



Dr. David Busic  
Keynote Speaker



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Session Catalog

### Discipleship as a Journey of Grace

Keynote

**Presenter:** Dr. David Busic, General Superintendent

**Schedule:** 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture



*The 2026 District Discipleship Day (DDD) will be hosted at Tulsa Tech*



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Prevenient Grace

*Track:* Heart and Mind

*Presenter:* Dr. David Busic, General Superintendent

*Schedule:* 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM *Format:* In Person

*Type:* Stand-Up Lecture

## Session Description

We do not naturally seek God; instead, God seeks us. No one ever comes to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ comes to us. Grace is not irresistible, but no person is left without the invitation of a personal relationship with God. What this means for those in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition is that, when sharing the gospel with someone, we never encounter a morally neutral context. There is no person we meet who has not been affected by prevenient grace. Come and have your heart challenged by God's grace in drawing unbelievers to Himself and learn how we can journey alongside our neighbors and be used by God as their discipleship journey begins.

## About the Presenter

David A. Busic (D. Min., D. D.) serves as general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene. He previously served as president of Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, and as lead pastor of churches in California, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Dr. Busic and his wife, Christi, live in Edmond, Oklahoma. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### When the Pieces Come Together: A Whole Picture Look at Salvation

**Track:** Heart and Mind

**Presenter:** Rev. Daniel Surrat, Pastor, Central Church of the Nazarene

**Schedule:** 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM    **Format:** In Person    **Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Salvation is often presented as a single moment, but Scripture gives us a much fuller and more beautiful picture. In this session, we will look at saving grace through the lens of worldview: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Drawing from a Wesleyan-Arminian understanding of grace, we will explore what God is doing when He saves us, how saving grace fits within the larger journey of discipleship, and why salvation is more than forgiveness alone.

This session is designed for everyday disciples, small group leaders, teachers, and pastors who want to communicate the gospel with clarity, depth, and hope. Together we will consider how the church can present salvation in a way that helps people see the whole story of reality, respond to the grace of God, and begin walking faithfully with Christ in the life of the local church.

#### About the Presenter

Rev. Daniel Surratt serves as pastor of Tulsa Central Church of the Nazarene. He is passionate about helping people understand the Christian faith with both clarity and conviction, especially as it relates to discipleship, salvation, and the life of the local church. Daniel enjoys teaching in ways that connect biblical truth, Wesleyan theology, and everyday practice so that followers of Jesus are equipped to live as Christlike disciples and help others do the same. In his spare time he enjoys being with his wife and three kids.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## What Sanctification Does Not Do

*Track:* Heart and Mind

*Presenter:* Dr. Louie Bustle, Former Global World Missions Director

*Schedule:* 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

*Format:* In Person

*Type:* Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

Discipleship becomes natural when we use God's plan of taking care of man's sin problem. In the church there are many erroneous concepts of what sanctification is and what it does. God has a plan for each of us that will enable us to fully follow Jesus. This session will try to explain how God can fill us to overflowing believers in Christ. The speaker will try to explain what holiness does not do and what it does.

### About the Presenter

Dr. Louie Bustle served as a pastor, missionary, District Superintendent, Mission Director, Regional Director, and Global Director in missions for the Church of the Nazarene over a period of 42 years. He and his wife, Ellen (Phillips) have celebrated 58 years of marriage.

The Bustles received their bachelor's degrees at Trevecca Nazarene University. Dr. Bustle earned the M.A. degree in missions at Nazarene Theological Seminary.; In 1987, Dr. Bustle was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree by Trevecca Nazarene University.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Becoming What We Worship: Worship as a Pathway to Christlikeness

*Track:* Heart and Mind

*Presenter:* Rev. Tyler Gates, Worship Pastor, Huntington, IN First Church of the Nazarene

*Schedule:* 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

*Format:* Online

*Type:* Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Every church has a theology of worship, whether it has named it or not. The way we sing, pray, read Scripture, gather at the Table, tell stories, mark time, and send people into the world is shaping us into some kind of people. The question is not whether worship forms us, but what kind of disciples our worship is forming.

In this session, we will explore worship as a pathway to Christlikeness. We will move beyond conversations about music style and service planning to consider how gathered worship can train the church's loves, deepen its imagination, and form a people who reflect Jesus in everyday life. This workshop will be especially helpful for pastors, worship leaders, and ministry leaders who want to cultivate worship that is theologically grounded, spiritually formative, and deeply connected to the mission of discipleship.

