



Noelridge News

December 2022

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

Volume 66, Issue 12

A Season of Celebration



Harvest Dinner in Fellowship Hall, following the NCC Sunday worship service on November 13. At left are the NCC veterans who were being honored on this day.



Pastor Gregory Chambers (center) welcomes AI and Kim Anderson as new NCC members at the conclusion of the November 13 Sunday worship service.



Lynne Kerley is shown on her first day as NCC's new Administrative Assistant. She was being trained by Karen Howe, who had held the position on a temporary basis since October, 2020. Lynne has previously held similar church positions in Arizona, and is currently attending St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Stop in and say "Hi!" (Karen Howe photo)



Nathan Williams shows the form that served him well in the Special Olympics North American Tennis Championship, recently held from October 12-16 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Nathan won the singles silver medal, being edged for the gold only by a super tiebreaker. At right is Nathan's singles silver medal, as well as two unified doubles silver medals from which he also competed and won with his mother, Teresa. Nathan has been invited as one of 32 from 18 states to compete in the Xperience Tournament in Charlottesville, Virginia from January 8-10, 2023.



Signs Along the Way



The snow is falling. The bells are ringing. The holly is being placed. The wreaths are hung. Christmas is upon us! Around this time every year we begin to adorn our homes with reminders of the seasons. We bake holiday treats and cookies galore. Smells of pine and mulling spices fill the air. Christmas is upon us! It is a season of Hope. It is a season of Peace. It is a season of Joy. It is a season of Love. Tucked away in the midst of all the rush of the holidays is a story. A story that begins with these words...

"Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

Of course these words are the greeting of the season from the Angel of the Lord. They also mark the beginning of a story that would change history. We know that this story goes back further than these words yet they mark a new chapter in human history. A chapter in which God became flesh and blood. The chapter in which God interceded into humanity to alter the course of history forever. The chapter in which the birthing pains of a new creation being born take place. The chapter in which shepherds watch, angels pray, and sheep and oxen bow in praise. For this chapter of God's Story becomes our story. The title of this chapter:

"Immanuel- God with us, God for us!"

This Christmas season I invite you to join with us here at Noelridge, as together we participate in the story of God's love made known to us in Christ Jesus. Join us as we walk together in the journey of faith that will lead us to the feet of our King. Come as you are, singing the songs of Christmas praise, and sharing in God's story, our story this day and everyday.

From our Family to Yours, we wish you the Merriest of Christmas Seasons.

Kathryn and Gregory



Rev. Chambers Office Hours

For those of you who would like to stop by and say, "Hello," Pastor Gregory will generally be in the office 9:00-3:00 Monday-Thursday. Friday is Pastor Gregory's Day Off. If you need to reach him outside of office hours either email him at gregory@noelridgechristian.org or give him a call at (319)-777-8216.



Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

JoAnne Sexton and her family as her son passed away recently.

Ruth Rothrock, recovering from a fall.

The father of Teresa Williams, who had surgery for a ruptured appendix.

Barbara, Lori Davidson's mother, hospitalized for observation and tests.

Barb and Rex, parents of Scott and Cathy Appleget; Barb with early dementia and Rex for lifestyle changes coming.

Darlene, mother of Kim Anderson, who will be having treatment for breast cancer.

Betty Hargraves, rehabilitating after quadruple bypass surgery.

Sue Alliss, as she undergoes chemotherapy.

Claudia, Amy Spangelos' and Carole Northway's sister, dealing with brain cancer.

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

Mary, Elizabeth Norman's sister, with bone cancer and kidney failure. Mary is on oral chemo treatment after having radiation.



Karen Martin instructs children during the SonShine Time class on Sunday morning, November 6. Clockwise, from left: Nora, Grace, Stetson, Paige, Karen, Eden and Jack.



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.

We will not be meeting in December, but watch for our January restaurant choice.

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



Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, January 24, at 9 am at a location to be determined. Watch for announcements and come join us!

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



Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 4, following worship. During this meeting, we will be voting on the recommendations of the nominating committee and on the 2023 Budget. All voting members of the congregation are asked to be present for this meeting. If you did not receive a meeting agenda and proposed 2023 budget in your mailbox, there are copies in the office. If you have any questions please reach out to Pastor Gregory.





1st Annual Chambers Family Open House

Greetings one and all! Kathryn and I would like to invite you to the 1st Annual or the "Inaugural" Chambers Family Open House on Sunday December 11 from 3:30-5:30 PM. We've gotten a few questions. So, we'll try our best to answer them below.

Why an Open House? Our open house is our way of saying, "Thank you" to you, our Church Family.

What can I bring? You can bring your family, your holiday cheer, your best smiles, but all the food and snacks will be provided.

