



Noelridge News

January 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 1

Lighting our way to 2023



The Groves family lights the first Advent candle during the NCC Sunday worship service on November 27.



The Sherman family lights the Hope Candle during the NCC Sunday worship service on December 4.



The Osmundson/Lightfoot family members light the Joy Candle during the NCC Sunday worship service on December 11.



The Carros family light the Love Candle during the NCC Sunday worship service on December 18.



At left: The Montgomery family lights the Christ Candle during the NCC Christmas Eve worship service.

Thank you to all who shared their time, talents and resources to make the Christmas season at NCC a lovely celebration of worship, fellowship and giving.



Signs Along the Way

It's that time of year! It's time to make plans, resolutions and set goals for the New Year! 2023 is coming fast upon us. And I wonder, what will it look like for us at Noelridge Christian Church? The answer is simple, the New Year will bring with it:



New Hope. New Spirit. New Mission.

The beginning of the New Year, offers us the opportunity to reaffirm the **Hope** that we find in Jesus Christ. How can we do this? By committing to pray for the ministries we have here at Noelridge Christian Church. Pray that these ministries in which we are pouring our time, talent and treasure into would bear fruit. Pray that these ministries would allow us to share the **Hope** of Jesus Christ with our family, friends and neighbors here in Cedar Rapids and beyond.

As we share in this **Hope** with one another we'll see something amazing take place. We'll discover that we have a **New Spirit**. A **Spirit** that seeks to serve one another in humility and compassion. A **Spirit** that seeks to nurture the relationships we have and grow new relationships with one another. We'll find this **New Spirit** allows us to expand our connections and the footprint of the ministry we are doing here at Noelridge. We'll see that this **New Spirit** will steer and guide the course we take in the next year and in the years to come. What an exciting journey this will be for us as the people of God.

The combination of the **New Hope** we have and the **New Spirit** we find will lead us to unlocking our **New Mission**. No, I'm not talking about changing our mission statement because "**Gathering in friendship. Growing in faith. Worshiping and Serving Christ.**" is what we do and who we are. Our **New Mission** should we choose to accept it, is to become the Church that God is calling us to be. What an exciting opportunity this will be for us! To be led by **Hope**, to listen to the whispers of the **Spirit** and to live out our **Mission** and **Ministry** together. How we are going to do this? Through **friendship**, through **faith**, and through **serving** Jesus Christ. What an exciting year 2023 is going to be in the life and the ministry of Noelridge Christian Church! I'm blessed and honored to be on this journey in faith with each of you!

Grace + Peace,

Rev. Gregory S. Chambers

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:

Family of Jealee Weber, in the passing of her mother, Irma Chester, on December 11.

Carmen, previous co-worker of Theresa Smith, and Joe and their families as Joe is undergoing his second bone marrow transplant in his battle against lymphoma. They have 4 children under the age of 12 and he was in the hospital for Christmas.

Dee, friend of Sandy Klein, who is recovering after her breast cancer surgery that went well. Continued prayers for her recovery.

Brian, classmate of Theresa Smith, who is battling lung cancer and given a terminal diagnosis.

Barbara Loges, mom of Lori Davidson, is home and receiving home health care. Continued prayers for her to get stronger and more independent, and for Lori and her family for guidance in making decisions about her parents' future living arrangements.

Linda, friend of Linda Fisher, and her family as she transitions through the final stages of pancreatic cancer.

Craig Wise, son of Gail and Darrell Long, waiting on biopsy results.

Sue Alliss, as she undergoes chemotherapy.

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.

Beat this winter's Triple Threat! (COVID, Flu, RSV) Here's How!

Wash your hands & use hand sanitizer!

Get vaccinated!

If you are sick, stay home and away from others!

Mask up, especially if you are in crowds, around people who are sick, or are at higher risk for complications from these viruses!

NCC leadership encourages the use of masks, and makes masks available, but does not require them!



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.

On January 17, we'll be at "the hip-stir" at 1120 7th Ave., Marion.

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. Watch the announcements for the location and come join us!

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



Leadership Summit

Elders, Deacons, Board Members, and Group Chairs. Please make plans to join us on January 14th from 9:00-12:00 for our 2023 Leadership Summit. This will be a time for connecting and sharing our vision for the 2023 year of ministry here at Noelridge.

(A snow makeup date has been planned for January 21st)





Live Nativity 2022

Behind the scenes: Below at left, Cameron Sullenberger (right background) spreads shredded corn foliage from a bale before the NCC Live Nativity/Soup Supper event on Wednesday evening, December 14. Center, lighting luminaries around the NCC parking lot. At right, Karen Martin (left) receives assistance with her Live Nativity costume from Karen Howe before the event.



Christmas Eve

The congregation sings "Silent Night" as they hold up candles around the perimeter of the sanctuary at the close of the NCC Christmas Eve service on December 24.