#### About the Presenter

Rev. Tyler Gates serves as the Worship Arts Pastor at Huntington First Church of the Nazarene in Huntington, Indiana. He is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene and a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, where he studied Worship Arts and Music Ministry. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Ministry with a focus in Spiritual Formation through Wesley Seminary. Tyler is passionate about helping the Church practice worship as a formative way of life, shaping people to notice and respond to the presence of God in both gathered worship and ordinary life. He and his wife, Gracia, live in Huntington with their dog, Captain.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Discipling the Maturing Disciple

**Track:** Becoming Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Dr. James Hicks, NDI Regional Education Coordinator, ONU Region

**Schedule:** 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM **Format:** Online

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

In a spiritual sense, the only way to disciple a maturing disciple is for both the one discipling and the one being disciplined to have a growing desire to follow Jesus. That being said, there are spiritually developmental challenges that the one discipling must become aware of, and there are awarenesses to minimize the pain of change. Secondly, whether discipling maturing disciples in an open group, closed group, mini-group, or one-on-one, the passion of discipling needs foundations to be used as launching pads for ongoing spiritual growth to be reproduced. This time will provide answers for these needs and more.

### About the Presenter

Dr. James R. Hicks has been involved in mentoring and teaching small groups in church settings for 40 plus years. He graduated from Trevecca Nazarene College (University) followed by a M. Div. at Nazarene Theological Seminary and a D. Min. from Christian Theological Seminary. His doctoral dissertation emphasized teaching theology through the dynamics of small groups. His ministry in the last church he pastored extended over thirty-two years. The church was in a large university setting with various ages including graduate students. It was always a special joy for him to minister to those with no church background as well as those who had grown up in the church. Now after thirty-two years, most of those disciples, especially from the early years, are ministering in other parts of the country.

Prayerfully ministering through discipleship, mentoring, and equipping has certainly been James greatest passion down through the years.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Iron Sharpens Iron: How Ordinary People Become Extraordinary Disciple Makers

**Track:** Becoming Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Rev. Ronnie Baker, Pastor, Audacity Church

**Schedule:** 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Jesus' plan for growing His Kingdom has always been simple: disciples making disciples. But how does that happen in everyday life for ordinary believers? In this interactive workshop, you'll experience a practical, reproducible approach to discipleship that anyone can lead, whether in a home, coffee shop, workplace, or small group. You'll leave with a simple framework for opening God's Word together, encouraging obedience, and helping others take their next step with Jesus. If you've ever thought, "I'm not qualified to disciple someone," this session will show you that God delights in using ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary mission.

#### About the Presenter

Ronnie Baker is the founding pastor of Audacity Church. As a coach and leader he is passionate about helping people move forward into freedom, identity, and purpose. Ronnie coaches pastors, churches, and business leaders to gain clarity, align their lives, and lead with confidence. He and his wife Ashlee have been married for over 25 years and are raising a big, faith-filled family of eleven children and four grandchildren.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Early Morning Prayer - the most important gathering of your Sunday!

**Track:** Becoming Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Rev. Jim Thornton, District Superintendent, Northeast Oklahoma District

**Schedule:** 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

Join us as we explore the dynamics and disciplines that uniquely help your prayer team tune in to God's Spirit in preparation for the rest of the Sunday experience. Everything hinges on these few moments in the quiet before the rush of activity. This session will help you focus on what to pray for, how to pray together and what to look for as a result. God is calling His people to a deeper hunger for a move of His Spirit as we come together for worship. Let's be a people who are answering this call.

