



# Noelridge News

May 2022

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

Volume 66, Issue 5



## HE IS RISEN INDEED!

We had a wonderful Easter celebration at NCC!  
At right: the singing of the "Hallelujah" Chorus as seen by members of the choir.



Easter breakfast - at the serving window: Carole Northway, Eva Kisling and Teresa Williams. In the kitchen, Carol Hedberg, Amy Spangelo, Sandy Delay, Sue Alliss and Loren Kisling.



At right: Children hunt for Easter eggs on the front lawn of NCC on Easter morning. They were undaunted by the chilly air temperature of 35° F.



Below: Rev. Cindi McKee leads the Children's Moment on Easter.



A very special performance of "At Calvary" by Joe Wetrich, Cameron Sullenberger and Randy Walton on Easter Sunday.



Below: Cameron Sullenberger directs the Chancel Choir on Easter Sunday 2022. (photo by Sue Alliss)



# Message from Rev. Cindi



## Celebrating the Seasons of Life...

**Ecclesiastes 3** begins with these words...*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven..."*. I've always been drawn to this scripture because it helps me understand that whatever happens in my life, God is present in it. There are cycles in our lives, times of great joy and times of great challenge. Each experience has much to teach us about life and if we put God first in our lives, we will have what we need for embracing and coping with each season as it comes. I've been reflecting on this lately as I am coming to a season of life which will have some changes in it. I don't know exactly what life will look like for us but I am ready for the changes and I am depending on God to provide, to go before me and be with me in every circumstance.

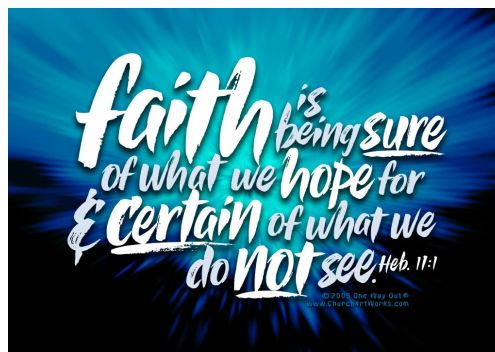
At the end of May I will be celebrating what we often refer to as a "significant birthday." Turning 65 opens up some new ways of doing life, which in turn creates the opportunity for some new experiences. I'm excited for the chance to ponder more often, to renew and pay attention to spiritual desires that will bring a new rhythm of life.

To trust where we have not seen is always a hallmark of a life in faith and I'm so aware that I am depending on this in my current season. Notes in my study Bible say that all the verses listed in Ecclesiastes 3 are appropriate at certain times. The secret to peace with God is to discover, accept and appreciate God's timing. The purpose of life is to love God first, seek an ever-deeper relationship with the Almighty and to live with the values of eternity always in view. I think about the variety of seasons in my faith life and my personal life and they are intertwined. I know that God desires to be my guide and stay in all seasons, the happy ones and the hard ones.....for I know that is what God has promised to me....to be with me, indeed with us all, no matter what until the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)

This coming month I'm going to be preaching on perseverance, on fighting the good fight, and later in May I'll be incorporating your favorite scripture verses and inspirational quotes into the sermon. I'll be asking you to share those with me either by email or written, there will be little papers to do this outside the Sanctuary. Thank you in advance!

In this season of Eastertide where we have just recently renewed our understanding of the suffering, sacrifice and glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, let us have courage in whatever comes, knowing that the Lord of Lords will make a way for us to prosper and lead lives together that honor Christ's love for us. Glory. Hallelujah. Amen.

—Rev. Cindi







#### African Hope Update

Saturday, May 21st will be the first ever secondary graduation of the 12th grade class. A very exciting day and Bayo asks for prayers for these students and teachers.

Bayo also shared that his oldest son Raymond and his long-time girlfriend had a baby boy on April 14th. Bayo is now a 1st time grandpa. He is very excited!

Be sure to save the date for the 10th annual Arts for Africa Art and Craft Fair on Saturday, September 17th from 10a-3p. More to come.

Asanta Sana (thank you very much in Swahili).

Kellie Lala



Praise Builders are shown on Wednesday evening, April 13, while they are coloring Easter Eggs. Helping the children are JoAnne Pruitt, Cameron Sullenberger, Grace Sherman and Karen Martin.

## Communion Changes Coming

The Steering Board has decided to consider making changes in the options offered for Communion. Due to the recent Covid event we are not making these changes at this time, but wanted to let you know there maybe changes in the future and what that might look like.

#### Options are as follows:

**Option 1.** Communion Elements will be available in the front of the Sanctuary at the Altar with three Deacons being positioned there. One Deacon will hold the bread tray, one the juice tray and the third Deacon will hold an empty tray. Please partake of the wafer first, then hold that cup, then partake of the juice and then stack both cups together and place them in the empty Communion tray. (Please go forward in the center aisle and exit the altar area using the two side aisles.)

