



Noelridge News

September 2021

Gathering in friendship. Growing in faith. Worshiping and serving Christ.

Volume 65, Issue 9

BACK TO SCHOOL!



NCC Youth filled backpacks after worship on August 22 to donate to local schools as classes begin.



Good work, Jack, Karissa, Zoey, Max, Christopher, Isabel, Nicole, Grace, Paige and Elixys!



Special Moments in Worship



Guest pastor Carol Hedberg holds up a small ceramic bowl as an illustration to her NCC sermon message "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" during the Sunday worship service on August 1.



Lisa Stolba plays a stressed and "snarky" waitress who finds peace through prayer from two restaurant patrons (played by Sue and Gregg Alliss) in a drama performed during the NCC Sunday worship service on August 8.



Walt Hargraves reads scripture from Joshua 1:1 before his sermon message "When Things Change, Change With Grace." Walt was the NCC guest worship leader on Sunday, August 15.



Nicole (seated at piano) and Paige Wehring, accompanied by Billy Davis at right perform "This Little Light of Mine" during the NCC Sunday worship service on August 8, 2021.



Guest worship leader Carol Hedberg (left) uses leavened bread and a tortilla to help illustrate her sermon message "Not About the Bread" during the NCC Sunday worship service on Sunday, August 22. At right, congregational members eat a small slice of "special" bread made by Carol and family.



Season of Change by Kellie J. Lala

Good day to my NCC family. I would like to share some of my faith journey and my history with NCC: My parents are charter members of Noelridge Christian Church. I was actually the 1st baby born at Noelridge some 61 years ago...now you know how old I am! I am honored to say that I have attended the same church for my entire life and I am a 4th generation *Disciple of Christ*.

I have seen many changes over the decades. As we enter a new season in our church's life, it is both exciting and uncharted. What I have to keep reminding myself is that this is God's church and He is in control. That is a hard one for me as I like to be in control and manage situations (just ask my Mom)! I know that we all want what is best for Noelridge Christian Church. As I turned to the Bible for some inspiration, I was comforted by His word:

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." ... [Matthew 6:34](#)

Lord, I know that people's lives are not their own; it is not for them to direct their steps."
[Jeremiah 10:23](#)

[Isaiah 41:10 NIV](#)

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

[Jeremiah 29:11 NIV](#)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I know that we are talented group of faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that God has a plan for us and I am excited to have that unfold for us over the coming months. I understand that it will take patience and prayer as we move forward. Let's trust in our leaders and allow for the Spirit to work.

My motto in life is "Enjoy life, this is not a dress rehearsal." Noelridge Christian Church is a special and welcoming place. I am honored to call it my "church home." If you ever want to talk about your faith journey or the plans that God has in store for us, look me up.

Blessings to each of you as we continue to do God's work together.

Asanta Sana (thank you very much in Swahili),
Kellie Lala
319.721.1820 Cell





It's Time For The 9th Annual Arts for Africa Art and Craft Fair

Saturday, September 18, 10 am to 3 pm

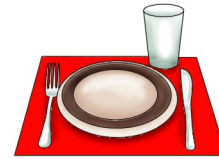
- Shop from over 24 vendors! Rain or shine.
- Bid on over 80 silent auction items!
- Support the ongoing projects at the Tumaini schools in Tanzania!

How can you help?

- Donate a basket for the silent auction
- Donate baked goods for our bake sale
- Offer prayers for a successful event
- Invite your friends to come shop and support this international mission

Questions? Please see Kellie Lala.

Asanta Sana! (Thank you very much in Swahili)



Calling all women from Noelridge Christian Church:

NFL

is a Noelridge Christian Church women's fellowship group that meets for dinner for social interaction and spiritual connection.

NFL Ladies will meet for Ladies' Night Out for dinner and fellowship on Thursday, September 16, at Edith Lucielle's Bait Shack and Wing Depot, 6913 Mt. Vernon Road SE, Cedar Rapids, at 5:30 p.m. All women at Noelridge are welcome to attend and enjoy fellowship with other women and if you are new to Noelridge this is an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know other women from Noelridge. If you are interested in attending, please let Linda Fisher (361-0540 or lindasfisher448@yahoo.com) know so she can make reservations.



Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, September 28, at Feedwell Kitchen and Bakery at 560 Boyson Road NE, Suite A (in the retail area just south of our church building). We will be in their private conference room from 9 am to 11 am. Come join us!

For more information, contact Karen Martin.



Church Happenings

Choir Sings Again!

Dear Church Family,

Wednesday, September 1st, the choir at NCC will host our “back to choir” event after a hiatus of a year due to the pandemic. We are excited, cautious and hopeful.

I’d like to extend an invitation to anyone vaccinated who loves to sing or has sung before or even just loves the choir to attend. There will be plenty of food and we will sing a couple of anthems together before the evening is over. Ages 12—100!!

Choir begins its first official rehearsal the very next Wednesday, September 8th, at 6.35pm. That same evening restarts Food Court at 5:30 and Praise Builders at 6 pm!