### About the Presenter

Rev. Jim Thornton is privileged to serve as the new district superintendent for Northeast Oklahoma. He was elected at the 74th district assembly in June. Prior to this, he served as Pastor of Tulsa Hills Church since 1999. Throughout this time, God has graciously and persistently drawn Jim and the Tulsa Hills Church family to be a Praying Church, not just a church that prays. As a result, Tulsa Hills Church has become known as a place where folks are free to listen to God and respond in fresh new ways that inspire others to do the same. It is Jim's prayer that God will ignite a deeper prayer movement across the Northeast Oklahoma Nazarene District as we hunger for Him and what He is ready to do in our midst.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Treading New Trails: Group Lectio Divina

**Track:** Becoming Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Rev. Bethany Park, Associate Pastor, Sapulpa Church of the Nazarene

**Schedule:** 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture



All breakout sessions are conveniently located near each other on the first floor.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### From Milk to Solid Food: Mentoring the New Believer

**Track:** Making Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Rev. Josh Duell, Pastor, Ecclesia

**Schedule:** 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Mentoring new believers requires time and patience. New believers come from many walks of life. You need to consider that people we will mentor come from varied backgrounds and need to learn not only about the person of Jesus but also how to balance a bank account, find resources, and navigate personal relationships. Mentoring people requires routine, relationship, and resolve.

This class seeks to lay out a format for mentoring people that are new to Christ. We will start with some basic principles found in the scriptures and then move to a discussion format to allow people to brainstorm ideas for mentoring new believers in the context in which they find themselves.

#### About the Presenter

Josh and his wife Bethany launched Ecclesia in 2022 as a micro church expression in the city of Tulsa. Ecclesia was organized in September of 2025 and currently meets on Saturday and Sunday nights in different parts of the city. Ecclesia places an emphasis on following Jesus and bringing the church back to its roots. We create small places of worship where people can open up and have safe spaces to work through their walk with Christ. In addition to Saturday and Sunday evening services we have men's and women's discipleship groups that meet during the week. Josh works full-time as an engineer. He has been married for 24 years and has 5 kids ranging in ages from 4-20.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Every Believer a Disciple Maker: How Introverts and Non-Experts Can Effectively Make Disciples

**Track:** Making Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Dr. Mark Bane, Director of Evangelism & New Church Development

**Schedule:** 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

**Format:** Online

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Disciple making is not a matter of skill but will. This session will provide Biblical tools, inspirational real life practices and practical information of best habits the "average" Christian can practice that, if implemented, will lead to the making of Christlike disciples.

#### About the Presenter

Mark was raised in a humble household with 12 siblings and two great parents. After he ventured into a dangerous and sinful beginning, God rescued him early and set him on a path for ministry. He has been happily married for 44 years to Cheri. He has joyfully and successfully served his beloved Nazarene Church for over 43 years in various roles: youth pastor, lead pastor, district NYI president, district superintendent, Director of Evangelism and New Church Development, church planter, etc. His life mission: "Win as many people to Jesus as possible, then die and join them for eternity!"



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Kingdom Impact

**Track:** Making Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Mrs. Janice Bell, Ministry Leader, Pryor Redemption House of Prayer

**Schedule:** 1:30 PM - 1:55 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

What if God isn't waiting for you to have more money, more time, or more experience before He calls you to make a difference? What if He's simply asking you to use what He's already placed in your hands?

In this inspiring session, you'll hear the journey of how God led the creation of a nonprofit ministry—not through unlimited resources or a perfect plan, but through simple obedience and a willingness to say "yes." Discover how God can multiply ordinary gifts, abilities, and opportunities into extraordinary Kingdom impact.

Whether you feel called to start a ministry, serve your community, or simply make a greater difference where you are, this session will encourage you to stop waiting for the "right time" and start using what God has already entrusted to you. You'll leave challenged and equipped to take your next step of faith, trusting that God can do immeasurably more with your obedience than you could ever accomplish on your own.

### About the Presenter

Janice Bell, a mother of 4, meemee of 6, and a lay leader at Pryor Redemption House of Prayer, was called in 2018 to begin a non-profit ministry to serve the less fortunate. She struggled with this calling because she didn't feel adequate for this position. She eventually said "yes" to the calling and formed The Impact Center of Oklahoma serving her local community by offering a free clothing closet ("The Kingdom Klotset") and a comfort station for those needing a place to get out of the elements. Serving 50-70 people daily, they also provide showers, self-serve laundry service, daily hot meals, sober living, and more. Her obedience turned into real Kingdom Impact.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### From Compassion to Discipleship: Practical Ministries That Form Christlike Followers

**Track:** Making Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Rev. Ryan Amey, Pastor, Collinsville Church of the Nazarene

**Schedule:** 1:55 PM - 2:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

The Refuge Center in Collinsville, Oklahoma, demonstrates a powerful truth: practical ministry can meet immediate needs while creating meaningful opportunities for discipleship. This interactive 25-minute workshop will explore how ministries of compassion, service, and relationship-building can become pathways for making Christlike disciples. Participants will examine lessons from The Refuge Center's approach to serving the community, reflect on biblical models of practical ministry, and identify ways God may be calling them to engage people in their own ministry contexts. Attendees will leave encouraged, inspired, and equipped with practical ideas for connecting acts of service with intentional disciple-making.