Hauling Out the Holly



Pastor Gregory Chambers (on ladder) attaches a star to the top of the Christmas tree as Kathryn Chambers steadies the tree and Jo-Anne Pruitt steadies Kathryn. The action was part of the Christmas decoration work on Saturday morning, November 26.



JoAnne Pruitt (ladder) and Gail Long decorate the Christmas tree on Saturday morning, November 26.



Justin Howe (left) and Gregg Alliss wrap Christmas lights around pillars at the front entrance on Saturday morning, November 26. (Jealee Weber pic)



Karen Howe hands down a tub of Christmas decorations to her husband Ray from the sanctuary attic.



Jealee Weber sets up a small Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall



Kellie Lala (left) and Karen Martin are shown from the baptismal during sanctuary decorating on Saturday morning, November 26.



Pastor Gregory Chambers (on ladder) attaches garland greenery in the sanctuary, supervised by Karen Howe and Kathryn Chambers.

Thank you to all who helped decorate and to Eva Kisling who brought breakfast treats!

Everyone is invited at 9 am on Saturday, Jan. 7 for putting away the Christmas decorations.



Ladder-top view of sanctuary Christmas decoration work on Saturday, November 26. From left: Kellie Lala, Karen Howe and Karen Martin.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Let us rejoice as we celebrate Christ's birth and the coming year ahead and share that love near and far!

We have been so blessed this past year it's hard not to look back and be thankful at all the great things that have taken place at NCC in the past month and year of 2022. Thank you all for supporting the Missions Group and their projects. Our intent is to take God's word out into the community and to bring in and welcome the community into our church to grow in faith.

We sent out 42 Veterans Day cards to Veterans at the Marshalltown Veterans Home and Veterans Hospital in Iowa City.

A large bag of individual-size toiletry items has been donated to Willis Dady shelter.

We were also able to serve five families with food baskets including a frozen turkey and even had lots of additional food to donate to Missions of Hope who had recently had a fire so this was much appreciated by them! Poinsettias will be delivered to shut-ins and gift cards and Guideposts will be sent to all those in our Congregation who are currently serving our country in the military.

God has been good to us and in turn you have been generous this season so the Angel tree project has been a great mission thanks to all of you. We wrapped these gifts on Monday, December 19th. The Angel Tree gifts were to be picked up or delivered on December 21st.

The new Chrismons are complete and look beautiful on a tree in the narthex! We hope you were able to check them out!!!!

Turning toward 2023 we are very excited to begin work on our fundraiser - Basket Bonanza. We will be working to assemble baskets with "goodies" beginning on Tuesday afternoon, January 13th and all day on Friday, January 18th. We will be working this schedule every week thereafter so if you feel creative (or maybe not – no talent is needed) feel free to join us on Tuesday afternoons or on Fridays. We will be creating flyers soon for this event and will let you know more ways the congregation members can assist with this project slated to take place on March 30, 31 and April 1, 2023.

Yours in love and peace as we remember the love the Christ Child brings each year to each and every one of us that we might share His love with those near and far every day in the coming year!!!

Linda Osmundson and Linda Fisher
Missions Co-Chairs



Our Olympian Update

Nathan and Teresa Williams will be traveling to Charlottesville, Virginia, January 7-11 for the Xperience Tennis Championship--an invitation only tournament of 32 people from 18 states. The individuals will have clinics with the University of Virginia tennis team, and play in a doubles tournament with the team. Nathan will play in the individual tournament also.



A new video screen monitor is shown above the sanctuary door on Wednesday evening, December 7. The screen was installed by Bryon Stolba the previous day.

The new screen can either show the same image as is projected on the large screen in front or can be used for just lyrics or words needed by those leading the worship service.



Church Happenings



Cameron Sullenberger (left) and the NCC Chancel Choir were invited to perform during the "Lights of Remembrance" ceremony at the Mercy Hospital's Hallagan Education Center on Thursday evening, December 1. Choir members, First row, from left: JoAnne Pruitt, Trudy Stewart. Second row: Diana Ellingson, Vannessia Klinsky, Karen Martin, Elizabeth Blocksome, Kay Alexander. Third row: Gaye Roberts, Karen Howe. Fourth row: Max Lightfoot, Tom Ohrt, Pete Sherman, Gregg Alliss, Ray Howe. (Linda Osmundson photos)



Popular and talented NCC guest soloist Shawndell Young performs "Follow the Light" during the Sunday worship service on December 18.

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: January 10, January 24, Feb 7, Feb 21, Mar 7, Mar 21, Apr 4, Apr 18, May 2, May 16. 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.



Kellie Lala reads from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" during the Children's Moment on Sunday, December 4.