It’s time to gather with social distancing while still enjoying each other. We will wear masks unless eating. Won’t you join us and bring a friend?

Menu this year is Caribbean in flavor:

Sticky and sweet pork ribs
Mushroom rice
Calypso Chicken Stew
Fried sweet Plantain
Island Tres Leches Cake
Iced Tea, Lemonade and Water

Hope to see a nice full crowd.

Cameron



Praise Team members perform "Lord, You are Always Here with Me," special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on August 22. From left: Pete Sherman, Jeff Busbee, Cameron Sullenberger, Gaye Roberts, Karen Martin, Karen Howe, Elizabeth Blocksom, Paige Wehring.



Sunday School Explosion

Fall Sunday School will open back up on Sunday, September 12th.

There will be Bible Tots for nursery ages. This occurs during the worship service, in the Nursery. This is headed by Hannah Davidson.

There will be a Youth Sunday School every Sunday before the service. 9–9:35 am. This is for grades 6–12th. There will be rotating teachers.

There is also Sunshine Time for grades K–6. This Sunday School starts right after Children’s Moment. This will also follow a rotating teacher model.

Won’t you join us in being a volunteer to teach our kids about the Lord? We need all of you so we can move forward with hope and confidence. One or two Sundays is all it takes.

If you have a desire for Spiritual Growth and kids, our planning meeting will be immediately following the service on Sunday, August 29th. Snacks will be provided as we chat and plan about SS Curriculum, teaching duties, schedules, Praise Builders and Children’s Moments.

This is a very important meeting as we head into a challenging chapter of our church and as we lay the groundwork for the Fall. Please be a part of the way we pull together for our kids and families.

We’re hoping to see everyone there this coming Sunday!!

Blessings,

Cameron and Joanne, Spiritual Growth Leaders

September Youth Activity

Join us for lunch and an adventure in an Escape Room after worship on Sunday, September 19.



Missions Update



Dr. Jim Bell (at podium) is presented a check for \$1,000 from Mission Program Coordinator Linda Osmundson following his talk about his organization "His Hands" during the Sunday worship service on August 8. Left of Linda is Phil Neville.



Congregational Life Group Meeting

The Congregational Life Group will meet on Thursday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Anyone interested is invited to join this meeting.



Card Ministry Needs You!

The Card Ministry team meets once every two months to prepare birthday and anniversary cards to be mailed to our congregation to help to celebrate their special days. It takes about one to one and a half hours. The next card preparation day is Thursday, September 16, at 1:30 p.m. Please come and help!



We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Backpack Stuffing Event that we had at NCC on Sunday, August 22nd. Our original goal was to supply Roosevelt with 13 filled backpacks for students in need. Because of the generous donations from the members of NCC, we had enough backpacks and supplies to fill 21 backpacks, with extra supplies to send to the school! That will come in handy for the teachers when someone needs it! Also major thanks to the Youth Group for doing all the work of stuffing the backpacks, and keeping tallies of what went into each backpack! PLUS a big thank you to the Osmundsons for supplying pizza for the Youth Group afterwards!!

It is a wonderful feeling, looking at something that helps others, and gives people here a chance to show God's love through action, and BLESS YOU ALL for your work, time and treasures!!!

In Christ's love,

Cameron Sullenberger

JoAnne Pruitt



HELP WANTED!

Easy job requirements: hold babies, read books, play with play-doh, hand out snacks, do some crafts! Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is looking for a few extra shepherds to help take care of infants thru 5 year olds on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 9:00-11:30. Please contact Theresa Smith at 319-213-2606 or dustoffmom-ma@aol.com. Thank you!



Church Happenings



Beach Boys Brian, Dennis and Carl Wilson? Nope, (from left): Jeff Busbee, Tom Ohrt and Phil Neville pose in their Hawaiian shirts following the NCC Sunday worship service on August 1.



Fall Rummage Sale

Start saving donations for our Fall Rummage Sale which will be during the week of October 24 - 30.



Children (background) agree or disagree with a "thumb's up" or "thumbs down" when asked by Lisa Stolba about worries returning to school during the Children's Moment of the NCC Sunday worship service on August 22. At left foreground is videographer Kyle Wehring and daughter Paige.



Sue & Gregg Alliss (toward right) pose with their teammates following St. Mark's Lutheran Church's softball victory in the tournament championship game played at Noelridge Park on Monday, August 9. Sue and Gregg have been "guests" on St. Mark's team for over 10 years.



For Care From an Elder

Our Elders want to be there for us when we are in need of pastoral care. Each month, two Elders will be the “on call” Elders to call in case of emergency. All of our Elders are listed on the back of the Sunday bulletin. The two “on call” Elders will be featured with their contact information.

For September, the Elders “on call” are:

Kellie Lala (319) 721-1820

Lisa Stolba (319) 361-3908



Above: Billy Davis performs "His Eye is on the Sparrow," accompanied on piano by Cameron Sullenberger during the Celebration of Life service for Carma Lou Beck on Saturday, August 7.