#### About the Presenter

Pastor Ryan Amey serves as Lead Pastor of Collinsville Church of the Nazarene in Collinsville, Oklahoma. With more than 24 years of experience in youth ministry, Ryan has devoted his life to helping people become Christlike disciples through authentic relationships, practical ministry, and biblical teaching. In addition to his pastoral role, he serves as the Field Youth Coordinator for the South Central Region and Southern Nazarene University (SNU), partnering with churches and leaders to encourage, equip, and develop the next generation of ministry leaders. Ryan is passionate about disciple-making, community engagement, and helping churches create environments where people encounter God's grace, discover their purpose, and are empowered to serve others in the name of Christ. He and his wife, Angela, have been married for 28 years and are grateful for



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the blessings of family and ministry together. They are proud parents of their two children, Rylee and Porter, who continue to be a source of joy and encouragement in their lives and ministry.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Joys to the World (Special Needs Families)

**Track:** Making Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Kathy Cott, Director, Joy to the World

**Schedule:** 3:00 PM - 3:25 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

Joys To The World (JTTW) is a non-profit in Tulsa, Oklahoma and a compassionate ministry of the NEO District. Our mission is based on John 10:10 - "Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.'" Joys To The World joyfully serves young adults with severe multiple disabilities and their families. Considering the lack of facilities in the Tulsa area for this group of people, Joys has the opportunity to provide a program which not only helps the caregivers but leads to a more "abundant life" for each individual. JTTW has two Joy Academies in the NEO District which use Church of the Nazarene facilities. It is a great deal of work but worth the effort to reach people and to fulfill God's plan. Let's talk about the purpose, functionality, and plan to serve people in need through ministry.

### About the Presenter

Kathy is a retired ordained elder of the Church of the Nazarene. She has worked in various public schools as a speech/language pathologist, served as a missionary in many countries, lead different Nazarene churches as a children's pastor and is currently the CEO of Joys To The World.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Heroes Hope (Helping Unhoused Veterans)

**Track:** Making Christlike Disciples

**Presenter:** Sean Lord, Director, Heroe's Hope

**Schedule:** 3:25 PM - 3:50 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Building a Local Church Strategy for Making Disciples

**Track:** NDI in the Local Church

**Presenter:** Dr. Scott Rainey, Pastor, Huntington, IN First Church of the Nazarene

**Schedule:** 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM **Format:** Online

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

In 1 Corinthians 3:12-13, the Apostle Paul wrote, “12 If anyone builds on [the foundation of Christ] using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work.” Every believer wants to make disciples who can stand the test of time, but it seems that some do and some don’t. Why? What strategies work, so that when the fire comes, the spiritual building will remain? This workshop will help you build well in the local church!

#### About the Presenter

Dr. Scott R. Rainey has served as staff pastor in evangelism and discipleship in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Kansas City, Missouri (1994-2003), lead pastor in Houston, Texas (2003-2011), missionary to the former Soviet Union (2012-2018), and Global Director of Nazarene Discipleship International in Lenexa, Kansas (2018-2024). In January 2024, Dr. Rainey heard God calling him back to the local church. He now serves as lead pastor of First Church of the Nazarene in Huntington, Indiana. In every calling, Dr. Rainey has focused on making Christlike disciples. Goodness and mercy have followed him all the days of his life, and the church has seen increase in every assignment because of God’s presence.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## NDI Presidents' Roundtable

**Track:** NDI in the Local Church

**Presenter:** Rev. Joe Gschwandtner, NDI President, Northeast Oklahoma District

**Schedule:** 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Roundtable

### Session Description

You may have been your church's NDI President for years – or this may be your first time! What am I even supposed to do? Who is there who can mentor me – or who I can bless with the experience God has given me? What resources are available? What have different churches found fruitful? Bring your own questions to this roundtable session, or sit down with other NDI presidents to talk through some of the provided questions. Let's get to know one another and put our questions out there to the counsel of those journeying with us.