Food and Snacks what to expect? This year the theme for the Open House is a Southern Christmas. So think, biscuits and gravy, fried potatoes and chicken and waffle bits. Of course we'll have traditional favorites as well such as cookies and hot chocolate.

Do I need to stay the whole time? Our Open House is come and go. Feel free to stop by for ten minutes or stay for two hours. You're more than welcome!

What is the address? Our home address is 1535 25th St Marion, Iowa 52302.

Kathryn and I hope you will make plans to join us. If you have any additional questions feel free to give us a shout.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. GSC



Christmas Eve Service

We will have one Christmas Eve Service this year at 6:00 PM. Please make plans to join us for candles, carols and communion!

Christmas Day Worship

On Sunday, December 25, we will have worship at 9:45 AM. There will be no Sunday School or Fellowship Time. You are encouraged to wear your pajamas and bring the family! We hope you'll join us!



GloryBound leads the congregation in the singing of "Shall We Gather at the River" during the NCC Sunday worship service on October 30. From left: Rebecca Roush, JoAnne Pruitt, Trudy Stewart, Kim Anderson, Karen Martin, Karen Howe, Phil Roush, Ray Howe.



Happy Thanksgiving NCC!! We have so much to be thankful for and especially thankful for the love of our Lord Jesus. By the time this newsletter is printed we will be in the Advent season preparing for the birth of the Christ child. What a joyous time of year!

Missions group and NCC congregation has opened up their hearts to help 6 local families with food to prepare a Thanksgiving meal for their family that they may not have been able to do without us. Included in the food boxes were canned corn and green beans, cream of mushroom soup, gravy mix, boxes of dressing, jello, applesauce, a 5lb bag of potatoes, a 12 lb Turkey, fresh baked pumpkin pie, dinner rolls and a gallon of milk. We pray that each family feels the love of God through our gifts and will rejoice in all that they are thankful for.

As the church is decorated for Christmas, you will see the Angel tree is once again up and will be adorned with pink and blue Angel tags. The children represented on the Angel tags have been adopted by NCC. Each tag will tell the child's age and a gift that has been suggested. Please pray for these children as you select gifts for them that they will know Jesus is the reason for the season. Each family will also receive a nice Ham. Unwrapped gifts should be placed under the tree before Monday, December 19. Anyone interested in wrapping gifts together will be much appreciated on Monday. Look for announcements with times.

Chrismons are ancient symbols for Christ or some part of Christ's ministry.

This year, we will have new beautiful Chrismons to hang on our Sanctuary tree!!! NCC members JoAnne Pruitt, Gail Long, Teresa Williams, Linda Fisher, Kay Alexander and Karen Howe have spent the past few months creating and handcrafting these beautiful ornaments. Some of the Chrismons were handcrafted using gold cross stitch thread while others are cross stitched with white and gold beads. This at first seemed like a monumental project, but it was a labor of love for all member of NCC that kept us going to completion. JoAnne Pruitt created the transfer designs making this project possible and did much of the finish work on the Chrismons. We hope you have a chance to enjoy these as part of the Advent and Christmas season!!!!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas. Remember the love the Christ Child brings for each of us that we might share His love with those near and far every day in the coming year.

Linda Fisher and Linda Osmundson
Missions Co-Chairs



Pastor Gregory Chambers (left) delivers his sermon message "Words to Live By" to the congregation during the NCC Sunday worship service on November 6.



Randy Walton performs "Giver of Life," special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on November 6. Seated at right is Pastor Gregory Chambers .



Food Court Notes



Bryon Stolba, Peter Sherman, Stu Davidson, John Wilson and JD Smith prepare for Food Court on Wednesday, Nov. 16.

Come and Enjoy Food Court!

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

Dec. 7: Special Advent Celebration Food Court

Dec. 14: Soup Supper with Live Nativity. This meal will be from 6 pm to 8 pm.

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

Food Court will begin its winter break following the Live Nativity on December 14th and will resume on January 11th!



John Alexander operates the sound room during the NCC Sunday worship service on October 30.

We Need You!

Our MOPS families are growing and so is our need for shepherds to care for their children during their meeting. We know that everyone is busy, busy, busy and committing to being there for 2 1/2 hours 2 mornings a month for the whole school year is a long commitment. SO-O-O we are taking a different approach with flexibility. Look into your hearts and see if in your busy schedule you could come help out on one or more of the following dates:

December 6, December 20, January 10, January 24, Feb 7, Feb 21, Mar 7, Mar 21, Apr 4, Apr 18, May 2, May 16. There will be a sign up poster in the Narthex by Sunday, Oct 30th. If you have any questions, contact Theresa Smith or Sandy Delay.

If you can help us, Moms who are waiting to meet some friends and have more support in their role as a Mom of Preschoolers can join our group. Please share your time and love.