Below: Musician Jim McDonough (left) performs "The Lord's Prayer" during the Celebration of Life service for Carma Lou Beck on Saturday morning, August 7. About 100 people attended the service.



Prayer Requests

† Ella, Annabel Mollenhauer's great-granddaughter who is 17 and undergoing chemotherapy for Hodgkins Disease. Pray for courage, peace and strength for Ella and wisdom for her doctors and medical staff.

† The family of Andy Walton, Theresa Smith's cousin. Andy was killed in a hit and run accident on his bicycle. Pray for peace, calm and justice.

† Leland Osmundson who had treatment for an area of skin cancer, prayers that future scans are clear.

† Betty Hargraves as she recovers after her recent hospitalization.

† Darrell Long, as he recovers from a fall and multiple facial fractures.

† JoAnn Sexton who suffered injuries in a fall.

† Dennis, friend of Rachel Good, and his family. As a health care worker, Dennis is exhausted and discouraged. Dennis' wife is about to enter hospice, as well. Pray for strength, peace and understanding of God's will.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



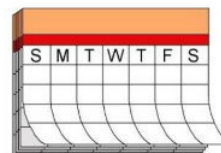
Happy Birthday!

Mason Himes	September 3
Maxwell Lightfoot	September 5
Jack Carros	September 8
Stuart Davidson	September 8
Jim Pruitt	September 11
Katie Wehring	September 11
Nicole Wehring	September 11
Paige Wehring	September 11
David Hoagland	September 14
Theresa Smith	September 19
Brittany Kerns	September 21
Larry King	September 21
Nathan Williams	September 22
Neisha Kitzman	September 28
Diane Rothrock	September 28



Happy Anniversary!

Larry & Margaret Chambers	September 1
Jerry & Kay Duball	September 4
Scott & Cathy Appleget	September 5
JD & Theresa Smith	September 5
Richard & Pauline Goldsberry	September 11
Russell & Betty Kauffman	September 13
Pat & Sally Courtney	September 27
David & Susan Hoagland	September 30



Important Dates

September 1, 6:30 pm - Choir Calypso Dinner
 September 2, 5:30 & 6:30 pm - Missions and Congregational Life Group meetings
 September 7, 9 am to 11:15 am - MOPS
 September 8 - Wednesday Programs Start
 5:30 pm - Food Court
 6:00 pm - Praise Builders
 6:35 pm - Choir Practice
 September 13, 6:30 pm - Steering Board meeting
 September 15 - Wednesday Programs
 September 16, 1:30 pm - Card Ministry
 5:30 pm - NFL dinner at Edith Lucielle's Bait Shack and Wing Depot
 September 18, 10 am to 3 pm - Arts for Africa
 September 19, 11 am - Youth Lunch & Escape Room
 September 21, 9 am to 11:15 am - MOPS
 September 22 - Wednesday programs
 September 26 - September newsletter articles due
 September 28, 9 am - Wake Up Ladies at Feedwell
 September 29 - Wednesday Programs

A Day In NCC History



A live horse is brought into NCC's sanctuary by its tender during the early part of the Sunday worship service on September 9, 2012. The horse was a promotion for the church's "Pony Express" 2012 stewardship campaign. The roped-off areas were intended as a "buffer zone" for the horse. A pony express "mail bag" lies on the floor at center bottom.

Thank you to Gregg Alliss for this and most of the photos in this issue of our newsletter!



Noelridge Christian Church
7111 C Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1388



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Return Service Requested

Contact Us

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Cameron Sullenberger, Music Director
& Spiritual Growth Coordinator
cameron.sullenberger@noelridgechristian.org

Church Elders

Diana Ellingson (319) 721-3600
Walt Hargraves (319) 929-9967
Carol Hedberg (319) 224-3200
Kellie Lala: (319) 362-2792
Phil Neville: (319) 389-4410
Sue Pehkonen: (319) 651-3520
Lisa Stolba (319) 361-3908

Board Officers

Moderator - Kyle Wehring
Moderator Elect - Sue Pehkonen
Secretary - Teresa Williams
Financial Secretary - Sue Pehkonen
Treasurer - Sue Pehkonen
Trustee - Rod Blocksom
Trustee - Jeff Busbee
Trustee - Lori Davidson

Program Group Leaders

Missions - Linda Osmundson
Physical Resources - Loren Kisling &
Bryon Stolba (co-chairs)
Administration - Diana Ellingson
Congregational Life - Linda Fisher
Spiritual Growth - JoAnne Pruitt

Elder & Deacon Chairpersons

Elder Chair - Phil Neville
Deacon Chair - Ray Howe

NoelridgeChristian.org



Sunday Worship Service

Worship is at 9:45 a.m. with the service
available online on Sunday afternoon.

Find the link on our website
NoelridgeChristian.org

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A Disciples of Christ Church