### About the Presenter

Joe Gschwandtner and his wife Rebekah have been blessed to serve Wagoner Church of the Nazarene since 2024. They have four children. A pastor's and missionary kid, Joe holds a Bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University and a Master's degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been the Northeast Oklahoma District NDI President since 2021.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## From Tally Sheets to Changed Lives

**Track:** NDI in the Local Church

**Presenter:** Rev. Joe Gschwandtner, NDI President, Northeast Oklahoma District

**Schedule:** 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

Taking attendance and the Accountability Care List (formerly Responsibility List) go with small group ministry in the Church of the Nazarene like butter on bread. And yet, when all the tally sheets have been collected and totals recorded and statistics compiled, what are we going to do? We are not just counting people to report totals to headquarters. This session will explore how we can use the Accountability Care List process to better care for those we've been asked to shepherd. From principles to practical application, come and be challenged to not just work a counting job but facilitate ministry from the heart.

### About the Presenter

Joe Gschwandtner and his wife Rebekah have been blessed to serve Wagoner Church of the Nazarene since 2024. They have four children. A pastor's and missionary kid, Joe holds a Bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University and a Master's degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been the Northeast Oklahoma District NDI President since 2021.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Introducing the Adapted Discipleship Library: Disability Resources Made for the Church

**Track:** Expanding the Horizon

**Presenter:** Rev. Ryan Nelson, Disability Ministry Coordinator, Church of the Nazarene

**Schedule:** 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

**Format:** Online

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

The gospel is for everyone, and church should be too. If you want to create church environments that are accessible to people with disabilities, you will want to learn about the Adapted Discipleship Library. You will discover how these free online resources can help your church become a place of true belonging for families impacted by disability. Learn how to use training videos more effectively with your teams, why classroom tools are needed and how to use them, and how to teach the Bible in a way that connects with all learners.

#### About the Presenter

Rev. Ryan Nelson is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene. Ryan has served for more than 17 years in the COTN; first as a youth pastor, then as a senior pastor. He is currently serving as the Disability Ministry Coordinator for the Church of the Nazarene (Global NDI Office). Ryan also spent 11 years as an educator with the Amarillo Independent School District (Texas). Ryan is married to Rev. CSI Serina Nelson. Ryan and Serina have served together as co-pastors throughout their pastoral ministry. They have one daughter, Marley.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Discipling Beyond the Small Group (Sunday Morning Only Crowd, Shut-ins, etc.)

**Track:** Expanding the Horizon

**Presenter:** Rev. Joe Gschwandtner, NDI President, Northeast Oklahoma District

**Schedule:** 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

When we think of discipleship, it's common to think of small groups, maybe Sunday School. The peer mentoring conversation at Panera may come to mind as well. But what about those who aren't attending a small group because of physical health, geography, or simply because they only attend the Sunday morning worship service? Shouldn't we disciple everyone? And what does it mean to disciple everyone, especially when stress or physical or mental restrictions come into play?

#### About the Presenter

Joe Gschwandtner and his wife Rebekah have been blessed to serve Wagoner Church of the Nazarene since 2024. They have four children. A pastor's and missionary kid, Joe holds a Bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University and a Master's degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been the Northeast Oklahoma District NDI President since 2021.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Passion for Prime Time Ministry

**Track:** Expanding the Horizon

**Presenter:** Dixie Neal, District Prime Time Coordinator

**Schedule:** 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

Come join us as we explore ways to lead and stimulate senior adult ministries. Seniors have so much to offer each other along with younger generations. Let's gather and learn from each other. If you are looking to begin a Senior Adult ministry in your church this is the place to come.

### About the Presenter

Dixie was born and raised in San Diego, CA. She graduated from SDSU and later received a Master of Ministry from PLNU. She is married to Skip Neal and together they have two married children and seven grandchildren. Dixie was a high school teacher and worked in a family-owned construction company.