Karen Howe lights candles after names are mentioned during the NCC Sunday worship service on October 30. The ceremony was in recognition of All Saints Sunday, and the names were of individuals who had passed away during the past year.



NCC Building Anniversary



NCC is shown under construction on October 1, 1997. The first Sunday worship service in the new facility was held on November 30.



Looking north from C Avenue at Boyson Road NE in early 1997. Graded ground for the future NCC facility is indicated by the arrow. Today, the Marco's Pizza delivery store is located where the "Available" sign is shown at left.



Above: Souvenir hand-painted portion of brick created by Jealee Weber depicting the new NCC facility.

At Right: Master plan artwork for the 1997 NCC facility.

25th Anniversary November 30, 1997 - November 30, 2022

master plan

Noelridge Park Christian Church

C Avenue & 74th Street NE Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Craig Ritland Landscape Architect
604 Mulberry, Waterloo, Iowa



Happy
Anniversary



Thank You to All Who Serve

I'd like to personally extend a huge "Thank-you" to all the folks that organized and assembled the Luncheon for the Veterans at NCC. It was a bit humbling to hear about all the different experiences of everyone who served. The meal was outstanding (as usual). May God bless you all.

Rod Blocksome
USAF '68-'72



NCC veterans are shown in Fellowship Hall behinds tables set for them on Sunday, November 13. From left: Roger Welty, Russ Kauffman, Richard Goldsberry, Leland Osmundson, Rod Blocksome, Theresa Smith, John Wilson, Pete Sherman, Walt Hargraves, Gary Hopper, Loren Kisling, Larry King. Also present was Marty Roland.



Larry King (left) pours orange juice in the kitchen before the NCC Sunday worship service on November 13. Also preparing food in the background are, from left: Eva Kisling, Loren Kisling and Shirley King.



Kitchen serving line during the Harvest Dinner following the Sunday worship service on November 13. Serving, from left are: Carol Hedberg, Dan Buenz, Sue Maier, Sharon Wilcox. Receiving food are from left: Rod Blocksome, Pete Sherman, Theresa Smith.



Harvest Dinner in Fellowship Hall, following the NCC Sunday worship service on November 13.

Thank
you!



Notes From Cameron



We once again will present our Live Nativity after a two-year hiatus. This event has become a Noelridge tradition that you can share with friends and family. It features live animals surrounded by members of our church dressed in biblical outfits in tableau fashion depicting the night Christ was born. Our event will include a soup supper and Christmas carols led by our mighty cast in the manger scene.

Please set aside Wed, December 14th as the date!!
The event is from 6–8pm.

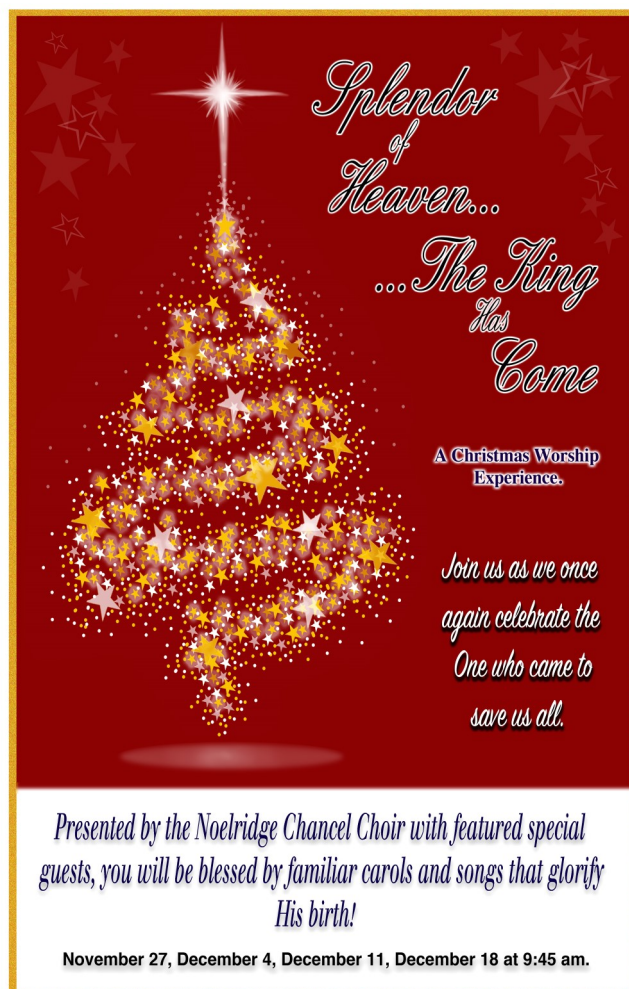
Thank you, Jesus, for coming to our world !!!