**Option 2.** Sealed Communion Elements will still be available as you enter the Sanctuary as in the past to those not wishing to select Option 1.

**Those wishing to be served in their pew, should raise a hand at the end of the serving time and a Deacon will be happy to bring the Communion Elements to you.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Linda Fisher, Deacon Chair, at 319-361-0540 or by email [lindasfisher448@yahoo.com](mailto:lindasfisher448@yahoo.com). Thank you.



## Church Happenings



The Reverend Cindi McKee's Lenten Study class is shown in NCC's Fellowship Hall on Thursday evening, March 31. Rev. Cindi is standing at right. The three-week class was held on March 24, 31 and April 7 from 6:45-7:45 pm.



### New NCC Directory

A new church pictorial directory is in the works. If you didn't receive information and a form to fill out in the mail, you can get them in the church office.

Talk to JoAnne Pruitt about having your photo taken if you have not already done so.

We will have printed copies of our new directory as well as password-protected online and mobile app versions.

Smile and say "Cheese!" and be part of our new directory!!



### Come and Enjoy Food Court!

Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:15 on Wednesday nights. All are welcome.

May 4: No Food Court

May 11: Menu to be Determined

May 18: Turkey Tetrizzini and Lasagna

May 25: Grill n' Chill - Last Food Court until Fall

Grilled burgers and hot dogs with all the fixin's

All meals include a variety of salads, sides and dessert.

## Covid Cancellations

We will not be having our Wednesday night programming on May 4 - no Food Court, God Squad, Praise Builders or Chancel Choir practice.

Our Rummage Sale has been cancelled at this time. The Plant Sale is also no longer on the schedule. We will have Food Court on May 11 as the rummage sale will not be set up that week.

Worship resumes on May 8, Mother's Day.



## NFL

aka

Noelridge {faithful; fit; fun; funky} Ladies

WHO: All women of NCC

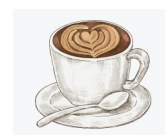
WHAT: Women wanting a night out; chat and also enjoy the culinary delights of the Cedar Rapids Area.

When: 5:30 pm on the third Tuesday of every month.

WHERE: Restaurants in the Cedar Rapids area.

May 17: Location to be announced

RSVP: Please make reservation by texting Elizabeth Norman, 319-310-0301.



## Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, May 24, at 9 am at a location to be announced. Come join us!

For more information, contact Karen Martin at (319) 551-2501.







## Youth Service at Food Court

On March 30, NCC youth helped to prepare and serve food for our Wednesday night Food Court. At left: Holly gets apron assistance from her father with Jack looking on. At right: At the serving counter are Aiden, Cierra, Isabel and Max. Getting a delicious meal with first-rate service is Trudy Stewart. Below: Laya and Jamir serve desserts.



The theme the youth were studying right before Holy Week was centered on what it was like to be a servant. Fun was had by all!



## MONCC Breakfast (Men Of Noelridge Christian Church)

The first Saturday in April saw the first pancake breakfast by the newly formed Men's group at NCC. We gathered many ideas of ways that the men can serve our church and community. Stay tuned!!!  
Cameron, Bryon and Loren



Above: NCC cooks prepare breakfast on April 9. From left, Bryon Stolba, Dan Buenz, David Martin, Ray Howe and Loren Kisling.

Below: Serving breakfast are Loren Kisling, Kevin Spangelo, Phil Neville and Dan Buenz. JD Smith is in foreground.





# Holy Week



**Palm Sunday**  
On April 10, Rev. Cindi McKee leads children in a palm-waving procession as the Chancel Choir sings.



**Maundy Thursday**  
Below: Rev. Cindi McKee and Elder Kellie Lala preside over the Communion Table on Maundy Thursday, April 14.



## Good Friday

At right: Gaye Roberts and Cameron Sullenger perform "Love Took His Breath Away."

Below left: Cameron directs the Chancel Choir performing "On A Hill Too Far Away." Rev. Cindi McKee narrated and Joe Wetrich was our guest soloist.

Below right: Tenebrae readers Pete Sherman, Gregg Alliss, Rev. Cindi McKee, David Martin and Tom Ohrt.

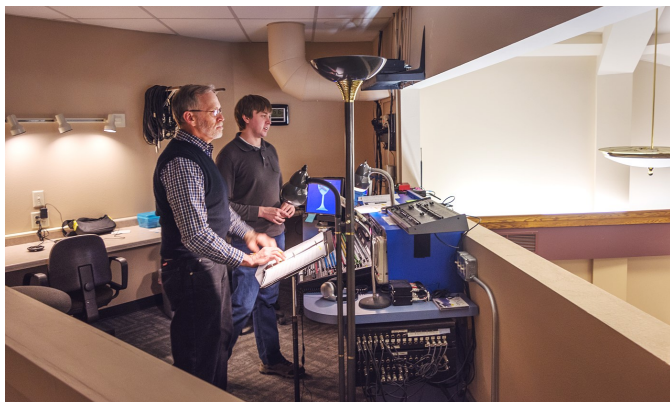




From another point of view . . .