After volunteering in ministry for over 30 years, Dixie was called into full-time ministry. She was ordained in 2011 and served on church staff in California and Arizona. After retiring in 2020, she continued to minister with senior adults. Dixie has a passion for shepherding people, her family, traveling, journaling and sketching. She enjoys her quiet time every morning with the Lord. Her desire is for people to see Jesus in her.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Men's, Women's, and Young Adult Ministries in the Local Church (Panel)

**Track:** Expanding the Horizon

**Presenters:** Mike Karnes (Men's Ministry), Christy Thornton (Women's Ministry), and Maiya Monroe (Young Adult Ministry), facilitated by Alycia Finkbeiner

**Schedule:** 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Panel Discussion

#### Session Description

Join us for a discussion of a number of questions about ministry to various age groups, answered by representatives of men's, women's, and young adult ministries, offering their unique insights and experience. Bring your own questions, too!



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### IMPACT Kids: Reaching Beyond the Walls of Children's Ministry

**Track:** Children's Ministries

**Presenter:** Rev. Katy Bean, Family Pastor, Pawhuska

**Schedule:** 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

##### Reaching into Schools

- Backpack Programs: Partner with local schools to provide weekend meals for food-insecure students.
- After-School Clubs: Launch faith-based or character-building clubs (like Good News Clubs) directly on school grounds.
- Teacher Appreciation: Bless educators with coffee bars, school supplies, or encouraging notes to build goodwill.
- Reaching into Communities
- Pop-Up Parks: Host neighborhood block parties, sports clinics, or movie nights in local parks.
- Service Projects: Organize "Kids Care" days where children participate in community cleanups or visit senior living centers.
- VBS small budget big impact
- Local Partnerships: Team up with existing foster care agencies, food banks, or family shelters to meet tangible needs.

##### ✿ Making an I.M.P.A.C.T.

I – Investing in the next generation.

A – Active community service.

M – Mentoring with love.

C – Compassion in action.

P – Purpose-driven outreach.

T – Transforming lives together.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Building Safe Ministries: Developing Policies & Procedures for Ministry to Minors

**Track:** Children's Ministries

**Presenter:** Rev. Megan Barrett, Children's Pastor, Bartlesville

**Schedule:** 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Every church wants to provide a safe environment for children and volunteers, but many ministries operate without clear policies until a difficult situation arises. This practical workshop will help ministry leaders develop or strengthen policies and procedures that protect children, equip volunteers, and reduce unnecessary risk. Participants will explore best practices for volunteer screening, supervision, check-in and check-out procedures, restroom policies, incident reporting, digital communication, transportation, emergency response, and more. Whether you're starting from scratch or updating an existing handbook, you'll leave with a practical framework to build a ministry that is safe, consistent, and trustworthy.

#### About the Presenter

Megan Barrett serves as the full-time Children's Pastor at Bartlesville First Church of the Nazarene, where she is passionate about partnering with families to help children know, love, and follow Jesus. Before entering full-time ministry, Megan spent eight years as a social worker, an experience that continues to shape her heart for children, families, and creating safe, healthy ministry environments. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, she has been married to her high school sweetheart for 11 years, and together they are raising their two children, ages 6 and 4.



Dr. David Busic  
Keynote Speaker



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Building Resilient Ministries: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Children's Ministry

**Track:** Children's Ministries

**Presenter:** Rev. Megan Barrett, Children's Pastor, Bartlesville

**Schedule:** 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Children don't leave their life experiences at the church door. Many carry the effects of trauma, loss, instability, or chronic stress, and those experiences often shape how they learn, relate, and respond. Difficult behavior isn't always defiance. This workshop will introduce the principles of trauma-informed ministry and equip leaders to recognize behaviors through a lens of understanding rather than frustration. Participants will gain practical tools for creating emotionally safe environments, establishing healthy boundaries, responding with grace, and helping every child experience the love of Christ through consistent, compassionate ministry.

#### About the Presenter

Megan Barrett serves as the full-time Children's Pastor at Bartlesville First Church of the Nazarene, where she is passionate about partnering with families to help children know, love, and follow Jesus. Before entering full-time ministry, Megan spent eight years as a social worker, an experience that continues to shape her heart for children, families, and creating safe, healthy ministry environments. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, she has been married to her high school sweetheart for 11 years, and together they are raising their two children, ages 6 and 4.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Building Engaging Ministries: Interactive Teaching that Makes Faith Stick

**Track:** Children's Ministries

**Presenter:** Rev. Megan Barrett, Children's Pastor, Bartlesville

**Schedule:** 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Children learn best when they actively participate in the learning process. This workshop explores practical strategies for moving beyond lecture-based teaching to create engaging, interactive experiences that help children understand, remember, and live out God's Word. Participants will discover techniques for asking meaningful questions, encouraging participation, incorporating movement and discussion, and designing lessons that promote lasting spiritual formation. Whether you teach on Sundays, midweek, or at special events, you'll leave with ideas you can implement immediately.