Cameron Sullenberger
Senior Director of Music, Worship and Creative Arts

Please Save Gallon Jugs

It's time to bring in milk or water gallon plastic jugs for use as luminaria during the Live Nativity. Please rinse thoroughly (if not a water jug) and remove the lids. We need them by Sunday, Dec. 11.

Thank You!



Really, Really, Really Good News

The kids and youth will be presenting their Christmas musical (**Really, Really, Really Good News**) on Sunday, December 11th, during the worship service. You won't want to miss our very own as they proclaim the good news of Christ through dialogue and music. It's fun for every age of young people at our church and consists of many speaking parts and a great score of Christmas songs and favorites.

The kids and youth will continue to have rehearsals every Wednesday during Praise Builders and every Sunday during Sonshine Time until the presentation.

Please contact Lisa Stolba, Cameron Sullenberger, JoAnne Pruitt or Carolyn Smith if you have any questions or need additional info on the rehearsal schedule. It's very important we have all kiddos on board and at each rehearsal and the dress rehearsal to be involved. It's become such a heartfelt tradition here at NCC.

Won't you have your children or grandchildren join us?

Read more with this synopsis of what to expect:

Follow Ms. Oliver, a very patient director and her very curious and distracted actors as they tell the Christmas story with questions, humor, and wonder at the really good news that God would really send His only Son—for us! *Really, Really, Really GOOD NEWS* makes the Christmas musical experience enjoyable for both little and big people alike.

Cameron Sullenberger
Senior Director of Music, Worship and Creative Arts



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Tom Montgomery	December 1
John Caughron	December 5
Linda Fisher	December 10
Scott Appleget	December 15
Jennifer Olsen	December 20
Jane Groves	December 22
Dave Huovinen	December 26
Cathy Appleget	December 31
Katie Klitzka	December 16

Happy Anniversary!

Larry & Shirley King	December 12
Darrell & Gail Long	December 23



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 December, the Elders "on call" are:

Carol Hedberg (319) 350-7872

Lori Davidson (319) 551-0575

Thanks for the Photos!

Thank you, Gregg Alliss, for once again providing most of the photos and captions in our newsletter. Thanks for being the man on the scene!



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Your Church Staff

Hannah, Lynne, William, Jealee, Randy, Eva, Karen, Cameron, Gregory

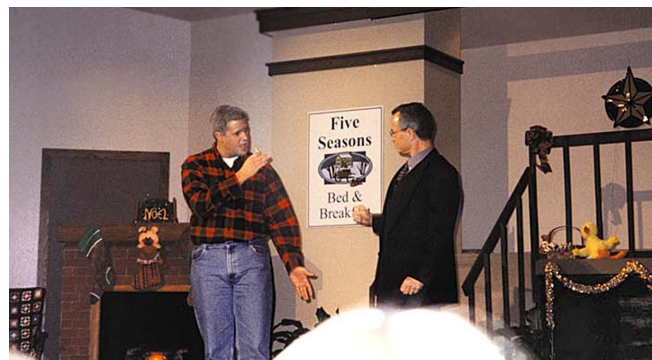
Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Dave Huovinen
750 E. Foster Road #117
Iowa City, IA 52245



Moment In NCC History



Dennis Jordan (left) and Gregg Alliss perform a tango parody number "I Collect the Cash" during NCC's performance of "The Present" on Sunday, December 17, 2000. Dennis played a struggling and discouraged Bed & Breakfast owner who finds God at Christmastime, and Gregg a successful but apathetic businessman and former fraternity brother of Dennis' character who stays the night during a blizzard.



December 2022

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School Choir meets at 8 am each Sunday of Advent				1	2	3 Children/Youth Rehearsal, 9:30 am Praise Team Rehearsal, 11 am
4 Sunday Schedule After worship: Congregational Meeting and GodSquad gift-wrapping	5 Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	6 MOPS - 9:00-11:15 am	7 Wednesday Schedule Advent Food Court	8	9 Craft Mtg. 1 pm	10
11 Sunday Schedule Children/Youth Christmas Program Chambers' Open House, 3:30-5:30	12 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, 6 -7:15 pm	13 MOPS Leaders- 9-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am	14 Live Nativity & Soup Supper 6-8 pm	15	16 Kids & Youth Christmas Party, 5:30 pm to 8 pm	17
18 Sunday Schedule "Cookies, Cocoa and Christ" Goodie Exchange Newsletter Articles Due	19	20 MOPS - 9:00-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service, 6 pm
25 Christmas Day Worship, 9:45 am	26	27 Collins - 9:30 am	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve



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



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Return Service Requested

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Cameron Sullenberger, Senior Director of
Worship, Music and Creative Arts
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
Sue Maier: (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 Maier
Secretary - Theresa Smith
Financial Secretary - Sue Alliss
Treasurer - Sue Alliss
Trustee - Rod Blocksome
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

Historian/Photographer

Gregg Alliss

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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