Above: John Alexander works in the sound room during the Maundy Thursday service on April 14. Below: Ray Howe and Justin Howe work in the sound room before the Good Friday service on April 15. Thank you to all of the Tech crew!



Three newly installed Rheem heating and cooling units (foreground), and a fourth at background left, located above the kitchen and off the sound room, are shown on Friday evening, April 15. The three foreground units, when fully operational, will regulate temperature in Fellowship Hall. The looped-copper tubing on the floor will provide refrigerants.

## Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

All of our congregation as many are dealing with Covid and other upper respiratory infections.

Janet, friend of Carol Hedberg. Her brother recently passed away and her father has entered hospice.

Annette Steckel, dealing with a chronic back issue.

Family and friends of Steve Norman (Ric Swann) who passed away on April 6.

Family and friends of Rev. Bob Kunz, retired pastor from Marion Christian Church. Bob passed away on April 21.

Theodore Bosenge and his fiancé, Mwamba Mputu Tantine, as they await the approval of her immigration petition.

Cameron Sullenberger and his friends, the Dennard family, as Bob Dennard recently passed away.

The friends and family of Janie Townsend, especially Bob Hagist for peace and comfort. Janie passed away on April 10.

Mary, Elizabeth Norman's sister, who has been diagnosed with bone cancer and also has Stage 4 kidney failure.

Maralene James, who is having memory loss and poor health.

**Praise!** Baby Silas is home and doing well!

*God  
Answers  
Prayers*

## 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 May, the Elders "on call" are:

Walt Hargraves (319) 929-9967

Lisa Stolba (319) 361-3908



## Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



### Happy Birthday!

Rod Blocksome	May 8
Elizabeth Blocksome	May 10
Amy Spangelo	May 10
Shirley King	May 18
Diane Evens	May 21
Randy Rula	May 21
Betty Hargraves	May 24
Tonya Simonson	May 24

### Happy Anniversary!

Phil & Louanne Neville	May 15
John & Kay Alexander	May 24
Chuck & Neisha Kitzman	May 28



Loren Kisling, JD Smith and Byron Stolba work on reconstructing furnishings in the Financial Office on April 28. The office is one of several areas that has been given new paint and carpet. (photo by Karen Howe)



### Spring is Here!

The magnolia trees at the east side of our building are blooming! Several more young trees are sitting in the patio area awaiting planting. (photo by Karen Howe)

### Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday - Friday  
9 am to 1 pm



Unless credited otherwise, all photos in this month's newsletter are courtesy of Gregg Alliss. Thank You, Gregg!

### Day In NCC History



Meghan Bast (back turned, center) hands out carnations to mothers in the NCC sanctuary during the traditional service Mother's Day observance on May 9, 2010. In the right foreground are from left: Josh and Dan Bruegge and Shirley Wellington-Bruegge.







# Calendar

## Regular Sunday Schedule

8:30 am - Adult Scripture Class  
 9:15 am - Fellowship  
 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time  
 10:45 am - Adult Topical Class

## May 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Online Worship	2 Elder Mtg 5:30 pm	3 MOPS 9 am	4 No programs	5	6	7 Pehkonen/ Maier Wedding 7 pm
8 Sunday Schedule	9 Steering Board Mtg 6:30 pm	10 MOPS Leader- ship Mtg 9 am	11 Wednesday Schedule	12	13	14
15 Sunday Schedule  Private concert 11:30-3:30 pm	16	17 MOPS 9 am	18 Wednesday Schedule	19 Card Ministry - 1:30 pm  NFL - 5:30 pm	20	21 Private concert 9:30-1:30 pm Sawyer Toms Graduation Cel- ebration 3:30 - 6:30 pm
22	23 Missions Mtg 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	24 Wake Up Ladies 9 am	25 Wednesday Schedule	26	27	28
29 Sunday Schedule  Newsletter Articles Due	30	31	 <b>Regular Wednesday Schedule</b> 5:30 pm - Food Court 6:00 pm - God Squad 6:00 pm - Praise Builders 6:35 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal 			



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

## Return Service Requested



### Contact Us

Church Office: (319) 393-9532 Ext. 103  
(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

Karen Howe, Eva Kisling  
office@noelridgechristian.org

Rev. Cindi McKee  
cjmckee2002gmail.com

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  
Lori Davidson (319) 551-0575  
Peter Sherman (509) 230-2228

### Board Officers

Moderator - Kyle Wehring  
Moderator Elect - Sue Pehkonen  
Secretary - Theresa Smith  
Financial Secretary - Sue Alliss  
Treasurer - Sue Alliss  
Trustee - Rod Blocksome  
Trustee - Jeff Busbee  
Trustee - Stu Davidson

### Program Group Leaders

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

### Elder & Deacon Chairpersons

Elder Chair - Lisa Stolba  
Deacon Chair - Linda Fisher

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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