#### About the Presenter

Megan Barrett serves as the full-time Children's Pastor at Bartlesville First Church of the Nazarene, where she is passionate about partnering with families to help children know, love, and follow Jesus. Before entering full-time ministry, Megan spent eight years as a social worker, an experience that continues to shape her heart for children, families, and creating safe, healthy ministry environments. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, she has been married to her high school sweetheart for 11 years, and together they are raising their two children, ages 6 and 4.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Praying for Missionaries and the Regions

**Track:** Nazarene Missions International

**Presenter:** Rev. David Mosher

**Schedule:** 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM **Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

A Brief Discussion of Moses as an Intercessor built on his character developed as a shepherd for 40 years when he interceded for Israel after they had fashioned and worshiped The Golden Calf. Then as smaller groups we will pray for the NMI Central Prayers needs since January 1, 2026 and from our Excel spreadsheets for the missionaries for each region.

### About the Presenter

David Mosher graduated from Southern Nazarene College with a bachelor's degree in Physics and a minor in math and education. He later graduated from Nazarene Theology Seminary with a master's degree in Missiology. David served as a math and science teacher and principal in Christian Schools for 10 years. He has served for 32 years as missionary for Church of the Nazarene on Africa Region: 10 years in Eswatini as math and science teacher and church planter; 6 years in Mozambique as church planter, Extension Education Teacher for pastors, and trainer of district superintendents; 6 years in Sao Tome and Principe as church planter, Extension Education Teacher for pastors, and Mission Director; 2 years in Zambia as Extension Education Teacher for pastors and support for district superintendents; and 4 years as Principal of Nazarene Theological Seminary of Central Africa in Malawi. Today, he is semi-retired and serves as Senior Adult Associate Pastor in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY



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## Alabaster and Care & Connection

**Track:** Nazarene Missions International

**Presenter:** Revs. Eric & Medina Arpelar, Pastors, Cleveland Church of the Nazarene

**Schedule:** 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM     **Format:** In Person     **Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

ALABASTER! You set the wooden church at the front of the congregation. It is either February or September. The church gets the boxes to fill with coins and loose change at the beginning of the month. Then, with anticipation, the day comes to give the Alabaster offering. The church marches to the front by the soundtrack of piano accompaniment, and we hear the beautiful noise of coins pouring into the little church. This contribution is a 100%, yes, 100% donation to assist our missional efforts with properties and buildings that can be churches, schools, medical centers, etc. But, more importantly, we learn about this tremendous offering that goes to build properties that build the Kingdom of God.

Care and Connection, formerly known as LINKS, hears and learns about our adopted missionaries and their families in the NEO District. We will learn about Nikolaj Sawatzky, a global missionary for the Church of the Nazarene in the Eurasia Region. Nikolaj's current responsibility is the development of literature in all of the Eurasia region, which includes more than 30 main languages of the region. He has four children: Denis, Sophie, Tabea, and Lukas. Hear how you can support Nikolaj and his family, as well as share his exploits with your local church.

### About the Presenter

Medina and Eric Arpelar serve as the senior pastors at Cleveland First Church of the Nazarene in Cleveland, Oklahoma, since July 2025. Medina and Eric have backgrounds in education; they have served in missions such as Navajo Nations Missions Projects, Teen Bible Quizzing through NYI; Urban Missions Projects; Children's, Youth, Women's, and Men's ministries; and teen discipleship retreats. They feel blessed to be a part of the



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Cleveland community and to minister to families in the Cleveland community. Medina and Eric have two children, Carissa and Zane.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Raising World Changers: Teaching Children about Missions in the Church of the Nazarene

**Track:** Nazarene Missions International

**Presenter:** Rev. Beckie Richburg, Children's Pastor, Collinsville Church of the Nazarene

**Schedule:** 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

Teaching children about missions is more than introducing them to missionaries or faraway countries. It is helping them discover God's heart for the world and inviting them to participate—through praying, giving, serving, and sharing the love of Christ wherever He leads them. By the end of this session, we will understand why missions are central to the Church of the Nazarene; learn age-appropriate ways to teach children about missions; discover practical activities we can use immediately; and leave with a plan for creating a missions culture in our children's ministry.

