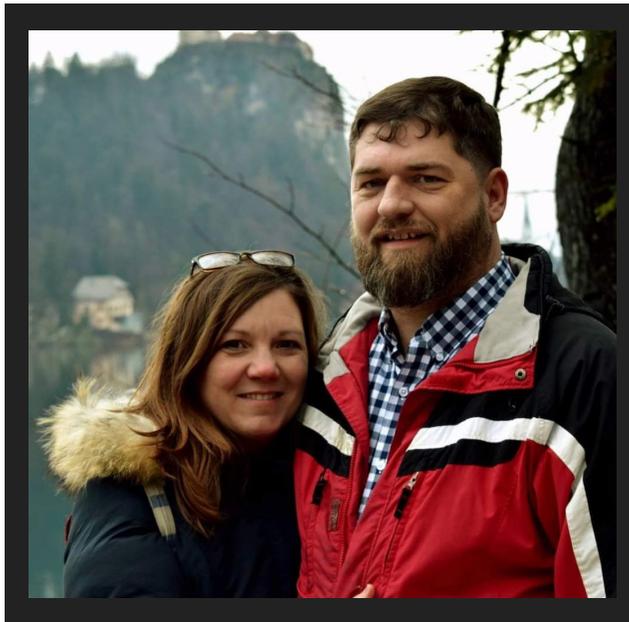
Ordination Service - Friday at 7:00pm  
Business begins Saturday at 8:30am

Hotel rooms are blocked at the Doherty Hotel -  
989.386.1562 (rates available until March 23) and  
Quality Inn - 989.386.1111 (rates available until  
April 8)

## N M I C O N V E N T I O N

Saturday, May 15, 2021 - 9:00am

Clare Church of the Nazarene  
10160 S. Grant Ave. Clare, MI 48617



Jay and Teanna Sunberg,  
Field Strategy Coordinator Team  
for Central Europe,  
will be our guest speakers.

We will also be holding our  
NYI and SDMI mini conventions on this day.

All are welcome to attend this great day of  
celebration!



In partnership with global youth and youth leaders, Nazarene Youth International is hosting The Journey event 13-14 August. This will be a free, multifaceted inspirational event geared towards youth and young adults with after-parties to connect face-to-face with NYI from around the world. "Nazarene Youth International is passionate about calling our generation to a dynamic life in Christ," said NYI Director David González. "To empower youth in the work they are already doing as valuable members of the Body of Christ, we want to cast a vision of youth as disciples who make disciples."

For more information and updates throughout the summer, follow Global NYI on their social media accounts.

[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)



Congratulatiions  
to Rev. Mark and Brenda Boyce  
for 20 years of ministry at Gladwin  
Church of the Nazarene



The latest issue of NCM Magazine  
is now online!

We are excited to share stories of  
Nazarene churches who are serving  
with Christ's compassion around the  
world.

[See how churches are spreading hope.](#)



## The Board of General Superintendents announced a new denominational initiative, Nazarene Discipleship: A Journey of Grace, to provide a framework for discipleship in the Church of the Nazarene.

This initiative, which is part of the BGS' vision to focus on the three main elements of the denominational Statement of Mission, has been in the works for the last two years even in the midst of the pandemic, which brought new challenges. Members of the BGS worked with denominational representatives from across the globe to make this initiative a reality, and, at the 97th Session of the General Board, it was introduced to the denomination with hearts full of gratitude and hope. "When we consider Nazarene Discipleship as A Journey of Grace, we must begin by recognizing that discipleship is a journey," said Scott Rainey, SDMI director. "It is not a set of Bible studies that when you finish these studies, you have graduated from discipleship. Discipleship is a lifetime journey that begins at birth and continues through all of life."

A Journey of Grace defines the discipleship process as a journey from grace to grace to grace using the three titles of Jesus from John 14:6.

- The way: Through prevenient grace, God prepares the path for us.
- The truth: Through saving grace, Jesus rescues us from sin and leads us into the truth that sets us free.
- The life: Through sanctifying grace, the Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life fully consecrated to God.

As disciples and disciple makers, Christians are then called to witness by telling and retelling the story of God's grace in their lives and the lives of others as they walk alongside others with patience, love, and grace. Speaking on behalf of the BGS, David Graves said the team realized early in the process of creating the Journey of Grace initiative that the church's model of discipleship had become backward. "For many years, we have trained people that the church evangelizes first," Graves said. "Then, when someone repents and believes, the task of discipleship begins." Graves pointed to the way parents have disciplined children from birth as an alternative approach. "Rather than evangelizing first, they have disciplined first," Graves said. "This was, in fact, the model of Jesus."

Rainey pointed to the importance of carrying out the journey of grace with others, noting its relation to the Great Commission. "It is vital we understand that Christ not only draws us along this journey, but we are called to journey with others, joining them, helping them, along the journey from grace to grace to grace," Rainey said. "When believers join others along the journey of grace, we carry out the Great Commission: making disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded us. Christ calls us in His Great Commission to walk with others intentionally along their life's journey."

The Foundry Publishing, in partnership with SDMI, has created materials to help the more than 31,000 Nazarene congregations engage this new paradigm for discipleship. Materials include a key book, small group discussion guide and videos, sermon outlines, youth discussion guide, and children's ministry resources including a Vacation Bible School and musical. The resources are available in multiple languages, and more will continue to be added. "We are not launching a program or curriculum," Graves said. "Rather, we are launching a new paradigm for Nazarene Discipleship, a framework that will unite the Church of the Nazarene in its mission to make Christlike disciples in the nations."

To view the resources in multiple languages, [click here](#).



# U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

## 2021

April 2 - GOOD FRIDAY

April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY

April 17 - Ladies' Day at Olivet Nazarene University

April 23 & 24 - District Assembly @ Clare COTN

May 8 - ONU Commencement

May 15 - NMI Convention, SDMI & NYI Mini Conventions

July 26-30 - Kid's Camp

Oct. 7 - Prime Time & Grandparents Day @ ONU

October 8-9 - District Women's Retreat - Lakeside Resort in Houghton Lake

October 22-24 - Homecoming @ ONU

Dec. 11 - Pastor's Family Christmas Gathering - West Bay Beach Resort, Traverse City

*Note: COVID restrictions may change some of these events.*

## 2023

June 9-16 - General Assembly - Indianapolis, Indiana

July 5-9 - Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) - Tampa Bay, Florida

## District Personnel

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## Advisory Board Members

Rev. Chris DeMott

Rev. Tim Fall

Rev. Martin Hodge

Mr. Jeff Ek

Mr. Doug Field

Mr. Gary Pullen

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