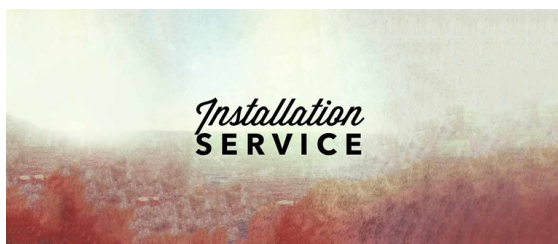
Church Happenings



Christmas Morning was a Sunday Morning this year. Our worship service was fun and casual. There were even a pair of "Grinch" slippers spotted! These photos were from our online service video— Thank you to Gregg Alliss for these and most of the other photos in this newsletter.



The Chancel Choir and performers pose following their final "Splendor of Heaven...The King Has Come" performance at the end of the Sunday worship service on December 18. Front row, from left: Max Lightfoot, Carol Hedberg, Diana Ellingson, Trudy Stewart, JoAnne Pruitt, Cameron Sullenberger. Middle row: Sandy Klein, Karen Martin, Karen Howe, Paige Wehring, Kay Alexander. Back row: Kristin Hamilton, Randy Walton, Joe Wetrich, Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman, Gregg Alliss, Ray Howe. (Katie Ginther photo)



Please join us in Worship on January 15th for a special service of Installation for all new Deacons, Elders and Board Members.



Save the Date

11th annual Arts for Africa
Art and Craft Event at NCC
Saturday, September 23rd, 2023



Really, Really, Really Good News - And Talented NCC Youth



Cast and crew of "Really, Really, Really Good News" pose following their performance on Sunday, December 11. Front row, from left: Lisa Stolba, Zoey, Stetson, Ira, Bridger, Chase, Hannah Davidson, Carolyn Smith. Back row: Max, Aiden, Grace, Cameron Sullenberger, Nora, Karen Martin, Eden, Holly, Magnolia, Elixys, Jack, Cierra, Nicole, Paige.

Thank You to program directors Carolyn Smith, Lisa Stolba and Cameron Sullenberger and also to all of the families and youth who made the program wonderful!



Above: Max and Paige sing a duet.
Top right: Lisa Stolba and Cameron Sullenberger direct a musical number.
Bottom right: Cameron directs a musical number.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Grace Sherman	January 3
Betty Selken	January 5
Ray Howe	January 8
Cameron Sullenberger	January 9
Chuck Kitzman	January 16
Teresa Williams	January 20
David Olsen	January 23
Leland Osmundson	January 25
Loren Kisling	January 29

Happy Anniversary!

Walt & Betty Hargraves

January 24



The Staff of Noelridge Christian Church wishes you and your family a Happy and Blessed New Year! We also gratefully thank you for your Christmas gifts that made us feel so appreciated.

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

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 January, the Elders "on call" are:

Diana Ellingson (319) 721-3600

Lisa Stolba (319) 361-3908



Carol Montag (left) performs "Breath of Heaven" accompanied by Matt Butler on cello during the NCC Sunday worship service on December 4.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Maralene James
318 32nd Street NE, Apt. B
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Moment In NCC History



NCC board meeting in Fellowship Hall on Monday evening, January 14, 2013. Clockwise at main table, from lower left: Paul Smith, JD Smith, Betty Hargraves, Cindy Smith, Pastor Stewart Royce, Jeff Busbee, Diana Ellingson, Lisa Stolba, Dave Martin, Walt Hargraves, Rod Blocksom. Listening to the meeting at left table are, from left: Sue Alliss, Walt Daniels and Jerry Parker.



Calendar

Regular Wednesday Schedule

5:30 pm Food Court
6:00 pm Praise Builders
6:35 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

January 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day	2 Office closed	3 Collins - 9:30 am	4	5	6	7 Christmas Décor Clean-up, 9 am
8 Sunday Schedule	9 Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	10 MOPS - 9:00- 11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am	11 Wednesday Schedule	12	13	14 Leadership Retreat, 9 am- 12 pm
15 Sunday Schedule Leadership Installation Service	16 Office closed Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	17 MOPS Leaders - 9-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am NFL - 5:30 pm	18 Wednesday Schedule	19 Newsletter Articles due by noon Card Ministry - 1:30 pm African Travelers Mtg. 6:30 pm	20	21
22 Sunday Schedule	23 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	24 MOPS - 9:00- 11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am	25 Wednesday Schedule Prayer Service	26	27	28
29 Sunday Schedule	30	31 Collins - 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am	Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School			



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



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January 2023
Volume 67, Issue 1

Return Service Requested

Contact Us

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

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office@noelridgechristian.org

Rev. Gregory Chambers
gregory@noelridgechristian.org

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
Karen Howe (319) 573-7630
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
Theresa Smith (319) 213-2606

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
Trustee - JD Smith

Program Group Leaders

Missions - Linda Osmundson &
Linda Fisher
Physical Resources - Bryon Stolba
Administration - Diana Ellingson
Congregational Life - Eva Kisling &
Sandy Klein
Spiritual Life - 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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A Disciples of Christ Church