#### About the Presenter

Beckie Richburg has served as Children's Pastor at Collinsville Church of the Nazarene in Collinsville, Oklahoma, since 2007. An ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene, she is passionate about helping children discover and grow in a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ while equipping leaders and families to disciple the next generation. Beckie brings years of practical ministry experience, encouragement, and a heart for making God's Word come alive for children. She and her husband, Jay, have been married since 1983 and enjoy spending time with their three children, three children-in-law, and their growing family of grandchildren.



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## Crisis Care Kits and NCM

**Track:** Nazarene Missions International

**Presenter:** Mrs. Elva Hann

**Schedule:** 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

Come and learn how you can serve people in need through Crisis Care Kits and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM)!

### About the Presenter

Elva Hann was born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She attended a private school and moved to Greenfield, Indiana when she was 21. There she met Dave, and they were married August 2, 1986. They moved to South Carolina and lived there for eight years.

Elva was raised in the church and has always been involved in the missions programs in each church that she has attended. Crisis Care Kits have been a part of her life since 1994, but it wasn't until she moved to Tulsa in 2004 that she came in contact with Priscilla Brown. Priscilla trained Elva on how to properly pack a Crisis Care box. In 2021, Elva began taking over the district project, and she greatly enjoys working with the CCK's.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### Why Discipleship Is Important for Youth Ministry

**Track:** Nazarene Youth International

**Presenter:** Rev. Nick Williams, NYI President, Northeast Oklahoma District

**Schedule:** 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM **Format:** In Person **Type:** Stand-Up Lecture



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# DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

## God's Plan, God's Calling: Why me?

**Track:** Nazarene Youth International

**Presenter:** Dr. Steven Johnson, Associate Professor of Theology and Ministry, Southern Nazarene University

**Schedule:** 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

### Session Description

Everyone is called by God, and everyone is called to the ministry. Our first calling is to be in relationship with God, and to learn how to participate in God's creation and redemption of the world. The focus of this workshop will be the primary calling to relationship with God and our understanding of who this God is. Often, when attempting to discern our own calling, we rush on to 'what is my role, who do I do' and we fail to begin with the most important question - Who is this God who has called us, and what is He up to in the world? We will begin with this question as we move toward understanding how we can best participate in the work of the ministry to which God has called us.

### About the Presenter

Steve Johnson graduated from SNU in 1993 and from Nazarene Theological Seminary with an MDIV in 1997. He received his Ph.D. in Historical Theology from the University of Manchester in 2016. He is married to Kara (SNU grad 1992), and has two children, Abbagaël (23, SNU grad 2021) and Zack (16). He served as lead Pastor for over 25 years in churches in Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, and Kansas City. Since July of 2022 he has been the Professor of Theology at Southern Nazarene University. He enjoys reading, watching sports, and spending time with his family and his dog Zoe.



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## DISTRICT DISCIPLESHIP DAY

### God has Called, Now What? Who Am I and How Can I Help?

**Track:** Nazarene Youth International

**Presenter:** Dr. Steven Johnson, Associate Professor of Theology and Ministry, Southern Nazarene University

**Schedule:** 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM

**Format:** In Person

**Type:** Stand-Up Lecture

#### Session Description

In this workshop, we will focus on the secondary aspect of our call to ministry. Everyone is called to the ministry, but all of us are called specifically within the context of our own gifts and passions. Knowing ourselves is the second most important thing we can do in the process of being good stewards of God's call on our lives (the most important thing, of course, is knowing God). This workshop will offer tools for discerning who we are as God's people and some shaping questions about what this means for the way we participate in God's kingdom work.

#### About the Presenter

Steve Johnson graduated from SNU in 1993 and from Nazarene Theological Seminary with an MDIV in 1997. He received his Ph.D. in Historical Theology from the University of Manchester in 2016. He is married to Kara (SNU grad 1992), and has two children, Abbagael (23, SNU grad 2021) and Zack (16). He served as lead Pastor for over 25 years in churches in Tennessee, Indiana, Texas, and Kansas City. Since July of 2022 he has been the Professor of Theology at Southern Nazarene University. He enjoys reading, watching sports, and spending time with his family and his dog Zoe.